



# NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 7, 2016

**CONTACT: Tom Flannigan**

415.749.4900

## **Air District honors former Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates with Lifetime Achievement Award**

*Bates provided environmental leadership in the Bay Area for over four decades*

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District celebrated the exceptional public service of outgoing Board Director and former Mayor of the City of Berkeley, Thomas H. Bates, by awarding him a Lifetime Achievement Award and proclamation at today’s Board of Directors meeting.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was the first of its kind issued by the Air District which honors the distinguished career of those serving to improve air quality and protect the climate for all residents of the Bay Area.

“Mayor Bates is a champion of clean air, public health and climate protection whose environmental and climate focused achievements have not only benefited the Bay Area, but far beyond,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “Thanks to his decades of leadership and service in air quality, we are delighted to honor Mayor Bates with a Lifetime Achievement Award.”

A champion for alternatives to driving, a strong advocate for public transportation and an avid walker, Bates has been a hero for the environment and clean air for more than 40 years.

Bates has been dedicated to public service, serving Bay Area residents in a variety of elected leadership positions, including four years as an Alameda County Supervisor, two decades as a California legislator and fourteen years as Mayor of Berkeley. He has advocated for clean public transit solutions in the region, faithfully using public transit and walking regularly. He has served on the Board of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District from 1973 to 1976 and from 2006 to the present and as Chair of the Board of Directors in 2011.

He also served on the Boards of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Bay Conservation and Development Commission, Joint Powers Commission and the Association for Bay Area Governments. He championed progressive environmental policies, worked closely to coordinate long-range transportation, land-use and housing plans that support economic growth and reduce air pollution. While serving in the California State Assembly representing the East Bay from 1976 to 1996, Bates authored 220 bills that became law, with a 100 percent environmental voting record.

In 2002, Bates was elected Mayor of Berkeley and built a notable record of environmental and climate-action achievements which served as a model for other cities to emulate, becoming the first city in the country to adopt a voter-approved greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 80 percent by 2050. Additionally, Bates demonstrated national leadership by launching BerkeleyFirst, the first-ever property assessed clean energy program, which became a model replicated across the country.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District ([www.baaqmd.gov](http://www.baaqmd.gov)) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area.

###