

Lois Henry CALIFORNIAN COLUMNIST

Hype clouds picture of pollution



I have no idea how to say this, so I'm just going to say it: Claims about air pollution's devastating effects on public health are, um, hoey. Or at least largely hoey.

You have no idea how it pains me to say that having many times, and publicly so, taken officials to task for not doing more to clean our "filthy air."

Please don't take this to mean we shouldn't continue to try to make our air as clean as possible.

Bakersfield.com

Read archived columns at Bakersfield.com/henry or weigh in on this topic on her **No Holds Barred** blog at Bakersfield.com/blogs.

We should. But it should be done using a reasoned approach based on solid scientific evidence without the wild claims and near hysteria some environmental groups have beaten us over the

heads with to keep us in fear of our next breath without more and more and MORE regulation.

Here's what I've concluded after reading a number of studies, talking to scientists and physicians and looking at some common sense data:

A) Our air is cleaner than it's been in 30 years. And isn't nearly as bad as we've been led to believe.

B) The pollution we do have is

Please turn to **HENRY / B3**

