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A COMMUNITY AT RISK: LOS ANGELES AND THE FIGHT FOR CLEAN AIR

SMOG BLANKETS THE CITY



“The pure air supply of metropolitan areas throughout the world is becoming increasingly polluted as a result of man’s activities.”

Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce
September 29, 1955



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An Unhealthy Toxic Haze, ca. 1940s
Los Angeles City Hall (center) was barely visible amid the city's air pollution.





Through the first half of the 1900s, air quality in Los Angeles deteriorated at an alarming rate. The thick smog caused health problems for the residents, including irritated eyes and lungs.



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Many believed that the factories and oil refineries near the city were the source of the smog, but mitigation measures to reduce emissions from these industries did not result in a reduction in smog in the area.



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