

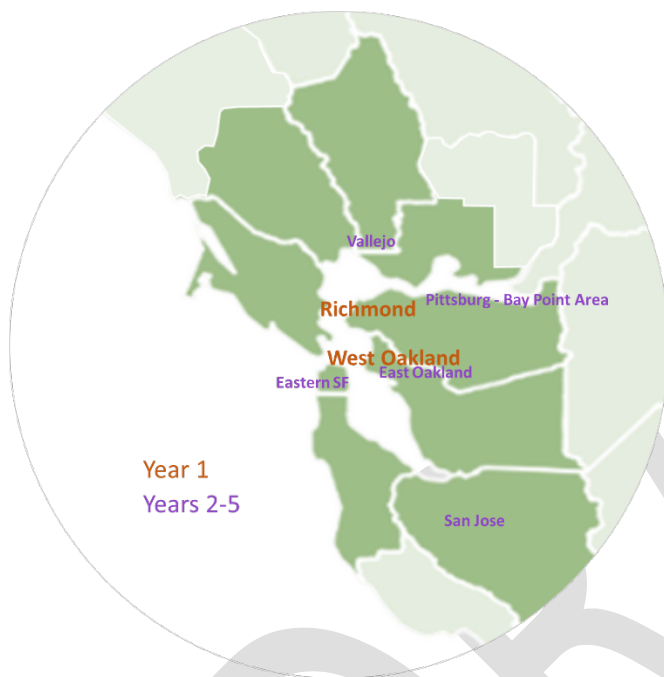
# San Francisco Bay Area's Community Health Protection Program



BAY AREA  
AIR QUALITY  
MANAGEMENT  
DISTRICT

Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617) may be one of the most impactful air quality regulations in the last 35 years. It has been a welcome and necessary initiative for improving public health and equity in California. AB 617 asks local air districts to increase our focus on local air pollution in overburdened communities. In the Bay Area, that means building on a decade of knowledge and experience gained through our Community Air Risk Evaluation or CARE, program. With the passage of AB 617, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District has developed a new *Community Health Protection Program* - a community-driven, transparent effort to build capacity in communities to reduce emissions and exposure to air pollution.

June 20, 2018



AB 617 directs the state, in consultation with local air districts, to select communities in California that are exposed to high levels of air pollution. Selected communities will work with local air districts on action plans to reduce people's exposure to particulate matter and toxic air contaminants, and/or to develop community air monitoring plans.

## ***A Community-Driven Process***

Bay Area residents are helping select communities. Since January 2018, residents have attended numerous workshops and have used online engagement tools to share local air quality concerns and to propose communities for action. Residents asked us to give top priority to areas impacted by oil refineries, odors and woodsmoke, as well as places near congested transportation corridors and those that have a history of air quality violations, contamination and environmental injustice. Some specific areas recommended include Antioch, Bay Point, Benicia, Concord, Crockett, East

Oakland, Fairfield, Livermore, Marin, Milpitas, Napa, Oakley, Pittsburg, Redwood City, Richmond, Rodeo, San Francisco, San Jose, San Leandro, San Pablo, Vallejo and West Oakland.

Community recommendations, along with air quality and health data, helped us to draft a complete set of areas in the Bay Area that would be good candidates for development of an action and/or monitoring plan. All areas were sent to the California Air Resources Board on April 25, 2018. Our final recommendations for prioritizing areas for action are due to the state on July 31, 2018.

## ***Year 1: West Oakland, Community Action Plan***

Air District staff will recommend West Oakland for an action plan in year 1 of the state's AB 617 program. The West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project (WOEIP) will be our partner in this effort. They have a long history of community planning and advocacy to reduce residents' exposure to diesel particulate matter and toxic air contaminants. WOEIP has been instrumental in bringing air pollution and its related health effects to the forefront of research and planning activities in West Oakland. They are uniquely positioned to engage quickly and effectively in an action planning effort and will likely serve as a model in future plans.

West Oakland is generally bounded by the Port of Oakland, the Union Pacific rail yard, and I-580, I-880, and I-980 freeways. Maritime-freight industries (including the Port of Oakland, the redevelopment of the Oakland Army Base and private facilities), the rail yard and rail lines, large distribution centers, cement and asphalt plants, a power plant, metal

facilities, small to medium industrial and manufacturing operations, major freeways and busy roadways used as trucking routes all impact the West Oakland community. These sources contribute to high levels of particulate matter concentrations and elevated cancer risk from toxic air contaminants. West Oakland is considered one of the most impacted areas in the Bay Area due to the many sources of diesel particulate matter in the area. Unknown additional impacts may occur due to the redevelopment of the Oakland Army Base.

Approximately 25,000 people live in the West Oakland area. West Oakland is predominantly a low-income and high health-burden community. The community has high levels of environmental exposures and experiences social and economic disadvantages. People living in West Oakland experience more asthma emergency room visits, higher rates of cardiovascular disease, greater unemployment, lower educational attainment, high housing cost burden, lower life expectancy and higher incidences of poverty than most other areas in Alameda County.

### ***Year 1: Richmond, Community Air Monitoring***

Air District staff will recommend the Richmond area for a community monitoring plan in year 1 of the state's AB 617 program. In Richmond, we have an opportunity to leverage many historic and current monitoring studies. The Richmond area is in western Contra Costa County and includes most of the City of Richmond and portions of El Cerrito. It also includes communities just north and east of Richmond, such as San Pablo and several unincorporated communities, including North Richmond. There are a complex mix of emission sources in the Richmond area. It is home to a large refinery and chemical plant, a seaport, organic waste and metal facilities, small to medium industrial and manufacturing facilities, high volume freeways and roadways, a railyard and rail lines. Our primary goal of the Richmond monitoring effort will be to better characterize this mix of sources and to more fully understand the associated air quality and pollution impacts.

Approximately 100,000 people live in the Richmond area. The area is interspersed with low-income, high health-burden communities. Areas throughout Richmond experience social or economic disadvantages, as well as health burdens that increase vulnerability to environmental exposures. People living in the Richmond area, especially North Richmond and the Iron Triangle, experience more asthma emergency room visits, higher rates of cardiovascular disease, greater unemployment, lower educational attainment, high housing cost burden, lower life expectancy and higher incidences of poverty than in other areas of Contra Costa County. While regional monitoring show levels of pollution consistent with other urban areas in the Bay Area, the high health burden and combination of numerous types of industrial sources makes the area especially suited for a community-scale monitoring.

### ***Years 2-5 Communities***

Air District staff is planning to recommend East Oakland/San Leandro, Eastern San Francisco, the Pittsburg-Bay Point area, San Jose and Vallejo for years 2-5 in the state's AB 617 program. Like Richmond and West Oakland, these communities have higher levels of environmental exposures and more significant health burdens compared to the rest of the Bay Area. These health burdens increase vulnerability to environmental exposures. Over the next several years, we will be working to build capacity in these communities for future planning and/or community air monitoring. Building partnerships and developing a shared understanding of local air quality issues, combined with lessons learned from the year 1 activities, will provide strong foundation for improving air quality and health in the years 2-5 communities.

### ***Communities for Years 6 and Beyond***

Our recommended communities for years 1 through 5 do not represent all Bay Area communities that have high levels of air pollution. We are committed to addressing air quality issues, and associated health impacts, in every Bay Area community burdened by air pollution. The Air District will use its permitting, monitoring, education, regulatory, enforcement and grants programs to address air quality issues across the region. This will allow us to improve health outcomes for everyone.