



BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

AGENDA: 4

Community Advisory Council's Environmental Justice Call To Action

Community Equity, Health, and Justice Committee Meeting
December 11, 2024

Vernice Miller-Travis, Executive Vice President, The Metropolitan Group
Rio Molina, Environmental Justice (EJ) Policy Ad Hoc Committee Co-Chair
Latasha Washington, EJ Policy Ad Hoc Committee Co-Chair

Presentation Outcome

- Review the 2023-2024 process and inputs that informed the development of:
 - Community Advisory Council (CAC)'s Environmental Justice (EJ) Priorities
 - EJ strategies in the *2024-2029 Strategic Plan*
 - CAC's *A Call to Action*
- Receive an update from the CAC's Environmental Justice Policy Ad Hoc Committee on the finalization of *A Call to Action: Charting a New Course Towards Environmental Justice at the Bay Area Air Quality Management District*

Presentation Outline

- Review roles of the CAC's EJ Policy Ad Hoc Committee, The Metropolitan Group, and the Air District staff and leadership in the Air District's environmental justice action planning
- Review inputs that informed the development of the CAC EJ Priorities, EJ strategies in the *2024-2029 Strategic Plan*, and the CAC's *A Call to Action*
- Review highlights from the content and formatting updates made since the September 19th CAC meeting presentation on the draft of *A Call to Action*

Presentation Requested Action

- None – Informational Presentation

Environmental Justice Perspectives from The Metropolitan Group

- **Metropolitan Group (MG)** is a social change agency supporting the Air District's Environmental Justice Action Plan project. MG provides strategic and creative services to amplify the power of voice of change agents in building a just and sustainable world.
- **Vernice Miller-Travis, Executive Vice President**, leads MG's Environmental Justice Focus Area. She is one of the nation's pioneering and most respected thought leaders on environmental justice and the interplay of civil rights and environmental policy.

EJ Policy Ad Hoc Committee Members from 2022 to 2024

Current members:

- Rio Molina, Ad Hoc Committee Co-Chair
- Latasha Washington, Ad Hoc Committee Co-Chair
- John Kevin Jefferson III
- Fagamalama Violet Saena
- Ken Szutu

Previous members:

Joy Massey
Arieann Harrison
Charles Reed
Kevin Ruano Hernandez

Key Milestones in the Air District's EJ Action Planning

Importance of an environmental justice process in EJ action planning:

- **Winter & Spring 2023:** CAC's EJ Policy Ad Hoc Committee:
 - Discussed potential EJ solutions based on community priorities
 - Built capacity for socialization of EJ action planning with the Air District
- **Summer 2023:**
 - The Metropolitan Group conducted interviews with Air District staff and CAC Members on environmental justice
 - EJ Ad Hoc's Theory of Change activity focused on "Desired Impacts of an EJ Action Plan", prioritized at the September CAC Retreat
- **October 2023:** EJ Ad Hoc met with Air District Division Directors and staff to discuss EJ solutions regarding the Ad Hoc's prioritized topics: data collection, permitting, and compliance and enforcement

Key Milestones in the Air District's EJ Action Planning (cont.)

- **December 2023:** EJ action planning efforts align and collaborate directly with strategic planning efforts
- **January 2024:** CAC finalizes 9 EJ Priorities to provide foundational input to the *Strategic Plan* and presents them to the Board of Directors
- **Winter & Spring 2024:** Meetings between EJ Policy Ad Hoc Committee and Air District continue to develop EJ Strategies for the *Strategic Plan*
- **Summer & Fall 2024:** Development of *A Call to Action* – a community-centered document showing how the Air District will respond to the CAC's nine EJ Priorities in EJ strategies and actions

Reflections on Process from EJ Policy Ad Hoc Members

"The way in which staff showed up in this planning process showed a level of commitment and gave me a level of assurance that they want to listen. I see that being an outcome that really contributed to where we are right now. One way to rebuild trust is presence, and I think that the mere presence of folks in the meetings has been a success. And as a result, we now have this beautiful working action plan. I can't discount the way staff interacted, and also the way that the Community Advisory Council has interacted with staff. Because that's hard to do right."

- Joy Massey, former CAC and EJ Ad Hoc Committee member

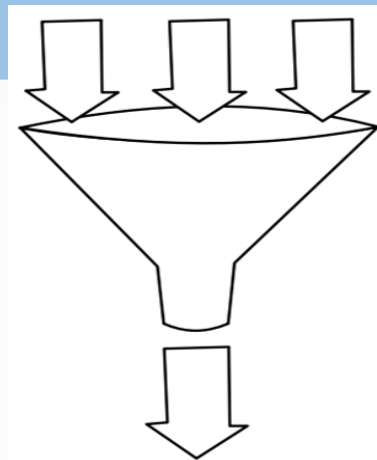
Inputs for the CAC's EJ Priorities Development

Desired Impacts of an EJ Action Plan

1. EJ Ad Hoc's Theory of Change summaries
2. CAC Retreat's prioritization activity (in Sept 2023)

Conversations between EJ Ad Hoc & Division Directors and staff (October 2023)

Key themes from 14 interviews by Met Group with DEOs, Directors and Staff



Draft of CAC's EJ Priorities

Summary of 9 CAC EJ Priorities

1. Advance Environmental Justice
2. Provide Meaningful Agency Support to Advance Environmental Justice
3. Integrate Environmental Justice Considerations in Core Functions
4. Implement Environmental Justice Best Practices and Innovation
5. Communicate with Clarity, Transparency, and Integrity

Summary of 9 CAC EJ Priorities (cont.)

6. Grow Capacity of Air District Staff and Board Members to Integrate Environmental Justice
7. Grow Capacity of Environmental Justice Communities and Organizations
8. Seek Appropriate Legal Remedies and Coordinate with Environmental Justice Communities
9. Provide Technical Assistance to Local Governments

Coordination and Alignment with the Strategic Plan

Working Timelines for Development of EJ Action Plan and Strategic Plan

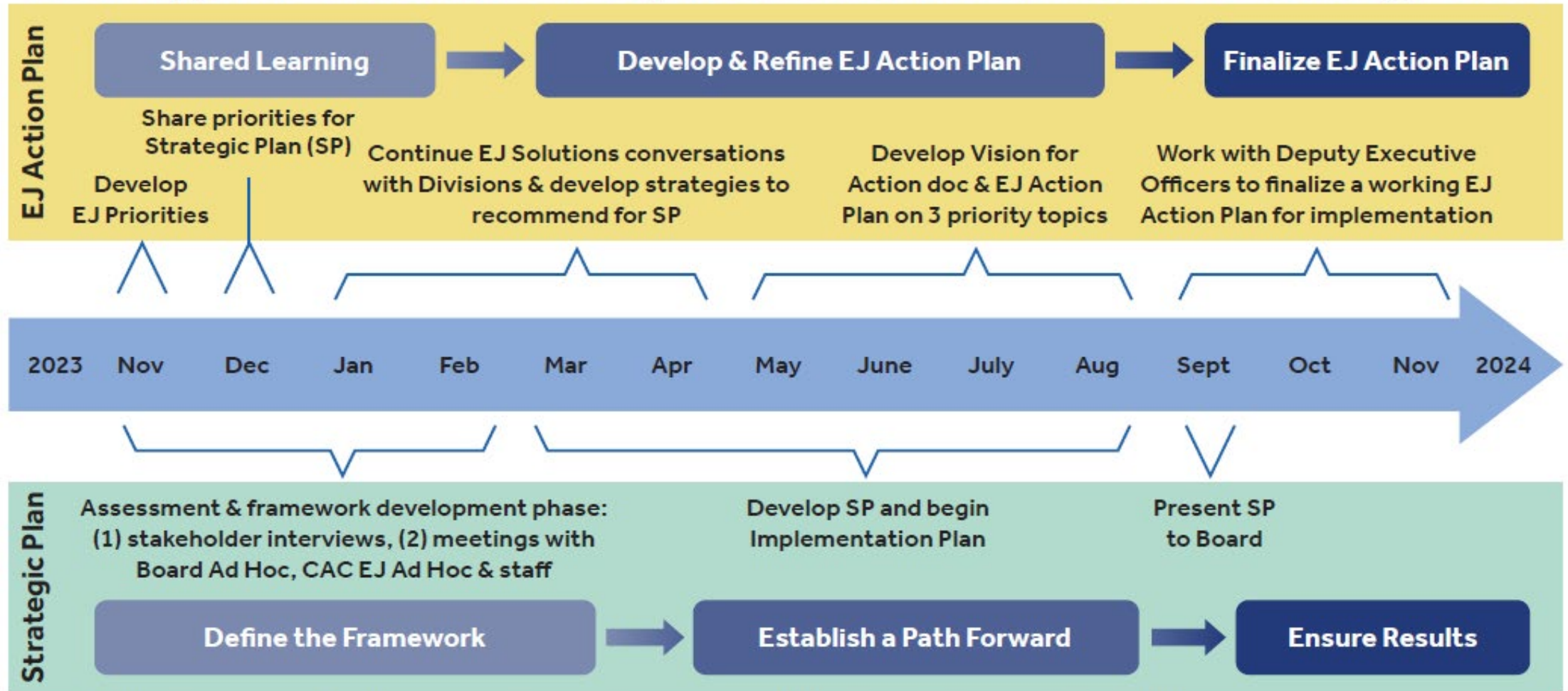


Figure 1. Working timelines for development of the Environmental Justice Action Plan and Strategic Plan

CAC EJ Priorities and *A Call to Action*

- The CAC's 9 EJ Priorities served as foundational input for both the Air District's *2024-2029 Strategic Plan* and the CAC's *A Call to Action*
- 80% of the 36 strategies in the *Strategic Plan* have an environmental justice focus
- EJ Policy Ad Hoc Members met several times with Deputy Executive Officers (DEOs) and staff to provide input into the development of EJ strategies, measurable actions, and implementation plans
- Appendix D Crosswalk in *A Call to Action* shows how *Strategic Plan* strategies align with EJ Priorities and 3 topic areas of the EJ Ad Hoc

***A Call to Action* Table of Contents**

- Executive Summary
- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: Our Environmental Justice Priorities: A Call to Action from the Community Advisory Council
- Chapter 3: At A Glance: The Air District's Environmental Justice Commitments
- Chapter 4: Charting the Course: Actions the Air District will Take to Advance Environmental Justice
- Chapter 5: The Journey Ahead: Implementation and Accountability

A Call to Action Table of Contents (cont.)

- A. The 17 Principles of Environmental Justice
- B. What is an Environmental Justice Community? (Definitions)
- C. The Environmental Justice Action Planning Process (in 2023-24)
- D. Crosswalk of Strategies from the Air District's 2024-2029 Strategic Plan with the Environmental Justice Priorities and Focus Areas for Early Implementation
- E. Federal, State and Regional Air Quality Responsibilities

Input from the September 19th CAC Meeting

- CAC's Sept. 19th meeting was designed for input on the draft of *A Call to Action*. Publicized 2 weeks prior to the meeting via:
 - CAC email list
 - AB617 Community Steering Committees
 - AB617 Air District email listservs
 - 5 Air District social media posts on Facebook, X (Twitter), LinkedIn, Threads, and Instagram
- No public comments were received on *A Call to Action*
- All public comments made on the Air District's *2024-2029 Strategic Plan* that overlapped in content were incorporated into *A Call to Action*

Highlights of Content Edits Made Since Sept. 19th

- Comments from CAC Members, Air District staff, and leadership since the Sept. 19th meeting were incorporated into final version of *A Call to Action*, including:
 - Letter from Davina Hurt, Chair of the Board of Directors
 - Crosswalk with *Strategic Plan* edits from public comment period
 - Resilience Hubs as a community benefits model
 - *The Color of Law*, by Richard Rothstein, listed as a historical reference for systemic racism
 - Provide EJ communities with tools to help them address legal barriers to advancing EJ
 - CalEnviroScreen 4.0 map of air pollution in the Bay Area

Acknowledgement of Chair Davina Hurt




- Chair Hurt is a strong advocate for frontline communities and advancing environmental justice at the Air District and beyond
- Community Equity, Health, and Justice Committee was created with her as Committee Chair
- Community Advisory Council was established

“Remember to imagine and craft the worlds you cannot live without, just as you dismantle the worlds you cannot live within.” —Ruha Benjamin

Highlights of Design Formatting Since Sept 19th

- Copy editing and proofing
- ADA compliance and translation into Spanish and Chinese
- Colorful, In-Design software formatting, and design
- Photos from CAC Members and the Air District
- Wayfinding colors and icons for each EJ Priority to guide readers
- Illustration by artist, Jose Solis, for Chapter 3: "At A Glance" representing the following six overarching EJ themes:
 - Localize air quality data approach
 - Respond quickly to air quality complaints and incidents
 - Engage environmental justice communities
 - Prioritize environmental justice communities for equity
 - Strengthen enforcement response
 - Improve continuously and collaboratively



A Call to Action

Charting a New Course Toward Environmental Justice at the Bay Area Air Quality Management District



From the Community Advisory Council of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District

November 2024



PRIORITY 2:

Provide Meaningful Agency Support to Advance Environmental Justice



The Air District can support the health and well-being of communities by re-envisioning its mission through the lens of equity and environmental justice. A strong vision that is actively supported by leadership must focus on achieving fair and equitable outcomes of clean air for everyone, as well as striving to eliminate disproportionate harm caused by current and long-standing legacy pollution.

Effective enforcement of stricter rules is a key area where the Air District can make great strides in advancing environmental justice. Communities especially want more transparency and accountability in how the district holds violators accountable. Communities also want greater transparency in how the district works with other private entities and state and municipal agencies to enforce air quality regulations.

In order to provide meaningful support, the Air District will need to dedicate more resources and funding for air quality management approaches that recognize and reduce disparities in local air pollution. This investment to advance environmental justice will enable the Air District to become a more inclusive, accountable, effective, and community-oriented organization.

The Environmental Justice Policy Ad Hoc Committee emphasized budget allocations, meaningful community participation, and enhanced enforcement and transparency around the permitting process as some of the critical ways the Air District could provide meaningful agency support.



“We need to take advantage of the strength of the community ... they are always there. Include them in community-engaged monitoring and community-engaged enforcement.”

—Ken Szutu

Policy Ad Hoc Committee would like the Air District to work with Environmental Justice communities in the future.

These Environmental Justice Priorities serve as a call to action for the Air District, and are detailed in Chapter 2. The Environmental Justice Priorities are intended to guide the agency to advance and address environmental justice within all aspects of the Agency's operations. They identify the conditions needed for the Air District to be an effective partner with frontline environmental justice communities who are most affected by air pollution to improve air quality and overall environmental justice outcomes.



Reflections from the Environmental Justice Policy Ad Hoc Committee Members

“The way in which staff showed up in this planning process showed a level of commitment and gave me a level of assurance that they want to listen. I see that being an outcome that really contributed to where we are right now. One way to rebuild trust is presence, and I think that the mere presence of folks in the meetings has been a success. And as a result, we now have this beautiful working action plan. I can’t discount the way staff interacted, and also the way that the Community Advisory Council has interacted with staff. Because that’s hard to do right?”

—Joy Massey



BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Respond Quickly to Air Quality Complaints and Incidents

Localize Air Quality Approach

Strengthen Enforcement Response

Engage Environmental Justice Communities

Improve Continuously and Collaboratively

Prioritize Environmental Justice Communities for Equity

Jose Salas

The collage features the Bay Area Air Quality Management District logo at the top left. It includes several illustrations: a woman holding an 'AIR MONITOR' sign in front of a factory; a group of people in a meeting; a man in a blue jacket with the district logo on his back; a construction site with a crane; and a community cleanup scene with people planting trees. A photo of the California State Capitol is also present.

Next Steps

- On November 21, 2024, *A Call to Action* was adopted by the CAC as an official CAC document
- Develop and implement a distribution plan for *A Call to Action* with community partners around the Bay Area
- Continue communications and collaborations between the Air District, the CAC, and other community partners on:
 - Implementation of the *2024-2029 Strategic Plan*
 - How implemented actions connect to the CAC's EJ Priorities
 - Ongoing community engagement opportunities

Questions?

