



NEWS RELEASE

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Air District publishes first-of-its-kind environmental justice guidance

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District has published an environmental justice chapter, [Best Practices for Centering Environmental Justice, Health, and Equity](#), in the agency’s recently updated California Environmental Quality Act, or [CEQA, Air Quality Guidelines](#).

CEQA is a state law that generally requires government agencies to inform decision makers and the public about the potential environmental impacts of residential, commercial, industrial and other projects, and to reduce those environmental impacts to the extent feasible.

The environmental justice chapter in the Air District’s 2022 CEQA Guidelines – the first of its kind to be published in California – recognizes the policy imperative to help address long-standing and emerging inequities in the siting, design and development of potential sources of pollution. Apart from mitigating the impacts of pollution, this guidance will promote meaningful participation of community members in all phases of the environmental and land use decision making process.

“This important policy development affirms the community’s right to participate at every level of decision-making for projects planned in their neighborhoods,” said Dr. Philip Fine, executive officer of the Air District. “We are proud to unveil this unprecedented guidance that is designed to reduce harmful emissions and health risks in overburdened communities as well as help agencies across the state keep environmental justice at the center of their work.”

Air District staff will present the new chapter to environmental professionals throughout the state on Tuesday, April 25, at the 2023 Association of Environmental Professionals Conference. Other agencies in California are encouraged to utilize the guidance document to center environmental justice, health and equity when evaluating projects under CEQA.

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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