



## MEDIA ADVISORY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** October 28, 2019

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### **Gina McCarthy keynote speaker at Bay Area Air District event today**

*Former head of the US EPA lunchtime featured speaker at PM: Spotlight on Health Protection*

**SAN FRANCISCO** – Today, the Bay Area Air District's Advisory Council meeting, PM: Spotlight on Health Protection, will bring together leading health and science researcher's for the first symposium in a series at the Bay Area Metro Center, 375 Beale Street, San Francisco, California.

Increasing evidence shows health impacts from particulate matter, or PM, can occur well below the current [national ambient air quality standards](#). As impacts in our communities increase with our changing climate, it is important that we reassess the health effects of PM.

This year, the Air District's [Advisory Council](#) will be convening a four-part conference series on PM to facilitate a discussion among nationally recognized scientists, stakeholders, and the Air District to identify the most effective measures to further protect public health. The symposia will shine a spotlight on this public health challenge and share information and tools to inform future policy decisions.

Today's event will take place from 9 AM to 4:30 PM and will be [webcast](#).

#### [Meeting agenda](#)

Topics will include:

- PM health effects:
  - observed health effects from PM exposure
  - affected biological systems
  - knowledge about the mechanisms
  - population groups most at risk
  - most relevant sensitivities and uncertainties
- PM exposure and risk:
  - PM emissions and sources
  - PM levels in the air
  - community exposure
  - current understanding of PM health risks
  - economic and other costs

**Speakers will include:**

#### **Lunch Keynote Speaker - Gina McCarthy (12:30 PM – 1:00 PM)**

One of the nation's most respected voices on the environment and public health, former EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy is now a Harvard professor leading strategies and actions at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and in the corporate and non-profit sectors.

**John Balmes**

Dr. Balmes is a Professor of Medicine at UC San Francisco where he is on the faculty of the Divisions of Occupational and Environmental Medicine and Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine.

**H. Christopher Frey**

Dr. H. Christopher Frey is the Glenn E. Futrell Distinguished University Professor of Environmental Engineering in the Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering at North Carolina State University.

**Scott Jenkins**

Dr. Scott Jenkins is a senior environmental health scientist in EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards. He is currently leading EPA's review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter.

**Michael T. Kleinman**

Michael T. Kleinman is UC Irvine Professor of Environmental Toxicology and Co-Director of the Air Pollution Health Effects Laboratory in the Department of Community and Environmental Medicine, Adjunct Professor in College of Medicine.

**Julian Marshall**

Julian Marshall is the Kiely Endowed Professor of Environmental Engineering at University of Washington with a focus on air quality management.

**Phil Martien**

Phil Martien is the Director of the Assessment, Inventory, & Modeling Division at the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and led the Air District's Community Air Risk Evaluation Program, which informed California's AB 617.

**Jason D. Sacks**

Jason Sacks is a Senior Epidemiologist in the Center for Public Health & Environmental Assessment within U.S. EPA's Office of Research and Development. He is the assessment lead for the Particulate Matter Integrated Science Assessment.

**Lauren Zeise**

Lauren Zeise, Ph.D., was appointed by Gov. Brown as Director of the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment in December 2016 and has been with OEHHA since its inception in 1991. She played a leading role in OEHHA's development of CalEnviroScreen, the nation's first comprehensive statewide environmental health screening tool.

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](#).

The Association of Bay Area Health Officials is a regional network of 13 local health jurisdictions in the San Francisco Bay Area.

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