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Air District Board of Directors adopts Path to Clean Air Plan to improve air quality in Richmond-North Richmond-San Pablo

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District’s Board of Directors has adopted the Path to Clean Air Community Emissions Reduction Plan for Richmond-North Richmond-San Pablo.

The plan was created in partnership with the Path to Clean Air Community Steering Committee that includes local community members, public agencies and other stakeholders. The plan identifies critical air quality and public health concerns and offers actionable solutions to address them.

“Adoption of the Path to Clean Air Plan is a significant step forward in achieving on-the-ground improvements in air quality and public health in a community that has long been overburdened by air pollution,” said Dr. Philip Fine, executive officer of the Air District. “This plan, created in partnership with the Path to Clean Air Community Steering Committee, will address environmental justice issues and disparities in pollution exposure in the Richmond-North Richmond-San Pablo area. All Bay Area residents deserve healthy air quality.”

“We’re at a historical moment as this plan addresses and provides solutions to one of the most critical social determinants of health — public health,” said Y’Anad Burrell, MPA/MHA, Path to Clean Air Community Steering Committee member and former co-chair. “Implementing this plan requires agencies, elected officials and community leaders to reach across the isles to ensure we lift the voices of the most vulnerable in the service areas.”

The plan covers the cities of Richmond and San Pablo and several unincorporated areas in Contra Costa County, including North Richmond, that are impacted by air pollution sources including fuel refining, ships, marine terminals, industrial manufacturing facilities, railways, vehicle and freight traffic. According to CalEnviroScreen 4.0, several communities in the Path to Clean Air area rank in the 90th percentile of pollution burden, some of the highest in California. A 2018 Contra Costa Health Services study shows that asthma rates in the county are higher on average than in the rest of the state and are especially high for children and Black residents.

The California Resources Board will consider the plan for approval later this year. To learn more, visit <https://www.baaqmd.gov/PTCA-CERP>.

The Path to Clean Air Plan was developed as a requirement of AB 617, a state law which recognizes that while California has seen tremendous improvement in air quality, not all

communities have benefited equally, and some communities located close to freeways, ports, industry or other large pollution sources need additional focus and resources to reduce exposure levels.

The [Bay Area Air Quality Management District](#) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area. Connect with the Air District via [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

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