

Bay Area Air District
375 Beale Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 749-5073

Community Equity, Health, and Justice Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 8, 2026

APPROVED MINUTES

This meeting was webcast, and a video recording is available on the website of the Bay Area Air District at [Board Resolutions, Agendas, and Minutes](#)

CALL TO ORDER

1. **Opening Comments:** Community Equity, Health, and Justice Committee (Committee) Chairperson, John Gioia, called the meeting to order at 1:17 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present, In-Person (Bay Area Metro Center, 375 Beale Street, 1st Yerba Buena Room, San Francisco, CA, 94105): Directors Monica Brown and Linda Sell.

Present, In-Person Satellite Location: Napa County Administration Building, 1195 Third Street, Suite 310, Crystal Conference Room, Napa, CA 94559): Director Joelle Gallagher.

Present, In-Person Satellite Location: (Office of Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia, Conference Room, 11780 San Pablo Ave., Suite D, El Cerrito, CA 94530): Director Steve Young.

Present, In-Person Satellite Location: (Best Western Plus, Hacienda Hotel Old Town, Prado Room, 4041 Harney Street, San Diego, CA 92110): Chairperson John Gioia.

Absent: Vice Chairperson Dionne Adams; and Director Shamann Walton.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

CONSENT CALENDAR

3. **APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY EQUITY, HEALTH, AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING OF MARCH 11, 2026**

Public Comments

No requests received.

Committee Comments

None.

Committee Action

Director Sell made a motion, seconded by Director Brown, to **approve** the Draft Minutes of the Community Equity, Health, and Justice Committee Meeting of March 11, 2026; and the motion carried by the following vote of the Committee:

- AYES: Brown, Gioia, Gallagher, Sell, Young.
- NOES: None.
- ABSTAIN: None.
- ABSENT: Adams, Walton.

ACTION ITEM

4. RECOMMENDATIONS TO STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC)

Community Advisory Council Co-Chairs William Goodwin and Latasha Washington, along with Arsenio Mataka, Deputy Executive Officer of Equity and Community Programs, gave the presentation *Recommendations to Strengthen Collaboration between the Board of Directors and Community Advisory Council*, including: recommended action; Purpose of Increasing Board and CAC Communication & Collaboration; Recap from the January 28, 2026 Board of Directors Retreat; CAC Recommendations to the Board; Air District response; CAC Recommendations to the Board; and recommended action.

Note: The Community Advisory Council adopted these recommendations at its meeting on November 20, 2025. The recommendations were also discussed at the Board retreat on January 28, 2026.

Public Comments

Public comments were given by Arieann Harrison, CAC member.

Committee Comments

The Committee and staff discussed whether other air districts in California have designated members of the public/environmental justice advocates appointed to their governing Boards; the suggestion of having Air District staff coordinate meet and greet meetings between Council Members and Board members representing their geographical area; the Board members' interest in having Council Member liaisons participate in Board and/or standing committee meetings as non-voting guests in the discussions, whether the Council Members would count for the meeting quorum, and the suggestion of rotating the guest Council Members; how organizing joint Board/Council retreats may strain Air District staff resources; the suggestion that items designated for joint discussion by the Board and Council be prioritized at the

beginning of the agenda/morning session; and the perception that the Council is too segregated from the Board with limited access.

Committee Action

Director Gallagher made a motion, seconded by Director Sell, to recommend the Board *consider the Community Advisory Council's recommendations and staff's responses to the recommendations, and consider providing potential direction to staff*; and the motion carried by the following vote of the Committee:

AYES: Brown, Gallagher, Gioia, Sell, Young.
NOES: None.
ABSTAIN: None.
ABSENT: Adams, Walton.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

5. MARIE HARRISON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

Arieann Harrison, Founder and Executive Director of the Marie Harrison Community Foundation, and Daniel S. Madrigal, Senior Staff Specialist, gave the presentation *Marie Harrison Environmental Justice Scholarship Program Update*, including: Marie Harrison Community Foundation; Marie Harrison; scholarship goals and criteria; review of 2025 scholarships; 2025 scholarships winners; and Marie Harrison Environmental Justice Scholarship Year 4.

Public Comments

No requests received.

Committee Comments

The Committee and staff discussed the desire for clarification on eligibility criteria, specifically regarding impacted neighborhoods in which applicants reside.

Committee Action

No action taken.

OTHER BUSINESS

6. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA MATTERS

Public comments were given by Malik Washington.

7. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

8. REPORT OF THE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF EQUITY AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Arsenio Mataka, Deputy Executive Officer of Equity and Community Programs, made the following announcements:

- On March 12, the Air District opened the grant application period for the People’s Air Grant Program, a funding opportunity designed to support projects in impacted communities to reduce exposure to air pollution and address public health. This program was shaped by the CAC - the Board established a one-time allocation of \$3M for the Community Benefit Fund, and the CAC then developed a recommendation for disbursement of those dollars.
- At the next Community Equity, Health, and Justice Committee meeting, Air District staff will provide an update on the Community Investments Office’s Local Community Benefits Fund, which supports community-driven projects that reduce air pollution, improve health outcomes, and build economic resilience for a just transition away from the harmful effects of a fossil-fuel economy. Applications are now open for Round 1, which will distribute funds in Benicia, Richmond, and surrounding communities.

9. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in-person at the Bay Area Metro Center and at satellite locations as may be specified on the meeting agenda using a remote teleconferencing link. Members of the Community Equity, Health, and Justice Committee and the public may attend at any of those in-person locations, and members of the public may also attend virtually via webcast.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

/s/ Marcy Hiratzka
Marcy Hiratzka
Clerk of the Boards