



BAY AREA  
AIR QUALITY  
MANAGEMENT  
DISTRICT

AGENDA: 4

# Community Advisory Council (CAC) Recommendation for New CAC Members

Community Equity, Health, and Justice Committee Meeting  
July 17, 2024

Mayra Pelagio, CAC Co-Chair

# Presentation Outcome



The Community Equity, Health, and Justice Committee will:

- Consider the CAC's selection of the following individuals to recommend to the Board of Directors for appointment to the Community Advisory Council:
  - Sejal Babaria, Alameda County seat for 2 years
  - Patrick Messac, Alameda County seat for 2 years
  - Dominick Ramirez, Youth seat for 2 years

# Presentation Outline



- A. Creation
- B. Prior to First Meeting
- C. Outreach
- D. Applications
- E. Selected Applicants
- F. Public Comment
- G. Questions
- H. Vote
- I. Results

# Requested Action



Consider recommending to the Board of Directors the following individuals for appointment to the Community Advisory Council:

- Sejal Babaria, Alameda County seat for 2 years
- Patrick Messac, Alameda County seat for 2 years
- Dominick Ramirez, Youth seat for 2 years

# Sejal Babaria



Sejal Babaria was born in Philadelphia and raised in South Jersey, but Oakland, where she currently resides, has been her home for almost a decade. Sejal attended Wellesley College and received her B.A. in Urban Studies and her Masters in Learning and Teaching. She has over 10 years of mostly labor organizing experience, primarily with education unions, working with K-12 public sector educators. She has a deep passion for mentoring and coaching youth and the next generation of organizers.

# Patrick Messac



Patrick Messac is an educator and community advocate who has dedicated his professional life to working alongside communities to foster opportunity and advance equity. Patrick earned his B.A. in Public Policy Studies from Duke University and began his teaching career in Phoenix while earning his M.Ed in Secondary Education from Arizona State University. Patrick currently serves as the Director of #OaklandUndivided, an equity-based, collective impact initiative dedicated to bridging Oakland's digital divide.

# Dominick Ramirez



Dominick Ramirez is a 17-year-old from San Francisco who is interested in global affairs. He is currently a senior at KIPP San Francisco College Prep and will be attending San Francisco State University in the Fall where he will pursue a degree in International Business. Dominick hopes to utilize his degree to make a positive impact in the world. Dominick is also active member of the Marie Harrison Community Foundation for Social and Environmental Justice.

# Creation



- The Member Selection Ad Hoc Committee was created during the November 30, 2023 CAC meeting.
- The Ad Hoc consisted of Council Members Gordon, Pelagio, Ruano Hernandez, and Jefferson, as well as Board Chair Hurt.
- The Ad Hoc worked to select candidates for the Board to consider their appointment to the Community Advisory Council candidates.
- The Ad Hoc selected candidates for two vacant Alameda County seats and one vacant Youth seat.



# Prior to First Meeting



The Ad Hoc Committee scored the applicants based on the initial criteria approved by the Board of Directors:

1. Reflect the diverse demographics of the Bay Area;
2. Include generational history and experience living in communities heavily impacted by air pollution;
3. Demonstrate diversity of relevant experience – including environmental justice, technical expertise, health, and Air District functions or knowledge of the Air District; and
4. Have access to other people who have a range of relevant knowledge and technical experience that could help inform the Community Advisory Council.

# Outreach



The outreach consisted of:

- Online efforts (LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook, X [formerly Twitter], Threads)
- Nextdoor
- Air District's Currents Newsletter
- Air District's Latest News post
- Emails to James Cary Smith Grantees and AB 617 partners
- CAC members sending information to their networks

# Applications



- The Ad Hoc Committee scored 33 applications
  - 25 applications for the Alameda County seat
  - 8 applications for the Youth seat
- The applications were scored over a two-week period.
- On the third and final meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee, they analyzed their scores and came to consensus on the selection of the candidates for the three vacant CAC seats.

# Selected Applicants



- During the May 16, 2024 CAC meeting, the Member Selection Ad Hoc Committee recommended the following candidates to be appointed to the CAC:
  - Sejal Babaria (Alameda County seat) for 2 years
  - Patrick Messac (Alameda County seat) for 2 years
  - Dominick Ramirez (Youth seat) for 2 years
- The CAC approved the recommendation of each of the three new members listed above.



# QUESTIONS?



BAY AREA  
AIR QUALITY  
MANAGEMENT  
DISTRICT

**AGENDA: 5**

# **Overview of the March 21 and May 16 Community Advisory Council (CAC) Meetings**

**Community Equity, Health, and Justice Committee Meeting  
July 17, 2024**

**Ken Szutu, CAC Co-Chair**

# Requested Action



- None – Informational Only

# Presentation Outline



- **Introduction of the CAC Co-Chairs**
- **March 21, 2024 CAC Meeting Action Items**
  - CAC Work Plan
  - Funding Community Benefits from Penalty Funds
- **March 21, 2024 CAC Meeting Informational Items**
  - Air District Strategic Planning Update
- **May 16, 2024 CAC Meeting Action Items**
  - Election of Community Advisory Council Co-Chairs
  - Community Advisory Council Recommendation for New CAC Members
- **May 16, 2024 CAC Meeting Informational Items**
  - Advancing Environmental Justice Strategies in the Strategic Plan



# Introduction of CAC Co-Chairs



- Co-Chair **Mayra Pelagio** (Elected May 16, 2024)
- Co-Chair **Ken Szutu** (Elected January 18, 2024)
- Co-Chair **John Kevin Jefferson III** (Re-elected May 16, 2024)

# March 21, 2024 CAC Meeting



## Action Items

- **CAC Work Plan** – The Council adopted the updated 2024-2025 CAC Work Plan.
- **Funding Community Benefits from Penalty Funds** – The Council formally recommended that the Board of Directors set a policy in collaboration with the CAC that automatically allocates a portion of penalties for local (80%) community and regional (20%) community benefits.

# March 21, 2024 CAC Meeting (cont.)



## Informational Items

- **Air District Strategic Planning Update** – The Council received an overview of the Air District’s Strategic Planning process, including how the Environmental Justice Priorities created by the CAC are integrated into the Strategic Planning framework.

# May 16, 2024 CAC Meeting



## Action Items

- **Election of Community Advisory Council Co-Chairs** – The Council elected John Kevin Jefferson III and Mayra Pelagio as Co-Chairs of the Community Advisory Council for the two vacant leadership seats.
- **Community Advisory Council Recommendation for New CAC Members** – The Council formally recommended the Community Equity, Health, and Justice Committee recommend the Board of Directors to appoint Dominick Ramirez to the vacant youth seat, and Patrick Messac and Sejal Babaria to the vacant Alameda County seats on the Community Advisory Council.

# May 16, 2024 CAC Meeting (cont.)



## Informational Items

- **Advancing Environmental Justice Strategies in the Strategic Plan** – The CAC received a presentation on the Environmental Justice Strategies and key related actions that have been developed for the Air District's Strategic Plan and Environmental Justice Action Plan.



# Questions?



BAY AREA  
AIR QUALITY  
MANAGEMENT  
DISTRICT

**AGENDA: 6**

# **Environmental Justice (EJ) Law Fellowship Program**

**Community Equity, Health and Justice Committee  
July 17, 2024**

**Alexander Crockett  
General Counsel  
[acrockett@baaqmd.gov](mailto:acrockett@baaqmd.gov)**

# Presentation Outcome



- Presentation on the Legal Division's proposed Environmental Justice (EJ) Law Fellowship Program
- Discussion, feedback and direction for further staff development of the proposed Fellowship Program



# Presentation Outline



- Fellowship Program Overview
- Content of Program
- Eligibility and Selection Criteria
- Outreach, Recruitment and Selection Process
- Naming the Fellowship Program
- Next Steps

# Presentation for Information Only



- No action requested at this time

# Fellowship Program Overview



- Two-year program for new law graduate to work in the Air District's legal office focusing on equity and EJ-related issues
- **Benefits for Fellow:**
  - Experience working on EJ issues in a leading air quality regulatory agency
  - Competitive pay and benefits
  - Close mentorship
  - Potential for hire into permanent position if available
- **Benefits for Air District:**
  - Help with Legal Division's heavy caseload
  - Bring new perspectives into the agency and the Legal Division
  - Develop next generation of EJ leaders
  - Valuable recruiting tool

# Content of Program



- **Examples of types of work Fellow could be assigned:**
  - Support Assembly Bill (AB) 617 Community Emission Reduction Plan development
  - Impact litigation in overburdened communities to enforce regulations against chronic violators
  - Legal work supporting Community Advisory Council (CAC)
  - Implement initiatives to address cumulative impacts, disparate impact analyses, and other elements of civil rights compliance in the Air District permitting program
  - Draft California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) comments on projects proposed in overburdened communities
- **Mentorship and Support:**
  - Assignment of experienced attorney as a mentor
  - Individualized Development Plan (learning objectives and training plan)
  - Informal opportunities to build relationships with Air District staff and leadership

# Eligibility and Selection Criteria



- Eligibility:
  - New graduate (less than two years' experience)
  - California bar license
- Selection Criteria:
  1. Lived experience in EJ community and/or facing EJ challenges
  2. Demonstrated interest in EJ-focused career (or related issues with relevance to the intersection of environmental pollution, civil rights, and social justice)
  3. Writing and critical thinking skills
  4. Relevant practical experience (e.g., prior jobs, non-legal work before law school, etc.);
  5. Relevant law school and/or undergraduate coursework;
  6. Academic record

# Outreach, Recruitment and Selection



- **Recruitment Focus**

- Law school career development offices
- Law student environmental law groups, especially those with an EJ focus
- Law student civil rights and social justice law groups
- Law student affinity groups
- EJ advocacy organizations and community groups
- Bar organizations

- **Interview and Selection Process**

- Led by General Counsel, in conjunction with Deputy Executive Officer (DEO) of Equity & Community Programs
- Potential for involvement by CAC representative(s), if interested

# Naming Opportunity



- Potential to name program after prominent Bay Area Environmental Justice leader, institution or event
  - Honor the chosen namesake
  - Raise the profile and prestige of the program
- Any naming would be community-led and based on community consensus
- Naming need not be done immediately
  - Can remain as “Environmental Justice Law Fellowship” for now, pending development of consensus around an appropriate name

# Next Steps



Summer 2024	Finalize program based on feedback from Community Equity, Health and Justice (CEHJ) Committee and stakeholders
Aug. - Nov. 2024	Publicize program and recruit applicants
Dec. 1, 2024	Application deadline
Dec. 2024	Screen applications
Jan. - Feb. 2025	Interviews and selections
Fall 2025	Fellow begins work
2025 - 2027	Two-year Fellowship term



# Feedback Requested/Questions



Questions and Comments?