

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 27, 2023 CONTACT: Tina Landis, 415.940.3585

## State approves Bayview Hunters Point/Southeast San Francisco for AB 617 funding to expand emissions reduction work

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District announced today that the California Air Resources Board has voted to formally include Bayview Hunters Point/Southeast San Francisco in the state's Community Air Protection Program, also known as AB 617. This key move directs state funds and resources to a vibrant, historically significant and culturally rich Bay Area community.

To combat the disparate pollution burdens that exist in the Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood, the Air District, in co-equal partnership with the Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates and Marie Harrison Community Foundation, will develop a Community Emissions Reduction Plan, or CERP, process that will serve as a blueprint for improving air quality in Bayview Hunters Point/Southeast San Francisco.

"The Bayview Hunters Point community has a long history of higher levels of air pollution with significant health impacts for the residents of southeast San Francisco," said Air District executive officer Dr. Philip Fine. "We look forward to working with the community to address these environmental injustices through much-needed air quality improvements."

"This AB 617 designation of Bayview Hunters Point is a significant step toward overcoming the disparities in air quality that this community faces," said Air District Board member and San Francisco District 10 Supervisor Shamann Walton. "All residents of the Bay Area deserve clean air and attention from all levels of government can help achieve that goal for this community that has been severely impacted by environmental injustices."

After community members nominated their community to the AB 617 program, the Air District, with CARB's support, selected Bayview Hunters Point/Southeast San Francisco as a high priority community for focused action in the Bay Area due to longstanding air quality challenges, environmental justice issues and health inequities.

Bayview Hunters Point/Southeast San Francisco, located mainly in District 10, will be the fourth AB 617 area in the Bay Area that CARB has supported for a CERP, joining West Oakland, Richmond-North Richmond-San Pablo and East Oakland. The goal of the CERP is to focus and accelerate new actions selected by community members that go beyond existing state and regional programs to provide direct reductions in air pollution emissions and exposures.

The CERP will include establishing emissions reduction targets, reduction strategies, an implementation schedule and enforcement plan. The CERP process will be guided by a 25-member community-based steering committee. The Air District encourages Bayview Hunters Point/Southeast San Francisco residents and representatives of the community to apply to be part of this steering committee, which is expected to begin work in June.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality and the global climate in the nine-county Bay Area. Connect with the Air District via <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, <u>Instagram</u> and <u>YouTube</u>.

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