

Bay Area Air Quality Management District  
375 Beale Street, Suite 600  
San Francisco, CA 94105

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

### **Richmond – No. Richmond – PUBLIC WORKSHOP**

#### **PATH TO CLEAN AIR DRAFT COMMUNITY EMISSIONS REDUCTION PLAN**

January 11, 2023, 5:30 P.M

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL**

The Richmond – No. Richmond –Acting Assistant Manager in the Planning and Climate Protection Division of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Mark Tang called the meeting to an order at 5:30pm.

Present: Community Steering Committee's Co-Chair Alfredo Rafael Angulo-Castro, Co-Chair Y'Anad Burrell, Nancy Aguirre, Marisol Cantó, Lucia Castello, Suzanne Coffee, Dr. Omoniyi Omotoso, Jessica Range, Kevin Ruano Hernandez, Dave Severy, Sandra Castañeda (non-voting), Hakim Johnson (non-voting), Michael Kent (non-voting), BK White (non-voting)

Absent: Michelle Gomez Garcia Lizbeth Ibarra, Jefferey Killbreth, Simren Sandhu, Heidi Swillinger, Franklin Ungo, Stephanie Wright, Roberta Felicianao (non-voting)

Also Present: **Air District Staff** Samuel Garcia, Mark Tang, Wendy Goodfriend, Lisa Flores, Suma Peesapati, Diana Ruiz, Alison Kirk Alicia Parker, Ranyee Chiang, Meredith Bauer, Trisha Roman, Grace Leung, Steven Low, Raymond Salila, Steve Reid, Gregg Nudd, Laura Cackette, Raymond Salila, Song Bai, Alexandra Kamel, Elizabeth Yura, Janet Carrasco, Kate Hoag, Pamela Leong, Karen Schkolnick, Lily MacIver, Viet Tran, Carol Allen, Eric Lara, Barry Young, Karissa White, Julia Luongo, Alona Davis; **CARB Staff Presenter** Jaskamal (Jaz) Kaur, **MIG staff**, Joey Nielsen, Itzel Peña, Bridget Brown, Ramona McCabe; **Interpreter** Marina Martinez; **Members of the Public** Lisa Kiehl, Todd Osterberg, Mary Valencia, Marielle Boortz, Erika Tovar, J.J. at LifeLong, James McCarty, Jan Warren, Christine Wolfe, Matt Kaufmann, Ms. Margaret Gordon, Kristen Law, Sharon Prager, Peter Nguyen, Scott Bourne, Jenny Balisle, Jason Cross, Gail, ABC7 KGO, Claire Garcia, Natalie Khaoone, Paul Carman, Jeremy Herbert, Jennifer Quallick, Janet Johnson, Martine, Johanessen, Theresa Matthews, Steve Ongerth, Fanny Alvarado, Emma Ishii, Irma

Gayosso, Connie Cho, Jasmin Pursell, Courtney Mizutani, Norma Reyes, Manuela Ramirez, Katherine Carrillo, Lily Wu, Janet Callaghan, Megan Calpin, Jendry Montenegro, Maria Hernandez, Leah Bruski, Manuel Villa, Eileen Lewis, Leticia Chavez, Ratha Lai, Sally Tobin

## **2. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

**00:03:21**

Air District Staff Mark Tang welcomed everyone to the workshop on the Path to Clean Air draft Community Emission Reduction Plan. Mark Tang reminded guests to submit public comments to the draft plan by January 19, 2024.

**00:04:41**

MIG staff Ramona McCabe announced Interpretation Services.

**00:04:48**

Spanish Interpreter Mariana Martinez announced Interpretation Services in Spanish.

**00:05:23**

Ramona reviewed logistics for the workshop including the use of the raise hand feature in reactions if participants would have like to speak including \*9 for participants that had called in. Ramona notified participants that participants would be muted to avoid unnecessary noise during the workshop. Ramona also notified participants that the Q&A feature was going to be used for the Q&A part of the meeting.

**00:07:06**

Mark Tang reviewed the Workshop Agenda which included welcome and opening remarks, an overview of the Path to Clean Air (PTCA) that was provided by Air District staff, breakout room sessions that focused on the PTCA plan's critical strategies where participants were also able to give feedback, a formal question and answer session, and closing remarks. Tang reminded participants to keep their questions and remarks until the formal Q&A session and to remain muted until then but to submit their questions to the Q&A if needed. Tang continued to give an overview of the workshop objectives that included an overview of AB 617 and the Richmond-North Richmond-San Pablo project; describe the PTCA; introduce the Community Steering Committee (CSC); share the goals, need for and purpose of the PTCA plan; highlight the air quality concerns and sources of air pollution in the PTCA area; and spotlight measures and solutions developed in the draft PTCA plan.

**00:09:33**

Air District Staff Suma Peesapati, Director of Environmental Justice and Community Engagement, welcomed participants and shared opening remarks, thanking participants for

joining in the three-year process of creating the PTCA plan to reduce pollution in the area. Peesapati highlighted the Richmond-North Richmond-San Pablo area as the land of the Ohlone tribe and honored the Homefront heroes and Rosie the Riveters in the area during the WWII era. She described the population as diverse, with a strong labor presence, and forward-thinking leadership. She described the work on the PTCA plan as emphasizing the rich history, culture, and progressive values of the community. She shared that she felt inspired by the Community Steering Committee's commitment and effort towards the creation of the plan and their collaboration with the community and the Air District members. Peesapati highlighted the work of the Air District on the plan and described feeling proud of the draft plan. Peesapati described showing interest in hearing the participants' perspective of the draft plan.

**00:12:03**

Co-Chair of the PTCA Community Steering Committee Y'Anad Burrell thanked the participants for joining the workshop. Burrell described being involved with the CSC since Richmond-North Richmond-San Pablo was selected for the AB 617 plan and shared excitement for presenting the draft plan to the participants. Burrell wanted participants to have the opportunity to learn about the draft plan and stated that the breakout rooms would provide them with the opportunity to be more involved and become more knowledgeable about the plan. Burrell encouraged participants to reach the draft plan and stated that the workshop would help participants dissect the plan's information. Burrell reminded participants of the deadline to submit public comments by January 19, 2024.

**0:13:25**

Co-Chair of the PTCA Community Steering Committee (CSC) Alfredo Angulo thanked participants for joining the workshop and shared excitement with showcasing the draft plan. Angulo highlighted the community's work and with the Air District effort that helped draft the plan. Angulo reiterated that the workshop was held to provide an overview of the plan and to hear participants' opinions of the plan. Angulo emphasized the importance of community member's continued participation and advocacy of the plan.

#### Public Comments

None.

### **3. OVERVIEW OF THE PATH TO CLEAN AIR**

**00:14:30**

Air District Staff Mark Tang introduced the overview section to the PTCA. Tang reminded participants to submit questions to the Q&A section of the Zoom panel that was reviewed later in the workshop.

**00:15:15**

Air District Staff Diana Ruiz shared excitement to provide an overview of the PTCA draft plan and highlighted the community's and CSC's efforts in creating the plan. Ruiz began with an overview of the Air District. Ruiz described the Air District as a regional government agency committed to achieving clean air to protect the public's health, environment, and global climate. Ruiz continued to describe the Air District as being responsible for air quality planning, monitoring, and stationary source permitting across the seven Bay Area counties and a portion of Sonoma and Solano. Ruiz stated that the Air District regulates stationary sources, oversees policies, adopts regulations, and administers grant programs.

Ruiz gave an overview of Assembly Bill 617 and described it as a state mandated program that responds to the history of environmental injustice and air quality. The Bill focuses on reducing exposure in communities most impacted by air pollution. The Bill moves in collaboration with the communities and state agencies to develop and implement new strategies to measure air pollution and reduce health impacts in the state of California.

Ruiz continued to describe AB 617 in the Bay Area as building on the Air District's history of shifting from regional to local air quality and reducing emission at the local level for designated communities that include West Oakland, East Oakland, Bayview Hunters Point and the workshops focus area of Richmond-North Richmond-San Pablo. The Richmond-North Richmond-San Pablo AB 617 Community is made up of Richmond, San Pablo, and unincorporated areas of Contra Costa County including North Richmond. This AB 617 community is characterized by major pollution sources that impact the communities represented by the PTCA. The communities are majorly made of People of Color, specifically Latinx, Black and Asian populations that are described as being overburdened and underserved.

Ruiz stated that Richmond-North Richmond-San Pablo community was selected for the AB 617 Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) in 2018 and was carried through in 2022 and was selected for the AB 617 Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) in 2020.

Ruiz spoke about the CSC, which first convened in 2021 and was comprised of individuals who work, live, or grew up in the area and non-voting government and industry representatives. The CSC is governed by a charter which adopted a vision and principles statement to guide plan development. The CSC co-researched and co-wrote the draft plan and centered it around the community voice.

The draft plan was co-developed after 3 years by the CSC, Air District staff, California Air Resources Board (CARB). The plan contains new actions that go beyond existing efforts to further reduce local sources of air pollution that drive health disparities. The process of adoption of the plan starts with the CSC and moves for approval to the Air District Board of Directors and finally to the CARB.

Ruiz stated that the goals of the Path to Clean Air Community Reduction Plan of the CSC members with the Air District include:

Goal #1 Just Transition: Lays down the foundation for a non-fossil fuel dependent society and

emphasizes supporting workers in transition away from fossil-fuel industry towards just, green energy jobs. The plan seeks to address the consequences of historical racial disparities by developing more stringent air pollution policies that advance social healing and restoration.

Goal #2 Health: Seeks to lower high rates of asthma, chronic health conditions, and reduce toxic emission from local sources including industrial and commercial sources by 30-50% by 2035.

Goal #3 Community Engagement: Empowers the community through education and engagement and provides resources and tools to promote understanding of air pollution and its impacts on community health and environment.

Goal #4: Hold Government Accountable: Ensures the implementation of the plan, strategies, and actions to protect environmental health and effectively enforce regulations on high-polluting industries and other toxic sources of emissions in the community.

Ruiz reiterated that participants should hold their questions for the Q&A portion of the workshop which would begin at 7:30pm.

#### **00:23:25**

Air District Staff Wendy Goodfriend gave an overview of key community concerns, local air pollution challenges and what is deriving local health disparities in the area. Community concerns were gathered in a variety of ways including over 500 public comments that were gathered with the help of 6 local non-profits that received Air District mini grants, complaint information received by the Air District, and mapping work of CSC. These concerns included fuel refining, on-road mobile sources such as cars and trucks, off-road marine sources such as tugboats, construction activities, and frequent and intense wildfire smoke and haze, described as a major health concern.

Goodfriend spoke about air pollution's health impacts especially on everyone, especially certain populations like children, pregnant women, elderly people, and people with diseases. These impacts include impaired lung growth, asthma, impaired brain development, low birth weight and adverse birth outcomes, heart attack and stroke, respiratory issues and challenges, and worsening of chronic diseases. Front line and fence-line communities of color disadvantaged by unjust historic practices such as redlining were described as living in proximity with air polluting sources and therefore they are enduring disproportionate health burdens due to that proximity.

Goodfriend gave an overview of air pollution sources. The plan evaluates the impacts of pollution emissions from local sources to the focus area, specifically community sources, or sources within the PTCA. These emissions of the local sources are an increment on top of regional background air pollution defined as pollution that comes from outside of the focus area. Addressing these local sources is a direct and actionable way to better health disparities previously described. Major sources that are concentrated in the PTCA include Petrochemical, Industrial and Waste Facilities, on-road mobile sources, and off-road mobile sources such as railroads, ships and tugboats. One of the focuses in the plan is fine particulate matter (PM2.5)

because it is a very small particulate matter that can travel into the lungs and bloodstream. PM2.5 can contribute to cancer, heart attack, stroke, and other respiratory diseases. Two-thirds of the fine particulate matter emitted into the PTCA area comes from permitted sources, largely fuel refineries and industrial uses, especially Chevron which contributes largely to the PM2.5 emissions. Other local sources are local fireplaces, water heaters, on-road mobile sources such as construction trucks and buses, and off-road sources such as ships, aircraft, rail, and construction equipment. Also included are other industrial facilities, gas stations, and auto body shops. Fuel refining and on-road mobile sources together account for three-fourths of average residential PM2.5 exposure from local sources which, again, contribute to health disparities. Human exposures are related to the amount of pollution and the proximity to the polluters. Road dust was given as an example of being the highest exposure of PM2.5 due to the proximity of the roads to where people live, recreating, attending school, etc.

Goodfriend continued to say that the PTCA also covers air toxins which increase cancer and chronic health effects such as asthma. The Air toxics in the Plan area were evaluated through air monitoring, emissions inventory development, and modeling. The key local sources of Emissions include fuel refining, and on and off-road mobile sources. From an exposure standpoint on road mobiles sources that is cars and trucks account for over half of the cancer risk with trucks responsible for almost three fourths of that risk. Off road mobile sources such as marine and rail operations account for another 43%. of cancer risk. Together on and off road sources contribute to over 90% of the average residential cancer risk from local sources in the Plan area. We also looked at chronic health effects including asthma. In that case fuel refining and on-road mobile sources combined account for almost 90% of the average residential risk from local sources

Detailed Air Data and Analysis for plan in chapter 5, and Appendix C & D. The PTCA plan organizes the five community identified concerns in these priority sources: Commercial and Industrial, Fuel Refining, Marine and Rail, Public Health, and on-road mobile sources as well as Compliance and Enforcement, Land Use and Promoting Urban Greening. To ensure the plan is actionable and goals of the CSC, Air District and CARB are met, each action identifies key partners such as the Air District, CARB, the Cities of San Pablo and Richmond, Contra Costa County, and the CSC. The actions in the plan are varied and include Advocacy, Education, Enforcement, Research, Incentives, Permitting and Rule Development.

Goodfriend encouraged the participants to read the draft PTCA plan, especially Chapter 7 which lists the thirty-one strategies and 140 Actions discussed. Goodfriend also suggested participants read Appendix A which details the 140 Actions aimed at reducing emissions and exposure from the sources highlighted before. The plan can be found on the project website. The Public comment period will close at 5:00pm on January 19, 2024 and can be submitted by email or postal mail. Goodfriend noted that the comments made in the workshop were not taken as public comment and should only be submitted in the previously described methods.

Goodfriend discussed next steps which included the CSC's consideration and adoption of the PTCA plan in February and March of 2024. The Air District Community Equity Health and

Justice Committee and the Board of Directors will hold a public meeting on the draft plan in the PTCA area in April 2024. The Air District Board of Directors will then hold a public hearing to consider approval of the plan in May or June 2024. CARB will then consider approval in Summer 2024.

#### Public Comments

None.

### **4. BREAKOUT ROOMS: SPOTLIGHT ON CRITICAL STRATEGIES**

**00:35:41**

Air District Staff Diana Ruiz reviewed the logistics of the breakout room section where participants were divided into three groups, each which focused on a topic area Fuel Refining; Vehicles, Trucks, Warehouses and Freeways; and Key Partners. Participants were divided into groups and viewed presentations from Air District Staff and CSC members who were leaders in the development of the plan's strategies and actions. Participants stayed in the rooms while the presenters rotated rooms. Each presentation was 25 minutes. The main room had simultaneous Spanish Translation. Participants were allowed to comment but comments were not considered public comments. More information on submitting public comments is available on the plan website. Spanish speaking participants were asked to use the raise hand feature to be taken down and placed in the main room for simultaneous interpretation. MIG managed Zoom logistics including providing links for the plan website and organizing participants in the three groups. Ruiz named the presenters of each Topic Area which included Marisol Cantú (CSC) and Laura Cackette (Air District) who presented on Fuel Refining Strategies. Song Bai (Air District) and Samuel Garcia (Air District) presented on Vehicles, Trucks, Warehouse and Freeway Strategies; Dave Severy (CSC) was also named and was able to answer questions on this topic. Alicia Parker (Air District) and Lily McIver (Air District) presented the role of Key Leaders and Partners. Dr. Omotoso (CSC), Michael Kent (CSC) and Sandra Castañeda (CSC) were also named and worked on the strategies for key leaders and partners.

Diana Ruiz asked participants to consider what they believed were outstanding points, strategies, and actions.

**00:40:50**

MIG Staff Ramona McCabe initiated the breakout room sessions by asking Spanish speaking participants to raise their virtual hands to be designated into the main room for Spanish Translation.

**1:59:56**

### **5. QUESTIONS AND ANSWER**

Air District Staff Mark Tang reviewed logistics for the Question and Answer portion of the

meeting. Participants had two minutes to give their questions and comments. Participants who called in could use \*9 to submit their questions. Participants were also able to submit their questions in the Q&A section of the Zoom platform panel. Mark Tang reiterated that public comments would only be accepted through the site of the plan or through mail.

MIG Staff Ramona McCabe interjected to let English participants know that they could use the interpretation to English feature if a participant asked questions in Spanish.

CSC Member Nancy Aguirre asked if anyone could reiterate questions asked in the individual breakout rooms that would be beneficial for all the participants to hear.

Air District Staff Alison Kirk talked about clean transit and clean buses but emphasized the question on what can be done to increase the demand for buses. Kirk suggested that Dave Severy (CSC) and Samuel Garcia (Air District) were better equipped to answer that question. Kirk also suggested that there were comments on road dust and a discussion on the ways the plan addresses warehouses and their impacts on the communities.

Air District Staff Samuel Garcia spoke on the demand for buses, suggesting that there are a variety of mobile strategies and actions including Mobile 6 which highlights different mode-shares and providing opportunities for them such as biking, scootering, walking, creating safer walking locations and funding better transit. Garcia suggested this would be one opportunity to create demand for buses.

Community Participant Leticia Chavez asked a question in Spanish which was translated. The question was regarding air monitors for private residencies and if the Air District had any available to install in residencies with permission if the landlords. Chavez asked this question due to a warehouse being built close to her home. This raised concerns because the warehouse would be cleaning contaminated soil and the contaminated air could reach the home. Chavez wanted to know if anything was available to measure the air quality.

Air District Staff Kate Hoang answered saying that the Air District currently did not have an air sensor loan program but that some community groups were doing air monitoring and constantly look for community members who would like to house air sensors and monitors. The Air District could connect Chavez to those community leaders for hyperlocal air monitoring or so those community groups could direct Chavez to a neighbor who housed a monitor. Hoag also suggested that the Air District has a variety of air monitors in different areas that could direct Chavez to detect the air quality. (2:10:52)

Air District Staff Alison Kirk read a question written in the Q&A panel that stated: What is being done in terms of PM speciation? How is that data shared with the community?

Air District Staff Song Bai provided a high level response and stated that they consider PM speciation more in terms of air toxics and pollutants and have local inventory designated for the community. They aggregate the pollutants in terms of cancer risk which they use as a major metric to gauge the emissions' impact.



Air District Staff Steve Reid considered that the question was based on the specified measurements more than the emission inventory.

Air District Staff Kate Hoang added that the Air District has PM speciation monitors that collect particles in a filter that are then analyzed in the lab. The data is available on the EPA website. One of the projects the Air district is working on is making the data more available in three other sites so that participants can openly discuss air toxics, health impacts, and learn more of the total PM sources in the area by looking at the makeup of the PM. Participants were encouraged to submit a public information request to get access to that data while it becomes openly available.

Air District Staff Greg Nudd added that if participants were focused on a particular source of the PM emissions they could submit a question.

Air District Staff Alison Kirk read out another submitted question: I understand that the Air District has resident on site inspectors at each refinery. Is it a plan to have this person involved in the meetings with the community?

Air District Staff Meredith Bauer described having a dedicated staff for the Richmond area and they have a refinery team that is on call and does inspections. They would become more involved with the community, most likely through the CSC and meetings with the community through the CSC which is part of the plan. Bauer encouraged opinions and feedback on the best way to execute these meetings.

CSC Member Marisol Cantú reminded the participants that the PTCA plan is “for the community by the community” so community engagement is part of almost every strategy. One way the plan does this, specifically in the focus area of fuel refining, is by having key partners in every action such as a non-profit, governmental agency, school team or any group of residents. For actions such as involving the refinery inspectors, open forums, forums, surveys would be used to ensure the communities are represented and instrumental while the plan is carried out. The community and participants should be able to hold the Air District, CSC and the industry accountable as a whole and carrying out the plan should be a cross-collaborative effort.

Air District Staff Alison Kirk read out a submitted question: Asking the Air District to speak on how contaminate soil removal is regulated to limit neighborhood health impacts.

Air District Staff Greg Nudd defined the need to improve or define regulations, specifically dust control regulations in general. The dust control regulations are designed to address dust in general as a significant health impact, especially in communities that are largely affected by environmental injustices. The Air District works closely with the Department Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) which has their own rules on managing construction sites. Nudd suggested that the Air District has the opportunity to tighten their rules in issues such as dust control and would work towards providing better tools and generally better considering the affected communities in that work.

Member of the Public Jan Warren described the CDE having refinery tours in the past. Warren

suggested that the refinery workers or inspectors have refinery tours with residents who are interested in learning more about the refineries.

Air District Staff Mark Tang thanked Warren for the comment and referred to public comment to submit to the Air District.

CSC Member Nancy Aguirre added that the residents who live near the refinery see more of the refinery's effects than the Air District inspectors and workers. The calls, messages on their site, public comments and tips get to the Air District quickly which gets the inspectors to the sites as soon as possible. Aguirre stated that those tips are very helpful.

Janet Johnson, a member of the public, thanked Dr. Omotoso for providing the question of dust regulation in toxic sites. Janet spoke about Richmond having multiple toxic sites, some of which are in remediation, such as the AstraZeneca site South San Francisco and Shoreline. Johnson stated that there is concern with sites such as this due to monitors that are often down and information on not being shared on time. Issues with DTSC have risen in the past due to this. The Air District should define how they would work with the CSC to update those dust control regulations and how the community could get involved to strengthen the regulations.

CSC Member Nancy Aguirre encouraged Jan to attend CSC meetings since they are open to the public and there is public comment after every agenda item. The CSC meetings use some Brown Act rules so they have an agenda and slides posted 72 hours prior on the Air District website. Aguirre encouraged all participants to join the meetings and stated that the CSC voice is only one but the participants' voices are many. Aguirre emphasized that the CSC works in collaboration with the Air District but also offers pushback to their actions so community participation is welcome. Aguirre thanked the workshop participants for their feedback.

**02:28:07**

Air District staff Mark Tang asked participants to take the post workshop survey that would be sent to the participants' email addresses.

**2:28:30**

Air District staff Mark Tang closed the workshop and thanked the participants for joining. Tang reiterated that the draft PTCA plan was available on the Air District website and that public comments could also be submitted there by 5pm on January 19, 2024. Upcoming events and milestones could also be found in the Air District website.

## **6. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

[February 26, 2024, 5:30PM-8:00PM], Zoom Video Conferencing. Agenda TBD

Zoom Log In: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85916339657>

Meeting ID: 85916339657

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The workshop was adjourned by Air District Staff Mark Tang at 8:00 pm.

MIG Consulting