

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

Community Equity, Health, and Justice Committee Meeting
Wednesday, July 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 1:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present, In-Person (Bay Area Metro Center, 375 Beale Street, 1st Floor, Board Room, San Francisco, CA, 94105): Chairperson Gioia; Director Monica Brown and Shamann Walton.

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: (Pittsburg City Hall, 65 Civic Ave., Room, 301A, Pittsburg, CA 94565): Vice Chairperson Dionne Adams.

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

Absent: Director Linda Sell.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

CONSENT CALENDAR

3. **APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY EQUITY, HEALTH, AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING OF MAY 13, 2026**

Public Comments

No requests received.

Committee Comments

None.

Committee Action

Director Walton made a motion, seconded by Director Brown, to **approve** the Draft Minutes of the Community Equity, Health, and Justice Committee Meeting of May 13, 2026; and the motion **carried** by the following vote of the Committee:

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

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

4. LOCAL COMMUNITY BENEFITS FUND – ROUND 1 BENICIA CATALYST GRANT APPLICATIONS

Emi Wang, Community Investments Officer, gave the staff presentation *Local Community Benefits Fund: Benicia Catalyst Grant Awards*, including: recommended action; outline; program goals; core strategies; Benicia and surrounding communities: available funding; grant awards; Catalyst Grant; applications received; review timeline; application review process; community and technical reviewers; application scoring; scoring rubric; eligible applications; Benicia Unified School District (BUSD); City of Benicia; application submissions: strengths and weaknesses; considerations for award; proposed next steps; and recommended action.

Public Comments

Public comments were given by City Manager Mario Guiliani, City of Benicia; Hon. Councilmember Terry Scott, City of Benicia; Richard Fleming, Benicia resident; Pat Toth-Smith, Benicia resident; Kathy Kerrdige, Benicia resident; Stephen Golub, Benicia resident; Terry Mollica, Benicia resident; and Betty Lucas, Benicia resident.

Committee Comments

NOTED PRESENT: Director Adams was noted present at 1:28 p.m.

The Committee and staff discussed: the anticipated \$40M in Catalyst Grant funding and whether awards could be distributed among multiple applicants; the timing of the full recommendation; whether other grant applications would receive a similar review process; concerns about duplicate funding, fiscal impacts, and reviewer bias awareness training; concerns that the City has a greater financial stake, as it would lose property tax revenue; and is in greater need of funding; the belief that there is a lack of transparency regarding the composition of the application review panel; eligibility for the Opportunity Grant and whether it is more geographically broad than the Catalyst Grant; the number of Catalyst grant applications submitted for the Richmond area thus far; concerns regarding whether Board

members should weigh in on applications prior to the Board considering a formal staff recommendation; whether contractor costs are eligible costs for applicants to consider; a budget discrepancy in the School District application and requested clarification on the belief that there are strong differences between the School District and City applications; project timeline risks and additional information on the City of Benicia's implementation capacity and partnerships; the scoring differences between comparable City and School District projects and evaluation criteria; the strengths of the applications, including documented public health needs and organizational capacity; whether there were discrepancies in the Local Community Benefits Fund – Round 1 Benicia Catalyst Grant Applications staff memo, regarding project costs; scoring gap between the School District and City of Benicia applications and categories contributing to the difference; the suggestion of incorporating a buffer into the five-year project timeline; potential constraints on the City of Benicia's capacity as an applicant, and potential collaboration efforts; the belief that nonprofit organizations were discouraged from applying due to limited administrative capacity and the significant bureaucratic burden associated with the application process; the importance of considering community needs and the roles of the City, nonprofits, and School District in delivering projects, while evaluating which entities are best positioned to serve residents; concerns about rating differences between the City and the School District applications, similarities in project goals; clarification on the scoring factors that led to the disparity; concerns about inconsistencies (noted differences in the level of discussion and timing for recommendations) in this review process compared to other existing Air District grant programs; whether the allocated grant monies already available to the Air District meant that the funds were already in the bank; whether existing Chevron settlement mitigation funds were secured and should be considered available funding; process of application evaluation should remain with the Air District team; importance of maintaining an appropriate role in grant scoring, the review process, and the importance of supporting the City Benicia through the funding process, including consideration of job impacts and workforce opportunities; whether grant funds could be used for consultant support and clarified the role of consultants in project implementation; the importance of ensuring grant funds support intended outcomes, including workforce impacts, City financial stability, and proper use of awarded funds; concerns regarding the potential misuse of grant funds; weaknesses noted in the City's application; and whether the alignment of public and anonymous scores was an expectation.

Committee Action

No action taken.

OTHER BUSINESS

5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA MATTERS

Public comments were given by Kaitlin Alcontin, Communities for a Better Environment.

6. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Director Adams thanked Air District staff that have been working on the Bay Reinvesting Penalties for Air Improvement and Resilience (REPAIR) Program, including the Local Community Benefits Fund.

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

Arsenio Mataka, Deputy Executive Officer of Equity and Community Programs, reported that, on June 29, 2026, The “Right to Breathe: East Oakland Community Air Quality Justice Plan,” which was adopted by the Board on April 1, 2026, received final approval from the California Air Resources Board.

8. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, September 9, 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.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

/S/ Marcy Hiratzka
Marcy Hiratzka
Clerk of the Boards

and

Aziza De La Torre
Temporary Executive Assistant