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## NEWS RELEASE

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**CONTACT:** Tom Flannigan, 415.215.7212

### **Air District and West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project initiate new steering committee to target air pollution**

*Efforts aim to improve air quality and lessen public health impacts in West Oakland*

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District, in partnership with the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project, held the first steering committee meeting today to develop a community action plan to improve air quality and public health in West Oakland. The City of Oakland, the Port of Oakland and stakeholders from the West Oakland community participated in this effort.

Authorized by AB 617, the Air District is working with community stakeholders through the agency's Community Health Protection Program to build upon decades of work to address areas of concentrated air pollution and employ innovative solutions that will lead to measurable air quality improvements. West Oakland has been identified as a priority community to initiate community emissions reduction programs guided by a newly formed steering committee.

"The Air District and the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project have been partnering for more than a decade to improve air quality in the neighborhood," said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. "This partnership will lead to neighborhood specific emission reduction programs and ensure additional resources are directed into this community and provide a blueprint for future efforts in additional neighborhoods."

"We appreciate the important partnership with the Air District and are very encouraged to hear the impassioned commitments from our city's mayor, councilmember and the Port of Oakland," said Brian Beveridge, Co-Director of the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project. "Today's meeting is an important first step to bring about change in West Oakland. The real work of eliminating the health risk from deadly diesel pollution in the neighborhood begins now."

"We're excited to help kick-off this community led process," said Libby Schaaf, mayor of Oakland. "Our city is fortunate to have great community institutions to help lead the way and build the strongest plan possible. Oakland is committed to implement solutions quickly to ensure that all our residents have the benefit of good air quality."

AB 617 is the state law which was passed along with the re-authorization of California's cap-and-trade program, the centerpiece of the state's efforts to reduce climate change. The law recognizes that while California has seen tremendous improvement in air quality, not all communities have

benefited equally. Some communities located close to freeways, ports, industry or other large pollution sources need additional focus and resources to reduce exposure levels.

Following the passage of AB 617, the Air District developed the Community Health Protection Program, a collaborative initiative with the California Air Resources Board and Bay Area communities focused on reducing air quality impacts in neighborhoods most affected by air pollution. This program will work in concert with California Air Resources Board statewide Community Air Protection Program.

The [Bay Area Air Quality Management District](#) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area. Connect with the Air District via [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#).

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*375 Beale Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94105*  
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