

BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

RESOLUTION No. 2020 - 08

Resolution Condemning Racism and Injustice and Affirming Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Access and Inclusion

WHEREAS, we are witnessing another time in history, where there is an awakening to racial injustice, police brutality, and the dehumanization of African Americans in the criminal legal system. Mass protests across the nation have been sparked, as people are grappling with their sorrow, anger and despair of the murder of Mr. George Floyd while in police custody. Mr. Floyd is joining a long list of Americans who have suffered similar fates; most recently, their names are Breonna Taylor, Rayshard Brooks, Ahmaud Arbery, Nia Wilson, Miles Hall, Philando Castile, Oscar Grant, Tamir Rice, Sandra Bland, and so many others. Yet, these protests, which have extended across the globe, are not simply about these deaths alone. The effects of racism are far more pervasive, resulting from long-standing and deeply embedded systems of racial discrimination and bias;

WHEREAS, studies have shown that racial discrimination takes a tremendous toll on the physical and mental health of Black people in the U.S. Racial discrimination is now recognized as a public health crisis. It's a chronic stressor, contributing to even higher COVID-19 mortality rates among Black people, a statistic most likely elevated by living in neighborhoods with higher exposure to fine particle air pollution. These higher death rates are not a random coincidence; but, instead, is the result of systemic racism and a consequential lack of social, economic and political opportunities;

WHEREAS, community proximity to sources of air pollution is one of these systemic issues. Many of the neighborhoods in the Bay Area with the poorest air quality are in communities historically populated by a largely Black population, due to racist redlining policies in housing and credit, and public and private disinvestment. These residents face many challenges; limited access to quality food, health services, and poverty create stressful conditions and poor health outcomes;

WHEREAS, in recent years, through groundbreaking programs like the Community Air Risk Evaluation Program, and now under the guidance of state Assembly Bill 617, the Air District has concentrated efforts on addressing the air quality challenges faced by these vulnerable communities, which are disproportionately affected by air pollution as well as the socioeconomic impacts of systemic racism;

WHEREAS, we remain committed to our mission of protecting public health and will continue to advance the cause of diversity, access, equity and inclusion in our policies, programs and practices;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District condemns racism, discrimination, and police brutality, in all its destructive manifestations. Racial discrimination is historically ingrained in American systems of government at every level, whether federal, state or local. Government must lead and call on every individual to assume the responsibility for actively addressing racial injustices, structural inequities, and economic disparities. We affirm our commitment to fighting for racial justice and changing the systems that continue to perpetuate racial disparities, especially as they contribute to disproportionate exposure to hazardous air pollution. We vow to use our voice and resources as an ally to the Black community to affect the meaningful and measurable changes that are so urgently needed in the Bay Area.

The foregoing resolution was duly and regularly introduced, passed and adopted at a special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District on the Motion of DIRECTOR HURT, seconded by DIRECTOR BAUTERS, on the 17th day of June, 2020, by the following vote of the Board:

AYES: MARGARET ABE-KOGA, TERESA BARRETT, JOHN BAUTERS, DAVID CANEPA, CAROLE GROOM, SCOTT HAGGERTY, DAVID HUDSON, DAVINA HURT, TYRONE JUE, LIZ KNISS, NATE MILEY, KAREN MITCHOFF, KATIE RICE, MARK ROSS, ROD SINKS, JIM SPERING, BRAD WAGENKNECHT, LORI WILSON, SHIRLEE ZANE.

NOES: NONE.

ABSENT: CINDY CHAVEZ, PAULINE RUSSO CUTTER, JOHN GIOIA, SHAMANN WALTON.

ABSTAIN: NONE.



Rod Sinks
Chairperson of the Board of Directors

ATTEST:

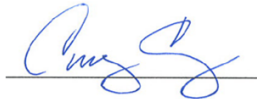


Karen Mitchoff
Secretary of the Board of Directors

Bay Area Air Quality Management District
Board of Directors
Signatures Supporting RESOLUTION No. 2020-08
Condemning Racism and Injustice and Affirming Commitment to Diversity, Equity,
Access, and Inclusion
Dated June 17, 2020



Rod Sinks
Chairperson



Cindy Chavez
Vice Chairperson



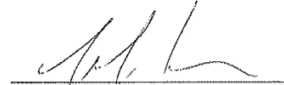
Karen Mitchoff
Secretary



Margaret Abe-Koga




Scott Haggerty



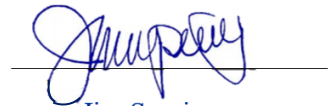
Mark Ross



Teresa Barrett



David Hudson



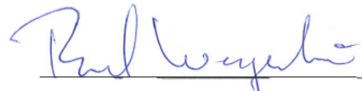
Jim Spring



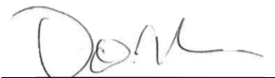
John Bauters



Davina Hurt



Brad Wagenknecht



David Canepa



Tyrone Jue



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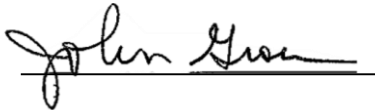
Pauline Russo Cutter



Liz Kniss



Lori Wilson



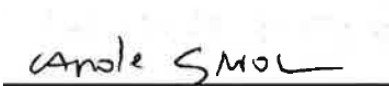
John Gioia



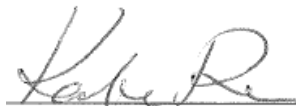
Nate Miley



Shirlee Zane



Carole Groom



Katie Rice