

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

DRAFT MINUTES

Richmond – No. Richmond – San Pablo Community Emissions Reduction Plan Community Steering Committee

August 25, 2025, 5:30 P.M

1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

The Richmond – North Richmond – San Pablo Community Emissions Reduction Plan Community Steering Committee (CSC or Committee) Co-Lead Marisol Cantú called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

Present: Co-Lead Dr. Omoniyi Omotoso, Co-Lead Nancy Aguirre, Co-Lead Marisol Cantú, Luna Angulo-Castro, Y’anad Burrell, Sandra Castaneda, Suzanne Coffee, Shaun Cotten, Bryana Gastelum, Michelle Gomez Garcia, Martha Gruelle, Kerry Guerin, Lizbeth Ibarra, Jeffrey Kilbreth, Joseph Koscinski, Jessica Range, Simren Sandhu, Dave Severy, Derebew Shankute, Samir Shrestha, Althea Skinner, Ariel Xi, Beverly Dynes (non-voting), Emily Warming (non-voting), BK White (non-voting)

Absent: Lizbeth Ibarra

Also Present: Air District and Air Board Staff: Ayah Hassan, Dennis Quach, Erika Trinidad, Grace Leung, Janet Carrasco, Karissa White, Nina Garde, Diana Ruiz, Joelle Toney, Joseph Lapka, Joseph Palmer, Katherine Hoag, Craig Dittmann, Kevin Olp, Laura Cackette, Marcia Raymond, Mausam Jamwal

Members of the Public: Gregory (California Interfaith Power & Light), Joey Nielsen, Stephen Young, Tayo

Interpreter: Brenda Graciano

Acterra staff

The Meeting Agenda was reviewed by Committee member Dr. Omotoso and he announced that there would be no meeting in November

Committee Comment

None

Committee Action

None; receive and file.

Public Comments

None

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM JUNE 23RD, 2025 AND JULY 28TH, 2025 (ACTION ITEM)

00:11:40

The Committee reviewed the meeting agenda and approved the Meeting Minutes with a role-call vote.

Committee member Nancy Aguirre made a motion, seconded by Committee member Martha Gruelle, to approve the minutes of the June 23rd and July 28th, 2025, meetings. The motion carried by the following vote of the Committee:

AYES: Co-Lead Dr. Omoniyi Omotoso, Co-Lead Nancy Aguirre, Co-Lead Marisol Cantú, Luna Angulo-Castro, Y’anad Burrell, Shaun Cotten, Beverly Dynes, Bryana Gastelum, Michelle Gomez Garcia, Martha Gruelle, Jeffrey Kilbreth, Joseph Koscinski, , Simren Sandhu, Dave Severy, Derebew Shankute, Samir Shrestha, , , Ariel Xi

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: Suzanne Coffee, Kerry Guerin, Jessica Range, Althea Skinner

ABSENT: Luna Angelo, Lizbeth Ibarra, Simren Sandhu

Committee Comment

None

Committee Action

None; receive and file.

Public Comments

None

3. CSC LIAISONS REPORT-OUT

00:17:00

Committee Co-Lead Dr. Omotoso moderated the report outs and following questions and responses.

The Path to Clean Air Steering Committee and the public received a report-out from Committee member and Refinery Committee Bi-Monthly (RCBM) Liaison BK White regarding the RCBM's meeting held on August 19. The agenda for the meeting was to review the Path to Clean Air Plan and its Year 1 Implementation Plan. Sandy Croquette of the Air District's legal office also reviewed the Air District's penalty process. Co-Lead Dr. Omotoso and Committee member White confirmed that the RCBM will be presenting at the October meeting, to be held on October 21.

Committee member and Refinery Technical Working Group (RTWG) Liaison Kerry Guerin reported out on the RTWG's June 25 meeting, which was attended by 15 industry representatives. Attendees shared their perspectives on core issues of community health and how to make the Air District more effective in addressing refinery issues, in particular relating to flaring. Committee member Guerin stated that flaring would be a main topic at the RTWG's second meeting, to be held on August 27, and RTWG would be stressing at that time that the body's role was advisory only. RTWG's third meeting will be held on October 29 and the main topic will be fenceline monitoring.

Committee Member BK White reported out as the Liaison for the last Rule 11-18 meeting, held on July 2, which reviewed progress on updates and implementation. Amendments for Rule 11-18 will occur in two rounds; resources materials are now available on the Google Drive. Date for the next meeting has not yet been set.

Committee Comments

Regarding the RTWG meeting on June 25, Co-Lead Committee member Marisol Cantó asked Committee member Kerry Guerin who else besides representatives of Labor and Industry were in the room or represented, such as residents, CBOs, environmental justice, etc. Committee member Guerin replied that no other groups were present at the last meeting, but referring to the Group's charter, she said there were four non-Industry / non-Labor people called out: Jeffrey Kilbreth and herself as the two CSC Committee members, Rebecca Barrett who represents the Refinery Quarter Committee, and Fernando Gaytan, an attorney with Earth Justice.

Committee member Jeff Kilbreth commented that the June RTWG meeting may have been a larger because some organizations sent two people, but still, the normal size of the RTWG is about 15-20 and only four of those are "community people", so there is a significant

imbalance. While Committee member Kilbreth believes there may be merit in the imbalance, giving members of the community more opportunity to interact with “refinery people”, he was surprised that more members of the community did not attend.

Committee member Derebew Shankute asked why community groups are not represented on groups like the RCBM and RTWG and Co-Lead Omotoso directed the question to Air District staff. Laura Cackette replied that she could take the question back to Rule Development and get a reply back to the Committee.

Committee Action

None; receive and file.

Public Comments

None

4. YEAR 1 IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS REFLECTIONS

00:29:55

Laura Cackette, Principal Environmental Planner, of the Air District’s Planning Department, provided an overview of the elements and procedures included in the Year 1 of the PTCA Plan. She began by saying that Chapter 9 of the PTCA Plan discusses the approach to implementation and reporting, committing the Air District to co-develop an annual implementation plan that prioritizes strategies, and completing an annual report of progress by each October. The Year 1 Implementation Plan was finalized in October 2024, creating a road map for the 12-month period through September 2025. Fifty-five actions were prioritized for implementation, of which 16 priority actions were selected for engagement (Inform, Consult, Involve, or Collaborate); 10 of the 16 priority actions dealt with Fuel Refining and the other six actions focused on a mix of issues such as from Commercial and Industrial sources of pollution, Marine and Rail, and resourcing the Plan.

Ms. Cackette then summarized the Year 1 Implementation roles of the five participating entities: the CSC, the CSC Leads, Air District staff, the Standing Committees and Ad Hocs, and the Liaisons (she mentioned that Liaisons were added after the Year 1 Plan was developed). Communication mechanisms for Year 1 implementation were reviewed, including CSC meetings; additional communications from Standing Committees, Ad Hocs and Liaisons; reporting procedures; and community-level actions, such as education, advocacy and engagement. The link was provided to the PTCA website.

5. YEAR 1 IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS REFLECTIONS – BREAKOUT ACTIVITY

00:36:20

Attendees were pre-assigned to participate in one of two online Breakout rooms. Co-Lead Dr. Omotoso provided instructions and offered guidance to the attendees, asking that they reflect on the implementation process for Year 1 using the following framework:

- Rose – What went well?
- Thorn – What was challenging?
- Bud – What has potential for growth?

[Return from Breakout Groups – 00:37:25]

Co-Lead Dr. Omotoso gave the Report Out for Group 1

- Roses:
 - People felt the CSC meetings were well organized and well done
 - Pre-read materials have been appreciated, making members feel more engaged
 - How actions are prioritized using the Community Engagement Model
 - The Just Transition Workshop got a lot of praise as to how it was executed
- Buds
 - The Just Transition Workshop as a model for how to engage with the community
- Thorns
 - Some CSC members felt they should be empowered more, feeling their role was largely advisory, with little authority to make impactful decisions
 - Communication between the CSC and the Air District was not consistent
 - Within the CSC itself it was felt there was an imbalance between the contributions of members in terms of time commitments, volunteering, etc.
 - Others felt they were unsure how to volunteer for different activities

Co-Lead Nancy Aguirre reported out for Group 2

- Roses
 - Similar to those reported by Dr. Omotoso for Group 1 regarding ways everyone was coming together
- Thorns
 - Overwhelming amount of information
 - Need to help newer members see where things stand in the process, acquaint them with all the information being received
 - Balancing community centeredness between the CSC and the Air District
 - Other thorns similar to those mentioned for Group 1
- Buds
 - A lot of uncertainty who's who – recommend providing list of participants from Air District and their roles
 - How to engage other community based organizations to join in being part of monthly meetings and what the Air District is doing

Committee Comment

None

Committee Action

None; receive and file.

Public Comments

None

6. YEAR 1 ACTION IMPLEMENTATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS – PRESENTATION

00:42:23

Air District staff Laura Cackette and Mausam Jamwal presented an overview of their efforts to develop the Year 1 Action Implementation report. The report is intended to encapsulate progress made during Year 1, providing updates on the status of each PTCA action. Key accomplishments, which have been largely Air District and CS-led with additional input from external agencies, are highlighted for those actions where important progress has been made. CSC feedback is being sought to further inform the Year 1 report. Key accomplishments include:

1. Allocation of \$1.3M to Richmond and San Pablo elementary schools for Air District's School Air Filtration Program
 - o Supports Action H 4.2, ensuring resources for distribution of high-efficiency air filtration units
2. Air District secured victory when Chevron Refinery dropped its lawsuit related to Rule 6-5
 - o Supports Action FR 5 to implement Rule 6-5 in compliance with original timeline
3. Air District introduced Targeted Inspection Program Policy set out in the PTCA
 - o Supports Action C and E 1.2, in which targeted investigations are conducted of prioritized facilities of community concern
4. CSC established Just Transition Standing Committee that then hosted a successful community workshop in July 2025
 - o Supports Action FR 1.1, to educate the CSC and Air District of how Just Transition relates to Zero Emission future
5. Air District Board of Directors approved policy in May 2024 allocating money to the community benefits fund with an 80% local and 20% regional split
 - o Supports Action FR 3.9, committing the Air District to partner with CSC to develop an Community Benefits Policy (note: approved 80/20 split is different than 100% local split set out in the Year 1 Implementation Plan)

6. Identified CSC Liaisons to participate in RTWG focused on flaring, in time for them to attend the first meeting in June 2025
 - o Supports Action FR 2.6, in which the Air District has committed to a development effort to update flaring rules

The following rules were developed by outside agencies and therefore were not identified in the Year 1 Implementation Plan; however, Air District staff felt that they were important enough to highlight as they applied to key priorities in the Implementation Plan:

7. Contra Costa Health developed a Healthy Checkout ordinance, promoting healthy food at point of sale in retail stores
 - o Supports Action H 3.4, which calls for developing a Healthy Food Retail Model Ordinance that could be adopted by local jurisdictions
8. Contra Costa County committed to piloting a Guaranteed Basic Income program targeting four priority groups
 - o Supports Action H 1.1 which calls for promoting a guaranteed income pilot for low-income Community Emissions Reduction Program (CERP) residents

The meeting was then opened to CSC group discussion to get comments and input to the accomplishments outlined during the presentation. CSC members were also advised that the Air District would share a short survey at the end of the meeting to elicit further comments. The Year 1 report is to be presented to the CSC at its September meeting, then the Air District Board in October before being submitted to CARB.

Co-Lead Dr. Omotoso reviewed the intended goals and outcomes to be achieved during the large group discussion, to be built around three questions:

- Are there any action implementation accomplishments missing?
- After reviewing the pre-read, was anything critical left out?
- Of the key accomplishments described, which ones felt most meaningful or important and why?

Committee Comment

Co-Lead Marisol Cantó mentioned that while she thought it was “extremely beautiful” that Contra Costa County was moving ahead with the guaranteed income pilot and healthy checkout, she had been unaware that those things were happening and she felt CSC and the Air Board should not claim them as accomplishments. She suggested that going forward more sharing of information, better lines of communication, more transparency and more collaboration with the outside agencies if the outside agencies are working on something that is part of CSC’s plan. Co-Lead Dr. Omotoso replied that there are things the CSC would like to be informed about while they are in progress, not just updated when complete. He also suggested that the report could make clear that an action met the Plan as being different than an action that the CSC was involved in making happen.

Committee member Jeff Kilbreth asked whether the report was a PR exercise or something substantive or self-critical? He would like to know about what they learned during the year, about what didn't go well. Nothing is mentioned about those priority items where no progress was made, such as Rule 11-18. Who made the decision that the report looks the way it is? Why are many topics missing? Co-Lead Dr. Omotoso asked Laura Cackette to respond. She mentioned that the full report will be presented in September and that some of the points raised by both Committee members Marisol Cantó and Jeff Kilbreth and Rose/Thorn/Bud issues could be addressed in the Implementation Plan as they move into Year 2. The Year I report is more of a recap and a review of what progress had been made. She's interested in input so that next year meets expectations.

Co-Lead Dr. Omotoso asked Laura Cackette to clarify whether there would be a further opportunity to provide input regarding lessons learned and other topics following presentation of the report to the CSC in September? She replied that there will be an opportunity for Committee discussion at the September meeting following presentation of the report and members' comments and feedback on contents would be included when the report was sent to the Air District's Board of Directors. Co-Lead Dr. Omotoso asked "how do we make sure the report portrays whatever challenges we experienced?" Ms. Cackette replied that she would take that question back to the Air District.

Co-Lead Nancy Aguirre asked whether there will be a section of the report that discusses what will happen next. For example, regarding the Just Transition Workshop, what are the next steps or the continuation of that key accomplishment? The report reads a bit like the accomplishments are "one-and-done." Mausam Jamwal replied that this was only one section of the report, that focused exclusively on accomplishments. The rest of the report will talk about what's not started, what's in progress, where are we with the rest of the actions? The next steps section of the report will talk about planning for Year 2 Implementation.

Committee member Suzanne Coffee mentioned that the Community Benefits Standing Committee is stalled because of timing and other issues and really hasn't done any work, so she doesn't feel that it should be put down as an accomplishment. The report should say that it's something that is being pushed to Year 2, because the money has been received but the CSC hasn't yet had any input into how that money should be spent. Co-Lead Dr. Omotoso acknowledged that the activity should be seen as "in progress" and a note in the draft report should reflect that.

Committee Action

None; receive and file.

Public Comments

None

7. COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT TARGETED INSPECTION PROGRAM UPDATE

01:01:20

Joseph Palmer of the Air District introduced what he described as "a super exciting program update" involving an upgrade to how facilities are prioritized for inspection under the Targeted Inspection Program. Dennis Quach continued the presentation. He described that the intent is to modernize the Air District's Compliance and Enforcement Division's (C&E) by utilizing comprehensive data analyses and community input to improve identification of compliance issues and prioritize inspections. Among the goals is to focus more resources on the overburdened (AB617) communities and integrating community knowledge and experience into pinpointing compliance issues. Community input is expected to be very valuable to the program because it could highlight gaps in the Air District's data or identify areas or violators that have previously gone unnoticed. Resources are limited, so they should be focused on the most pressing issues.

Information-driven compliance strategies will include:

- Reviewing of Notice of Violation (NOV) data and inspection histories, focused on recurring violations or non-compliance issues
- Air quality complaint history to identify hotspots, patterns and recurrent emissions
- Collaborative identification that relies on closer coordination and collaboration across Air District divisions and with external partners and local agencies
- Partnering with the community to tap into local knowledge and experience of air quality issues

Elements of the new approach have been piloted in Bayview Hunters Point (BVHP) in recent months, with the goal of releasing the draft policy for public comment in October/November 2025, and officially rolling out the new policy during Q1 2026. In addition to the August 25 meeting, the CSC will have further opportunities to provide input to the draft policy in October and November 2025.

Committee Comment

The CSC was then presented with a guiding question for discussion:

What suggestions do you have to include community members in this program beyond those that attend CSC meetings?

Committee member Shaun Cotten asked whether locations such as senior centers, schools or libraries had reported air quality problems or if they could be reached out to? (Parent Teachers

Associations were also suggested in comments) Dennis Quach replied that he didn't think any effort was underway to contact those facilities. The Air District's focus has been getting information to the public on how they can contact the Air District. Pa

Committee member Suzanne Coffee suggested creating an accessible, straightforward, easy to understand campaign to educate public as what to do if they notice something wrong. Dennis Quach replied that those are good ideas. He said the Air District's challenge is getting the awareness out to the public that the Air District is there to respond to complaints they receive.

Co-Lead Nancy Aquirre asked whether the Air District is being seen in community spaces? She said there are lots of events always happening in the community where the Air District could be seen as coming into the community's space instead of situations where people are asked to go into the Air District's space.

Committee member Martha Gruelle applauded interest in bringing the community into reporting problems but was concerned whether pollution that couldn't be seen or smelled was being ignored. Dennis Quach replied that key strategies would include looking at the technical side of things, including reviewing data on emissions inventories, toxic emissions, priority air pollutants and more; that being the key first half of the process and the community input being the second half in prioritizing inspections.

Committee member Jeff Kilbreth said the Air District should be seen to be engaged in the community, but the bigger problem is things that can't be seen/smelled, so modeling is important. Talking to workers is very important! Dennis Quach responded that there is an effort being made to work more closely across departments, and there are plans to add more localized air monitoring resources that will help target inspections.

Committee Action

None; receive and file.

Public Comments

None

8. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA MATTERS

Public Comments

None

9. NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

Co-Lead Dr. Omotoso announced the next meeting will be held on September 22

Karissa reminded everyone to sign the e-card for Heidi, complete the survey, and turn in August hours by Friday, August 29.

Meeting was adjourned by Dr. Omotoso at 7:28 PM

Minutes prepared by Acterra