

Unusually high temps keep pollution down

By Vanessa Colón / The Fresno Bee

Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2008

Springlike temperatures are keeping the Valley's pollution at lower levels than expected this week.

Fresno on Monday broke a record for the date set in 1908, with temperatures reaching 81 degrees. It was 80 degrees 100 years ago. Normal temperatures for this time of year are in the low 60s.

The warm weather is caused by a high-pressure system that acts like a lid.

The higher-pressure system typically allows more pollution to build.

Instead, the particulate matter, or microscopic debris, declined from 45 micrograms per cubic meter Friday to 23 micrograms Sunday and 27 micrograms Monday.

"Under these weather conditions, we would have expected the particulate matter concentration levels to be higher, but with the amount of heating, it's caused the levels to be lower," said Shawn Ferreria, a senior air quality specialist at the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

Typically, the particulate matter concentration levels would be in the 10s if the Valley was not under a high-pressure system, he said.

Climate Change Ideas Sought

Modesto Bee, Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2008

The public can offer ideas on confronting climate change at a meeting today. The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is crafting a plan to deal with carbon dioxide and other emissions believed to be causing global warming. Potential solutions also will be discussed. The meeting will be at 10 a.m. at the district's Fresno office. A live video link will be available at the Modesto office, 4800 Enterprise Way, off Bangs Avenue.

New rules restrict burning

BY VALERIE GIBBONS

Visalia Times-Delta and Tulare Advance-Register, Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2008

Thinking about enjoying the evening in the warm glow of a fireplace? You may need to think again.

The federal government has tightened the Valley's air pollution standards by more than half. The new formula will mean fewer days this winter when wood burning will be allowed.

Gone are exemptions for homes above 3,000 feet. Now, all homes with natural-gas service are required to comply with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's rules.

Homes served by propane alone are not affected.

The new restrictions went into effect Nov. 1. To avoid being fined, Tulare County residents are urged to check the burn status on the air district's Web site before lighting a fire.

Burning can be bad for residents, environment

This week's high temperatures have caused air quality in the Valley to deteriorate to a level deemed "unhealthy for sensitive groups." The move to further restrict burning came on the heels of research that linked pollution from wood fires to upper respiratory problems and even cancer.

"We're finding that the health problems it creates are really very serious," said Brenda Turner, an air district spokeswoman. "[A fire] may look nice, but it's not very healthy for the environment."

Wood-burning bans also apply to the portable backyard fire pits and chimnerias sold at stores. Outdoor fires for cooking are exempt.

"The goal is not to have people freeze," Turner said. "If the furnace is broken and wood is your only source of heat, you're exempt."

Burning trash in burn barrels is never allowed.

Ag burning

This year brings no changes to agricultural-burning programs that went into effect in 2007. Currently allowed is the burning of:

- Orchard waste as a result of pruning, orchard attrition and orchard removals.
- Canes, vine stumps untreated grape stakes, paper raisin trays and vineyard removals
- Up to 70 percent of rice-farm acreage (until 2010).
- Ditchbanks and canals (after other methods have been ruled out).
- Tumbleweeds (if that's the only disposal option).
- Weeds from surface waterways associated with ag operations (primarily ponds and levee banks).

Burning also is allowed when the goal is disease prevention for crops or animals. Burning is allowed only after the county's agricultural commissioner has determined it is the only way to dispose of the diseased materials.

More stringent ag burning rules will go into effect in 2010.

"Many of these burns are going to be phased out," Turner said. "We're trying to encourage growers to chip whenever possible."

Additional Facts

BURNING TIPS

- Never burn trash, magazines, newspapers, plastics or other materials not designed to burn in fireplaces or stoves.
- For an ambient fire in an open fireplace, a manufactured firelog may be a cleaner alternative to wood.

Project to turn poop to power

BY STACEY SHEPARD, Californian staff writer
Bakersfield Californian, Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2008

A new pipeline project is in the works for Kern County but it won't be transporting fossil fuels.

Bakersfield-based BioEnergy Solutions plans to start construction early next year on a distribution network that will collect methane gas from a cluster of Shafter dairies to be sold to Pacific Gas and Electric for power generation.

The company's technology captures gas from covered manure lagoons, pipes it to a nearby facility for processing to utility standards and then injects it into PG&E's fuel lines.

In addition to converting waste to fuel, the technology will help reduce methane — a greenhouse gas that's 21 times more potent than carbon dioxide — and smog-forming emissions released from manure lagoons, local air quality officials said.

"I think this is the future for all dairies," said Ben Goedhart, owner of the Vermeer and Goedhart Dairy in Shafter, one of the dairies participating in the project. "The waste is energy, and if it can be captured and economically used, it's the way to go.

"And it will keep the air so much cleaner, too."

Three Shafter dairies, with a combined 6,500 milk cows, have contracted to supply their gas so far. In addition to Goedhart's, the two others are C&R Vanderham and Whiteside dairies.

BioEnergy Solutions President David Albers says the company is in talks with six more in the area that could tie in to the same system. If they do, the nine-farm network would include 26,700 milk cows, or almost 20 percent of the county's dairy herd.

BioEnergy Solutions launched its first system in March at Albers' Vintage Dairy in Fresno County. But the local project is unique because it's the first to network gas collection among several dairies, Albers said.

At full buildout, the underground pipeline transporting methane from the farms to a central processing facility on Goedhart's farm could run 10 miles.

"The business model is to achieve economy of scale," Albers said. "It costs a fortune to move manure but if we lay pipe, we only have to do it once."

The company covers the cost of installing the equipment at each dairy and obtaining permits for the project. It also shares a portion of the profits with dairy owners.

Regional air officials support the company's technology. They say the greatest pollution reductions will come from greenhouse gas reductions, with the removal of methane from the environment.

The reduction of smog-forming pollutants won't be as great. But San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Executive Director Seyed Sadredin, said the agency prefers BioEnergy Solutions projects to other waste-to-energy systems dairies have implemented because BioEnergy's don't produce additional pollution.

Some dairies have opted to use methane to produce their own on-site electricity. Sadredin said the internal combustion engines for power generation emit nitrogen oxides, one of the worst smog-forming pollutants.

While the air district prefers systems like Albers', it's not feasible if the dairy is located too far from a gas pipeline, Sadredin said.

But that doesn't seem to be hampering business for Albers so far. He expects BioEnergy Solutions to install systems at about 100 more dairies over the next few years.

POOP TO POWER — BY THE NUMBERS

3

Shafter dairies participating in the project so far

6,500

Milk cows at the three dairies

615,000

Cubic feet of methane gas that will be produced by the dairies daily

3,000

Homes that could be powered each year on electricity produced from that amount of gas

Rebates offered to burn cleaner at home

By Denis Cuff - Contra Costa Times

Contra Costa Times and Tri-Valley Herald, Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2008

Starting at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Bay Area residents can apply for \$200 government rebates to switch from wood-burning fireplaces or stoves to cleaner-burning gas stoves and fireplace inserts.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is offering the rebates on a first-come, first-served basis as a complement to its new rule banning wood fires on declared Spare the Air nights in winter.

After 2 p.m., residents of the nine counties can go online to reserve rebates by visiting www.sparetheair.org. Those without Internet access can call 415-749-4999 for assistance, or 1-800-HELP-AIR for general questions about the rebate program.

The air district set aside \$200,000 for rebates this winter. In April, the public took about four hours to snap up \$400,000 worth of rebates, but those were \$600 a piece, three times the rebates available this winter.

Calm, reckoning comes after California firestorm

By AMY TAXIN, The Associated Press

In the Hanford Sentinel, Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2008

LOS ANGELES - Skies grew clear of smoke Tuesday and winds that had gusted with hurricane force a few days earlier had stilled to virtually nothing as another wave of those who fled Southern California's ferocious weekend wildfires prepared to sort through the remains of their homes.

Three fires have destroyed nearly 1,000 homes and apartments and burned 42,000 acres, or 65 square miles, forcing thousands to flee. The causes of all three were under investigation, although a human cause was suspected in a Santa Barbara County blaze.

Many residents of the 484 homes destroyed in the tight-knit Oakridge Mobile Home Park were expected to line up and walk through the Sylmar park and see the worst of the devastation for themselves after authorities made sure there were no bodies in the ashes.

A day earlier, Michael Hernandez pulled a charred photo album from the wreckage of his home, the plastic pages melted and flaking after a wildfire tore through the mobile home where he lived with his grandparents and 7-year old daughter.

It was one of a handful of keepsakes he was able to rescue during a police-escorted tour for some residents of the park that became a flattened field of blackened trees and twisted metal.

"We came here with a little hope and we walked around and pretty much everything's ruined," said Hernandez, a 32-year old artist who splits his time between the park and his studio in downtown Los Angeles. "I don't recognize my room."

More than 500 people made the trip on Monday but were not allowed to sift through the ruins as cadaver-sniffing dogs scoured the area to make sure no one had died in the blaze. After an exhaustive search, no bodies were found.

Residents whose homes were intact were allowed to quickly pick up clothes, toiletries, and other belongings under police escort.

Most evacuation orders were lifted in Southern California by Tuesday, when the clear skies and calm winds helped firefighters make some gains, bad air remained in some places and classes were canceled at dozens of schools near fire zones in Orange County.

Warm weather was forecast to remain Tuesday with temperatures reaching the 80s in much of the region, but winds weren't expected to blow much harder than about 5 mph, according to the National Weather Service.

In Sylmar, wild winds blew a wall of fire through the mobile home complex Saturday and set them ablaze so quickly that even firefighters had to drop their hoses and run.

Firefighters were able to save about 120 homes, but many were badly damaged in the park that residents described as idyllic for its mountain scenery, swimming pool and tennis courts and community spirit.

"It's a disaster. It looks like Hiroshima," said Joan Costa, whose home was spared in the blaze.

Los Angeles police officials were still looking for residents of 166 properties who have not yet contacted authorities. Official listed the numbers of those spaces and urged to confirm they are alive and well.

Elsewhere, the largest of the fires has burned nearly 29,000 acres in Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Los Angeles counties and has destroyed more than 250 homes and apartment units. Firefighters had it 60 percent surrounded. San Bernardino became the fourth county to have a state of emergency declared.

In Yorba Linda in Orange County, where more than 150 homes were lost, residents also returned to survey the devastation.

David Waltemeyer, fire chief in Corona near where the fire broke out Saturday morning, told the Riverside Press-Enterprise that authorities did not believe the fire was intentionally set and likely had a mechanical cause such as exhaust from a vehicle on the nearby 91 Freeway.

"I want to allay fears an arsonist is out there," Waltemeyer said.

The first of the wildfires broke out in the Montecito area of Santa Barbara County, about 90 miles northwest of Sylmar. It destroyed 210 homes, many of them mansions that once had sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean. It was fully contained by Monday night and the cause was under investigation. Officials said they believed it was "human-caused."

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa said President-elect Barack Obama contacted him Sunday night to offer what help he could. Obama has turned his campaign Web site home page into a plea to help fire victims that includes a link to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's site, where people can sign up to volunteer or donate to the Red Cross or Salvation Army.

Schwarzenegger on Monday asked the Bush administration to declare Southern California a federal disaster site. The governor also requested disaster loans for the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Santa Barbara and San Bernardino. He said many of the residents affected by the fires -- particularly mobile home owners -- lacked insurance or are seriously underinsured.

The causes of all three fires remained under investigation. Officials labeled the Santa Barbara-area fire "human-caused."

Smoke in air should clear up this week

By Susan Abram, Staff Writer

L.A. Daily News, Tuesday, November 18, 2008

Air quality was expected to improve today as wildfire smoke continued to diminish over the Los Angeles Basin, though health experts suggested that some residents remain indoors or keep dust masks handy.

A sea breeze Monday afternoon pushed smoke that had traveled over the ocean back into Southern California and the San Fernando Valley. The air still could pose a problem for children under age 7, and those with asthma should minimize outdoor activity.

Winds will continue to calm and temperatures are expected to fall today, though by Saturday another offshore breeze might come through, said Stuart Seto, a weather specialist for the National Weather Service in Oxnard.

Today's skies will be a vast improvement from the past few days, Seto said, when large smoke plumes "looked like a bunch of cotton balls," he said.

Still, health and air experts say that while the skies might look clearer, tiny particulates continue to circulate, and that those with heart disease, asthma or other respiratory disease should monitor their conditions and be vigilant about taking medications.

"Typically, the people who get into trouble are people with underlying lung diseases, such as asthma or bronchitis," said Dr. Philip Schwarzman, medical director for emergency medicine at Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center in Burbank. "Children and the elderly also are susceptible."

More than 30 patients, including seven firefighters, were admitted to Providence Holy Cross Medical Center in Mission Hills this week for fire-related health problems, spokeswoman Patricia Aidem said.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health advised all schools to suspend physical activities in areas that were close to burn areas.

All Los Angeles Unified School District campuses are expected to return to their regular schedules today, but officials said they are "taking it day by day."

On Monday, students were on restricted schedules, said Earl Perkins, assistant superintendent of school operations.

Outside activities in the Santa Clarita Valley went on as scheduled Monday, according to officials with the William S. Hart Union High School District.

"It is improving (Monday) compared to (Sunday), unless you happen to be very close to the fires," said Sam Atwood, spokesman for the South Coast Air Quality Management Agency.

The SCAQMD ranked the air quality as orange, or unhealthy for people who are sensitive, he said.

Environmental leaders to meet as emissions rise

Elisabeth Rosenthal, staff writer
N.Y Times, Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2008

Emissions from industrialized countries reached a peak in 2006 after six years of growth, the United Nations said Monday. But the countries have not yet reported emissions from the past two years, and the new report did not include large emerging economies like those of India and China.

The U.N. report was released two weeks before the world's environmental ministers are to meet in Poland to discuss ways to curb greenhouse gases and against the backdrop of the global financial crisis.

In presenting the latest findings, U.N. officials said they are concerned that the economic downturn will add a new layer of uncertainty to the coming talks, because many of the programs under development to curb the emissions that cause global warming require credit and financing.

While they expressed some optimism about the new data, which went through 2006, the last year available, they said the slight decline - one-tenth of 1 percent from 2005 to 2006 - was too small to indicate a significant downward trend.

Overall, among the 40 industrialized countries that reported to the United Nations, emissions had increased by 2.5 percent from 2000 to 2006, leading the U.N. climate agency to denounce what it called "continued growth."

"This is a critical moment for ministers and politicians," said Yvo de Boer, executive secretary of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, at a news conference in Bonn, Germany. He called the coming climate negotiations "the most complicated process the world has ever seen."

De Boer said he found some cause for hope in the figures issued Monday. "What I saw was a slowing of the increase in emission from industrialized countries," he said.

But his statistician, Sergey Kononov, pointed out that the percentage decline had been so small that it could have been caused by either improved policies or simply the relatively warm 2005-06 winter.

Just one year ago, the U.N. climate agency convened the world's environment ministers in Bali, Indonesia, where the group committed itself to create a climate pact by 2009. Rich nations pledged to design a system to help the poor in coping with global warming.

The current agreement, the Kyoto Protocol, expires in 2012 and does not cover the United States, which never ratified it, or developing nations like China.

But the world has changed since Bali. The United States, a reluctant participant in the U.N. meeting last year, now has a president-elect, Barack Obama, who has pledged to make climate change a centerpiece of his administration.

Perhaps more important, fallout from a global economic crisis has turned the economics of climate change upside down.

On one hand, oil is now cheaper than in the recent past, making it tempting for struggling economies to fall back on this relatively dirty fossil fuel, rather than plowing ahead with efforts to develop less-polluting alternatives, like wind and solar power.

On the other, stagnant economies mean less industrial production, which historically leads to a drop in emissions.

"It is clear that the financial crisis and subsequent economic downturn will have implications for climate negotiations," de Boer said. But he added that "it will take time to see how."

In any case, de Boer said that he hopes the world will meet its climate goals by "relying on policy actions and not an economic turndown," adding, "I hope never to be in the situation where we say we made our Kyoto target, but everyone is starving."

Indeed, he and others have expressed hope that some nations will renew their economies by investing in green jobs and green growth, a proposal put forth by Obama during the campaign.

U.N. officials said Monday that Obama will not attend the meeting, but expressed hope that the U.S. delegation will work closely with the next administration, which takes office in January.

Unlike the Bush administration, Obama supports a cap-and-trade system, similar to the one that currently operates in the European Union. Companies and industries are assigned emissions limits and must buy "carbon permits" to exceed those limits. Such permits can come from investing in emissions-reducing projects such as planting trees or cleaning up a dirty coal mine in Asia, in theory "offsetting" environment damage done at home.

Governor in limelight as climate summit host

Matthew Yi, Chronicle Staff Writer
S.F. Chronicle, Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2008

Sacramento -- Hundreds of dignitaries, industry representatives and scientists are expected to gather today in Southern California for an international summit on global warming hosted by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The two-day conference in Beverly Hills places Schwarzenegger and California under the international limelight as he tries to engage leaders of other states, provinces and nations to work collaboratively to limit greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming.

The governor first received international acclaim two years ago for signing AB32, landmark legislation to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent by 2020. He also has been brokering an alliance with other Western states and Canadian provinces to create the Western Climate Initiative that aims to design a regional market for trading carbon credits.

More recently, the governor last week ordered state agencies to consider the effects of global warming, such as rising sea level, in their infrastructure planning.

On Monday, he signed an executive order setting a goal of requiring 33 percent of the state's energy to come from renewable sources by 2020, and for state agencies to streamline permitting processes for renewable energy projects such as solar arrays.

This week's two-day climate summit will be a chance to share such policy ideas, organizers say.

"First thing is that we want (the conference) to be a showcase of what the states, provinces and countries are doing to limit emissions, and I think that'll surprise the world," said Terry Tamminen, former secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency under Schwarzenegger.

Tamminen said organizers also hope participants will draft a declaration by the end of the summit that not only describes their commitment to fight global warming but sets specific goals for the future partnerships.

"In talking to the international delegates, there's a real appetite to use (the conference) as a kickoff," Tamminen said.

The summit is expected to attract nearly 800 participants from as close as Canada and Mexico to as far away as China, Indonesia and Poland. They are expected to discuss greenhouse gas emissions from various sectors of the economy such as energy, transportation, manufacturing, construction, forestry and agriculture.

Eileen Tutt, a deputy secretary at the California Environmental Protection Agency, said she believes the conference will greatly benefit local, state and provincial governments as they share ideas and learn how to work toward a common goal of reducing emissions.

"By partnering together, sharing best practices and developing green economies, we will all benefit," she said.

Schwarzenegger convenes global climate summit

By SAMANTHA YOUNG, Associated Press Writer
Modesto Bee and Tri-Valley Herald, Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2008

LOS ANGELES — Government officials and policy experts from around the world will head to California this week, summoned by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger for an international summit on greenhouse gas emissions.

Schwarzenegger hopes the gathering will show local representatives how their regions can regulate the emissions blamed for contributing to global climate change without destabilizing their economies. He will encourage them to prod their national governments to do more to curb emissions.

The Republican governor organized the conference as an attempt to influence a United Nations gathering in Poland next month. Schwarzenegger has said he wants his summit to inform negotiations over a new global climate treaty, which the U.N. hopes to finish by December 2009.

"The United Nations is looking at the big picture, but what we want to know is how do we do this?" said Linda Adams, secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency.

The two-day climate summit begins Tuesday in Beverly Hills, with some 700 participants expected, including scientists, environmentalists and industry representatives.

Schwarzenegger has been a leading advocate for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and gained worldwide notoriety when he signed California's landmark emissions law in 2006.

He also has been critical of what he sees as a lack of meaningful action on climate change from the Bush administration.

The U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has said temperatures worldwide could increase between 4 degrees and 11 degrees Fahrenheit by 2100 unless nations reduce their emissions.

Yet division remains over how much countries should be required to cut their output, especially as the world grapples with a crippling financial crisis. Italy and several Eastern European nations have argued that the costs of cutting emissions is too much for their industries to bear during the economic downturn.

The California summit will send a signal that local governments and businesses can reduce emissions at a time when industrialized countries are being asked to commit to aggressive targets, said Richard Kinley, deputy executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

"It's not going to be easy to mobilize all of these things that need to be done," Kinley said in an interview with The Associated Press before leaving Germany for the conference. "For me, it is extremely important to give governments the confidence they can go forward and adopt ambitious policies and targets knowing there is a foundation that can deliver the results."

Schwarzenegger has maintained that forcing utilities and businesses to cut emissions will promote innovation. He says that will boost California's economy by fueling a boom in green technology and saving money on electricity and fuel bills.

A study released last week by the University of California, Berkeley estimates that California alone could face as much as \$23 billion a year in property damage over the next century if nothing is done to combat climate change.

The law Schwarzenegger signed two years ago will require California's major polluters to cut their emissions by about a third by 2020. While the law has been widely embraced by environmentalists and green-technology firms, California regulators are just beginning the difficult process of implementing it.

Balancing the mandatory emission reductions with cost concerns raised by business and industry groups is among the challenges.

The California Chamber of Commerce and major manufacturing sectors have warned that California's required emission reductions could force businesses to send jobs out of state.

State Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee, a Republican from San Luis Obispo, said it will be challenging for the governments represented at this week's summit to mandate emission cuts.

"It's critically important we find solutions to global warming that don't hurt the economy (and) that we incentivize new jobs that allow new technologies to be developed as quickly as possible," said Blakeslee,

who plans to attend the summit. "But pursuing these environmental goals needs to be balanced with the other challenges that we face."

Schwarzenegger's summit is funded entirely by businesses and nonprofit groups. It will feature sessions intended to show how energy-intensive industries such as cement and steel manufacturing can reduce their energy use, a primary source of carbon emissions.

Indonesian officials will come to California looking to strike a deal involving the state's need to cut its emissions and Indonesia's desire to limit illegal logging in its rain forests.

Indonesia, for example, might be able to sell emission credits to California companies in exchange for protecting its forests.

Deforestation accounts for about 20 percent of the world's carbon emissions, and Indonesia is home to the planet's second largest complex of rain forests.

The Schwarzenegger administration has arranged for the carbon emissions associated with the conference to be offset by sending money to environmental causes around the world.

An analysis by The Associated Press revealed that the air travel alone of the 1,400 invitees would discharge more than 2,554 metric tons of carbon dioxide - a so-called carbon footprint equivalent to that produced from 424 cars driven for a year.

The governor's office said about half the invitees are expected to attend. The AP obtained the invitation list after filing a California Public Records Act request and calculated the total carbon emissions based on roundtrip air travel to Los Angeles. It used the online calculator employed by the U.N.

Travel for officials from Indonesia, China and other parts of Asia will produce the most greenhouse gases. A roundtrip flight on a commercial jetliner from Jakarta, Indonesia, for example, will produce 10.8 metric tons of carbon, according to the AP analysis. That's the equivalent of consuming 22.8 barrels of oil.

The carbon offset money from Schwarzenegger's conference will fund alternative energy projects in Brazil, China, India, Russia and Idaho, the governor's office said. In addition, attendees' room keys, name badges, lunch boxes and coffee cups will be made of recycled material.

International negotiators have a December 2009 deadline to complete the next global warming treaty. It intends to cut in half the amount of carbon dioxide discharged into the atmosphere from transportation, industry and power generation by mid-century.

The agreement would succeed the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012 and does not include the U.S. or China - the world's largest emitters.

Schwarzenegger orders faster push for renewable energy

By Jim Sanders

Sacramento Bee, Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2008

California utilities, already struggling to meet a law requiring more renewable energy, saw the bar raised even higher Monday.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed an executive order calling on utilities to provide one-third of their power from renewable resources by 2020.

"This will be the most aggressive target in the nation," he said.

Increased reliance on renewable energy conceivably could hike future rates, however, because of higher production costs and the need to upgrade transmission facilities.

Schwarzenegger's order came on the eve of today's international summit on global climate change in Los Angeles.

California law currently requires utilities to produce 20 percent of their power from renewable resources by 2010.

It hasn't been easy.

Only about 12 percent of all California's electricity last year came from wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, small hydroelectric and other renewable resources.

Schwarzenegger's new order raises the target to 33 percent by 2020 and orders state agencies to lay the groundwork through planning and permitting.

Legislation is being drafted to put the tougher standard into state law, consider penalties for noncompliance and bolster the cost competitiveness of renewable energy, gubernatorial aides said.

Incoming Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento, predicted that the incoming Legislature will pass such legislation within 90 days after returning in January.

"When we meet these standards, we will not only be creating our own energy independence, we will also be providing the pathway to high-wage jobs and economic growth for California," Steinberg said.

The push toward renewable energy is part of a much larger strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to lessen the state's dependence on imported fossil fuels.

Schwarzenegger also signed a separate agreement Monday in which the California Energy Commission and the Department of Fish and Game will work jointly to cut in half the time spent processing applications for renewable energy projects.

Schwarzenegger said his goal is to expedite the permitting process while maintaining key environmental protections.

State unprepared for effects of warming, report says

Jane Kay, Chronicle Environment Writer
S.F. Chronicle, Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2008

Despite its tough goals to reduce greenhouse gases, California is not prepared to deal with the flooding, coastal erosion and loss of wildlife habitat that scientists are predicting in the coming decades as a result of higher global temperatures, a new report says.

Inundation of the coastal shoreline from accelerating sea-level rise and storm surges threaten property, recreational activities and wildlife enclaves, yet agencies are just starting to assess these climate risks and inform local communities, said a study released Monday by the Public Policy Institute of California, a nonprofit research group.

The report examines the state's capability to provide water and electricity to the public as well as protecting coastal resources, air quality, public health and ecosystems in response to climate change and extreme weather events such as wildfires. It is based on previous studies done by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, UC Davis and Scripps Institution of Oceanography, among other researchers.

"We need to help agencies get prepared to deal with climate change," said Louise Bedsworth, a research fellow at the institute and co-author of the report. "In some areas, we need to be acting now."

Providers of water and electricity are the furthest along in responding to the projections for changing weather patterns in California, according to the report.

Water managers are beginning to plan for the warmer winters that are expected to bring more rainfall and less snow, dramatically reducing - perhaps by half - the Sierra snowpack.

The mountain ice has provided free water storage that gets cities and farms through the dry summer months and supplies salmon and other wildlife with fresh water. Now water agencies are using tools of conservation, recycling water, desalination and groundwater banking.

Electricity providers are preparing for peak use in the summer months, particularly in inland areas, the report said. They are encouraging energy-efficient construction and lighting, and alerting customers to cut back during the peaks.

In recent years, water agency managers have become increasingly aware of how climate change will affect their agencies and consumers, said Peter Gleick, executive director of the Pacific Institute, a nonprofit research center in Oakland.

"But there's a big difference between awareness and action. I don't think enough is being done on the ground to reduce the vulnerability of our water supplies," Gleick said.

Scientists project that sea level could rise between 8 and 16 inches by mid-century, but efforts to control flooding are lagging, the report said. Flood managers haven't started to change land-use plans to ward off possible devastating floods, particularly in fast-growing parts of the Central Valley, the report added.

The state is also behind in protecting coastal resources, the report said. The California Coastal Commission and Bay Conservation and Development Commission have been urging communities and agencies to incorporate sea-level rise into development plans but the measures are in infancy stages, the report said.

In March, the BCDC is hosting an international symposium with Holland to tap into that nation's hundreds of years experience in dealing with rising seas and compare research on problems and solutions, said BCDC Executive Director Will Travis.

California's preparation to protect wildlife from climate change is also inadequate, the report said. As temperatures rise, plants and animals will begin to try to shift to cooler, higher elevations.

If conservation of habitat doesn't take climate into account, the wrong lands could be protected, the report said. The federal government has resisted considering climate change as a threat under the Endangered Species Act.

What happens in California is key, the report said, because other states and even nations have been looking to California for regulatory and technical ways to reduce carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

California law requires an 80 percent reduction of carbon emissions below 1990 levels by 2050. The state Air Resources Board next month will release its latest plan on reductions from improved energy efficiency in buildings, increased renewable energy sources and more fuel-efficient vehicles.

After President-elect Barack Obama takes office in January, the federal government is expected to grant waivers to the states to allow tougher regulations on greenhouses gases. California has been hampered by lawsuits from the auto industry, which has spent millions of dollars fighting state laws requiring cuts in tailpipe carbon emissions, a change that improves fuel efficiency.

On Monday, California Attorney General Jerry Brown, along with his counterparts in other states, sent a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi urging a requirement in any proposed auto industry bailout measure to include provisions to combat global warming. The states want automakers to drop their opposition to California's greenhouse gas emission standards and produce energy-efficient vehicles that cut emissions by 30 percent by 2016.

The Public Policy Institute of California's study was paid for in part with funds from the Nature Conservancy, PG&E and Next Ten, a business group.

Highway 50 widening project pushed to create more jobs

By Tony Bizjak

Sacramento Bee, Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2008

Citing an urgency to create jobs now, the Schwarzenegger administration has proposed fast-tracking a controversial widening of Highway 50 by forgoing a court-mandated environmental review.

The carpool lanes between Sunrise Boulevard and Watt Avenue are among 11 projects Caltrans is promoting for environmental exemptions as part of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's economic stimulus proposal.

"We have a state economy in terrible trouble and a governor and Legislature that are looking to create jobs," Caltrans' Sacramento-area director Jody Jones said.

"This project would create lots of jobs."

Environmentalists and community activists called the state's plan cynical.

"I am astounded at the length Caltrans is willing to go to avoid giving an honest accounting of the environmental impacts of the Highway 50 project," said Eric Davis of the Environmental Council of Sacramento.

"It's entirely inconsistent with what the governor has been saying about wanting reduction of greenhouse gas emissions."

The \$165 million project could be under construction by next summer – 18 months early – if the Legislature, now meeting in urgency session, agrees in the coming weeks to exempt it, Caltrans' Jones said.

Such a move would pre-empt state law that normally requires major projects to be analyzed in detail for impacts on neighboring communities and on air and water quality.

Caltrans has conducted an environmental review of the Highway 50 project, but a Sacramento judge in July determined the review was inadequate in several areas, including a failure to assess the project's potential impact on global warming.

Caltrans initially agreed to redo its environmental analysis. But officials now say the state's economic woes take precedence.

They point out the state has done this before, when it exempted seismic retrofit projects on state bridges after the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

Jones and Caltrans Director Will Kempton said the agency intends to keep its previous financial commitments to neighboring communities to help reduce the negative effects of the Highway 50 expansion.

Two other planned Sacramento transportation projects are on the state's fast-track list.

One, budgeted at \$8.5 million, involves adding auxiliary lanes on a short section of Highway 99, running between the on- and offramps between Calvine and Mack roads.

City officials said they are puzzled to see the other project on the list.

Caltrans says it wants to speed up the \$52 million plan to move the railroad tracks in the downtown Sacramento railyard so that more development can occur.

But the environmental review is nearly done, city official Fran Halbakken said, and the city already has the project fast-tracked for construction by next summer.

"We can't do it faster than we already are," Halbakken said.

Also on the list: a new approach structure in San Francisco for the Golden Gate Bridge and widening projects on Highway 99 in San Joaquin, Fresno and Tehama counties.

Yellowstone keeps snowmobiles capped at 720 daily

By Matthew Brown, Associated Press Writer
Contra Costa Times, Tuesday, November 18, 2008

BILLINGS, Mont.—Yellowstone National Park will let in 720 snowmobiles a day—the same as the past three winters—while officials try to form a long-term access plan amid challenges from recreational users and conservationists.

Park spokesman Al Nash said administrators decided to revert to the old temporary plan so they could dive immediately into developing a long-term solution.

The decision marked the latest turn in a decades-long struggle between snowmobile advocates, who want more recreational access, and conservation groups that say too many of the machines degrade the park's natural beauty.

This year in particular has been wrought with inconsistent legal rulings.

In September, U.S. District Judge Andrew Sullivan in Washington, D.C. voiced concern that an earlier park proposal to allow 540 machines daily would cause air pollution and disturb wildlife. He threw out that plan and told the park service to come up with a new one.

In response, park administrators said Nov. 3 that they planned to allow 318 snowmobiles daily while they worked on a long-term plan.

Monday's sudden reversal of that decision followed a second federal judge's ruling in a separate lawsuit.

District Judge Clarence Brimmer in Wyoming ruled Nov. 7 that the park could allow 720 snowmobiles daily, a figure in place since 2004 that park officials reluctantly decided on for the 2008 season.

"Our intent with the temporary plan was to be open," and complying with the judge's order accomplishes that, Nash said. "We need to shift our focus to that long term."

Monday's announcement was welcomed in Wyoming, where residents and many elected officials have fought bitterly to preserve snowmobile access. State officials have said up to 950 of the machines should be allowed daily.

"Our view is the parks are there for the people to experience," said Jay Jerde with the Wyoming Attorney General's office. "They should be allowed into the park as long as that access doesn't cause unacceptable impacts."

Conservationists argued that too many of the machines degrade the park's natural beauty.

"They've totally done a U-turn," said Amy McNamara with the Bozeman, Mont.-based Greater Yellowstone Coalition. "It's incredibly disappointing. They were en route to putting a decision in place that would have sent them in the right direction."

Yellowstone officials have said previously that it could take up to three years to come up with a long-term plan. Nash said that timeline is no longer so clear, but he declined to give a more likely schedule. The 2008 winter season begins Dec. 15.

House Democrats battle over energy panel

By Ken Dilanian

USA TODAY, Tuesday, November 18, 2008

WASHINGTON — A fight brewing among congressional Democrats could shape the course of President-elect Barack Obama's plans for energy policy, climate change and health care reform.

Barring a last-minute deal, House Democrats will decide this week, possibly Thursday, in a secret ballot who will lead the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, where major environmental, consumer safety and health laws have been crafted.

Rep. Henry Waxman, a California liberal best known for his high-profile oversight hearings, is challenging Michigan Rep. John Dingell, who has been the committee's top Democrat since 1981 and one of the automobile industry's staunchest defenders on Capitol Hill.

Though Dingell and Waxman worked together to help craft seminal 1990 changes to the Clean Air Act, the two legislative lions have been rivals for decades, scrapping over environmental and health policies. Waxman, 69, favors tough environmental regulations and an overhaul of the auto industry, while Dingell, 82, touts what he calls "a balanced approach" and makes no secret of his desire to protect Detroit's automakers.

Dingell, who has faced two serious re-election fights in more than 50 years, has raised millions of dollars from industries regulated by his committee, according to the non-partisan Center for Responsive Politics. His top contributors are employees of electric utilities and the auto industry, along with health professionals.

Waxman, who chairs the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and never has been seriously challenged for re-election, has raised far less money — \$5 million since 1989 to Dingell's \$15.5 million, according to the center. His biggest givers are health professionals, union members and, with a district that includes Hollywood and Beverly Hills, employees of the entertainment industries.

Waxman has been mum while Dingell has gone public, announcing a team of supporters and blasting Waxman in a radio interview. Speaking Nov. 6 on Detroit radio station WJR, Dingell called Waxman "an anti-manufacturing left wing Democrat. If Waxman won, he added, people should "expect that you're going to have a man there who doesn't understand and doesn't care about industrial manufacturing in the United States."

Rep. Jim Cooper of Tennessee, a Waxman backer, countered: "I think that's a cheap shot. Henry is a superbly fair and rational legislator." Cooper added, "Chairman Dingell will go down in history as one of the greats, but he's probably not the greatest right now. There's a stronger quarterback available in Henry Waxman."

Obama is staying out of it. "President-elect Obama has tremendous respect for both chairmen, but this is an issue for the House Democratic Caucus," spokeswoman Stephanie Cutter said by e-mail. Obama hired Waxman's longtime chief of staff, Phil Schiliro, to be the new administration's legislative liaison. Schiliro is now filling that role for the transition.

Also on the sidelines, at least publicly, is House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who in 2001 gave \$10,000 to a Dingell primary opponent, and who in 2007 named a special global warming committee to circumvent Dingell's go-slow approach to the issue. But Dingell backer Rep. Bart Stupak of Michigan questions whether Pelosi is neutral, since one of her close allies, California Rep. George Miller, is backing Waxman.

"I don't think George Miller would be pushing this so hard without the speaker's approval," Stupak said. Pelosi must consider moderates in her caucus, he added or, "we'll be a one-term majority."

"I'm not going along with this ideology if this is where the Speaker intends to take us," Stupak said.

Asked to respond, Miller did not address the issue in a statement to USA TODAY.

Dingell's list of supporters highlights the ideological canyon between liberals such as Waxman and moderates from swing districts who helped Democrats win the majority in 2006. It includes North Carolina's Heath Shuler, the pro-gun, anti-abortion former football star, and Virginia's Rick Boucher, who shares Dingell's approach to climate legislation. Dingell backers, including Stupak, say his broader base of support will be better able to get bills passed.

Dingell and Boucher have written a so-called cap and trade bill that has drawn criticism from environmentalists and an Obama adviser, Robert Sussman, because it would give away carbon emissions permits to businesses rather than auction them off, as Obama proposes. (Under a cap and trade system, businesses would trade permits to emit carbon, so that emissions reductions can be achieved using the efficiencies of the free market.)

Sussman, a former Environmental Protection Agency official who co-chairs Obama's EPA transition team, also argued in an article earlier this month for the liberal think tank the Center for American Progress that the bill didn't go far enough in reducing carbon emissions.

The bill's shortcomings, he wrote, "raise serious concerns and should not be the starting point for legislative action in the new Congress."

A Dingell spokeswoman, Jodi Seth, said the bill remains open for discussion, but called it a "pragmatic" approach that was the result of two dozen hearings.

Both Dingell and Waxman have contributed money to freshmen legislators, though Waxman has done more. In the 2007-2008 election cycle, Waxman and his political action committee doled out \$38,000 to first-term member seeking re-election, compared with \$24,000 by Dingell and his PAC, according to Congressional Quarterly.

And Dingell is scheduled to co-host a fundraiser Wednesday for incoming members at which PACs are encouraged to give \$20,000, according to the watchdog group Public Citizen, which condemned the move.

Dingell "should be aware how suspect it looks for him to be currying favor with incoming legislators the same week the freshmen and sitting members will decide his fate," Joan Claybrook, President of Public Citizen, said in a statement.

Seth did not respond to questions about Dingell's contributions or fundraising.

Dingell has won high marks from such groups as the League of Conservation Voters, but he also was nicknamed "Tailpipe Johnny" by former Republican congressman Edward Madigan of Illinois in the 1980s when he voted with Republicans seeking to reduce auto pollution restrictions. For years he fought attempts to mandate stricter vehicle mileage requirements, though he helped pass them in 2007.

In 1997, Dingell co-sponsored a bill designed to block Clinton administration rules tightening emissions standards for ozone and particulate matter, though the bill failed after Waxman said he had enough votes to sustain a presidential veto.

And in recent years Dingell opposed attempts to let the EPA regulate carbon emissions under the Clean Air Act, something Waxman supports.

Dingell's wife, Debbie, earns an undisclosed salary as a top executive for General Motors.

Dingell, first elected to Congress in 1955, reports a net worth of between \$2.4 million and \$6.1 million, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. Waxman's disclosures put his net worth at between \$786,000 and \$2,040,000, according to the center.

"When push comes to shove, Dingell is still Tailpipe Johnny," said Frank O'Donnell, president of Clean Air Watch, an environmental group. "I think Waxman is more aligned with Obama's agenda and a Waxman victory certainly would dramatically increase the potential for good legislation on climate change."

Countered Rep. Rob Andrews of New Jersey, "I think Dingell has a great environmental record, and more importantly he has shown the ability to bring all sides to the table to get something done."

Waxman has investigated everything from Iraq contracting to steroids in baseball to the financial meltdown. He may be best known for putting the seven tobacco companies' CEOs under oath in 1994, so they could testify they didn't believe cigarettes were addictive.

He helped write a law requiring for the first time nutritional labeling on food, as well as measures governing pesticides, safe drinking water and health care for poor people. In 1982, he held the first congressional hearing on the disease now known as AIDS.

[Stockton Record Editorial, Monday, Nov. 17, 2008:](#)

Valley air needs attention

Cleaning up pollution will benefit our health and, ultimately, economy

By The Record

A second study has found that not only is Valley air pollution bad for your health, it's bad for your pocketbook, too.

The study released last week was another attempt to quantify what air pollution really costs. The findings: in San Joaquin County, there are 110 early deaths each year because of polluted air. And cleaning it up would save \$761 million in economic value now lost because of such things as lower productivity, higher hospital admissions and missed work days.

"The numbers are indeed large," said Jane Hall, an environmental economist from California State University, Fullerton.

Every resident of San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and Kern counties -- 100 percent of them -- is exposed to so-called PM2.5 pollution, tiny particles that can lodge deep in the lungs.

Across the Valley, Hall and her team of economists, estimate an annual \$6 billion cost to the economy, or roughly \$1,600 yearly for every resident. Statewide, the cost was put at \$28 billion a year.

Two years ago, the Fullerton State economists released a similar study putting the cost of pollution at \$3 billion with 812 premature deaths Valley-wide.

There are some that dismiss such studies, calling them exaggerated. Certainly there is room for skepticism, but study after study -- and not just in the Valley -- shows air pollution to be a silent killer that also extracts a heavy economic toll. With evidence accumulating, the problem can't simply be brushed off.

To be sure, there has been significant progress in the battle against air pollution. The air quality has improved in the past decade. But there are at least two things working against us in fighting air pollution:

- The Valley is a bowl and combined with weather conditions, pollution tends to concentrate. The farther south you travel in the San Joaquin Valley, the worse the air tends to be.
- The Valley is a population growth area. That means more cars and more factories leading to more future pollution absent of increased control efforts.

The health and economic costs will keep climbing if we do just what we're doing today. That's not going to be good enough, especially if you're a parent rushing a child to the emergency room with an asthma attack triggered by air pollution.

This will be a long term battle against a silent killer. And while it will seem an expensive fight, evidence is stacking up that shows the cost of doing nothing is much higher.

[N.Y. Times editorial, Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2008:](#)

Honesty About Ethanol

One of the 2007 energy bill's most ambitious provisions — the ethanol mandate — has turned out to be its most troublesome. The provision would boost ethanol production from 7-plus billion gallons today to 36 billion gallons by 2022. In practical terms, this means doubling the production of corn ethanol until advanced forms of ethanol and other biofuels kick in.

Corn ethanol came under fire earlier this year when evidence mounted that the diversion of cropland from food to fuel had contributed to the spike in worldwide food prices. What is less clear is whether corn ethanol is good or bad for the planet — whether it emits fewer or more greenhouse gas emissions than conventional gasoline. The answer turns on how you measure emissions.

Congress stipulated that ethanol be cleaner than gasoline and handed the job of measuring emissions to the Environmental Protection Agency, which has found itself under ferocious pressure. The ethanol industry wants its product shown in the best possible light. Environmentalists want an honest accounting, which the public deserves but which they do not think an industry-friendly Bush administration is capable of.

The most contentious question involves the emissions caused by direct and indirect changes in land use associated with growing biofuels. Until late last year, corn ethanol had been seen as at least carbon neutral — and thus much cleaner than gasoline — because the greenhouse gases it absorbed while growing canceled out the gases it emitted during combustion. This made it a win-win fuel — even a win-win-win fuel — because it also encouraged the construction of ethanol refineries in the American heartland and eased, to some extent, America's dependence on imported oil.

But then came a spate of new studies arguing that earlier calculations had failed to account for the emissions caused when land is cleared and tilled, releasing large quantities of stored carbon. In particular, the studies said, the earlier scenarios had overlooked the indirect or ripple effects of ethanol production — the carbon released when the diversion of land from food to fuel in the Corn Belt causes farmers elsewhere in the world to clear untouched land to make up for the loss.

The studies also said that some biofuels — waste material, forest residues, certain grasses — can be produced without harmful changes in land use and with benefit to the atmosphere. But the indirect effects of converting food crops to fuel production were found to cause net increases in emissions in almost every case.

The industry says that such indirect effects are impossible to measure and that the studies are premature. One industry group has asked the E.P.A. to ignore them entirely. But it seems clear on its face that some land-use changes — e.g., cutting down rain forests to plant crops — would have seriously negative effects.

In any case, it is the E.P.A.'s duty under the law to give the most unbiased, accurate accounting it can. The issue here is the fate of the planet, not the fate of a particular industry.

[Letter to the Fresno Bee, Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2008:](#)

Mixed messages on air

Last May, the Central Valley Health Policy Institute at California State University, Fresno, published a research report on air quality policy. The central motivating factor for the research was "to understand and help resolve the contradiction between high public concern and low public engagement."

Maybe the disconnect between concern and action is fueled by the mixed messages we receive through the local media. We all know that air quality is a serious health risk in our Valley -- along with the weather forecast, we get the day's Air Quality Index informing us if it's safe to exercise outdoors -- yet billboards along Highway 99 encourage us to help clean up the air by riding our bikes to work or school.

What are we to do -- take our cars, pollute and guard our health, or ride bikes, risk our health, but clear the air? Is it any wonder there is little action and "engagement" with such mixed messages?

Maybe the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and the folks at the county Health Department could work together to produce a single, coordinated message -- giving Valley residents a clear path to action for health and a healthy-air future.

Marla Hartman, Visalia

[Note: The following clip in Spanish discusses Red Cross helps fire victims, while worries arise from the air pollution. For more information on this and other Spanish clips, contact Claudia Encinas at \(559\) 230-5851.](#)

Cruz Roja llama a socorrer damnificados por incendios, mientras preocupa la contaminación

Carlos Quintanilla

Noticiero Latino

Radio Bilingüe, Monday, Nov. 17, 2008

Cerca de 30 mil personas han sido evacuadas a causa de los incendios que se han desatado desde el viernes en el sur de California y, que según el Departamento de Bomberos de Los Ángeles, para esta noche podrían estar controlados. Se estima que hay más de 800 estructuras destruidas y la Cruz Roja hace urgentes llamados para socorrer a las personas que se encuentran en los albergues. Las escuelas ubicadas en las áreas cercanas al siniestro tuvieron que cancelar las clases para preservar la seguridad del personal y los estudiantes. Los incendios, que han sido calificados como "despiadados", han dejado en la ruina a miles de personas. En tanto, las autoridades de salud están alertando a la población a tomar las precauciones necesarias porque la nube de "smog", que cubrió el sur de California, continuará afectando por un par de días más la calidad del aire.

[Note: The following clip in Spanish discusses California prepares one of the major world expos on climate change.](#)

Prepara California una de las mayores cumbres mundiales sobre cambio climático

Manuel Ocaño

Noticiero Latino

Radio Bilingüe, Monday, November 17, 2008

El gobernador, Arnold Schwarzenegger adelantó que California prepara para el jueves de esta semana una de las mayores cumbres mundiales para debatir soluciones al cambio climático mundial.

La cumbre, a celebrarse en Beverly Hills reunirá a unos 600 funcionarios de agencias ambientales de gobiernos del mundo y por lo menos a cinco gobernadores estadounidenses.

Schwarzenegger dijo esperar acuerdos diversos, como uno entre estados del país y otros que pudiera incluir a Brasil y a México, entre otros países latinoamericanos.

La reunión cumbre precede un potencial cambio de política ambiental del presidente electo, Barack Obama.

Note: [The following clip in Spanish discusses San Diego will at least have 4.5 degrees more in temperature due to climate change.](#)

San Diego tendrá por lo menos 4.5 grados más de temperatura por cambio climático

Manuel Ocaño

Noticier Latino

Radio Bilingüe, Monday, Nov. 17, 2008

Un análisis regional sobre el impacto del cambio climático en el área de San Diego advirtió que las temperaturas promedio incrementarán por lo menos cuatro grados y medio, habrá mayor sequía, temporadas de incendios más prolongadas e incendios más devastadores.

El pronóstico del estudio de la Fundación San Diego anticipa para el año 2050 esos y otros elementos de sobrecalentamiento, como un aumento en el nivel del mar, en la costa de San Diego, de cerca de un pie y medio.

La referida fundación informó además que una de las mejores formas de combatir esos síntomas es que cada persona decida hacer tres cambios en su estilo de vida, para reducir el cambio climático.