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Air District and community partners release draft plan to improve air quality in Richmond-North Richmond-San Pablo

Public invited to comment on proposed efforts to improve public health by reducing local air pollution

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District announced today the release of the draft Path to Clean Air Community Emissions Reduction Plan for Richmond-North Richmond-San Pablo. The draft plan is now open to the public for review and comment through January 19, 2024.

The plan was created in partnership with a community-led steering committee that represents local community members, public agencies and other stakeholders. The plan identifies critical air quality and public health concerns and offers actionable solutions to address them.

“With environmental justice at its center, the Path to Clean Air Plan will provide a blueprint to achieve tangible improvements to air quality and public health in the area’s frontline and fenceline communities,” said Dr. Philip Fine, executive officer of the Air District. “The strategies outlined in this plan, created in partnership with the Community Steering Committee, will build on years of work to eliminate disparities in air pollution exposure in Richmond-North Richmond-San Pablo. Every neighborhood deserves clean and healthy air.”

“This plan aims to address the health of our lungs, our air and ultimately our climate,” said Alfredo Angulo, co-chair of the Path to Clean Air Steering Committee. “It voices our vision for a thriving Richmond-North Richmond-San Pablo and marks each step needed for cleaner air and healthier neighborhoods. When public agencies ally themselves with the aspirations of frontline communities, good things happen.”

The draft plan covers the cities of Richmond and San Pablo and several unincorporated areas in Contra Costa County that are impacted by emission sources including fuel refining, ships, marine terminals, industrial manufacturing facilities, railways, vehicle and freight traffic. According to CalEnviroScreen 4.0, several communities in the Path to Clean Air area rank in the 90th percentile of pollution burden, some of the highest in California. A 2018 Contra Costa Health Services study shows that asthma rates in the county are higher on average than in the rest of the state and are especially high for children and Black residents.

A virtual public workshop will be held on January 11, 2024, where members of the public are encouraged to ask questions and provide input to the draft PTCA plan. To learn more, visit <https://www.baaqmd.gov/PTCA-CERP>.

The Path to Clean Air Plan was developed as a requirement of AB 617, a state law which recognizes that while California has seen tremendous improvement in air quality, not all communities have benefited equally, and some communities located close to freeways, ports, industry or other large pollution sources need additional focus and resources to reduce exposure levels.

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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