



Bay Reinvesting Penalties for Air Improvement and Resilience (REPAIR) Progress Update

Community Equity, Health, and Justice Committee

May 13, 2026

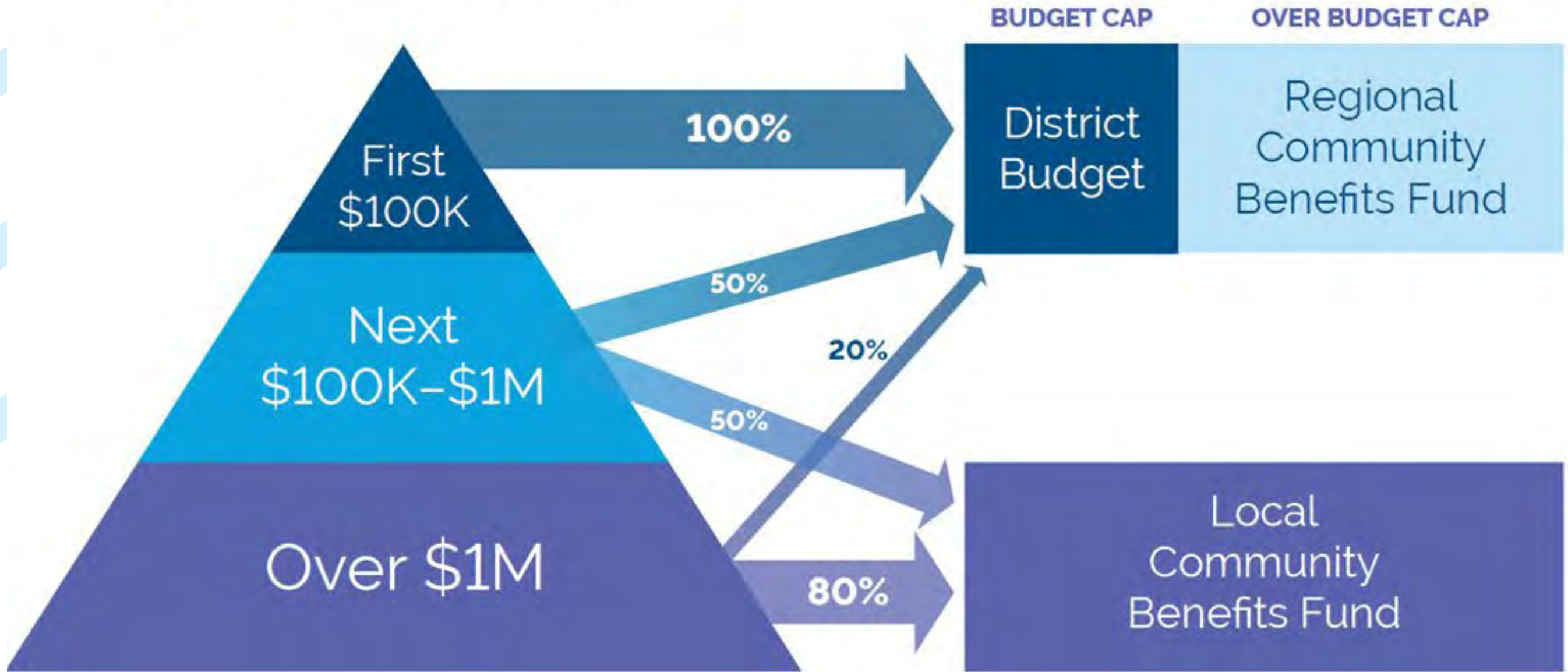
Emi Wang
Officer
Community Investments Office



Background

- In May 2024, the Bay Area Air District established the **Community Benefits Penalty Funds Policy** to direct penalty funds back to the communities where violations occurred
- Some facilities also commit to providing mitigation funds to improve air quality in the communities affected by their violations
- The Air District has generated over **\$132 million (M)** to date in penalty and mitigation funds to be reinvested into affected communities

PENALTY ALLOCATION BREAKDOWN



Overview of Available Funds

AVAILABLE FUNDING SOURCE	AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2025	
Regional Community Benefits Fund	\$	20,596,445
Local Community Benefits Fund	\$	82,096,739
Other funds: Richmond Community Air Quality Fund ¹	\$	20,000,000
Total Project Funds	\$	122,693,184
9% Admin Funds	\$	10,156,469
Total Project & Admin Funding	\$	132,849,653

¹Funding availability is subject to initiation of projects.

Local Community Benefits Fund

Local Community Benefits Fund (as of December 31, 2025)

*An originating community does not indicate that funds will be limited to a jurisdictional boundary. The geographic boundaries for distribution of funds will be determined based on Board approved criteria.

ORIGINATING COMMUNITY*	PROJECT AMOUNT
Benicia	\$ 60,011,088
Berkeley	\$ 13,797
Byron	\$ 46,672
Cupertino	\$ 47,504
Martinez	\$ 3,730,751
Millbrae	\$ 36,816
Oakland	\$ 154,602
Petaluma	\$ 70,069
Pleasanton	\$ 58,868
Richmond	\$ 17,779,271
San Jose	\$ 113,699
South San Francisco	\$ 28,937
Suisun City	\$ 4,667
Total Funds	\$ 82,096,741

Local Community Benefits Fund (cont.)

- The Local Community Benefits Fund reinvests penalties and mitigation funds in the specific communities affected by the air quality violations
- Goals:
 - **Reduce air pollution or mitigate air pollution impacts, improve public health outcomes, and build economic resilience for a just transition away from the harmful effects of a fossil-fuel-based economy**
 - **Advance integrated projects to holistically meet community needs**
 - **Strengthen community-led and collaborative solutions**

Grant Awards: Benicia and Surrounding Communities

	Seed	Opportunity	Catalyst
Total Funding	\$60,011,061		
Anticipated Awards	1 - 5 grant awards anticipated	1 - 5 grant awards anticipated	1 – 3 grant awards anticipated
Grant Size	\$100,000 - \$200,000	\$500,000 - \$5 M	\$10 M - \$40 M
Grant Term	Up to 2 years	Up to 3 years	Up to 5 years
Eligible Applicants	Open to 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations, no Co-Applicants	Lead Applicant must partner with at least 1 Co-Applicant(s)	Exemption: no Co-Applicant required
Eligible Communities	Benicia and surrounding communities	Benicia and surrounding communities	Benicia

Grant Awards: Richmond and Surrounding Communities

	Seed	Opportunity	Catalyst
Total Funding	\$35,744,460		
Anticipated Awards	1 - 5 grant awards anticipated	1 - 5 grant awards anticipated	1 – 3 grant awards anticipated
Grant Size	\$100,000 - \$200,000	\$500,000 - \$5 M	\$10 M - \$15 M
Grant Term	Up to 2 years	Up to 3 years	Up to 5 years
Eligible Applicants	Open to 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations, no Co-Applicants	Lead Applicant must partner with at least 1 Co-Applicant(s)	Lead Applicant must partner with multiple Co-Applicants
Eligible Communities	Path to Clean Air Community Emissions Reduction Plan area		

Grant Support

- **Presentations:** Presented at 14 City and community meetings between fall 2025 – spring 2026
- **Question & Answer:** Received and answered 225+ stakeholder questions via email
- **Networking Lists:** Maintained voluntary networking lists so applicants could identify potential partnerships and initiate connections independently

Grant Support Webinars

Session	Purpose & Goals	Registrations
Grant Information	Introduce the program: goals, eligibility, grant categories and eligible project types	Benicia: 158 Richmond: 182
Grant Development	Guide applicants to strengthen their proposal narratives and measurable outcomes	97
Tips & Tricks	Guide applicants through the application process, including key application documents and step-by-step instructions on how to submit an application	81

Networking Sessions



Richmond and Surrounding Communities Networking Session



Benicia and Surrounding Communities Networking Session

Technical Assistance Services

- Consultant Environmental Protection Network (EPN) is providing application technical assistance
 - **Office Hours:** Office hour sessions to engage in shorter conversations with prospective applicants
 - **Technical Assistance:** 1:1 support around interpreting grant guidelines; navigating eligibility; developing project scopes, work plans and budgets; strengthening narratives and measurable outcomes; reviewing applications materials for alignment with evaluation criteria

Technical Assistance Progress – as of April 24, 2026

- **Office Hours:** 20 individual office hour sessions
- **1:1 Technical Assistance:** Working with 35 prospective applicants in a one-on-one capacity, including discussions of geographic eligibility, and project scope alignment, scoring, and partnership requirements
- **Proposal Review:** Environmental Protection Agency alumni in EPN's network are reviewing draft grant proposals. EPN anticipates review of ~15-20 proposals across all grant types and both geographies

What's Ahead

Date	Activity
May 1, 2026	Application deadline: Benicia Catalyst Grant
May 29, 2026	Application deadline: Richmond Catalyst Grant, Benicia & Richmond Opportunity Grant, Benicia & Richmond Seed Grant
Summer 2026	Application review and scoring
Fall 2026	Grant awards adopted
Late 2026 - 2027	Grant Agreements developed
Early 2027	Grantees commence work

Questions & Discussion

For more information:

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Air District Scholarship Program

Community Equity, Health, and Justice Committee

May 13, 2026

Tim Williams
Officer
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



Purpose & Vision

The Air District will launch its Community Roots Scholarship Program in 2026



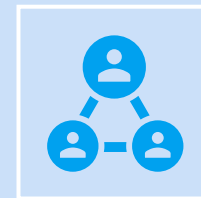
Support current college students who face systemic barriers



Focus on Bay Area and overburdened communities



Support equity by addressing barriers beyond college entry



Invest in students who are already making an impact in their communities

Program Overview

10 scholarships annually

\$5,000 per student

Funds flexible: tuition, books, transportation, cost of living

All majors encouraged to apply

Selection Criteria

Factors

- Community roots and lived experience
- Connection to and understanding of environmental justice
- Leadership, service, or advocacy experience
- Barriers overcome
- Strength of personal statement

Selection Criteria (cont.)

Field of Study (All Majors Eligible)

- Preference for fields aligned with Air District work and public service, examples include:
 - Engineering
 - Environmental Science
 - Meteorology
 - Air Monitoring and Data
 - Policy and Compliance
 - Community Engagement
 - Communications
 - Administrative Resources
 - Human Resources
 - Finance or Accounting

Cohort Model



“MEET THE
SCHOLARS”
PROFILE FOR ALL
RECIPIENTS



FEATURES IN AIR
DISTRICT
COMMUNICATIONS
& SOCIAL MEDIA



NETWORKING AND
COMMUNITY
STORYTELLING
OPPORTUNITIES



ELEVATED
VISIBILITY &
OPPORTUNITY FOR
SCHOLARS IN THE
COMMUNITIES WE
SERVE

Cohort Model – Scholar Visibility



- LinkedIn Presence: Scholars commit to 2–4 posts highlighting their scholarship journey
- Meet the Scholars Profiles: Individual stories shared on the Air District site & social media, reshared by scholars
- Community Ambassadors: Scholars recognized as ambassadors in Air District publications and events

Cohort Model – Community Engagement

- Panel Participation: Scholars join one Air District event or panel
- Scholar Blog: Short reflections on what it means to be rooted in community, published & promoted
- Annual Cohort Campaign: Group photos, short video clips, and a living archive of “Community Roots Scholar” impact
- Alumni Network: Long-term visibility as scholars graduate into Environmental Justice (EJ), law, public health, and advocacy fields

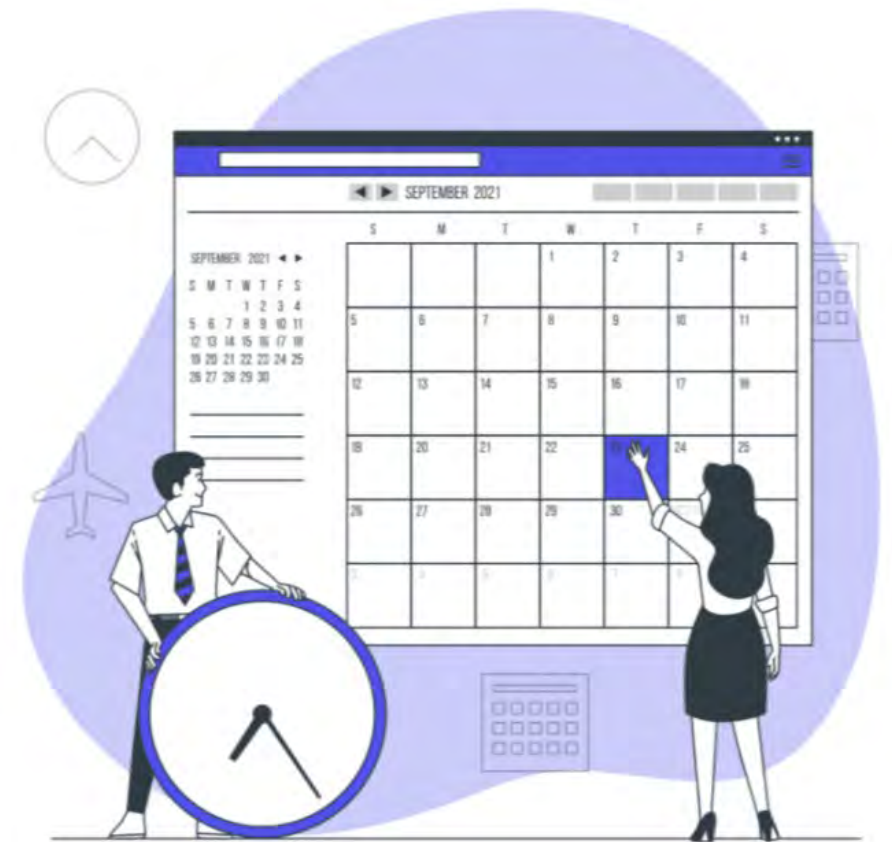
Review Process for Scholarship

- 5-person review panel:
 - 3 Air District staff
 - 1 Air District Board Member
 - 1 community/education advocate



Timeline

2026	
May	Outreach to 2- to 4-year Colleges and Universities
June	Applications Open
August	Applications Close
August	Review
September	Notifications and Funds Disbursed




Outreach & Equity Strategy

Direct communication with 2- 4-year institutions in California, reaching multiple touchpoints within each campus



Prioritize: Bay Area/overburdened communities, first-generation students, low-income families



Leverage: Air District Assembly Bill (AB) 617 – Community Air Protection networks (e.g., James Cary Smith grantees, Community Advisory Council and campus-based networks)

Success Measures

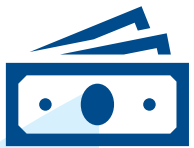
Target: 50+ applicants annually

Strong representation from first generation, low-income, EJ-impacted communities

Graduation outcomes

Alumni network of scholars

Pathway of Success - Student to Employee



Marie
Harrison
College Fund



Air District
Community
Roots
Scholarship



Air District
Internship



Air District
Fellowship



Air District
Employment

Building Early Access and Awareness

Marie Harrison College Fund

- Supports high school students
- Introduces environmental/public health pathways
- Builds early connection to Air District mission

Community Roots Scholarship

- Supports current college students
- Expands access beyond entry
Connects students directly to Air District opportunities
- Prioritized for internships

Developing Skills and Experience

Internship Program

- Hands-on experience in policy, air quality, and community work
- Exposure to public agency operations
- Mentorship and professional development

Fellowship

- Deeper, project-based work
- Direct connection to environmental justice initiatives
- Strong pipeline into full-time roles

Creating a Workforce Pipeline

- Scholars, interns, and fellows build:
 - Experience
 - Networks
 - Credentials
- Aligns directly with Air District Strategic Plan, Goal 3: Foster Cohesion and Inclusion
- Strengthens long-term representation and community connection

Questions & Discussion

For more information:

Tim Williams| Officer| twilliams@baaqmd.gov