

# San Francisco Bay Area's Community Health Protection Program

California Assembly Bill 617, approved by the legislature in 2017, initiated a statewide effort to improve health in communities most affected by air pollution by identifying and reducing those sources. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District got a head start on this process in 2006 by initiating the Community Air Risk Evaluation or CARE program and identifying locations throughout the Bay Area disproportionately impacted by air pollution. Now the Air District will combine what has been identified through the CARE initiative with expanded efforts to further identify and reduce air pollutants under the new *Community Health Protection Program*.



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Through the Air District's *Community Health Protection Program* and partnerships with communities across the Bay Area, the Air District will develop and initiate actions to reduce local air pollution impacts in the nine-county region.

## How will this program help communities that are affected by air pollution?

Working directly with the Air District, communities will be able to learn more about the various air pollution sources in their neighborhoods. Working with communities, the Air District can help identify regulations, grants, and land use guidelines to develop additional strategies to reduce impacts in neighborhoods. Over the next several years, the Air District will be working with community stakeholders, local governments, and the state to select communities to create either emission reduction action plans, community air monitoring plans, or both.

## How will communities be identified as being most affected by air pollution?

Working with community stakeholders developing the Air District's CARE program has provided the Bay Area region with

## AB 617: A Community-Driven Process



an initial map of impacted communities. CARE community maps indicate where neighborhoods are most impacted by diesel exhaust and other air pollutants primarily near roadways and industrial corridors. The Air District will work with communities through the *Community Health Protection Program* to identify additional areas that experience air pollution impacts not identified during the CARE evaluation process.

Through the *Community Health Protection Program*, the Air District is considering the CARE areas as well as neighborhoods with lower life expectancy, industrial corridors and other communities determined by statewide screening tools.<sup>1</sup> The Air District will be considering communities with freeways or refineries, cement plants, or other large industrial air pollution sources as well as other factors and information from communities.

<sup>1</sup> The statewide screening tools used are CalEnviroScreen 3.0 and California Healthy Places Index.

## Key Deadlines

- **April 30, 2018** – Air District required to make initial recommendations to the state
- **July 2018** – Air District must select recommended communities to participate in year one
- **October 2018** – California Air Resources Board selection of “high cumulative exposure” areas

These communities will be placed on a statewide priority list, for action over the next six years. A few communities throughout the state will be selected each year.

## How can I help identify communities?

The Air District welcomes community input through Open Air Forum, an online community engagement platform or by attending an upcoming workshop. Air District sponsored workshops will be held throughout the Bay Area between March and June 2018. All information provided by communities will be reviewed and considered by the Air District before the July deadline. Staff will work closely with communities selected for the first six years of the program to schedule, plan and develop a scope of work for



studies. You may access Open Air Forum and learn more about workshops near you by visiting [www.baaqmd.gov/AB617](http://www.baaqmd.gov/AB617).

## What happens once communities are selected?

The Air District will collaborate with local partners to convene a community steering committee and hold workshops to develop the action or monitoring plans. CARB will release guidelines for how to develop emission reduction action plans and community air monitoring plans by October 2018 and the Air District will look to the community to review and comment on the plans. During this time, the Air District will be working with community members in areas selected for action in later years on pre-planning activities.

## What resources are available through the Community Health Protection Program?

For communities affected by air pollution, there are two major types of financial resources available:

### Community grants –

The state is making \$5 million available for technical assistance grants for:

- Action or monitoring plans for neighborhoods
- Air District funded community grants for pre-planning and other community capacity-building activities

### Clean technology incentives –

The Bay Area has received approximately \$50 million in additional grant funding, which will be made available to businesses to implement clean technology for trucks, buses, marine vessels, trains, and construction equipment through the Air District's Carl Moyer Program. To learn more, visit [www.baaqmd.gov/moyer](http://www.baaqmd.gov/moyer).

## Key Dates

- **March 2018** – Deadline for communities to submit forms for self-nominations
- **April 2018** – Air District submits a proposal to CARB listing the communities in the Bay Area most impacted by Air Pollution
- **July 2018** – Air District submits a proposal to CARB for communities to be selected for actions over the next 6 years
- **October 2018** – CARB selects final communities for year 2019
- **October 2018** – CARB adopts guidelines for action plans and community monitoring
- **October 2018 through July 2019** – The Air District and CARB start hands-on planning work with selected communities
- **July 2019** – Air monitoring begins in the first-year community selected for monitoring
- **October 1, 2019** – Action plans adopted by the Air District

## Contact

We welcome and encourage your participation.

For more information, email [AB617Info@baaqmd.gov](mailto:AB617Info@baaqmd.gov) or visit the Air District's *Community Health Protection Program* website at: <http://www.baaqmd.gov/AB617>.

Or you may visit the California Air Resources Board website at: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/community-air-protection-program-ab617>



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