



## West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project

April 20, 2021

Hello *Owning our Air* implementation team,

First off, thank you so much for your participation and commitment to this work and this process. All of you, from the Subcommittee member and Co-chairs, to our agency and community partners, and the leadership team at BAAQMD and WOEIP have been doing amazing work over the past two-and-a-half years. We wrote an air plan like none other in history, and we are being watched by people across the country as a model for community empowerment in environmental policy. We are proud of you all, and we hope you are proud of us, as well. We are in a moment of reflection and change, so we have a few updates and announcements to make.

### **J. Howard has left WOEIP.**

As our Community Engagement Specialist, J has been a leader in the West Oakland CERP process. We've all benefited from his great relational style, meeting hosting skills, and curation of the *Oakland's Very Own* speaker series. His presence will be missed, but we're confident that the rest of the team will continue to effectively shepherd this process.

**Reflection Time.** In light of J's exit, we're going to take some time to think about our collaborative process to ensure that our current stakeholders, meeting schedules, and format are the right form to achieve our plan goals. We will be working with Co-chairs and other stakeholders to explore any potential changes. We have begun scheduling one-on-one meetings with the Subcommittee Co-chairs to get greater clarity and to identify resources or process adjustments that may be needed to support the Co-chairs and subcommittee members.

**April Subcommittee Meetings are Canceled.** The past few months, subcommittees have been doing a lot of work planning. The leadership team wants to take time in April to integrate all of the subcommittee work plans so we can have a clear path forward for implementation the rest of this year. We encourage all committee members to review the March meeting notes and continue your thinking so that you will be ready to move your priorities forward in May.

**March Subcommittee Meeting Notes** can be reviewed here:

- [Health and Living Buffers March 2021 Meeting Summary](#)
- [Transit / Walk / Bike March 2021 Meeting Summary](#)
- [Port & Freight March 2021 Meeting Summary](#)
- [Land Use March 2021 Meeting Summary](#)

The May general meeting is canceled, but we will repurpose that time for a working session of the Steering Committee.

**Apologies.** At some recent Subcommittee meetings and the April Steering Committee meeting we (WOEIP co-directors Brian and Ms. Margaret) interrupted the meeting and disrupted the agenda. Please accept our sincerest apologies for that behavior. With the sudden news of J.'s departure, we've been a bit overwhelmed trying to re-engage with the day to day operations of this process, and that has left us a bit stressed out. We took that stress out on co-chairs, committee members, and guest speakers and we are sorry that we may have made some people feel disrespected and disempowered. We know you all are doing amazing work and we want to work alongside you as a resource in this process. We sent an apology to CARB staff after the April Steering Committee meeting and they were gracious in accepting it. We all agree that there was a serious misunderstanding, but this work is too important to let a struggle over process derail our relationships.

None of us is perfect. We will, no doubt, continue to make mistakes as we struggle for unity, and through that unity we will make our community a healthier place to live for everyone.

Sincerely,



Ms. Margaret Gordon



Brian Beveridge

WOEIP Co-Directors