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**AGENDA: 4**

# **Community Advisory Council (CAC) Recommendation for New CAC Member**

**Community Equity, Health, and Justice Committee Meeting  
October 9, 2024**

**Kevin Ruano Hernandez  
Community Advisory Council Member**

# Presentation Outcome

- The Community Equity, Health, and Justice Committee will:
  - Consider the CAC's selection of the following individual to recommend to the Board of Directors for appointment to the Community Advisory Council:
    - Cynthia Prieto-Diaz, Alameda County seat for 2 years

# Presentation Outline

- A. Requested Action
- B. Creation of Member Selection Ad Hoc Committee
- C. Prior to First Meeting
- D. Timeline
- E. Outreach
- F. Selected Applicant
- G. Questions

# Requested Action

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

Cynthia Prieto-Diaz, Alameda County seat for 2 years

# Creation of Member Selection Ad Hoc Committee

- 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

# 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 Assembly Bill 617 partners
  - CAC members sending information to their networks

# Outreach (Cont.)

- The Member Selection Ad Hoc Committee scored 25 applications for the Alameda County seat
- The Member Selection Ad Hoc Committee selected a candidate on September 5, 2024, from the original recruitment for the CAC seat vacated in July 2024



# Selected Applicant

Cynthia Prieto-Diaz is from the San Francisco Bay Area. Cynthia has a science background and is inspired to use her knowledge to address social inequities in her community. She worked to secure portable air quality sensors and organized air quality and environmental justice workshops at her local library.

Cynthia Prieto-Diaz most recently served as an Alameda County Public Health Commissioner.

# Selected Applicant (Cont.)

On September 19, 2024, the Community Advisory Council voted to recommend to the Community Equity, Health, and Justice Committee that it consider recommending to the Board of Directors the appointment the following individual for appointment to the Community Advisory Council:

Cynthia Prieto-Diaz for the Alameda County seat for 2 years.

# QUESTIONS?



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**AGENDA: 5**

# **Fifth Year Annual Report on Owning Our Air: The West Oakland Community Action Plan (WOCAP)**

**Community Equity, Health, and Justice Committee  
October 9, 2024**

**Alicia Parker  
Principal Environmental Planner  
[aparker@baaqmd.gov](mailto:aparker@baaqmd.gov)**

**Nicole Merino Tsui  
WOEIP Senior Project Manager  
[Nicole@woeip.org](mailto:Nicole@woeip.org)**

# Presentation Outline

- Fifth Year Annual Report Overview
  - Emission Reduction Highlights
  - Emissions Reductions Grants
  - Enforcement Progress Over Five Years
  - Community Description Update
  - Strategy Evaluation Summary
- Community Perspective

# Background – West Oakland Community Action Plan (WOCAP) Quick Facts

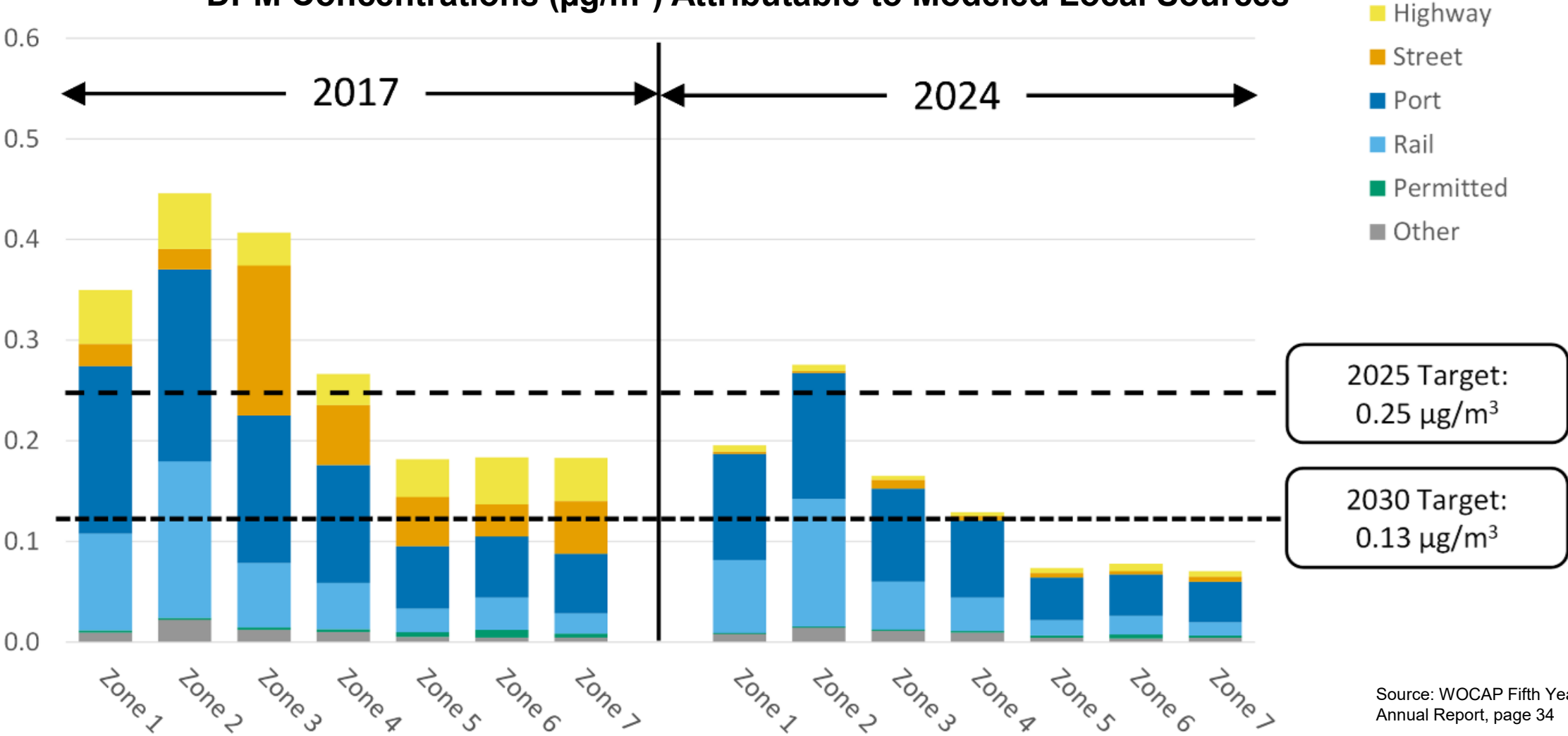
- Adopted in 2019
- WOCAP implementation schedule spanned from 2020 to 2024
- Joint effort between West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project (WOEIP) and Air District in partnership with the WOCAP Community Steering Committee (CSC)
- Plan contains 108 strategies

# Emission Reduction Highlight: Significant Reductions in Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM)

- Based on the Air District's and the community's collaborative analysis, DPM was identified as the biggest air pollution concern
- During WOCAP implementation, DPM emissions from local sources declined by 31% from 2017 to 2024, and the 2025 targets for reducing DPM exposures have largely been realized, for most impact areas
- These DPM reductions are due to a combination of CARB statewide regulations (e.g., limiting emissions from heavy-duty trucks), and local actions led by the Air District and other agencies
- Due to WOCAP, targeted deployment of incentives in West Oakland resulted in grants to Port and operators to upgrade tugboats with newer and cleaner models as tugboats

# Emission Reduction Highlight: DPM Reductions

DPM Concentrations ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) Attributable to Modeled Local Sources



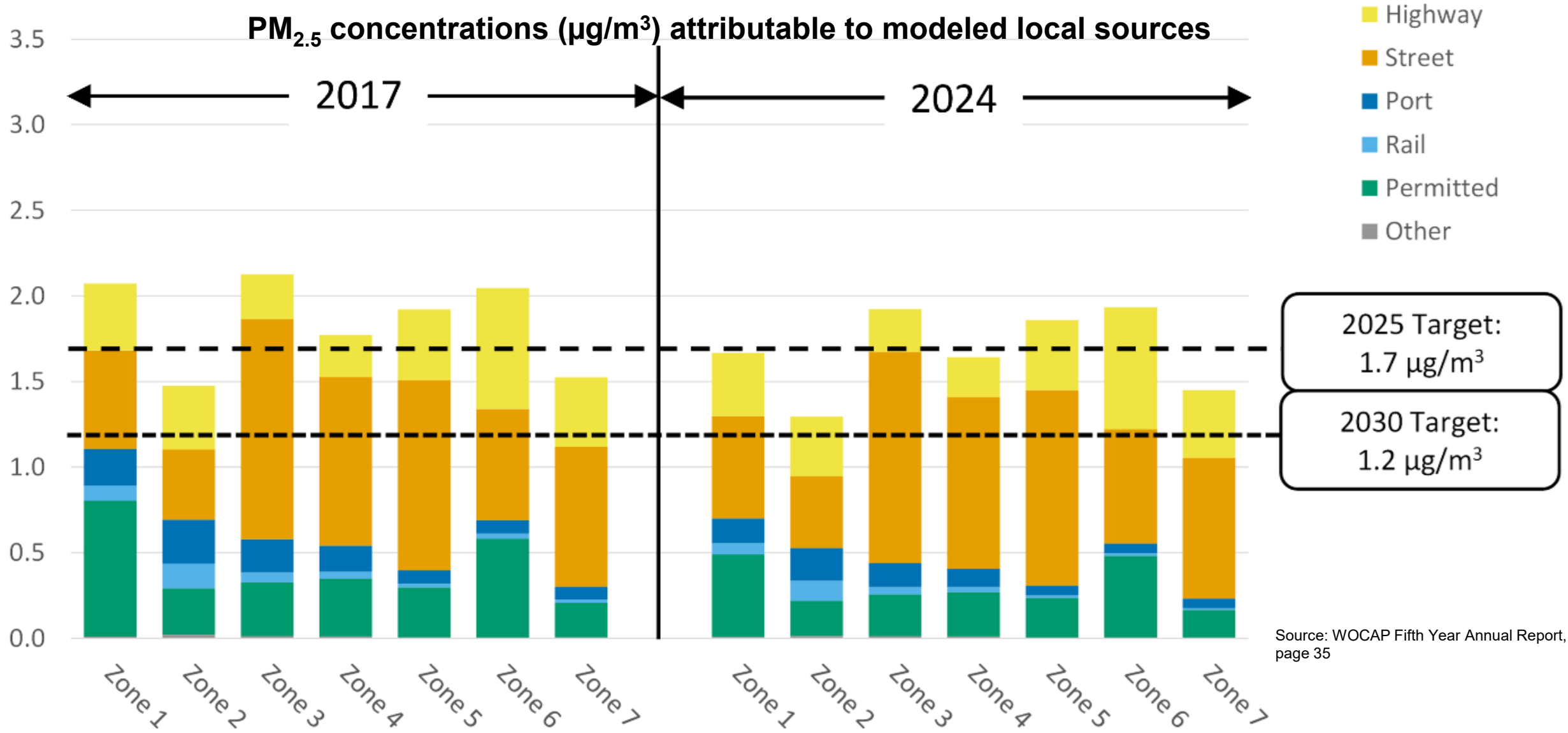
Source: WOCAP Fifth Year Annual Report, page 34



## Emissions Reduction Highlight: Fine Particulate Matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>)

- Reductions were less pronounced for fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>)
- Emissions from key local sources decreased by 10% (8.3 tons) between 2017 and 2024, and average residential exposure was reduced by 8%
- Most of the reduction was from Ocean Going Vessel berthing (1.4 tons) and harbor craft (2.2 tons)

# Emission Reduction Highlight: PM<sub>2.5</sub> Reductions



Source: WOCAP Fifth Year Annual Report, page 35

# Emissions Reductions Grants – Investment Summary

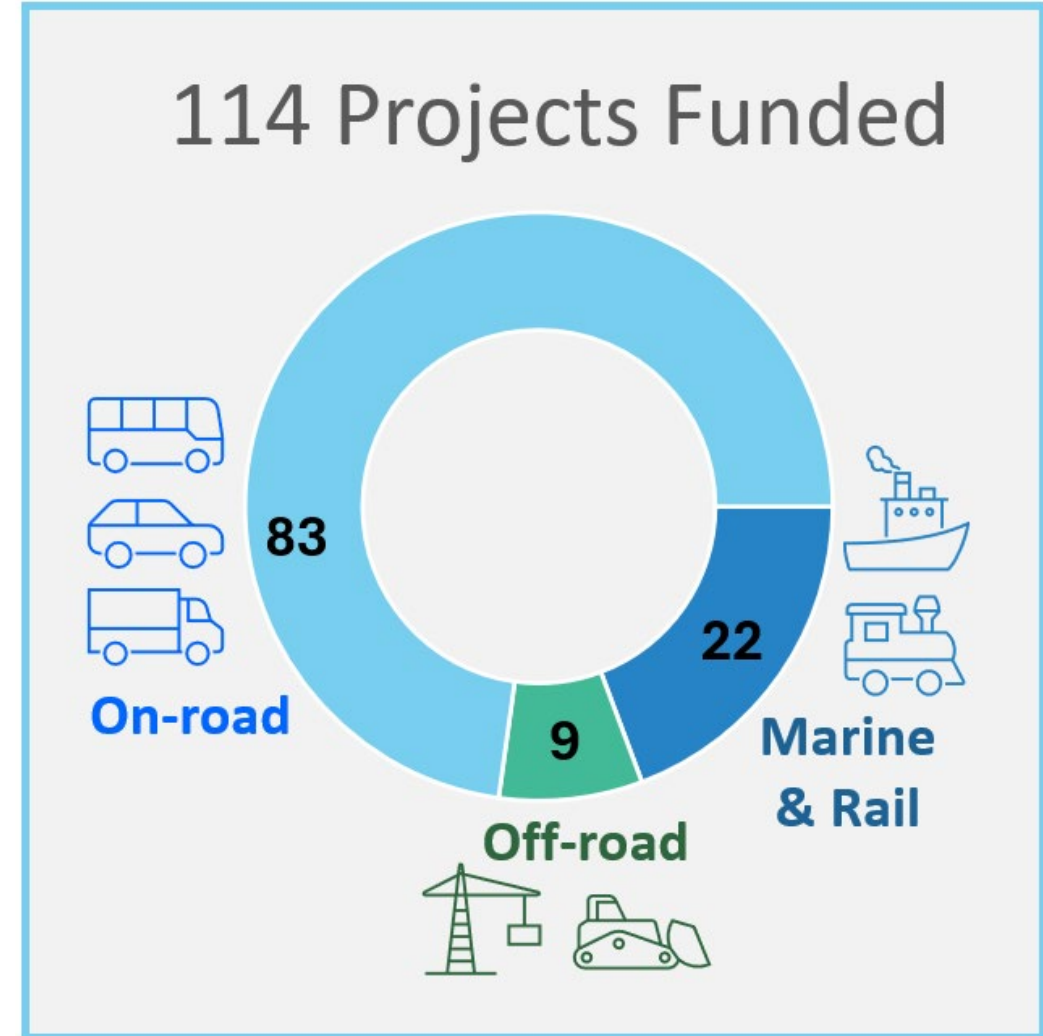
**\$51.5M** invested, for example

At the Port of Oakland:

- 13 tugboats repowered with cleaner engines
- 30 hydrogen trucks purchased

In the West Oakland Community:

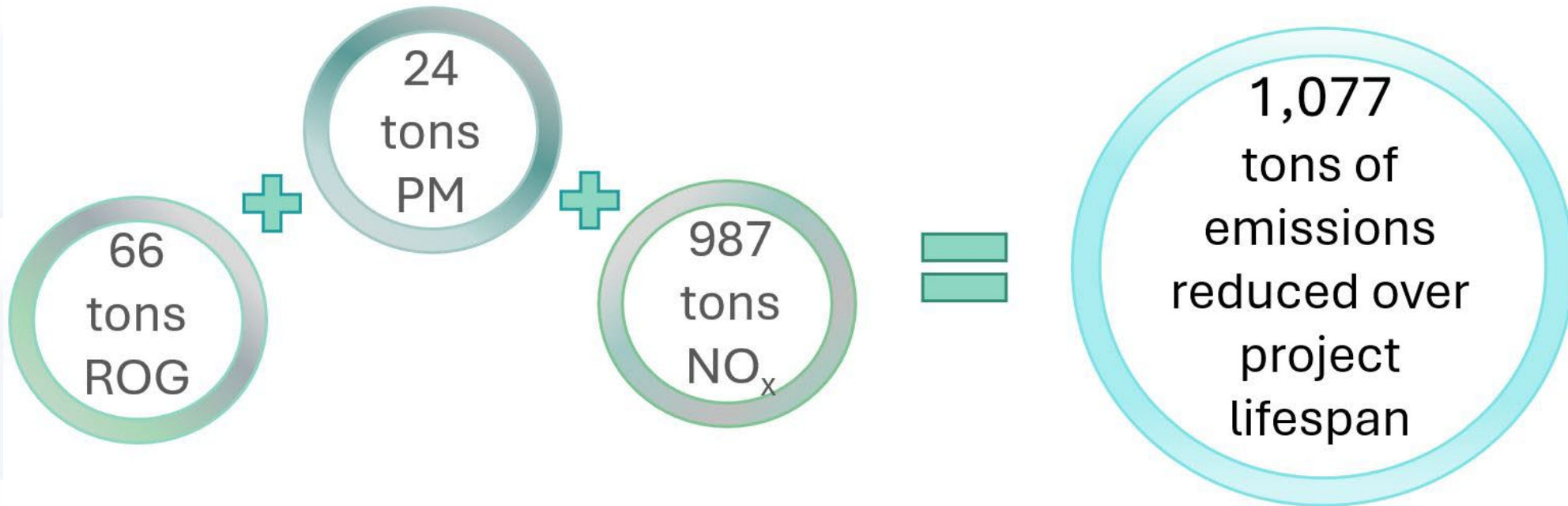
- 55 electric vehicle chargers for cars and trucks
- 16 diesel trucks replaced with zero emission trucks



Source: WOCAP Fifth Year Annual Report, page 9

# Emissions Reductions Grants – Emissions Reductions Summary

Emissions are reduced by replacing dirty, polluting engines/equipment with new, cleaner options. Emission reductions are based on California Air Resources Board (CARB) approved calculations.



Source: WOCAP Fifth Year Annual Report, page 9

Legend: ROG = Reactive Organic Gases, PM = Particulate Matter, NO<sub>x</sub> = Nitrogen Oxides

# Enforcement Progress Over Five Years

- All facilities were inspected within the first two years of WOCAP implementation, and then generally followed a two year inspection cycle
- Violations were trending downward until the Schnitzer Steel (Radius Recycling) fire, when violations spiked
- Overall **downward** trend of complaints in West Oakland

# Community Description Update – Demographic & Economic Indicators

- Racial/ethnic characteristics of West Oakland generally held constant with a slight decrease in the proportion of the African American/ Black population
- Educational attainment decreased in West Oakland
- Approximately 41% of the population in West Oakland lives below the Bay Area poverty level (two times the federal poverty level), representing an 11% decrease from WOCAP baseline

# Community Description Update – Health Indicators

- Life expectancy remained constant with a continued lower life expectancy for the African American/Black population in West Oakland
- There was no change in mortality rates and a decrease in asthma emergency department visits and hospitalizations in West Oakland
- Pre-term birth rates and low birth weights rates remained constant in West Oakland
- West Oakland schools show asthma rates ranging from 6% to 21% of student population

Limitation: It takes many years to see changes in health outcomes and many factors influence health outcomes, thus, the data update does not attribute any causality to health outcomes from WOCAP implementation.

# Strategy Evaluation Summary

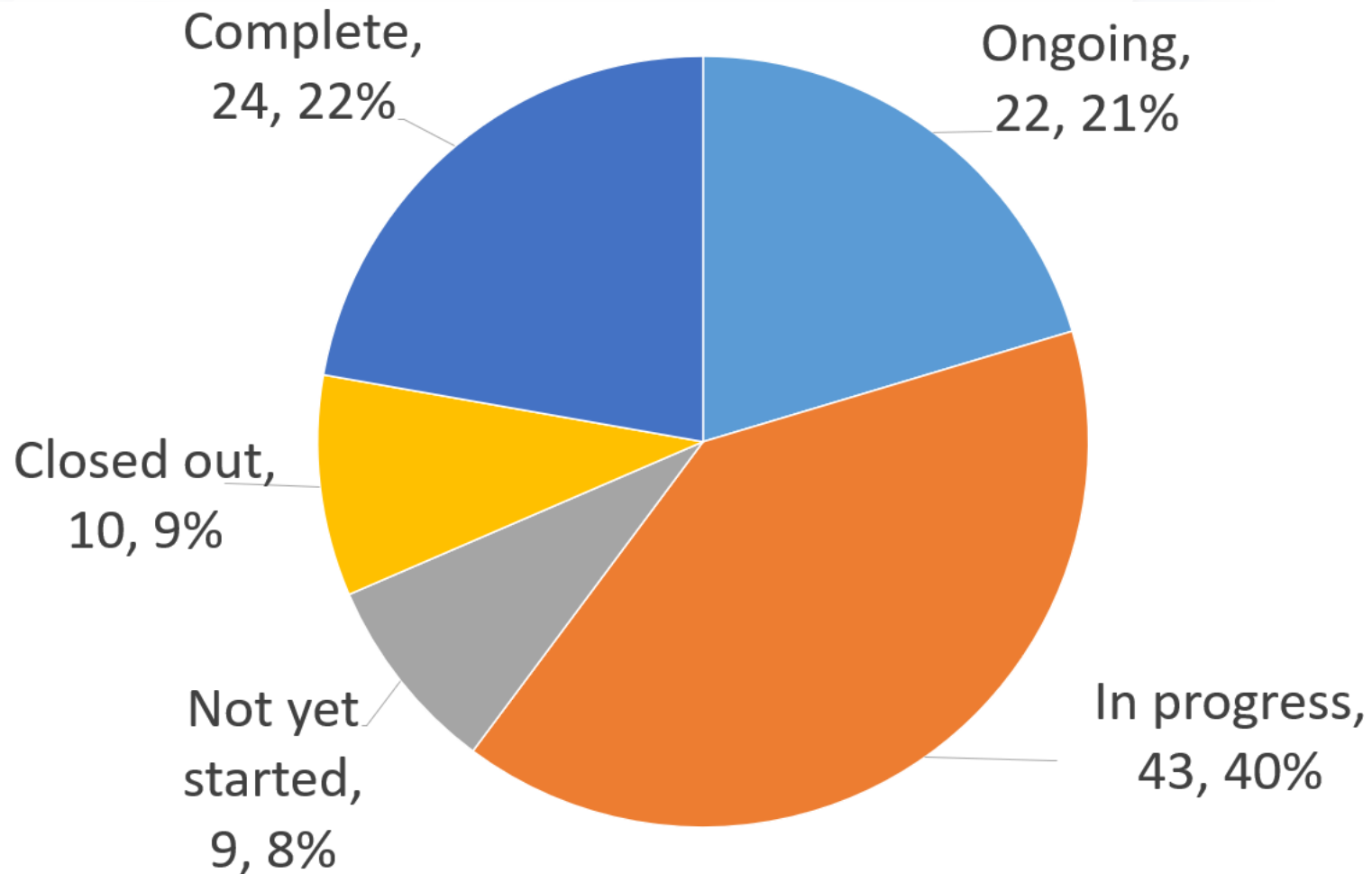
From June through August 2024, the Air District and WOEIP led the CSC through activities to review 29 of the 108 strategies that had not yet made progress and chose to update by **revising, continuing, or closing out** the strategy. A supporting rationale was developed for each decision.

A total of 29 strategies were assessed and decisions were as follows:

- 13 strategies recommended to be revised
- 3 strategies recommended to be continued
- 3 strategies identified as complete
- 10 strategies recommended to be closed out



# Strategy Evaluation Summary (cont.)



WOCAP Strategy Implementation Progress – incorporates latest assessment of strategy status (i.e., complete and closed out strategies) and revisions made during strategy assessment process

# Next Steps

- Preparing for a November Town Hall
- Air District will continue to support emission reductions in West Oakland
- Finalize post year five agreement between WOEIP and Air District to continue WOCAP implementation

# Acknowledgements

## WOCAP Steering Committee

**West Oakland Environmental Indicators Staff:** Nicole Merino-Tsui, Ms. Margaret Gordon and Brian Beveridge

**Partner Agencies:** City of Oakland, Alameda County Public Health Department, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, Environmental Defense Fund, Port of Oakland, CARB

**Air District:** Community Engagement, Planning, Assessment Inventory & Modeling, Strategic Incentives, and Compliance and Enforcement

# Community Perspective

**Presenter: Nicole Merino Tsui**  
Senior Project Manager  
West Oakland Environmental  
Indicators Project



# Schnitzer Steel - Clean Up or Get Out

- August 8th, 2023 - fire impacts Alameda County residents
- In response to the August 8, 2023 fire
- Rapid Response Task force created immediately
- Comprised of California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), Air District
- Three (3) convenings of the Rapid Response Task Force
- Notice of Violations issued



# Metal Shredding Bill - AB1234

- Created advocacy team
- Collaborated with Mia Bonta's office
- Call to action - community members sent letters
- Assembly Bill (AB)1234 - successfully pulled!

## Impacts to Communities

Shredding of metal generates high concentrations of Particulate Matter (PM), Black Carbon (BC), Light Fibrous Material (LFM) & heavy metals, all of which increase risk of cancer & other illnesses when released into our air.



# WOEIP-led Strategy Implementation Progress

## Sustainable Port Collaborative Strategy #21

- Through partnership and collaboration, WOEIP has helped push the electrification of the Port of Oakland
- The Port is the largest contributor of Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM) in West Oakland



# WOEIP-led Strategy Implementation Progress (cont.)

## Prescott Greening Strategy #10

- What can a vegetative buffer do to mitigate emissions and exposure?

## Street Sweeping Study Strategy #59

- What is on Oakland streets?  
How effective is street sweeping at cleaning up debris and road dust?





# WOCAP Strategy Revisions

- Steering Committee members actively participated
- Shared expertise, context and direction
- Clear, concise and collaborative



# WOCAP Meetings

- Streamlined annual calendar - predictable and implementation driven
- Quarterly public meetings
- Monthly in-person working meetings for members
- Special sessions for advocacy and revisions
- Annual Town Hall (second in a row!)





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**AGENDA: 6**

# **Proposed Organizational Restructure of Air District Equity and Community Programs**

**Community Equity, Health, and Justice Committee Meeting  
October 9, 2024**

**Arsenio Mataka  
Deputy Executive Officer of Equity and  
Community Programs**

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



# Presentation Outcome

- The Community Equity, Health, and Justice Committee will receive a presentation on the proposed organizational restructure of Equity and Community Programs at the Air District. The proposed organizational change:
  - Establishes a Community Investments Office and an Office of Civil Rights
  - Renames the Community Engagement Division to the Environmental Justice Division and adds the Environmental Justice Specialist Program

# Presentation Outline

- Background
- Community Investments Office
- Office of Civil Rights
- Restructure and renaming of the Community Engagement Division to the Environmental Justice Division
- Environmental Justice Specialist Program
- Equity & Community Programs Organizational Restructure

# Requested Action

- None; informational only.

# Background

- Equity and Community Programs currently consists of four Divisions/Offices:
  - Community Engagement
  - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Office
  - Strategic Incentives
  - Technology Implementation Office
- The newly Board-approved Community Benefits Penalty Funds Policy, and related funding streams, create an opportunity to direct significant resources back into the communities where violations occurred. The agency can increase its engagement of impacted communities in the disbursement of funds.

# Background (cont.)

- In alignment with the Air District's 2024-2029 Strategic Plan, we need to create an office to enhance our civil rights efforts and proactively implement language access and disability accommodations, among others.
- The Community Engagement Division lacks dedicated structure or staffing support for Air District-wide community engagement or outreach for key initiatives in non – Assembly Bill (AB) 617 environmental justice communities



# Background (cont.)

- The proposed changes:
  - Seek to ensure that the benefits of clean air and environmental protection are shared by all residents of the Bay Area
  - Reflect our commitment to civil rights and advancing environmental justice
  - Focus on promoting fairness, transparency, and accountability across the Air District
  - Responds to community requests for engagement in funding decisions and the work of the agency
  - Prioritizes investments in projects that improve air quality and public health in impacted communities
  - Supports the implementation of the 2024-2029 Strategic Plan

# Community Investments Office

## Aligns with multiple strategies in the 2024-2029 Strategic Plan:



- **Strategy 2.8 Community-Directed Funds:** We will manage funds to benefit communities in partnership with those communities, including the money that the Air District collects in penalties from air pollution violations that affect communities



- **Strategy 4.11 Align Resources:** We will be intentional about ensuring the Air District's resources and annual budgets are well aligned with organization and community priorities, as identified in the 2024-2029 Strategic Plan

# Community Investments Office (cont.)

- Key initiative to implement the Community Benefits Penalty Funds Policy and other funds, which create local and regional funding streams for impacted communities
- Improve air quality and public health in areas that have been disproportionately impacted by air pollution

<b>Penalty Policy Allocation</b>	<b>FYE 2024</b>
<b>Regional Community Benefit Fund</b>	4,345,865
<b>Richmond Local Benefit Fund</b>	16,611,075
<b>Pleasanton Local Benefit Fund</b>	64,000
<b>Berkeley Local Benefit Fund</b>	15,000
<b>Other funds: Richmond Community Air Quality Fund</b>	20,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$41,035,940</b>

\*FYE = Fiscal Year End

# Community Investments Office (cont.)

## Staffing Requirements

- Staff will:
  - facilitate the investment of penalty funds back to the impacted communities to support local projects
  - ensure investments are aligned with community needs, by engaging local leaders, community-based organizations, businesses, and community members



# Community Investments Office (cont.)

## Staffing Requirements

- Staff will:
  - be responsible for administering community grant programs
  - report annually to the Community Advisory Council and regularly to the Board
- Staff is planning a mid-year FYE25 budget request and staffing adjustment in December for (3) new permanent full time equivalent positions and three (3) new Limited-Term Contract Employees (LTCEs) in the new Community Investments Office (paid for by a corresponding request to use penalty funds for administrative costs)

# Office of Civil Rights

**Aligns with multiple strategies in the 2024-2029 Strategic Plan, including:**



- **Strategy 2.10 Civil Rights Laws:** We will advance and prioritize compliance with civil rights laws, including the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related California laws
- **Strategy 4.3 Consistent Permits:** We will ensure Air District regulations and associated air quality permits issued are clear, consistent, and enforceable so that air pollution affecting communities is minimized



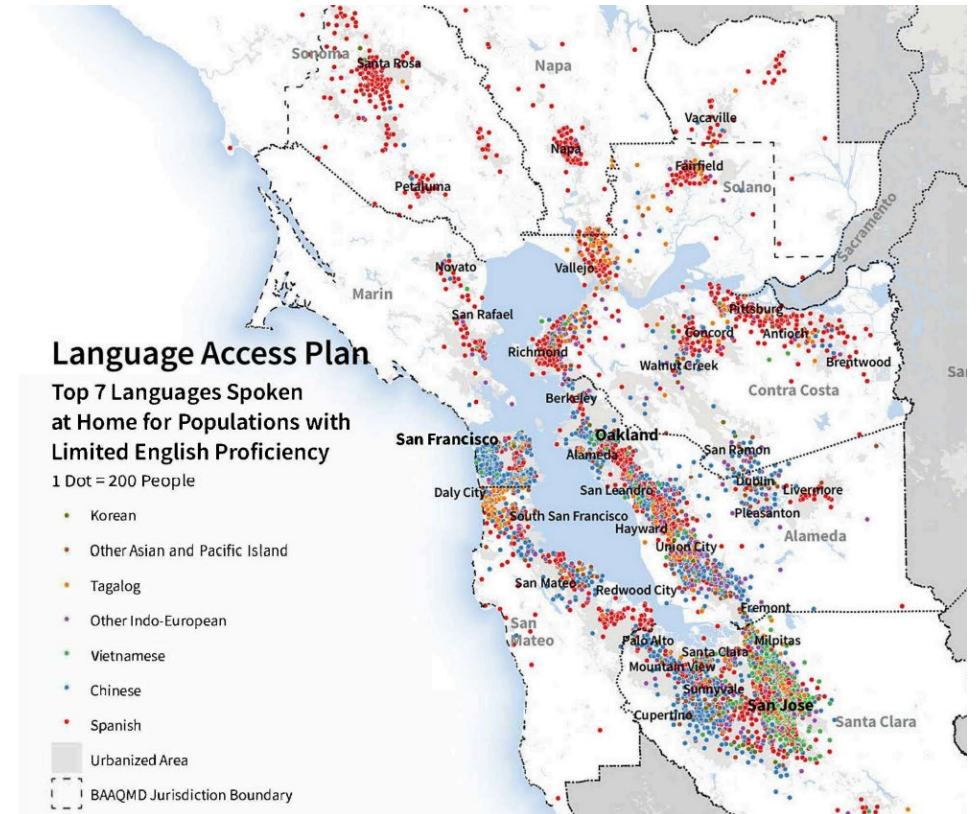
# Office of Civil Rights (cont.)

- Affirmative approach to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and California Government Code Section 11135
- Ensure public-facing Air District programs are compliant with civil rights laws
- Regular reviews and audits of policies, programs, and practices to identify and rectify any disparities
- Provide a transparent and accessible process for individuals and communities to report concerns
- Timely investigations and corrective actions

# Office of Civil Rights (cont.)

## Staffing

- Staff will:
  - ensure that civil rights considerations are embedded in all aspects of the Air District's work
  - be responsible for implementing the Air District's *Plan for Language Services to Limited English Proficient Populations*
  - report regularly to the Board





# Environmental Justice Division

## Rebranding

- Renaming the Community Engagement Division to the Environmental Justice Division signals a renewed focus on communities across the Bay Area overburdened by air pollution, as noted in the Strategic Plan's Goal 2: Advance Environmental Justice

*We now know community, environmental justice, and equity must be central to our work in the coming years and decades.*

# Environmental Justice Specialist Program

**Aligns with multiple strategies in the 2024-2029 Strategic Plan, including:**



**Strategy 2.1 Community Partnership:** We will develop partnerships with communities so they can directly participate in the solutions to the air quality problems that impact them

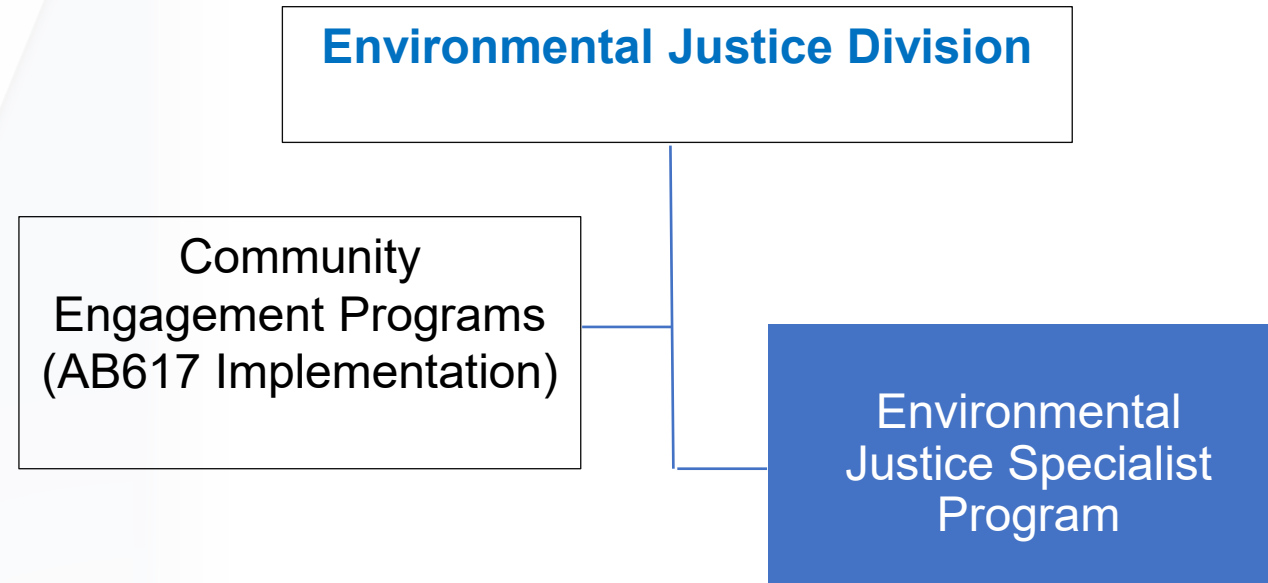
**Strategy 2.2 Collect Community Data:** We will build community capacity to collect air pollution data and ensure the Air District better utilizes those data to reduce the pollution that harms communities most

**Strategy 2.6 Talk with Communities:** We will meet with communities about air pollution problems in their neighborhoods, their concerns, how we are addressing them and what more they need from us.

# Environmental Justice Division (cont.)

## Environmental Justice Specialist Program

- Team of specialized outreach staff assigned to a specific sub-region within the Bay Area
- Consistent, on-the-ground presence in communities to foster stronger relationships and ensure that community voices are heard and integrated into Air District decision-making



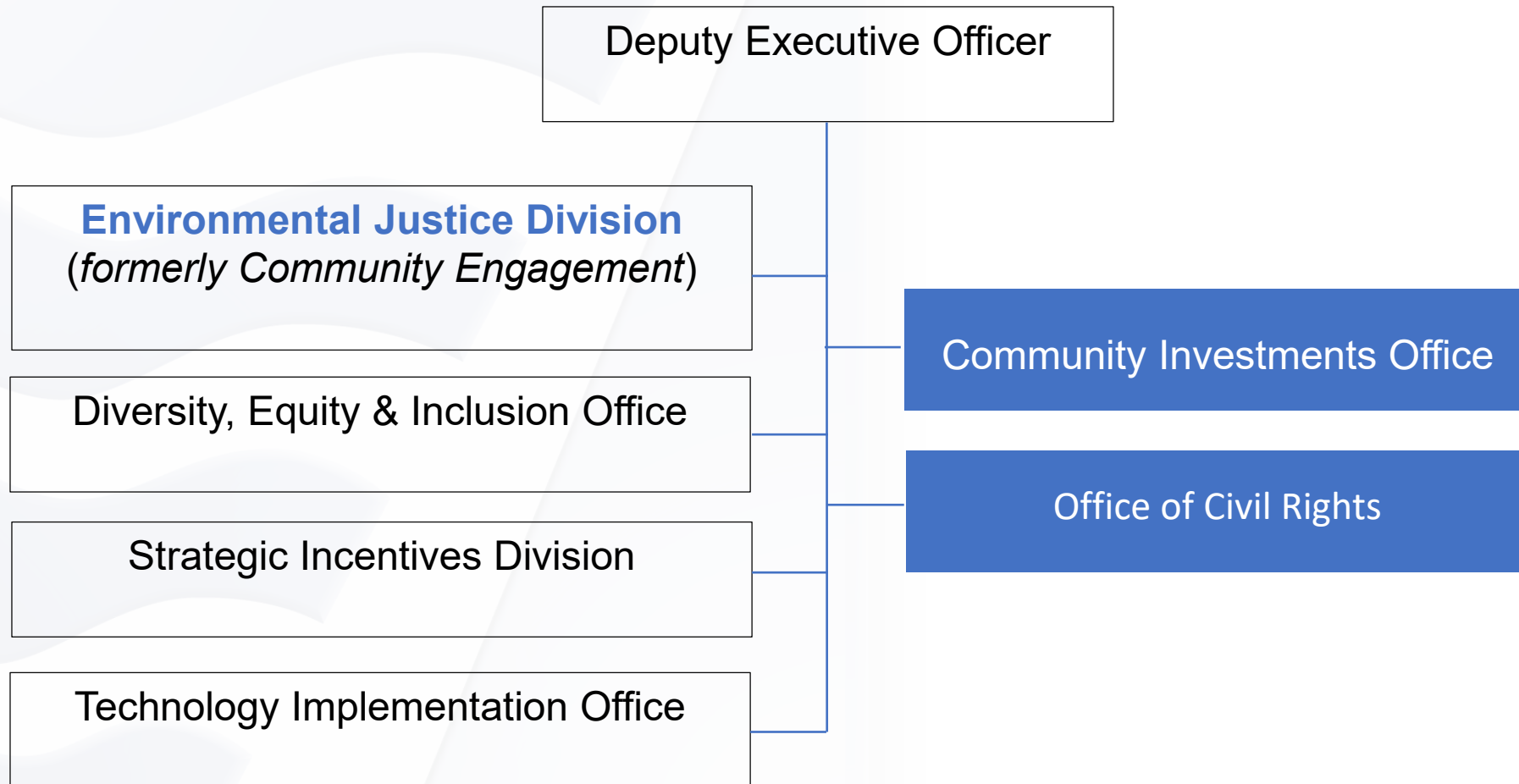
# Environmental Justice Division (cont.)

## Environmental Justice Specialist

- Staff will:
  - be responsible for conducting outreach, gathering community input, and providing education on air quality
  - identify local environmental challenges and collaborate with communities to develop and implement solutions
  - report regularly on their activities, providing valuable insights that will help guide the Air District's policies and programs



# Equity & Community Programs Organizational Restructure



■ Proposed Changes

# Equity & Community Programs Organizational Restructure (cont.)

- Prepares the Air District for the execution of the 2024-2029 Strategic Plan
- Implements the Air District's environmental justice vision and improves service delivery
- Responds to the Community Advisory Council's *Call to Action* and Environmental Justice Priorities
- Increases equitable access to resources and programs
- Staffing and resources for the Office of Civil Rights and EJ Specialist Program will be addressed in FYE26 budget process.



**Questions?**