



NEWS

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Air District issues CARE Program report

Summary of long-term effort to reduce air pollution in highly impacted communities

SAN FRANCISCO – Today the Bay Area Air Quality Management District issued the Community Air Risk Evaluation Program summary report which outlines the results of a nearly decade-long effort to analyze the effect of toxic air pollutants on more highly impacted Bay Area communities and focus air pollution reduction measures in these areas.

The report is an outgrowth of a close collaboration between Air District staff and members of the CARE Task Force which includes environmental groups, community members, researchers, and regional health and planning departments.

“Despite tremendous regional improvements in air quality, some communities in the Bay Area still experience higher pollution levels and negative health effects because of proximity to air pollution sources,” said Jack Broadbent, air district executive officer. “The work of the CARE Task Force has helped to provide a framework to guide policy decisions, provide effective air pollution reduction programs in impacted areas and foster long-term positive partnerships with community groups.”

The report reviews accomplishments, challenges and the road ahead. With the publication of this report, the task force will be disbanded, although the Air District will continue to utilize CARE program findings in its policy-making.

Over the years, the CARE program has introduced many new approaches for understanding and reducing air pollution problems. Highlights include:

- Developed a regional toxics emissions inventory
- Identified and mapped communities with the greatest health impacts
- Worked with the community to conduct a truck activity survey in West Oakland
- Implemented a monitoring study to characterize variations in air pollution in West Oakland
- Developed tools and guidance for infill development
- Pioneered the concept of a Community Risk Reduction Plan and the methods to support it

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area.

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