



BAY AREA  
AIR QUALITY  
MANAGEMENT  
DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

SHIRLEE ZANE – CHAIR  
TERESA BARRETT  
JOHN GIOIA  
DAVINA HURT  
NATE MILEY

MARK ROSS – VICE CHAIR  
DAVID CANEPA  
SCOTT HAGGERTY  
LIZ KNISS  
BRAD WAGENKNECHT

**THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED UNDER PROCEDURES AUTHORIZED BY  
EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20 ISSUED BY  
GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM**

- **MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE MUST PARTICIPATE BY  
TELECONFERENCE**
- **THE PUBLIC MAY OBSERVE THIS MEETING THROUGH THE WEBCAST  
OF THE MEETING BY CLICKING THE LINK AVAILABLE ON THE AIR  
DISTRICT'S AGENDA WEBPAGE FOR THE MEETING AVAILABLE AT**

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WEBINAR ID: 939 0464 4784**

<https://bayareametro.zoom.us/j/93904644784>

- **PUBLIC COMMENTS WILL BE TAKEN DURING THE TELECONFERENCE.  
INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE PROVIDED ON HOW TO COMMENT AT THE  
START OF THE MEETING. COMMENTS MAY ALSO BE SUBMITTED AT**

[Comments@baaqmd.gov](mailto:Comments@baaqmd.gov)

**WEDNESDAY  
MAY 20, 2020  
2:30 P.M.**

## **AGENDA**

**1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL**

*The Committee Chair shall call the meeting to order and the Clerk of the Boards shall take roll of the Committee members. The Committee Chair shall lead the Pledge of Allegiance.*

*This meeting will be webcast. To see the webcast, please visit [www.baaqmd.gov/bodagendas](http://www.baaqmd.gov/bodagendas) at the time of the meeting. Closed captioning may contain errors and omissions and are not certified for their content or form.*

***Email Comment on Agenda Items:** The public may comment on each item on the agenda. Email Comments for items on the agenda must be submitted to [Comments@baaqmd.gov](mailto:Comments@baaqmd.gov) prior to the Committee taking up the particular item and indicate the agenda item to which the comment relates. Emailed comments will be considered as the agenda item is taken up by the Committee. Emailed comments containing 250 words or less will be read aloud by staff. Emailed comments exceeding 250 words may be summarized during the meeting, if feasible.*

**Staff/Phone (415) 749-**

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 5, 2020**

**Clerk of the Boards/5073**

*The Committee will consider approving the attached draft minutes of the Community and Public Health Committee meeting of March 5, 2020.*

**3. RECENT STUDIES ON COVID-19 AND PARTICULATE MATTER**

**J. Broadbent/5052**

**[jbroadbent@baaqmd.gov](mailto:jbroadbent@baaqmd.gov)**

*Staff will provide the Committee with a summary of recent studies on COVID-19 and particulate matter and discuss the complexity of interpreting preliminary health exposure studies.*

**4. AIR DISTRICT EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE TELEWORKING**

**J. Broadbent/5052**

**[jbroadbent@baaqmd.gov](mailto:jbroadbent@baaqmd.gov)**

*Staff will outline the new Spare the Air campaign focus and efforts to encourage employers to incorporate teleworking in their re-entry plans after the shelter-in-place orders are lifted or relaxed.*

5. **CONTRA COSTA COUNTY GREEN AND HEALTHY HOMES INITIATIVE**

**J. Broadbent/5052**

[jbroadbent@baaqmd.gov](mailto:jbroadbent@baaqmd.gov)

*Staff will present on Contra Costa County's Green and Healthy Home Initiative, a project to support mitigation for asthma triggers and greenhouse gas emissions in low-income households.*

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA MATTERS**

*Emailed comments indicating the comment pertains to non-agenda matters will be considered under this item. Emailed comments containing 250 words or less will be read aloud by staff. Emailed comments exceeding 250 words may be summarized during the meeting, if feasible.*

7. **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

*Any member of the Committee, or its staff, on his or her own initiative or in response to questions posed by the public, may: ask a question for clarification, make a brief announcement or report on his or her own activities, provide a reference to staff regarding factual information, request staff to report back at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter or take action to direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda. (Gov't Code § 54954.2)*

8. **TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

*Thursday, July 2, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., via webcast, pursuant to procedures authorized by Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom.*

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

*The Committee meeting shall be adjourned by the Committee Chair.*

**CONTACT:**

**MANAGER, EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS**  
**375 BEALE STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105**  
[vjohnson@baaqmd.gov](mailto:vjohnson@baaqmd.gov)

**(415) 749-4941**  
**FAX: (415) 928-8560**  
**BAAQMD homepage:**  
[www.baaqmd.gov](http://www.baaqmd.gov)

- Any writing relating to an open session item on this Agenda that is distributed to all, or a majority of all, members of the body to which this Agenda relates shall be made available at the District's offices at 375 Beale Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94105, at the time such writing is made available to all, or a majority of all, members of that body.

**Accessibility and Non-Discrimination Policy**

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) does not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, ethnic group identification, ancestry, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, color, genetic information, medical condition, or mental or physical disability, or any other attribute or belief protected by law.

It is the Air District's policy to provide fair and equal access to the benefits of a program or activity administered by Air District. The Air District will not tolerate discrimination against any person(s) seeking to participate in, or receive the benefits of, any program or activity offered or conducted by the Air District. Members of the public who believe they or others were unlawfully denied full and equal access to an Air District program or activity may file a discrimination complaint under this policy. This non-discrimination policy also applies to other people or entities affiliated with Air District, including contractors or grantees that the Air District utilizes to provide benefits and services to members of the public.

Auxiliary aids and services including, for example, qualified interpreters and/or listening devices, to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, and to other individuals as necessary to ensure effective communication or an equal opportunity to participate fully in the benefits, activities, programs and services will be provided by the Air District in a timely manner and in such a way as to protect the privacy and independence of the individual. Please contact the Non-Discrimination Coordinator identified below at least three days in advance of a meeting so that arrangements can be made accordingly.

If you believe discrimination has occurred with respect to an Air District program or activity, you may contact the Non-Discrimination Coordinator identified below or visit our website at [www.baaqmd.gov/accessibility](http://www.baaqmd.gov/accessibility) to learn how and where to file a complaint of discrimination.

Questions regarding this Policy should be directed to the Air District's Non-Discrimination Coordinator, Rex Sanders, at (415) 749-4951 or by email at [rsanders@baaqmd.gov](mailto:rsanders@baaqmd.gov)

# BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

375 BEALE STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105

FOR QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL (415) 749-4941

## EXECUTIVE OFFICE:

## MONTHLY CALENDAR OF AIR DISTRICT MEETINGS

### MAY 2020

<u>TYPE OF MEETING</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>ROOM</u>
Board of Directors Technology Implementation Office (TIO) Steering Committee	Friday	15	1:00 p.m.	Webcast only pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20
Board of Directors Legislative Committee CANCELLED AND RESCHEDULED TO WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2020 AT 1:00 P.M.	Wednesday	20	8:30 a.m.	Webcast only pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20
Board of Directors Mobile Source Committee	Wednesday	20	9:30 a.m.	Webcast only pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20
Board of Directors Personnel Committee CANCELLED AND RESCHEDULED TO WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2020 AT 10:30 A.M.	Wednesday	20	11:00 a.m.	Webcast only pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20
Board of Directors Budget & Finance Committee	Wednesday	20	11:00 a.m.	Webcast only pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20
Board of Directors Community & Public Health Committee	Wednesday	20	2:30 p.m.	Webcast only pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20
Board of Directors Budget & Finance Committee – CANCELLED AND RESCHEDULED TO WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2020 AT 11:00 A.M.	Wednesday	27	9:30 a.m.	Webcast only pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20
Board of Directors Personnel Committee	Wednesday	27	10:30 a.m.	Webcast only pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20
Board of Directors Legislative Committee	Wednesday	27	1:00 p.m.	Webcast only pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20
Board of Directors Mobile Source Committee - CANCELLED AND RESCHEDULED TO WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2020 AT 9:30 A.M.	Wednesday	27	11:00 a.m.	Webcast only pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20
Board of Directors Community & Public Health Committee - CANCELLED AND RESCHEDULED TO WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2020 AT 2:30 P.M.	Wednesday	27	12:30 p.m.	Webcast only pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20

## **JUNE 2020**

<u><b>TYPE OF MEETING</b></u>	<u><b>DAY</b></u>	<u><b>DATE</b></u>	<u><b>TIME</b></u>	<u><b>ROOM</b></u>
Board of Directors Meeting	Wednesday	3	9:30 a.m.	Webcast only pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20
Board of Directors Budget & Finance Committee - CANCELLED	Wednesday	24	9:30 a.m.	Webcast only pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20
Board of Directors Legislative Committee	Wednesday	24	9:30 a.m.	Webcast only pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20
Board of Directors Mobile Source Committee	Wednesday	24	11:00 a.m.	Webcast only pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20
Board of Directors Stationary Source Committee	Wednesday	24	12:00 p.m.	Webcast only pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20
Board of Directors Climate Protection Committee	Wednesday	24	2:00 p.m.	Webcast only pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20
JB – 5/12/2020 – 4:41 P.M.				G/Board/Executive Office/Moncal

**BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

Memorandum

To: Chairperson Shirlee Zane and Members  
of the Community and Public Health Committee

From: Jack P. Broadbent  
Executive Officer/APCO

Date: May 14, 2020

Re: Approval of the Minutes of March 5, 2020

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RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve the attached draft minutes of the Community and Public Health Committee (Committee) meeting of March 5, 2020.

DISCUSSION

Attached for your review and approval are the draft minutes of the Committee meeting of March 5, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack P. Broadbent  
Executive Officer/APCO

Prepared by: Marcy Hiratzka  
Reviewed by: Vanessa Johnson

Attachment 2A: Draft Minutes of the Committee Meeting of March 5, 2020

## AGENDA: 2A – ATTACHMENT

Draft Minutes – Community and Public Health Committee Meeting of March 5, 2020

Bay Area Air Quality Management District  
375 Beale Street, Suite 600  
San Francisco, California 94105  
(415) 749-5073

### DRAFT MINUTES

Summary of Board of Directors  
Community and Public Health Committee Meeting  
Thursday, March 5, 2020

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

Community and Public Health Committee (Committee) Chairperson, Shirlee Zane, called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

##### Roll Call:

Present: Chairperson Shirlee Zane; Vice Chairperson Mark Ross; and Directors Teresa Barrett, David Canepa, John Gioia, Scott Haggerty, Liz Kniss, and Brad Wagenknecht.

Absent: Directors Davina Hurt and Nate Miley.

Also Present: Board Chair Rod Sinks.

#### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS, PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54954.3

No requests received.

NOTED PRESENT: Director Haggerty was noted present at 9:36 a.m.

#### 3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 30, 2019

##### Public Comments

No requests received.

##### Committee Comments

None.



Committee Action

Director Barrett made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Ross, to **approve** the Minutes of October 30, 2019; and the motion carried by the following vote of the Committee:

AYES: Barrett, Canepa, Gioia, Haggerty, Kniss, Sinks, Ross.  
NOES: None.  
ABSTAIN: Zane.  
ABSENT: Hurt, Miley, Wagenknecht.

**4. BAY AIR CENTER: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY AIR QUALITY PROJECTS**

Greg Nudd, Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer of Policy, introduced Michael Flagg, Principal Air Quality Specialist, who gave the staff presentation *Bay Air Center: Technical Assistance for Community Air Quality Projects*, including: outline; types of air quality monitoring; many needs for technical assistance; purpose and guiding principles; types of expertise offered; types of support; project examples; and Bay Air Center phases and next steps.

Public Comments

Public comments were given by Jed Holtzman, 350 Bay Area.

Committee Comments

The Committee and staff discussed how technical support is being offered to pilot air quality projects that may be located in Assembly Bill (AB) 617 communities, as the Air District is already initiating community air monitoring plans there; how the Air District prioritizes communities for pilot projects; what next steps would occur after monitoring data is collected in pilot communities, and the suggestion that solutions be applied/implemented in tangible ways that the public can see; the costs for the pilot projects and their funding sources; the need to clarify to the public that the “Bay Air Center” is actually a service, not a physical building; whether the Bay Air Center would be involved in the Air District’s public notice process regarding projects, facilities, and permits that are under review, or address increasing levels of pollution due to population growth and additional residential construction in a given community; whether real-time data will be publicly available; the availability of low-cost monitors, whether that technology is something the Air District would want to accumulate, and whether the Air District plans to recommend particular brands or models to the public; concerns about the conflicting data between Air District and low-cost monitors; the scope of the “Air Quality and Air Sensors 101” training and technical support program being offered to community schools; the suggestion of holding a resource fair for the communities in which projects are being piloted; anticipated concerns from the public about the delays in the Air District’s rulemaking schedules; and the anticipated timeframe of the Air District’s Aclima data release.

NOTED PRESENT; Director Wagenknecht was noted present at 9:51 a.m.

Committee Action

None; receive and file.

**5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN STATUS UPDATE**

Mr. Nudd introduced Aneesh Rana, Public Information Officer, and Kristen Law, Community Engagement Specialist, who gave the staff presentation *Public Participation Plan Status Update*, including: Air District’s mission; what do we mean by public participation; why do we engage the public; Public Participation Plan (Plan) overview; Plan implementation; Plan status; 2013 spectrum of participation; and what’s next.

Public Comments

Public comments were given by Jed Holtzman, 350 Bay Area.

Committee Comments

The Committee and staff discussed how the Air District measures the success of its public engagement methods, and a request for a “lessons learned” summary that indicates what has not worked well; the suggestion that this presentation be given to the Board’s new Ad Hoc Committee on Equity and Environmental Justice; the opinion that the success of the (AB 617) West Oakland Community Action Plan was due to the Air District’s collaboration with its partner, the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project staff, as opposed to one partner dominating the other; whether the Air District’s new community engagement guide will be published in multiple languages, and how the Air District plans to utilize focus groups as the development of this guide commences; the suggestion that Board members engage with their constituents about air quality as an extension of Air District outreach; the process for filing an air quality complaint with the Air District’s complaint system; and whether a lack of the public’s presence at committee and Board meetings indicates approval or criticism.

Committee Action

None; receive and file.

**6. CHALLENGE OF HEALTH DATA ANALYSIS**

Mr. Nudd introduced Dr. Judith Cutino, Health Officer, who gave the staff presentation *Challenges of Health Data Analysis*, including: overview; why the interest in collecting health data; who collects health data and what data are collected; health data analysis is complex; air pollution exposure is not the sole risk factor contributing to health outcomes; asthma hospitalizations have gone down, but asthma emergency room visits went up; multiple factors may be contributing to the declining trend in asthma hospitalizations; and next steps for community action plans.

Public Comments

Public comments were given by Jed Holtzman, 350 Bay Area.

Committee Comments

The Committee and staff discussed whether the Air District includes the Centers for Disease Control and Protection as a source from which to collect health data; an article from the *Journal of the Air & Waste Management Association*, entitled “Emissions Reduction Policies and Recent Trends in Southern California’s Ambient Air Quality,” with the suggestion that a similar study be conducted in the Bay Area, and the request for a presentation indicating whether the Air District’s regulations have resulted in less emissions and health impacts; the fact that health data may not take undocumented individuals or those who cannot afford health insurance into account; the need for proper conveyance of an understandable interpretation of health data; the need to be able to quantify potential savings of time and money due to emission reductions, and how to confirm that reducing emissions will reduce health impacts; the anticipated timelines of when health data results will be published; whether counties’ historical health data is a reliable or appropriate resource; the suggestion of reciting the Air District’s mission statement after the Pledge of Allegiance at committee and Board meetings; the suggestion that the Committee meets monthly; the need for an enhanced public engagement strategy regarding the correlation between exposure to emissions and health impacts; the suggestion of focusing on filtration systems and indoor air quality this year; and the Advisory Council’s upcoming Particulate Matter (PM) Symposium, and how best to avoid future scheduling conflicts of the Board members.

Committee Action

None; receive and file.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA MATTERS**

No requests received.

**8. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

None.

**9. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

Although the next meeting had been scheduled for Thursday, May 7, 2020, at 375 Beale Street, San Francisco, CA 94105 at 9:30 a.m., after further discussion, the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, May 20, 2020, at 2:30 p.m., via webcast, pursuant to procedures authorized by Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

Marcy Hirtzka  
Clerk of the Boards

**BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

## Memorandum

To: Chairperson Shirlee Zane and Members  
of the Community and Public Health Committee

From: Jack P. Broadbent  
Executive Officer/APCO

Date: May 14, 2020

Re: Recent Studies on COVID-19 and Particulate Matter

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

None; receive and file.

**BACKGROUND**

Recent studies raise questions about the connection between COVID-19 disease and exposure to particulate matter. The pandemic has highlighted health and social disparities with data showing disproportionate mortality among people of color. There is interest within the public health community to address social determinants of health, as they relate to this disease.

A vast body of research connects exposure to air pollutants with higher rates of asthma, cancer, heart disease, stroke, mortality, and other health outcomes. However, air pollution is not the sole risk factor contributing to these health outcomes. Social determinants of health can include income, education, race/ethnicity, low-quality and insecure housing, food insecurity, as well as air and water quality. The interplay of the combinations of social factors is complex.

A lack of certainty about the actual death rate attributable to COVID-19 further increases the challenge of studying associations between disease mortality and specific social factors. Nonetheless, these studies have received attention and concern over disproportionately increased mortality among vulnerable people in impacted communities.

**DISCUSSION**

The presentation will highlight two research papers regarding COVID-19 and particulate matter (PM). The first paper is from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in Boston, MA. They investigated whether long-term average exposure to fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) is associated with an increased risk of COVID-19 mortality in the United States. They modeled the association between county-level counts of death and county-level long-term average PM<sub>2.5</sub> as the exposure. They found that an increase of 1 µg/m<sup>3</sup> (annual average) in PM<sub>2.5</sub> is associated with an eight percent increase in the COVID-19 death rate. The authors concluded that a small increase in long-term exposure to PM<sub>2.5</sub> leads to a large increase in the COVID-19 death rate.

The authors report that the study is limited by the availability of COVID-19 individual-level outcome data and the inability to accurately quantify the number of COVID-19 cases due to limited testing capacity. Other limiting factors include difficulty quantifying unmeasured confounding bias, such as contributing factors to COVID-19 spread and severity. Indeed, identifying a case fatality rate for this disease has proven extremely difficult and variable by location.

The second study is from a research group in Italy at the University of Bologna, who found preliminary evidence of SARS-Cov-2 ribonucleic acid (RNA) genetic material on particulate matter. They took a small number of samples of PM10 from an industrial site in Bergamo Province, Italy, and they reported several positive results. Further confirmations are on-going. Questions generated from the study are whether the virus remnants found on the particulate matter are alive, and viable or not, whether the virus has virulence, and what would be the potential dose of virus from exposure to such PM. No assumptions can be made at this time about the presence of virus on PM and whether it might contribute to disease progression. This paper does not provide enough information about whether the virus can be transmitted via air pollution.

Neither of these two papers has been peer-reviewed, which is a critical part of the scientific process, but they are interesting, relevant, and worth following. The presentation will detail these and other related studies and discuss the complexity of interpreting preliminary health exposure studies.

#### BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS/FINANCIAL IMPACTS

None.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack P. Broadbent  
Executive Officer/APCO

Prepared by: Judith Cutino  
Reviewed by: Greg Nudd

**BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

Memorandum

To: Chairperson Shirlee Zane and Members  
of the Community and Public Health Committee

From: Jack P. Broadbent  
Executive Officer/APCO

Date: May 14, 2020

Re: Air District Efforts to Encourage Teleworking

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RECOMMENDED ACTION

None; receive and file.

BACKGROUND

Local and state officials issued shelter-in-place orders in March 2020, to protect the public from the spread of COVID-19. The orders necessitated a major shift in how Bay Area employers do business and many employees quickly made the adjustment to teleworking. During the shutdown, estimates of at least a 70 percent decrease in traffic have been reported. As a result, levels of fine particulates, carbon dioxide, and oxides of nitrogen emissions have been significantly reduced.

DISCUSSION

As Bay Area employers develop their re-entry plans for after the shelter-in-place orders are lifted, the Air District has a tremendous opportunity to continue air quality gains by encouraging employers to incorporate teleworking for their organizations moving forward. Teleworking will not only help improve air quality and reduce climate impacts, it will enable employers to continue social distancing, save money, and ease the commute burdens and costs for employees moving forward.

As part of the Air District's efforts to encourage teleworking, staff will provide an overview of the new Spare the Air advertising and outreach campaigns, new focus for the Commuter Benefits Program, and the exploration of a model teleworking policy for local governments; and discuss the implementation of an Air District teleworking policy.

BUDGET CONSIDERATION/FINANCIAL IMPACT

None. Funding is included in the Fiscal Year Ending 2020 and 2021 budgets.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack P. Broadbent  
Executive Officer/APCO

Prepared by: Kristina Chu  
Reviewed by: Kristine Roselius



**BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

## Memorandum

To: Chairperson Shirlee Zane and Members  
of the Community and Public Health Committee

From: Jack P. Broadbent  
Executive Officer/APCO

Date: May 14, 2020

Re: Contra Costa County Green and Healthy Homes Initiative

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

None; receive and file.

**BACKGROUND**

In 2004, the Air District initiated the Community Air Risk Evaluation (CARE) program to identify areas in the Bay Area with high concentrations of air pollution and populations most vulnerable to air pollution's health impacts. One of the main goals of the CARE program was to help design and focus effective air pollution mitigation measures in areas with highest impacts and greatest vulnerabilities. Work initiated by the CARE program has well-positioned the Air District to respond to new directives associated with Assembly Bill (AB) 617. The goal of this legislation is to improve local air quality and health in disproportionately impacted communities. The law requires the California Air Resources Board to work with community groups, air districts, and others to select locations from around the state, where communities will work with local air districts to measure and reduce air pollution.

The Air District's efforts to implement AB 617 include the development of the community-led emission reduction plan in West Oakland, *Owning Our Air: The West Oakland Community Action Plan*, and the development and implementation of a community air monitoring plan in Richmond/San Pablo. The Air District has distributed \$350,000 in capacity-building grants in all high-priority communities, including Contra Costa County. In 2020, Air District staff have been engaging in technical and community engagement work, finding opportunities for partnerships and collaboration around local air pollution or other related concerns, particularly climate protection. One area of collaboration is with the Contra Costa County Green and Healthy Homes Initiative.

## DISCUSSION

In Contra Costa County, 300,000 residents live in a census tract that ranks in the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher of asthma Emergency Department (ED) rates statewide. This is the highest number of people in any county in California, and the fourth highest by percentage of county residents in the state. An estimated 4,950 people visit the ED for asthma each year in the County and they disproportionately are African American and of lower socio-economic status than the general population. Asthma exacerbations are largely avoidable, but significant portions of the federally recommended asthma care guidelines (home-based education and remediation of asthma triggers) are not traditionally covered by Medicaid or included in traditional clinical care.

To address these challenges, the County is preparing to implement a Green and Healthy Homes Initiative (locally called the Contra Costa Asthma Initiative) pilot program. The program will integrate various climate and health interventions to improve outcomes for high-risk asthma patients in low-income, multi-family homes on the Contra Costa Health Plan. Contra Costa Health Services and the Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development, with its partner, Marin Clean Energy, and consultant, the Association for Energy Affordability, will implement and monitor retrofit improvements in the homes of select high-risk asthma residents (adults and children) across the County, to improve indoor air quality and remove underlying asthma triggers, focusing on mitigations that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Improvements will include mitigations, such as air filtration/dehumidification; electrification of heating /cooling systems and appliances; induction cooking appliances; electric panel upgrades; plumbing repairs; roof repairs; surface and structural mold remediation; ventilation; pest management; and carpet removal or steam cleaning; or the purchase of other such similar materials that help support improving asthma and indoor air quality.

Staff is investigating opportunities for the Air District to collaborate with the County on this initiative and will seek Board of Directors approval at an upcoming meeting.

## BUDGET CONSIDERATION/FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack P. Broadbent  
Executive Officer/APCO

Prepared by: Abby Young  
Reviewed by: Henry Hilken