

West Oakland Community Action Plan

Town Hall - Steering Committee Meeting #15
Saturday, August 17, 2019, 10:00 am — 2:00 pm
West Oakland Youth Center
3233 Market Street, Oakland, CA

Meeting Summary

1. **Welcome** (Marybelle Tobias, Facilitator). Marybelle welcomed attendees and shared meeting objectives and guidelines. She noted that the Steering Committee has achieved a major milestone and acknowledged the amount of time and commitment it took the Steering Committee and co-leads to develop the West Oakland Community Action Plan.
2. **Overview: Partnership, Process & Plan** (Brian Beveridge, WOEIP & Henry Hilken, BAAQMD).
 - a. Brian asked Steering Committee members to stand and be applauded. Brian explained that Plan is innovative and includes strategies the Air District would not typically include because the Steering Committee wrote this plan; it wasn't just written by an agency and handed to us. Brian asked the broader community to help ensure the Plan captures the community's voice.
 - b. Henry added that this process has been a true partnership; the co-leads met weekly for a little over a year. Henry agreed that the Air District has never done a plan with a community group's logo on the cover and explained that this town hall is an important step for sharing this unique Plan and process with the rest of the community.
3. **Opening Statements** (Co-Leads & Elected Officials).
 - a. **John Bauters** (Director - BAAQMD & Councilmember - Emeryville) After pointing out that Ms Margaret is his real boss, John emphasized that this Plan creates a real opportunity to improve public health and equity in our community and make this a just place. Important to reduce harmful health impacts because they also impact educational attainment and self-worth.
 - b. **Ms. Margaret Gordon** (Co-Director - WOEIP) Ms. Margaret shared that West Oakland was the first community to partner with an Air District to write a plan. Even though the plan is for West Oakland, it will benefit everyone. That's what this process is about.
 - c. **Libby Schaaf** (Mayor - City of Oakland) Mayor Schaaf explained that the State of California is empowering communities to write their own plans because of Ms. Margaret's tireless work and reiterated that this Plan will benefit the whole state. Looking forward, Mayor Schaaf identified several opportunities for funding implementation of the strategies in this plan, including the Equitable Climate Action Plan and the West Oakland Specific Plan.
 - d. **Honorable Nancy Skinner** (California State Senator - District 9) Hon. Skinner wants to move toward electrification of the Port, trucks and medium duty vehicles powered by

petroleum-based diesel. Hon. Skinner said there is an urgent need to improve air quality so that we don't let the next generation suffer from skyrocketing asthma rates and other health impacts. She is sponsoring a bill, SB 44, that would move the state off diesel by 2030 and pledges to continue working with West Oakland to achieve this. West Oakland won't stop being a goods movement corridor, but we can move goods with clean vehicles.

- e. **Honorable Rob Bonta** (California Assembly Member - 18th Assembly District). Hon. Bonta acknowledged WOEIP, BAAQMD and the SC for their hard work. He stated that the disparate impacts are unacceptable. The solutions need to match the urgency of the problem and come from the community and Oakland can be a model for the rest of the state. He is working with community groups to introduce California Green New Deal next year.
- f. **Public Comments.** Two audience members made comments; one stated that there aren't enough subsidies for EVs and charging stations, while the other commented that there isn't enough money set aside for Urban Forestry in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, and we haven't planted enough trees yet.

4. **Owning Our Air: Overview of West Oakland's Community Action Plan** (Brian Beveridge, WOEIP & Henry Hilken, BAAQMD).

- a. Brian provided a brief overview of the plan, emphasizing that the strategies are not automatic solutions and will require ongoing community engagement.
- b. Henry described the air modeling that identified the sources of local pollution; plan focuses on local impacts.
 - i. The Plan's goal is to reduce disparity within West Oakland, raising all neighborhoods to the levels in the cleanest areas of WO by 2030.
 - ii. Focus on incentives for cleaner vehicles; land use strategies to get truck related businesses out of the community and enforce truck routes; reducing exposure as much as possible -- high efficiency filters in heating and cooling systems, planting trees.
 - iii. Implementation will be a heavy lift, requiring collaboration with many agencies.
- c. **Public Comment.** Following the presentation, there were several comments and questions, including a request to include strategies addressing contaminated soil and residences contaminated with lead, and an inquiry about safe levels of air pollution.
 - i. Karin MacDonald (Prescott Neighborhood Association) asked why the goal is linked to the cleanest neighborhood in West Oakland, rather than the cleanest neighborhood in the County?
 - 1. Henry answered that AB 617 calls for 5 and 10 year outcomes; would be a stretch to become the cleanest community by 2030.
 - 2. Brian added that the local pollution levels are linked to regional levels. The best air coming off of the Bay and the air in the best neighborhood in WO were similar, making it a good short-term goal.

5. **Steering Committee Perspectives on the Community Action Plan** (Marybelle Tobias, Facilitator).

- a. **Mercedes Rodriguez (BayPorte Village Neighborhood Watch)** *community resident perspective* Joined the SC at Ms. Margaret's request. As a long-term resident of West Oakland, Mercedes is concerned about the impact of truck traffic on residents' health,

especially because there are many schools and senior facilities in the neighborhood. She wants to prevent trucks from parking in the neighborhood.

- b. **Michelle Arango (New Voices Are Rising) youth perspective** Michelle appreciated the diversity through the process. Wants to see asthma rates and health impacts decrease and to eliminate pollution from its roots, so that kids can go to school without getting sick.
- c. **Karin Mac Donald (Prescott Oakland Point Neighborhood Association) community resident perspective** Karin acknowledged WOEIP's leadership through this process. Steep learning curve for community members, but she is here for the long game. She has worked on air quality issues for over 20 years; community participation is a vital part of these processes. Not sure what the plan will achieve unless the City and other agencies make a strong commitment, e.g., in writing, that they will implement and enforce this plan.
- d. **Bill Aboudi (AB Trucking) trucking industry perspective** Bill shared the fact that over 9000 trucks operate at the Port each day. He emphasized that since humans drive trucks, truck drivers are highly affected by diesel pollution and will benefit from cleaner trucks and less pollution. Bill offered solutions to ensure the transition to cleaner trucks and better technology happens quickly, such as waiving weight requirements for electric trucks, which are heavier.
- e. **Public Comment.** Commenters asked to hear more about how government agencies will be held accountable for implementation, shared a concern about construction debris, and inquired whether any past plans have been successful. Karin answered that forced collaboration and funding have supported success on past plans and suggested that the City and State set aside funding for implementing this Plan.

6. **Implementing Agencies' Commitments to Clean Air in West Oakland** (Anuja Mendiratta, Facilitator)

- a. **Greg Nudd (Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer - Bay Area Air Quality Management District)** Greg acknowledged that many past plans were bad or simply didn't benefit this community. The Air District is legally required to implement this Plan; primary focus is acting differently to demonstrate their commitment. Greg explained that the Air District must request funding from Legislature on an annual basis, but is committed to hit the targets set in the plan, despite possible resource challenges.
- b. **Veronica Eady (EJ Officer - California Air Resources Board)** Veronica explained that this community is an example for the other nine AB 617 communities. She shared that CARB provides incentives for clean cars and trucks, and will tighten regulations on port equipment and is committed to implementing the plan. Veronica also advised of the need to ensure that all energy sources, including hydrogen and electricity, are clean.
- c. **Danny Wan (Interim Executive Director - Port of Oakland)** Danny explained that the Port is committed to improving air quality in West Oakland; port workers also live here. Danny shared the Port's track record of implementing plans, including the Maritime Air Quality Improvement Plan; on track to achieve its goal by 2020. Will be working to enforce the 2020 & Beyond Plan, Truck Management Plan and the Downtown Specific Plan.
- d. **Alexandria McBride (Chief Resilience Officer - City of Oakland)** Alex described that the city is committed to resilience; has invested in her role and she is charged with leading

the City's response. Alex also shared that the City's Equitable Climate Action Plan and Opportunity Zones can help advance the Plan's goals.

- e. **Kimi Watkins-Tartt (Public Health Director - Alameda County Public Health Department)** Kimi described the Health Department's role in tracking the health of everyone in the County and its commitment to all of the health measures in the plan. Kimi also shared that the Health Department is working to secure funding to scale up its asthma preventative care program.
- f. **Bill Gilchrist (Director - City of Oakland Planning Department)** Bill stated that the City will need to lead implementation, due to the number of agencies that will need to collaborate for implementation. Bill committed to advocating for new policies in areas outside of the city's sphere of control alongside the community and to jointly review the Plan on a regular basis to measure accountability and responsiveness to new conditions.
- g. **Public Comment.** Patricia Nunley (Community Resident) requested to hear arguments against the plan. When told there were no negative comments, she wondered whether there had been sufficient outreach to the whole community. Another commenter requested a website for tracking the implementation process. The final commenter spoke about the co-benefits of this plan, which include the creation of good jobs.

7. **Wrap-up + Next steps** (Marybelle Tobias, Facilitator). After you leave here today, we encourage you to submit public comments on the plan.

- a. Public Comment Period ends on Monday, Sept 9 at 5 p.m.
- b. The addresses where you can submit comments are on the screen.
- c. Upcoming Dates
 - i. October 2 – Board Meeting (sign up to attend)
 - ii. October 9 – Celebration and Special Steering Committee meeting with CARB
 - iii. November 6 – Visioning for next year and implementation (what will it look like? That's when it will get real)
 - iv. December 5 – CARB Board Meeting in the community.
- d. Now, transitioning to Lunch and the interactive stations - where you can go deeper and learn more about the plan. Inviting folks to enjoy lunch, learn more and interact with the Air District and WOEIP on the plan.

8. **Lunch.**

9. **Interactive Stations**

- a. **Air Quality**
- b. **Community Engagement**
- c. **Enforcement**
- d. **Two Map Stations**
- e. **Community Action Plan**

10. **Adjourn.**