



# EMERALD KEEPERS

For an Emerald Green, Ocean Blue Coronado

## AIR QUALITY AND THE CLEAN AIR ACT

Struggles with air quality in Southern California date as far back as the World War II, when a sudden thick layer of smog led people in Los Angeles to believe the coast was under a chemical attack. It wasn't the Axis Powers. It was air pollution, a serious environmental hazard that continues to plague society, killing an estimated 7 million people worldwide every year.

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines air pollution as "contamination of the indoor or outdoor environment by any chemical, physical or biological agent that modifies the natural characteristics of the atmosphere." Air pollution affects lung development, contributes to respiratory and cardiovascular disease, and according to the National Institute of Health, is associated with several forms of cancer, including breast

and lung cancers as well as non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

In 1970, the U.S. Congress passed the Clean Air Act and established the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), empowering the federal government to act. The EPA subsequently identified six "criteria" pollutants, regulated based on threat to human health and/or the environment:

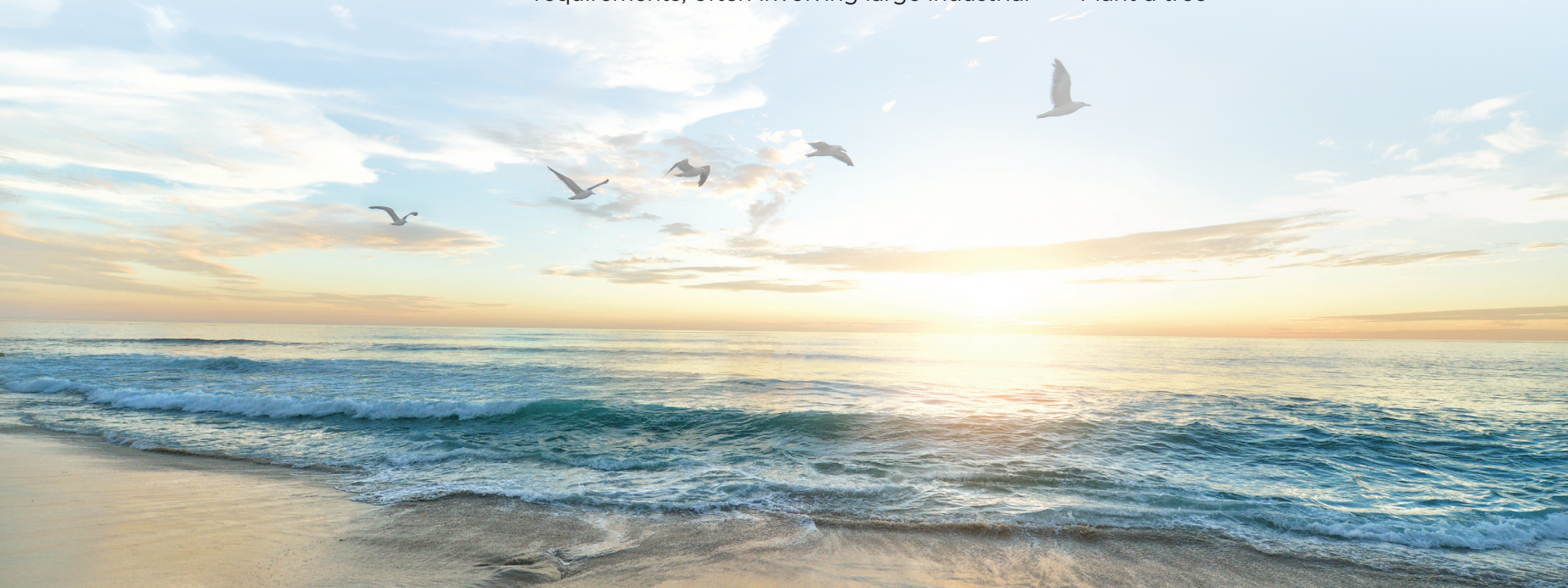
1. Carbon monoxide
2. Lead
3. Nitrogen oxides
4. Ground-level or "bad" ozone, as opposed to "good" ozone in the upper atmosphere
5. Particle pollution (aka, particulate matter)
6. Sulfur oxides

The EPA works with states to meet clean air requirements, often involving large industrial

sources such as power plants, chemical producers, petroleum refineries and motor vehicles. In 1977 and 1990, amendments to the Clean Air Act were passed, setting more rigorous regulations and expanding the scope of the Act to address acid rain, stratospheric (good) ozone depletion, visibility and air toxics.

In this blustery month of March, how might you take action to clean up our air?

- Use public transport/carpool, walk or bike
- Reduce energy use
- Recycle and reuse to avoid incineration of plastics
- Abide by forest fire prevention rules
- Skip the air conditioning
- Ensure chimneys are in good working order
- Plant a tree



### EVENTS

#### MARCH 26: PLANT A TREE IN CORONADO

Celebrate Arbor Day with the City of Coronado Street Tree Committee and Emerald Keepers. Bring gloves and wear closed-toe shoes for planting. Meet at Spreckels Park at 8:30am.

#### EARTH DAY POSTER COMPETITION:

Submit original work on 18" x12" paper or poster board with the theme "Climate Change & Being an Emerald Keeper."

Grade categories: 3-5, 6-8, 9-12. One entry per student. Cash awards! Posters are due to the Coronado Public Library desk by 5pm on Friday, April 8.

Visit [emeraldkeepers.org](http://emeraldkeepers.org) for more information.

For more information visit [EMERALDKEEPERS.ORG](http://EMERALDKEEPERS.ORG)