



BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT



**COMMUNITY
ADVISORY COUNCIL**
CLEAN AIR FOR ALL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

May 16, 2024

COUNCIL MEMBERS

FERNANDO CAMPOS
WILLIAM GOODWIN
MS. MARGARET GORDON
ARIEANN HARRISON
JOHN KEVIN JEFFERSON
JOY MASSEY
LATASHA WASHINGTON

RIO MOLINA
MAYRA PELAGIO
DR. JEFF RITTERMAN
KEVIN RUANO HERNANDEZ
FAGAMALAMA VIOLET SAENA
KEN SZUTU
DR. JUAN AGUILERA

**MEETING LOCATION(S) FOR IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE BY
COUNCIL MEMBERS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

**Trans Pacific Center - California State University, East Bay
Oakland Professional Development & Conference Center
1000 Broadway, Suite 109 - Grand Lake Conference Room
Oakland CA 94607**

THE FOLLOWING STREAMING OPTIONS WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED

These streaming options are provided for convenience only. In the event that streaming connections malfunction for any reason, the Community Advisory Council reserves the right to conduct the meeting without remote webcast and/or Zoom access.

The public may observe this meeting through the webcast by clicking the link available on the air district's agenda webpage at www.baaqmd.gov/about-the-air-district/community-advisory-council/agendasreports.

Members of the public may participate remotely via Zoom at <https://bayareametro.zoom.us/j/85399428611>, or may join Zoom by phone by dialing (669) 900-6833 or (408) 638-0968. Para Español, marque: (888) 688-2099. Esta línea telefónica es solo para escuchar, no hay moderador.

The Webinar ID for this meeting is: 853 9942 8611

Public Comment on Agenda Items: The public may comment on each item on the agenda as the item is taken up. Members of the public who wish to speak on a matter on the agenda will have three minutes each to address the Council on that agenda item, unless a different time limit is established by the Co-Chairs. No speaker who has already spoken on an item will be entitled to speak to that item again.

The Council welcomes comments, including criticism, about the policies, procedures, programs, or services of the District, or of the acts or omissions of the Council. Speakers shall not use threatening, profane, or abusive language which disrupts, disturbs, or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of a Council meeting. The District is committed to maintaining a workplace free of unlawful harassment and is mindful that District staff regularly attend Council meetings. Discriminatory statements or conduct that would potentially violate the Fair Employment and Housing Act – i.e., statements or conduct that is hostile, intimidating, oppressive, or abusive – is *per se* disruptive to a meeting and will not be tolerated.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024

6:00 PM

Land Acknowledgement Statement

We begin by acknowledging that this land is unceded Indigenous land. The territories, or counties we represent, are of the Indigenous people. To acknowledge this history of our country - that this nation was built on genocide, the exclusion and erasure of Indigenous people - grounds our work in truth. We also acknowledge that our modern global economy was founded on the free and forced labor of enslaved Black people. And that exploited labor continuously perpetuates itself in disadvantaged communities of color, as we see in the treatment of farm workers, immigrant workers, prison labor, and domestic workers. This practice of land acknowledgement calls on us to recognize our violent history that is the foundation of white supremacy, and to recognize the longstanding and ongoing resistance of People of Color to dehumanization, repression, and homicide. And that the brilliance and leadership of People of Color in resistance, vision, wisdom, and love be honored and recognized as we work to dismantle ongoing legacies of settler colonialism and anti-blackness.

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

The Facilitator, on behalf of the Council Co-Chairs, shall call the meeting to order and the Clerk of the Boards shall take roll of the Council Members.

2. Opening Remarks by Board of Directors Chair Davina Hurt

3. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.3, members of the public who wish to speak on matters not on the agenda will be given an opportunity to address the Council. Members of the public will have three minutes each to address the Council, unless a different time limit is established by the Chair. The Council welcomes comments, including criticism, about the policies, procedures, programs, or services of the District, or of the acts or omissions of the Council. Speakers shall not use threatening, profane, or abusive language which disrupts, disturbs, or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of a Council meeting. The District is committed to maintaining a workplace free of unlawful harassment and is mindful that District staff regularly attend Council meetings. Discriminatory statements or conduct that would potentially violate the Fair Employment and Housing Act – i.e., statements or conduct that is hostile, intimidating, oppressive, or abusive – is per se disruptive to a meeting and will not be tolerated.

CONSENT CALENDAR (Item 4)

4. Approval of the Draft Minutes of the Community Advisory Council Meeting of March 21, 2024

The Council will consider approving the Draft Minutes of the Community Advisory Council Meeting of March 21, 2024.

ACTION ITEM(S)

5. Election of Community Advisory Council Co-Chairs

The Council will consider electing John Kevin Jefferson III and Mayra Pelagio as Co-Chairs of the Community Advisory Council. This item will be presented by Amy Smith, Acting Senior Advanced Projects Advisor in the Executive Office.

6. Community Advisory Council Recommendation for New CAC Members

The Council will consider recommending to the Community Equity, Health, and Justice Committee that it recommend the Board of Directors to appoint Dominick Ramirez to the youth seat, and Patrick Messac and Sejal Babaria to the vacant Alameda County seats on the Community Advisory Council, filling the three vacant Community Advisory Council seats. This item will be presented by Council Member John Kevin Jefferson III and Council member Kevin Ruano Hernandez.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM(S)

7. Advancing Environmental Justice Strategies in the Strategic Plan

Vernice Miller-Travis of The Metropolitan Group, together with Council Member Rio Molina, Co-Chair of the Community Advisory Council's Environmental Justice Policy Ad Hoc Committee, and Air District staff, will present the Environmental Justice Strategies and key related actions that have been developed for the Air District's Strategic Plan and Environmental Justice Action Plan.

OTHER BUSINESS

8. Community Benefits Fund Ad Hoc Update

The Council and the public will receive an update from the CAC Community Benefits Funds Ad Hoc Committee.

9. Report of the Executive Officer/APCO

10. Council Member Comments / Other Business

Any member of the Council, on his or her own initiative or in response to questions posed by the public, may: ask a question for clarification, make a brief announcement or report on his or her own activities, provide a reference to staff regarding factual information, request staff to report back at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter or take action to direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda.

11. Time and Place of Next Meeting

Thursday, July 18, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at 375 Beale Street, San Francisco, CA 94105. The meeting will be in-person for the Community Advisory Council members and members of the public will be able to either join in-person or via webcast.

12. Adjournment

The Council meeting shall be adjourned by the facilitator.

CONTACT:

MANAGER, EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS
375 BEALE STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105
vjohnson@baaqmd.gov

(415) 749-4941
FAX: (415) 928-8560
BAAQMD homepage:
www.baaqmd.gov

- Any writing relating to an open session item on this Agenda that is distributed to all, or a majority of all, members of the body to which this Agenda relates shall be made available at the Air District's offices at 375 Beale Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94105, at the time such writing is made available to all, or a majority of all, members of that body.

Accessibility and Non-Discrimination Policy

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) does not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, ethnic group identification, ancestry, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, color, genetic information, medical condition, or mental or physical disability, or any other attribute or belief protected by law.

It is the Air District's policy to provide fair and equal access to the benefits of a program or activity administered by Air District. The Air District will not tolerate discrimination against any person(s) seeking to participate in, or receive the benefits of, any program or activity offered or conducted by the Air District. Members of the public who believe they or others were unlawfully denied full and equal access to an Air District program or activity may file a discrimination complaint under this policy. This non-discrimination policy also applies to other people or entities affiliated with Air District, including contractors or grantees that the Air District utilizes to provide benefits and services to members of the public.

Auxiliary aids and services including, for example, qualified interpreters and/or listening devices, to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, and to other individuals as necessary to ensure effective communication or an equal opportunity to participate fully in the benefits, activities, programs and services will be provided by the Air District in a timely manner and in such a way as to protect the privacy and independence of the individual. Please contact the Non-Discrimination Coordinator identified below at least three days in advance of a meeting so that arrangements can be made accordingly.

If you believe discrimination has occurred with respect to an Air District program or activity, you may contact the Non-Discrimination Coordinator identified below or visit our website at www.baaqmd.gov/accessibility to learn how and where to file a complaint of discrimination.

Questions regarding this Policy should be directed to the Air District's Non-Discrimination Coordinator, Suma Peesapati, at (415) 749-4967 or by email at speesapati@baaqmd.gov.

**BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
375 BEALE STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105
FOR QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL (415) 749-4941**

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE:
MONTHLY CALENDAR OF AIR DISTRICT MEETINGS**

MAY 2024

<u>TYPE OF MEETING</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>ROOM</u>
Board of Directors Finance and Administration Committee	Wednesday	15	10:00 a.m.	1st Floor Board Room
Board of Directors Policy, Grants and Technology Committee	Wednesday	15	1:00 p.m.	1st Floor Board Room
Board of Directors Community Advisory Council Meeting	Thursday	16	6:00 p.m.	California State University East Bay Oakland Professional & Conference Center Trans Pacific Center 1000 Broadway, Suite 109 Oakland, CA 94607

JUNE 2024

<u>TYPE OF MEETING</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>ROOM</u>
Board of Directors Special Meeting as the Sole Member of the Bay Area Clean Air Foundation	Wednesday	5	9:45 a.m.	1st Floor Board Room
Board of Directors Meeting	Wednesday	5	10:00 a.m.	1st Floor Board Room
Board of Directors Stationary Source Committee	Wednesday	12	10:00 a.m.	1st Floor, Temazcal Room
Board of Directors Community Equity, Health and Justice Committee	Wednesday	12	1:00 p.m.	1st Floor, Temazcal Room
Board of Directors Finance and Administration Committee	Wednesday	26	10:00 a.m.	1st Floor, Temazcal Room

JULY 2024

<u>TYPE OF MEETING</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>ROOM</u>
Board of Directors Meeting - CANCELLED	Wednesday	10	10:00 a.m.	1st Floor Board Room
Board of Directors Stationary Source Committee	Wednesday	17	10:00 a.m.	1st Floor, Temazcal Room
Board of Directors Community Equity, Health and Justice Committee	Wednesday	17	1:00 p.m.	1st Floor, Temazcal Room
Board of Directors Community Advisory Council Meeting	Thursday	18	6:00 p.m.	1st Floor Board Room
Board of Directors Policy, Grants, and Technology Committee	Wednesday	24	10:00 a.m.	1st Floor, Temazcal Room

MV 5/8/2024 – 12:09 p.m.

G/Board/Executive Office/Moncal

Calendar of Agenda Items (2024-2025 Work Plan)

Work Plan Agenda Items	Potential Recommendations (or Information Only)	CAC Member Lead-Subject to Change	Description of Community Benefit
Develop community level monitoring capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o To manage community level air quality based on monitored data. 	Council Members Szutu	Enables community to report pollution and track progress based on data.
Finalize recommendations for how to increase efficiency of responses to complaints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Increase efficiency of responses from program that tracks complaints (e.g., send drones to complaint sites) o Amend rule for responding to complaints o Create a review system to determine how complaints are processed o Include additional information from community members in the complaint handling process o Engage community in sample collection 	Council Member Szutu and Molina	Community can provide feedback to complaint handling.
Update on Development of the EJ Policy and Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o EJ Policy Ad Hoc develops EJ Priorities and co-develops EJ Strategies with Air District staff to embed in the District's Strategic Plan; EJ Action Plan will contain multiple recommendations for EJ solutions for each division. 	Council Member Washington	The EJ Priorities are now submitted to the Strategic Planning process. The Strategic Plan and the EJ Action Plan will have detailed EJ strategies for the Air District's (AD) functions. Implementation plans will then have measurable actions to show the EJ-focused impact on how the AD does their work. Some of the EJ Priorities are to increase AD transparency, community engagement and information-sharing in the AD's functions, as well as having more EJ approaches to updating regulations and creating more strict policies for enforcement with the prioritization of frontline communities and decreasing air pollution for impacted communities.

Calendar of Agenda Items (2024-2025 Work Plan)

Work Plan Agenda Items	Potential Recommendations (or Information Only)	CAC Member Lead-Subject to Change	Description of Community Benefit
Review the work that the CAC has recently done, and decide on next steps to develop recommendations	o Strengthen the CAC’s effectiveness and impact on change in communities and BAAQMD.	Council Member Goodwin	By providing relevant and timely recommendations to the BAAQMD Board of Directors on how to improve the effectiveness of processes and programs within the BAAQMD, we aim to accelerate community engagement and elevate community confidence in the Air District’s mission to “create a healthy breathing environment for every Bay Area resident.”
Discuss how the CAC will present recommendations regarding indoor gas appliances to the board (TBD after November)	o Establish readiness criteria before hand. Compare implementation status with readiness criteria	Council Member Szutu	Make sure equitable transition is considered as part of final decision for readiness.
Create a proposed plan for equitable disbursement of Community Benefit Fund	o Recommend to the Air District Board a plan to disburse the Community Benefit Fund	Chairs of the Community Benefit Fund Ad Hoc Committee	Communities overburdened by air pollution receive benefits from the Air District’s Community Benefit Fund. Reduce air pollution and related health impacts through projects funded by the Air District’s Community Benefit Fund.
Review our current public record access (PRA) process	o To review the workflow of PRA, e.g., type of records requested, number of requests, wait time, identify areas we can have the data readily available without going through the PRA process	Council Member Szutu	Improve access to Air District data, and shorter wait times. Also reduce person-hour needed by the legal division to manually retrieve the data.
Learn about air pollution community needs, health impacts, and funding pathways	o Information Only	Chairs of the Community Benefit Fund Ad Hoc Committee	Community engages in making local improvement to air quality

Calendar of Agenda Items (2024-2025 Work Plan)

Work Plan Agenda Items	Potential Recommendations (or Information Only)	CAC Member Lead-Subject to Change	Description of Community Benefit
<p>Green collar jobs/internships/program for young people to learn about air quality science. Specific agenda items to be developed but could entail: 1. Presentation of opportunities for young people to be involved in Air District activities and 2. Opportunities for young people to learn about these skills and the science behind air quality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The CAC will strategize how to implement youth opportunities in order to give opportunities to young people on Green Collar jobs in the air quality sector. 	<p>Council Member Ruano Hernandez</p>	<p>Increase attention and resources towards young people to help them enter into the environmental space. Gain more support from the young generation by implementing a program for young people to help them learn about Air Quality and other opportunities.</p>
<p>Small group to present recommendations to the CAC to improve Transportation Fund for Clean Air County Program Manager Fund</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Generate a letter to the Air District Board (specific recommendations TBD) 	<p>Council Member Goodwin</p>	<p>Through a shared understanding and agreement on specific changes to improve the Transportation Fund for Clean Air County Program Manager Fund we aim to educate the community regarding the allocation of funds, who is being served by this program, and how this program benefits all of our communities. By generating a letter to the Air District Board</p>
<p>Create an ad hoc committee to develop a toolkit of educational materials for the community and community presentations (For example, provide a one-pager that includes contact numbers, including BAAQMD, for individuals to easily report a complaint and follow up)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o To develop informational material that will 1) educate community members about air pollution in their neighborhood and 2) provide contact information to report an air quality concern 	<p>Council Member Mendoza</p>	<p>1. This will raise community members' (CM) awareness about the environment and this awareness will contribute towards making better choices that lead to a healthier environment. 2. Awareness about air pollution in their neighborhood gives (CM) the information they need to be able to monitor issues and effects of air pollution 3. Providing contact information to report air pollution events makes it easier and empowers the community to report. The contact information will also make it easier to communicate with someone in the case they have questions.</p>

Calendar of Agenda Items (2024-2025 Work Plan)

Work Plan Agenda Items	Potential Recommendations (or Information Only)	CAC Member Lead-Subject to Change	Description of Community Benefit
Recurring update (every other meeting) and exploration of topics around compliance and enforcement (C&E)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o To share real-time information on issues and resolutions in regards to settlements, violations and lawsuits. 	Co-Chair Jefferson & Council Member Szutu	Better understanding of rules and regulations, of actual issues on a real-time basis

BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Memorandum

To: Chairperson Ken Szutu and
Members of the Community Advisory Council

From: Philip M. Fine
Executive Officer/APCO

Date: May 16, 2024

Re: Approval of the Draft Minutes of the Community Advisory Council Meeting of
March 21, 2024

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve the Draft Minutes of the Community Advisory Council Meeting of March 21, 2024.

BACKGROUND

None.

DISCUSSION

Attached for your review and approval are the Draft Minutes of the Community Advisory Council Meeting of March 21, 2024.

BUDGET CONSIDERATION/FINANCIAL IMPACT

None.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip M. Fine
Executive Officer/APCO

Prepared by: Marcy Hiratzka
Reviewed by: Vanessa Johnson

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft Minutes of the Community Advisory Council Meeting of March 21, 2024

Bay Area Air Quality Management District
375 Beale Street
San Francisco, California 94105
(415) 749-5073

DRAFT MINUTES

Community Advisory Council
Thursday, March 21, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

The meeting Facilitator, Randolph Belle of Randolph Belle, Artist (RBA) Creative, called the Community Advisory Council (Council) in-person meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present, In Person: Council Co-Chairpersons Kevin John Jefferson, Latasha Washington, and Ken Szutu; and Council Members William Goodwin, Ms. Margaret Gordon, Arieann Harrison, Joy Massey, Hana Mendoza, Rio Molina, and Violet Saena.

Participated Remotely, via Zoom (remote presence does not count for quorum, but votes are counted for all action items): Council Member Fernando Campos and Mayra Pelagio (just cause).

Absent: Council Members Dr. Juan Aguilera, Dr. John Ritterman, and Kevin G. Ruano Hernandez.

Note: Dr. Aguilera listened into the meeting remotely via Zoom as member of the public since his reason for attending remotely did not fall under exemptions for “just cause,” which allows for remote participation under Assembly Bill (AB) 2449 (Rubio, 2022). Thus, he was marked as “absent.”

2. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA MATTERS

No requests received.

CONSENT CALENDAR

3. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC) MEETING OF JANUARY 18, 2024

Public Comments

No requests received.

Council Comments

None.

Council Action

Co-Chair Washington made a motion, seconded by Council Member Massey, to **approve** the Draft Minutes of the Community Advisory Council Meeting of January 18, 2024, and the motion **carried** by the following vote of the Council:

AYES: Campos, Goodwin, Gordon, Harrison, Jefferson, Massey, Mendoza, Molina, Pelagio, Szutu, Washington.
NOES: None.
ABSTAIN: Saena.
ABSENT: Aguilera, Ritterman, Ruano Hernandez.

Motion Approved

ACTION ITEMS

4. **COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL WORK PLAN**

This item was presented by the following members of the Work Plan Ad Hoc Committee: Co-Chair Ken Szutu, Council Member William Goodwin, and Council Member Rio Molina. The presentation *Community Advisory Council Workplan* included the slides: outcome; outline; requested action; initial work plan; revised work plan (March 2023 CAC meeting); developing an updated work plan; CAC Retreat – September 2023; and current CAC Work Plan – December 2023.

Public Comments

No requests received.

Council Comments

The Council and staff discussed the desire for more action agenda items and less informational agenda items.

Council Action

Co-Chair Washington made a motion, seconded by Council Member Harrison, to **adopt** the updated Community Advisory Council 2024-2025 Work Plan; and the motion **carried** by the following vote of the Council:

AYES: Campos, Goodwin, Harrison, Jefferson, Massey, Mendoza, Molina, Pelagio, Saena, Szutu, Washington.
NOES: Gordon.
ABSTAIN: None.
ABSENT: Aguilera, Ritterman, Ruano Hernandez.

Motion Approved

5. **FUNDING COMMUNITY BENEFITS FROM PENALTY FUNDS**

Greg Nudd, Deputy Executive Officer, Science and Policy, gave the staff presentation *Funding Community Benefits from Penalty Funds*, including: potential presentation outcomes; proposal; previous CAC vote; remaining questions; community benefit project examples; background; about the penalties; penalty percentage allocation for local and regional community benefits - Option 1: 80-20; Option 2: 70-30; Option 3: 60-40; allocation results – Fiscal Year (FY) 24.

Public Comments

Public comments were given by the following Richmond-North Richmond-San Pablo Path to Clean Air Community Emissions Reduction Plan Community Steering Committee Members: YAnad Burell (Co-Chair), Marisol Cantú, Alfredo Angulo (Co-Chair), and Nancy Peace.

Council Comments

The Council and staff discussed concern about annual increases of penalty funds that are budgeted to partially fund the Air District’s enforcement program, and the suggestion for a ceiling; whether community benefits projects can be both regionally and locally funded; whether limits could be placed on regional benefits; whether regional or local benefits could apply to law enforcement; the request for a Council orientation on how the Air District determines violations and penalty amounts; how the Air District charges fees to permitted sources based on the type of source; the cost of corrective actions; the manner in which collected penalties would be distributed to communities (who are the recipients, and the comparison of paying regional funds versus local funds); whether the penalties collected for regional benefits can be added to the Air District’s budget target; the belief that a member of the Council had not been informed well enough to be polled about penalty allocation options; whether facilities are fined for all of their violations; the manner in which new fees are added to a facility, and whether fees can be allocated for regional or local benefits; the Council’s desire for healthy relationships with all of the designated Bay Area Community Health Protection Program (AB 617) Community Steering Committees; whether there is a statute of limitations for assessing penalties for past violations; and whether the Air District must enter into tolling agreements with penalized facilities.

Council Action

Co-Chairperson Szutu made a motion, seconded by Council Member Mendoza, to recommend that the Board of Directors **set** a policy in collaboration with the Community Advisory Council that automatically **allocates** a portion of penalties for local (80%) and regional (20%) community benefits; and the motion **carried** by the following vote of the Council:

AYES:	Campos, Goodwin, Harrison, Massey, Mendoza, Molina, Pelagio, Saena, Szutu, Washington.
NOES:	Gordon.
ABSTAIN:	Jefferson.
ABSENT:	Aguilera, Ritterman, Ruano Hernandez.

Motion Approved

THE COUNCIL RECESSED AT 7:33 P.M., AND RESUMED AT 7:45 P.M.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

6. AIR DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

Dr. Philip M. Fine, Executive Officer / Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO), and CAC Co-Chair, Latasha Washington, gave the presentation *Strategic Planning Update*, including: outcome; requested action; outline; Environmental Justice (EJ) plan development; inputs for development of EJ priorities; examples of EJ priorities; developing EJ strategies: January 2024 to present; Strategic Plan; early input on Strategic Plan; CAC input (survey responses); consistent engagement findings; Strategic Plan framework and definitions; Draft Revision: Air District mission, core values, 5-year vision; draft goal areas; draft strategy examples; working timelines; and next steps.

Public Comments

No requests received.

Council Comments

The Council and staff discussed appreciation for the thank you to the Council’s Environmental Justice Policy Ad Hoc Committee and Air District staff for their EJ contribution to the Strategic Plan; the manner in which small groups of Council Members may meet, regarding the Strategic Plan, without violating the Ralph M. Brown Act; the desire for distinction between EJ priorities and EJ principles; the request for a Council orientation on EJ principles so that all Council Members have the same understanding of terms and definitions; whether accountability is part of the Air District’s core values; concerns about the proposed goal of “Maintain an Effective, Efficient, and Customer-Oriented Organization”, and the suggestion of the removal of corporate-sounding language; whether the Air District’s Public Participation Plan will be relaunched; and the suggestion that the Air District hire a person to measure the success of equity initiatives.

Council Action

None; receive and file.

OTHER BUSINESS

7. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICY AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Council received an update from the Environmental Justice Policy Ad Hoc Committee from Environmental Justice Policy Ad Hoc Committee Co-Chair Washington.

Public Comments

No requests received.

8. COMMUNITY BENEFITS FUND AD HOC UPDATE

The Council received an update from the Community Benefit Fund Ad Hoc Committee from Community Benefit Fund Ad Hoc Committee Co-Chair Campos.

Public Comments

No requests received.

9. COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER SELECTION AD HOC COMMITTEE

The Council received an update from the CAC Member Selection Ad Hoc Committee from CAC Member Selection Ad Hoc Committee Co-Chair Pelagio. 33 applications were received for the two vacant seats, and scoring will take place over the next few weeks.

Public Comments

No requests received.

Council Comments

The Council and staff discussed the anticipated timeline of the appointment of new Council Members.

10. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER / AIR POLLUTION CONTROL OFFICER

Dr. Fine announced the following:

- Marcia Raymond, who has been Acting Deputy Executive Officer of Equity and Community Programs, is continuing in this role for a third extension. The hiring process for a permanent Deputy Executive Officer of Equity and Community Programs is ongoing.
- Air District staff appreciates the Council Members who attended the Board of Directors annual retreat on January 31, 2024.
- The Air District is currently sponsoring several bills: Senate Bill (SB) 1095 (Becker) - Cozy Homes Cleanup Act: building standards: gas-fuel-burning appliances; **AB 2298 (Hart, et al.)** – Coastal resources: voluntary vessel speed reduction and sustainable shipping program; and **AB 1465 (Wicks)** – Nonvehicular air pollution: civil penalties.

11. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS / OTHER BUSINESS

Council Member Goodwin asked whether the Air District has a legislative policy priority platform so that interested members of the public may support and advocate for Air District-sponsored bills, or bills of interest to the Air District.

Co-Chair Jefferson thanked Dr. Fine for centering EJ as guiding principle of Air District’s work. Council Member Gordon requested a more detailed explanation of the Air District’s harassment policy, process, procedures, and protocol. She believed that the training that the Council Members received lacked clarity.

Council Member Gordon announced the following event:

**Lau Grants for Just Climate Futures Presentation Workshops
Friday, April 5, 10 AM to 5 PM at Bauer Wurster Hall, UC Berkeley**

The College of Environmental Design will be holding presentation workshops for the Lau Grants for Just Climate Futures, featuring dialogue around climate adaptation strategies, organized by the Institute of Urban & Regional Development. Exhibitions of the five funded cross-disciplinary projects will be featured, including community partners and representatives of public agencies. At 3:00pm, there will be an exhibit called “**BAAQMAP: Bay Area Air Quality Map Analysis Project**”, which maps real-time air quality and cumulative environmental exposure. Members of the Council will be speakers at that exhibit.

Council Member Mendoza requested that hard copies of agenda packets be made available in larger font size, for those who require it.

Co-Chair Szutu registered a public harassment complaint about comments during the meeting which Co-Chair Szutu considered hostile. In response, Co-Chair Washington offered an apology to Co-Chair Szutu and the Council for her earlier comments, noting that she did not intend to offend Co-Chair Szutu. Council Member Pelagio requested that staff intervene and offer proposed motion language, to assist the maker of a motion, in the future, if needed.

12. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the California State University East Bay Oakland Professional Development and Conference Center, Trans Pacific Center, 1000 Broadway, Suite 109, Oakland, CA 94607. The meeting will be in-person for the Community Advisory Council members and members of the public will be able to either join in-person or via webcast.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Marcy Hiratzka
Clerk of the Boards

BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Memorandum

To: Chairperson Ken Szutu and Members
of the Community Advisory Council

From: Philip M. Fine
Executive Officer/APCO

Date: May 16, 2024

Re: Election of Community Advisory Council Co-Chairs

RECOMMENDED ACTION

To consider electing John Kevin Jefferson III and Mayra Pelagio as Co-Chairs of the Community Advisory Council.

BACKGROUND

The Community Advisory Council (CAC) leadership could, among other things, preside over meetings, oversee activities of the ad hoc committees, perform all other necessary duties as prescribed by the CAC Charter, and ensure that CAC decisions are democratic, equitable, and timely.

DISCUSSION

The CAC was established with a three Co-Chair leadership model. The CAC Charter states: "Leadership is appointed for a two (2) year term and no member may serve for more than two, 2-year terms consecutively." Co-Chairs Washington and Jefferson have both served two years and their terms ended in March 2024. There are two Co-Chair positions that are currently vacant. (Co-Chair Szutu was elected in January 2024 and his term has not ended.)

The CAC Charter provides that leadership positions are filled through a nomination, selection, and voting process. The process requires CAC members seeking a vacant leadership position to submit an essay summarizing their background and outlining the reasons why they seek the position, which shall be presented to the full CAC 72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the vote takes place. Staff asked CAC members interested in the Co-Chair position to submit a candidate essay summarizing their background and outlining the reasons they seek the position. John Kevin Jefferson III submitted an essay for re-election to a second term as Co-Chair and Mayra Pelagio submitted an essay for a first term as Co-Chair. The Council will therefore consider John Kevin Jefferson III for re-election for a second term as a Co-Chair of the Community Advisory Council and consider Mayra Pelagio for election for a first term as a Co-Chair of the Community Advisory Council.

BUDGET CONSIDERATION/FINANCIAL IMPACT

None.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip M. Fine
Executive Officer/APCO

Prepared by: Amy Smith and Brian Butler

Reviewed by: Miriam Torres

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Election of CAC Co Chairs (Jefferson Essay)
2. Election of CAC Co Chairs (Pelagio essay)
3. Presentation - Election of CAC Co-Chairs

May 16, 2024 CAC Meeting
Agenda Item 5 – Election of Community Advisory Council Co-Chairs
Essay from Council Member Jefferson

Hello all,

I am proud to have served as co-chair of the 1st CAC established within the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. The time has gone fast but the work is not complete. I am just getting going in the change aspect of environmental injustices. Below are seven reasons why I would like to continue as co-chair.

- **Advocacy:** I want to continue to represent the interests of Fenceline and marginalized communities in environmental decision-making processes.
- **Policy Development:** I want to continue to collaborate with stakeholders on the Community Benefits Fund Ad-Hoc committee and Environmental Justice Policy Ad-Hoc committee to develop and implement policies that promote environmental equity.
- **Community Engagement:** I want to continue to engage with communities throughout CA to understand their environmental concerns and ensure their voices are heard.
- **Research and Analysis:** I want to continue to conduct research on environmental issues affecting underserved populations within the 9 counties of the Air District and continue to analyze data to support advocacy efforts.
- **Networking:** I want to continue to build relationships with other organizations, government agencies, experts, scientists and advocates to continue to advance environmental justice initiatives.
- **Education and Awareness:** I want to continue to raise awareness about environmental justice issues through workshops, seminars, conferences, and outreach programs.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** I must continue to monitor the impact of policies and programs on environmental justice goals and evaluate their effectiveness.

Thank you for the wonderful opportunity to serve as co-chair for this awesome committee and Air District team the past 2 years.

Thanks a million,

John Kevin Jefferson III

Community Advisory Council Team
Bay Area Air Quality Management District
939 Ellis Street
San Francisco, CA 94109

Dear Community Advisory Council,

I am excited to submit this letter of interest to serve as a Co-Chair of the Community Advisory Council (CAC) for the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. With my extensive background in environmental advocacy, particularly in addressing environmental justice issues, I believe I can bring a unique experience and voice to the council's mission of improving air quality and the overall well-being of our communities.

Throughout my career, I have shown commitment to advocating for environmental justice. As the Executive Director of a small non-profit organization, I worked on a campaign to eliminate airborne lead pollution in East San Jose. This work drove national efforts that led the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct an endangerment finding and subsequently, a ban on lead-based fuel for small aircraft. Additionally, I spearheaded the development of an Environmental Justice Academy in East San Jose, convening residents of historically under-resourced communities to address environmental challenges and enhance their quality of life. Currently, I am actively involved in supporting the development of advocacy initiatives and campaigns within Santa Clara County. My work with non-profits, particularly the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, focuses on equipping communities in East San Jose and East Palo Alto with culturally relevant tools to conduct advocacy for the needs of their communities.

I am dedicated to serving my community and ensuring that every individual has the resources and support needed to advocate for the better world we deserve. My commitment to social justice and collaborative problem-solving aligns with the goals of the CAC. In the past two years I have actively participated in various committees within the council, including the Work Plan Ad-hoc Committee, the Selection Ad-hoc Committee, and the Community Benefits Fund Ad-hoc Committee, where I currently serve as a Co-Chair. I have deep respect and admiration for the work accomplished by the current Co-Chairs, and I am eager to contribute my experience and passion to advance the council's impact. If elected as Co-Chair, I am committed to promoting meaningful conversations that center the voices of the most impacted communities. My overall vision is that we as the CAC continue our work with intentionality and diligence.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter of interest. I am deeply honored to be considered for this position, and I am excited about the opportunity to continue serving our community through the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Community Advisory Council.

Sincerely,

Mayra Pelagio

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MP', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval shape.



BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

AGENDA: 5

Election of Community Advisory Council Co-Chairs

**Community Advisory Council Meeting
May 16, 2024**

**Amy Smith
Acting Senior Advanced Projects Advisor, Executive Office
asmith@baaqmd.gov**

Presentation Outcome



- Election of Community Advisory Council Co-Chairs

Requested Action



- To consider electing John Kevin Jefferson III and Mayra Pelagio as Co-Chairs of the Community Advisory Council.

Presentation Outline



- Leadership and the CAC Charter
- Review of CAC Leadership Duties
- Co-Chair Election
- Results

Leadership and the CAC Charter



- In 2022, the CAC approved a three Co-Chair model. (1.3 Leadership)
- Leadership is appointed for a two (2) year term and no member may serve for more than two, 2-year terms consecutively. (1.3.2 Leadership)

Leadership and the CAC Charter (cont.)



- Co-Chair Washington and Co-Chair Jefferson's two-year terms ended in March 2024. There are currently two Co-Chair vacancies.
- If a leadership position becomes vacant, that position must be filled within two meetings after the vacancy occurs. The leadership position shall be filled through a nomination, selection, and voting process. (1.3.3 Election of Leadership)

Leadership and the CAC Charter (cont.)



- Members seeking a vacant leadership position shall submit an essay, which provides a summary of their background and outlines the reasons they seek the position. The full CAC shall be presented with the essays 72 hours in advance of the meeting in which the CAC will vote on each prospective candidate. The candidate receiving the majority of the votes will be selected to fill the vacant leadership position. (1.3.3 Election of Leadership)
- John Kevin Jefferson III and Mayra Pelagio each submitted an essay for consideration by the CAC for the two vacant leadership seats (essays are included in packet).

1.3.1 Duties of Leadership (select)



- The Co-Chairs shall preside over bi-monthly meetings of the CAC in rotation.
- The Co-Chairs shall work with Air District staff and the CAC meeting facilitator to plan, structure, and coordinate CAC meetings.
- The Co-Chairs shall attend and provide updates to the Air District Board of Directors as needed and/or requested and interact with the Air District Board of Directors in representation of overburdened communities within the nine Bay Area counties, and on behalf of the CAC members.

1.3.1 Duties of Leadership (select, cont.)



- The Co-Chairs shall oversee activities of the ad hoc committees.
- The Co-Chairs shall perform all other necessary and incidental duties as prescribed by the CAC Charter.
- The Co-Chairs shall ensure that CAC decisions are made in a democratic, equitable, and timely manner.
- The Co-Chairs shall understand and adhere to the Brown Act and Robert's Rules of Order.



Questions?



Public Comment



Election



Proposed Motion

Motion to elect John Kevin Jefferson III as a
Co-Chair of the Community Advisory Council



Results



Proposed Motion

Motion to elect Mayra Pelagio as a Co-Chair
of the Community Advisory Council



Results

BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Memorandum

To: Chairperson Ken Szutu and
Members of the Community Advisory Council

From: Philip M. Fine
Executive Officer/APCO

Date: May 16, 2024

Re: Community Advisory Council Recommendation for New CAC Members

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Recommend to the Community Equity, Health, and Justice Committee that it recommend to the Board of Directors the following individuals for appointment to the Community Advisory Council:

- Sejal Babaria, Alameda County seat for 2 years
- Patrick Messac, Alameda County seat for 2 years
- Dominick Ramirez, Youth seat for 2 years

BACKGROUND

This is an action item for the Council to consider recommending to the Community Equity, Health, and Justice Committee that it recommend to the Board of Directors the following individuals for appointment to the Community Advisory Council:

- Sejal Babaria, Alameda County seat for 2 years
- Patrick Messac, Alameda County seat for 2 years
- Dominick Ramirez, Youth seat for 2 years

The Member Selection Ad Hoc Committee was created during the November 30, 2023, CAC meeting and tasked with selecting candidates for the Board to consider appointing them to the Community Advisory Council. The Ad Hoc held their first meeting on January 25, 2024, where they reviewed the timeline and provided feedback on the outreach plan.

The Member Selection Ad Hoc Committee selected candidates for the three vacant CAC seats: 2 seats representing Alameda County and 1 youth seat. The Ad Hoc Committee utilized the criteria approved by the Board in the CAC Charter and Board Resolution No. 2023-14 to score applicants. The criteria is:

1. Reflect the diverse demographics of the Bay Area;
2. Include generational history and experience living in communities heavily impacted by air pollution;
3. Demonstrate diversity of relevant experience – including environmental justice, technical expertise, health, and Air District functions or knowledge of the Air District; and
4. Have access to other people who have a range of relevant knowledge and technical experience that could help inform the CAC.

The Ad Hoc Committee scored 33 applications (25 applications for the Alameda County seat and 8 applications for the Youth seat) over a two-week period and met to analyze their scores and come to a consensus for the selection of candidates for the three vacant CAC seats.

DISCUSSION

During this CAC meeting, the CAC will vote on recommending to the Community Equity, Health, and Justice Committee that it recommend to the Board of Directors to consider appointing Dominick Ramirez for the Youth seat and Patrick Messac and Sejal Babaria for the two Alameda County seats on the Community Advisory Council.

BUDGET CONSIDERATION/FINANCIAL IMPACT

None.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip M. Fine
Executive Officer/APCO

Prepared by: Lisa Flores and Amy Smith
Reviewed by: Miriam Torres

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Dominick Ramirez Application Responses
2. Patrick Messac Application Responses
3. Sejal Babaria Application Responses
4. Community Advisory Council Recommendation for New CAC Members Presentation

Community Advisory Council Member Application Responses
Dominick Ramirez (Youth seat)

12. Please state your reasons for wanting to serve on the Air District’s Community Advisory Council. Please share how/why you feel you can represent the community where you live or work. If you are able, we invite you to share your history with the community, including when you or your family may have moved to the area or began working in the area (generational history in the community). (Minimum word count: 250 words, maximum word count: 500 words) *

I am writing to express my interest in joining the Air District’s Community Advisory Council. At 17 years old, I may be younger than most applicants, but I believe my perspective and experiences can contribute meaningfully to the council's objectives.

As a senior at KIPP SF College Preparatory in Bayview Hunters Point, I have been deeply involved in my community. Growing up in Bayview Hunters Point, I have witnessed firsthand the environmental injustices and air pollution that disproportionately affect marginalized communities like mine. My Chicano background has instilled in me a strong sense of pride in my heritage and a commitment to fighting for social and environmental justice.

Currently, I am actively engaged with the Marie Harrison Community Foundation for Social and Environmental Justice, where I have been involved in grassroots efforts to address environmental issues in our neighborhood. Through this organization, I have participated in community clean-up initiatives, advocated for stricter environmental regulations, and organized educational workshops to raise awareness about the impact of air pollution on public health.

My generational history in Bayview Hunters Point and my involvement with the Marie Harrison Community Foundation have equipped me with a deep understanding of the challenges faced by communities heavily impacted by air pollution. I have seen how these issues have affected my family, friends, and neighbors, and I am committed to advocating for policies that prioritize environmental justice and public health.

As a member of the Community Advisory Council, I believe I can represent the voices of youth in our community and bring fresh perspectives to the table. My experiences as a young person navigating the complexities of environmental issues have given me unique insights into the concerns and priorities of my peers. I am passionate about empowering youth to become agents of change in their communities, and I believe that my involvement in the council can help amplify their voices and perspectives.

Moreover, I am deeply committed to fostering collaboration and dialogue between diverse stakeholders. I recognize the importance of engaging with individuals from different backgrounds and expertise to develop holistic solutions to complex environmental challenges. I am eager to learn from others and leverage my connections within the community to facilitate meaningful discussions and drive positive change.

In conclusion, I am motivated by a sincere desire to serve my community and contribute to the collective effort to combat air pollution and advance environmental justice. Bayview Hunters Point is not just where I live and go to school—it is my home, where my friends and family reside, and where I am deeply invested in creating a healthier and more equitable future. I am excited about the opportunity to bring the perspectives of youth and marginalized communities to the forefront of the conversation and work collaboratively towards a more sustainable and just society.

Thank you for considering my application.

Sincerely,
Dominick Ramirez

Background

13. Please share your perspective on the diversity of your community and experience working with diverse communities in the Bay Area. If applicable, share the organization(s) and/or groups you worked with, location or community and the length of time. (Minimum word count: 100 words, maximum word count: 500 words) *

Growing up in Bayview Hunters Point, I've been immersed in a community that reflects the rich diversity of the Bay Area. Bayview Hunters Point is a vibrant tapestry of cultures, ethnicities, and backgrounds, including African American, Latinx, Asian American, and Pacific Islander communities, among others. This diversity is not just demographic; it encompasses a spectrum of lived experiences, perspectives, and voices.

Through my involvement with the Marie Harrison Community Foundation for Social and Environmental Justice, I have had the privilege of collaborating with individuals and organizations from various backgrounds to address environmental issues affecting our community. Our initiatives have brought together residents, activists, educators, and policymakers, creating a space for dialogue, learning, and collective action. These experiences have underscored the importance of inclusive and intersectional approaches to advocacy and community organizing.

Also my experiences working with diverse communities in the Bay Area have deepened my understanding of the interconnectedness of social, environmental, and economic justice.

14. Briefly state your experience with and/or interest in air quality, environmental justice, health, and social equity, climate change, community outreach or other closely related fields. (Minimum word count: 250 words, maximum word count: 500 words) *

Growing up in Bayview Hunters Point has deeply affected me. The air quality, water quality, and land quality issues in my community have stirred strong emotions within me. Witnessing how these environmental factors impact the health and well-being of my family, friends, and neighbors has fueled my passion for environmental justice. I feel a deep sense of urgency to address these issues and advocate for change. Joining the Air District's Community Advisory Council would allow me to channel these emotions into meaningful action. I want to be a voice for those who are disproportionately affected by environmental injustices. It's not just about policies; it's about the lives and futures of the people in my community. I am invested in making a difference and contributing to creating a healthier environment for everyone.

Certification/Completion

15. I certify that all the information included in this application is true to the best of my knowledge. *

Yes

16. If you are under the age of 18 applying for a position on the Community Advisory Council, a legal guardian is required to review and certify they agree with the commitments to participating in the Community Advisory Council and the information shared in this application. (Note: Description of responsibilities includes information about late night meetings, often ending by 10pm and overnight retreats.) *

Yes my mom and dad have reviewed this and are agreeing to the terms since they also agree that this is important and urgent.

Community Advisory Council Member Application Responses
Patrick Messac (Alameda County seat)

Interest in Joining the Community Advisory Council

Criteria:

1. Reflect the diverse demographics of the Bay Area
2. Include generational history and experience living in communities heavily impacted by air pollution
3. Demonstrate diversity of relevant experience – including environmental justice, technical expertise, health, and Air District functions or knowledge of the Air District
4. Have access to other people who have a range of relevant knowledge and technical experience that could help inform the Community Advisory Council

12. Please state your reasons for wanting to serve on the Air District’s Community Advisory Council. Please share how/why you feel you can represent the community where you live or work. If you are able, we invite you to share your history with the community, including when you or your family may have moved to the area or began working in the area (generational history in the community). (Minimum word count: 250 words, maximum word count: 500 words) *

I'd be honored to serve on the Advisory Council because to breathe is a human right. An immigrant from Haiti, my father moved our family to the cheapest house in the community with public school district outside of Boston to give us the best opportunity to learn. This meant living alongside a major thoroughfare in a house with peeling lead paint. I developed asthma and other health issues, but excelled in learning. I earned a scholarship to study Public Policy in college and dedicated the next decade of my life to teaching in title 1 schools, most recently at Life Academy in East Oakland. The day the sky turned orange, my students were scared, and as their science teacher, I wanted to explain to them that there was nothing to be afraid of - that the air quality was actually safer that day than it was most days in the Flatlands. Ever curious, my student asked why which embarked us on a journey of exploration. My students learned about particulate pollution - invisible to the eye, but not to our lungs - we built air purifiers, studied the work of the West Oakland Environmental Indicator Project, measured pollution with particle laser sensors, and shared about our experiences with asthma and other health conditions. It was when we learned about the ban of large trucks on the I-580, the only interstate highway to enact this ban, that my students asked why and demanded we tried to do something about it. They wrote a song, contacted local officials, garnered media coverage, the State to and exacted a commitment from the State to study the impact of this ban on my students' health and the wellbeing of communities en route to the port and redlined communities. My students had the courage to imagine a more just world and to fight for it, but three years later the study hasn't even started. Now it's my turn to have courage. I want to join the advisory board because too many inhalers on desks, too many broken promises, and too many lives treated as expendable, but more importantly, because Oakland's rich legacy of social justice and liberation is alive and well. We hold a vital place in the collective consciousness of the country and have the opportunity to reverse decades of discriminatory policy. In my work with #OaklandUndivided's digital equity coalition, I've developed relationships with the City, community anchor orgs (e.g., OUSD, Oakland Housing Authority, Oakland Public Libraries), community based organizations, community members, elected officials, and academics, and I'd be grateful to bring this diverse network towards our collective vision.

Background

13. Please share your perspective on the diversity of your community and experience working with diverse communities in the Bay Area. If applicable, share the organization(s) and/or groups you worked with, location or community and the length of time. (Minimum word count: 100 words, maximum word count: 500 words) *

The diversity of our community is its greatest strength. As a child of an interracial marriage, I've come to appreciate our remarkable capacity to not value one another despite our differences but BECAUSE of our differences. I've immersed myself in the community as a teacher, school administrator, and non-profit leader in the Bay Area since 2013. Most recently, this includes (1) Teacher and School Administrator in Richmond (2016-2018), OUSD Science Teacher and teacher Leader (2019-2021), and as #OaklandUndivided's Project Manager and now Director (2021 - current). I've also been a debate and basketball coach. In my most recent role, I've worked closely with a variety of community organizations including Homies Empowerment, Tech Exchange, El Timpano, Oakland Public Libraries, Oakland Unified School District, Oakland NAACP, and Oakland Housing Authority.

14. Briefly state your experience with and/or interest in air quality, environmental justice, health, and social equity, climate change, community outreach or other closely related fields. (Minimum word count: 250 words, maximum word count: 500 words) *

My interest in air quality stems from my personal experience in asthma and knowing the fear of struggling to draw my next breath, especially when I'm exposed to environmental triggers. Most recently, it was my sixth grader's unapologetic calls for environmental justice that inspired me to believe that we can all do better - that we all MUST do better. Too many students have asthma and there's no reason life expectancy should be 8 years shorter for those living along the I-580 and the I-880. So much great work is already being led by leaders with generational roots in Oakland and I'd be honored to work alongside them. I've developed skills around community outreach through my work with #OaklandUndivided, we launched a phone banks to directly outreach to thousands of Oakland families and I've coordinated advocacy days in Sacramento with bus loads of student and community advocates to ensure our voices are heard. I've also learned how to attract media attention to key issues to help ensure public officials are accountable to their constituents. I've stayed up late to participate in public comment. I'm here for it all!

Certification/Completion

15. I certify that all the information included in this application is true to the best of my knowledge. *

Yes

16. If you are under the age of 18 applying for a position on the Community Advisory Council, a legal guardian is required to review and certify they agree with the commitments to participating in the Community Advisory Council and the information shared in this application. (Note: Description of responsibilities includes information about late night meetings, often ending by 10pm and overnight retreats.) *

N/A

Community Advisory Council Member Application Responses
Sejal Babaria (Alameda County seat)

12. Please state your reasons for wanting to serve on the Air District’s Community Advisory Council. Please share how/why you feel you can represent the community where you live or work. If you are able, we invite you to share your history with the community, including when you or your family may have moved to the area or began working in the area (generational history in the community). (Minimum word count: 250 words, maximum word count: 500 words) *

While I’m just shy of a decade in the Bay Area, I am deeply passionate about my community, my surrounding blocks and well beyond. My family originally comes from India, where the history of colonization has had resounding long term environmental impacts, which continues to this day in South Asia, as well as in generational health and wellbeing in the diaspora.

I currently live on a block with an incredibly wide range of buildings and uses, including: residential, religious, a day care, an elementary school, and industrial/commercial– which includes a new ghost kitchen. When I moved to the neighborhood in North Oakland, I did not know the ghost kitchen, owned by the former Uber CEO, was soon to open. The kitchen is a prime example of why I’d like to join the Community Advisory Council. Despite push back from many community members, the odd zoning, lack of transparency, and subpar assessment of community impact leads me to question how I can support my local community in holding the ghost kitchen accountable. It is directly across the street from an elementary school, and already we’re seeing the noise and air pollution grown between the exhausts from the kitchen, the big rigs always coming through, delivery drivers parking in bike lines, and much more. This is one example of many throughout the Bay Area of policies and practices over the years that have been harmful, particularly to low income communities of color. We’ve seen this from the Port of Oakland, highways and where they are built, which neighborhoods CalTrans and BART go through (and whether under or above ground,) private plane airports and where they are located, and much more. Along with historical context, this council is also uniquely positioned to take the lead as we see the massive shift in air quality from climate change, compounded the ongoing physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing of Bay Area residents.

Along with my immediate community, I currently serve as the Executive Director of the Peralta Federation of Teachers, Local 1603. In this role, I have access and insight to other areas of the Bay through faculty, many of whom live quite far. I’d also be able to connect with students, who directly represent the most impacted groups in this part of the Bay Area.

Finally, while my experience has been as a long time labor organizer, I’ve also had some community organizing experience, which provides me tools to directly work and build relationships with a wide range of key groups and people. This is all deeply supported and expanded upon through my training as a member of the 2024 cohort of the Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute, run by Urban Habitat.

Background

13. Please share your perspective on the diversity of your community and experience working with diverse communities in the Bay Area. If applicable, share the organization(s) and/or groups you worked with, location or community and the length of time. (Minimum word count: 100 words, maximum word count: 500 words) *

Preface that I’m combining this question as the next as they’re deeply intertwined for me. I’ll carry over into the second space.

I’ve been a labor organizer for well over a decade, and have spent personal and professional time as a community organizer as well. I been a member of the Alliance of South Asians Taking Action since 2015, a volunteer-run grassroots group working to educate, organize, and empower the Bay Area South Asian communities to end violence, oppression, racism and exploitation within and against our diverse communities. Some of our work in the past has been at the intersection of environmental, racial and economic justice. We live throughout the Bay and are a part of the Asian Americans for Civil Rights and Equality (AACRE) network, and have deep ties to many other community organizations. ASATA is my sponsoring organization as a BCLI cohort member, which also means there is an investment in ensuring I am accountable and have the resources I need to succeed as a council or board member, no matter which one.

When I first moved to the Bay, I was working for the National Education Association, and spent some time working with educators in public school districts in San Jose. While with NEA from 2014-2017, the work in San Jose was in 2016. It was insight into the immense diversity of people and backgrounds, but also a glaring image of who has access to what and who doesn’t. The most vulnerable communities, often immigrant, low income, POC, and monolingual, lived in the most harsh environments near industrial or other such areas, had little access to resources or information, and were often targeted by entities trying to manipulate them for their own gain.

I worked at the East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy in Oakland from 2018-2019, where I learned a great deal about land use, community benefits agreements, the Port of Oakland, and much more. Through my time at EBASE, I worked with a variety of labor unions, community groups, and community leaders. My experience at EBASE sat at the intersection of long term change, visionary land use policies, workers rights, environmental justice, and deep relationship building. An example of this was learning about the high rates of asthma in Black youth in West Oakland as a result of certain waste centers, and looking at now only how we hold them accountable, but where are the opportunities to have such companies invest back in the surrounding areas, whether through money for cleanup, jobs, and more.

14. Briefly state your experience with and/or interest in air quality, environmental justice, health, and social equity, climate change, community outreach or other closely related fields. (Minimum word count: 250 words, maximum word count: 500 words) *

Continued from above:

As an Oakland resident and through my role at as the Oakland Campaign Director, I was on a Special Limited Purpose Committee. The committee was tasked with ensuring the metrics and goals of the Bus Rapid Transit Project in regards to the hiring of women, underrepresented groups in the construction field (so more Black folks) and all with an emphasis on out of state. Being on this committee piqued my interest in serving on a council that takes many sectors of a community into account, recognizing that things such as anti-racism and environmental justice are deeply intertwined.

After EBASE, I worked at a fine dining restaurant in San Francisco from 2019 to 2020 in a variety of roles. This allowed me to learn more about business interests, how it intersects with other groups in a neighborhood, and what it means to actually be a part of one in a responsible way, rather than extractive.

From 2020-2022 I worked for the Committee of Interns and Residents, SEIU, post-medical school interns, residents and fellows. Supporting union members who were frontline healthcare workers during a global pandemic was so incredibly difficult; however, it furthered my resolve in understanding and working towards a society that truly allows all people to thrive in a healthy manner. Along with our members being incredibly diverse themselves, many of them children of immigrants with over 500k in debt, the communities they served in Northern California spanned from Fresno up to Santa Rosa. As the Northern California Regional Director, this meant that I learned more about the extremely different landscapes of each city and town, across public and private sector hospitals. This is not unlike the area BAAQMD covers.

I'm currently the Executive Director of the Peralta Federation of Teachers, Local 1603. Our campuses include: Laney College in Oakland, Merritt College in Oakland (the main site for the creation of the Black Panthers,) College of Alameda, and Berkeley City College. While I primarily work with faculty, who often come from quite far away, I am also diving into a creating a campaign that directly works with students as well. Most of what both faculty and students care about are deeply steeped in equity, and overall health.

My professional and personal lives have been deeply intertwined and steeped in equity, which I think aligns with the council's vital work in fighting for clean, healthy air; healthy communities.

Certification/Completion

15. I certify that all the information included in this application is true to the best of my knowledge. *

Yes

16. If you are under the age of 18 applying for a position on the Community Advisory Council, a legal guardian is required to review and certify they agree with the commitments to participating in the Community Advisory Council and the information shared in this application. (Note: Description of responsibilities includes information about late night meetings, often ending by 10pm and overnight retreats.) *

not under 18



BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

AGENDA: 6

Community Advisory Council (CAC) Recommendation for New CAC Members

Community Advisory Council Meeting
May 16, 2024

John Kevin Jefferson III, CAC Council Member
Kevin Ruano Hernandez, CAC Council Member

Presentation Outline



- A. Creation of Member Selection Ad Hoc Committee
- B. Prior to First Meeting
- C. Outreach
- D. Applications
- E. Selected Applicants
- F. Public Comment
- G. Questions
- H. Vote
- I. Results

Requested Action



- Vote to recommend to the Community Equity, Health and Justice Committee that it recommend to the Board of Directors the following individuals for appointment to the Community Advisory Council:
 - Sejal Babaria, Alameda County seat for 2 years
 - Patrick Messac, Alameda County seat for 2 years
 - Dominick Ramirez, Youth seat for 2 years

Creation



- The Member Selection Ad Hoc Committee was created during the November 30, 2023, CAC meeting.
- The Ad Hoc consisted of Council Members Gordon, Pelagio, Ruano Hernandez, and Jefferson, as well as Board Chair Hurt
- The Ad Hoc worked to select candidates for the Board to consider their appointment to the Community Advisory Council candidates.
- The Ad Hoc selected candidates for two vacant Alameda County seats and one vacant Youth seat.

Prior to First Meeting



- The Ad Hoc Committee scored the applicants based on the initial criteria approved by the Board of Directors:
 1. Reflect the diverse demographics of the Bay Area;
 2. Include generational history and experience living in communities heavily impacted by air pollution;
 3. Demonstrate diversity of relevant experience – including environmental justice, technical expertise, health, and Air District functions or knowledge of the Air District; and
 4. Have access to other people who have a range of relevant knowledge and technical experience that could help inform the Community Advisory Council.

Outreach



- The outreach consisted of:
 - Online efforts (LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook, X [formerly Twitter], Threads)
 - Nextdoor
 - Air District's Currents Newsletter
 - Air District's Latest News post
 - Emails to James Cary Smith Grantees and AB617 partners
 - CAC members sending information to their networks

Applications



- The Ad Hoc Committee scored 33 applications
 - 25 applications for the Alameda County seat
 - 8 applications for the Youth seat
- The applications were scored over a two-week period
- On the third and final meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee, they analyzed their scores and came to consensus on the selection of the candidates for the three vacant CAC seats.

Selected Applicants



- The Ad Hoc Committee is here to recommend the following candidates to be appointed to the CAC:
 - Sejal Babaria (Alameda County seat) for 2 years
 - Patrick Messac (Alameda County seat) for 2 years
 - Dominick Ramirez (Youth seat) for 2 years
- There will be three votes for the CAC to consider the recommendation of each individual separately.



PUBLIC COMMENT



QUESTIONS?

Council Vote



Vote to recommend to the Community Equity, Health and Justice Committee that it recommend to the Board of Directors the following individual for appointment to the Community Advisory Council: Sejal Babaria (Alameda County seat) for 2 years

Council Vote (cont.)



**Vote to recommend to the Community Equity, Health and Justice Committee that it recommend to the Board of Directors the following individual for appointment to the Community Advisory Council:
Patrick Messac (Alameda County seat) for 2 years**

Council Vote (cont.)



**Vote to recommend to the Community Equity, Health and Justice Committee that it recommend to the Board of Directors the following individual for appointment to the Community Advisory Council:
Dominick Ramirez (Youth seat) for 2 years**



RESULTS

BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Memorandum

To: Chairperson Ken Szutu and
Members of the Community Advisory Council

From: Philip M. Fine
Executive Officer/APCO

Date: May 16, 2024

Re: Advancing Environmental Justice Strategies in the Strategic Plan

RECOMMENDED ACTION

None; receive and file.

BACKGROUND

This is an informational item for the Community Advisory Council (CAC) to learn about the progress and engage in the work of the Environmental Justice Policy Ad Hoc Committee and the Air District's Strategic Planning process. During the CAC meeting on September 9, 2022, the CAC voted to establish an Environmental Justice Policy Ad Hoc Committee to work on the development of an EJ Policy for recommendation to the Board of Directors. The Environmental Justice Policy Ad Hoc Committee started meeting in December 2022 and is working with The Metropolitan Group and Air District staff and leadership to plan and develop an EJ Policy and Action Plan, EJ Priorities, and prioritized EJ Strategies for inclusion in the Strategic Plan and the EJ Action Plan.

The Metropolitan Group is a social change agency that crafts strategic and creative services to amplify the power of voice of change agents in building a just and sustainable world. The Metropolitan Group's Executive Vice President, Vernice Miller-Travis, provides unparalleled Environmental Justice expertise in working with the CAC, staff, and the Board to develop an agency-wide Environmental Justice Action Plan. Vernice Miller-Travis previously worked with Bay Area communities during her tenure as Environmental Program Officer at the Ford Foundation. Moreover, in her roles as a Strategist, a National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) Councilmember for US EPA, coupled with her ongoing EJ training work, Vernice Miller-Travis has developed a national profile and an original EJ curriculum. She specializes in local, state, and national environmental policy development, sustainable economic development strategies and community revitalization, brownfields revitalization, environmental justice, urban and land-use planning, and equitable and sustainable community development.

The EJ Policy Ad Hoc Committee prioritized three key topic areas for the focus of their work on co-developing EJ Strategies with Air District staff: (1) Data collection and usage, (2) Permitting, and (3) Enforcement. The Ad Hoc has worked in several meetings from October 2023 to April 2024 with Air District Deputy Executive Officers, Division Directors and staff to co-create EJ Strategies for inclusion in the Strategic Plan and EJ Action Plan. They have also discussed sample actions that would fall under these strategies and their intended outcomes.

DISCUSSION

During the May CAC meeting, Vernice Miller-Travis of The Metropolitan Group, along with members of the CAC's EJ Policy Ad Hoc Committee and Air District staff (including Gregory H. Nudd, Deputy Executive Officer of Science and Policy, Meredith Bauer, Deputy Executive Officer of Engineering and Compliance and Enforcement, and Alexander Crockett, General Counsel), will present some examples of these EJ Strategies and key related actions that have been developed for the Strategic Plan and the EJ Action Plan.

BUDGET CONSIDERATION/FINANCIAL IMPACT

Funds for the presentation by The Metropolitan Group are included in the budget within the Air District's professional services Contract No. 2021.073.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip M. Fine
Executive Officer/APCO

Prepared by: Amy Smith
Reviewed by: Miriam Torres

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Advancing Environmental Justice Strategies in the Strategic Plan Presentation



BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

AGENDA: 7

Advancing Environmental Justice (EJ) Strategies in the Strategic Plan

Community Advisory Council Meeting

May 16, 2024

Rio Molina, Environmental Justice Policy Ad Hoc Committee Co-Chair

Vernice Miller-Travis, Executive Vice President, The Metropolitan Group

Gregory Nudd, DEO of Science and Policy

Meredith Bauer, DEO of Engineering and Compliance & Enforcement

Alexander Crockett, General Counsel

Presentation Outcome

The Community Advisory Council (CAC) will:

- Receive an update from the Community Advisory Council (CAC)'s Environmental Justice (EJ) Policy Ad Hoc Committee and The Metropolitan Group consultants on the development of an Air District EJ Action Plan.
- Review key EJ Strategies in the Air District's Strategic Plan, a draft EJ Action Plan Outline, and next steps for both the EJ Action Plan and Strategic Plan.

Presentation Outline

- Timeline: EJ Action Plan Development
- Strategic Plan Update and Process Diagram
- Visionary EJ Document Outline (DRAFT)
- Discussion of Draft EJ Strategy Ideas
 - EJ Policy Ad Hoc's top three priority areas:
 - **Data Collection and Usage** – Gregory H. Nudd
 - **Permitting** – Meredith Bauer, Ph.D.
 - **Enforcement** - Alexander Crockett
- Next steps for the EJ Action Plan and Strategic Plan

Presentation Requested Action

- None; this is an informational presentation only

Timeline: EJ Action Plan Development

Importance of engaging in a shared-learning phase and an Environmental Justice process in developing the EJ Action Plan.

- **September 2022:** The Metropolitan Group presented to Community Advisory Council (CAC); CAC voted to create EJ Policy Ad Hoc Committee.
- **Winter & Spring 2023:** EJ Policy Ad Hoc Committee discussed potential EJ solutions and built capacity for socialization of EJ Action Plan with District.
- **Summer 2023:** Conducted interviews with District staff and a Theory of Change exercise with EJ Policy Ad Hoc Committee, focusing on outcome of “Desired Impacts of an EJ Action Plan.”

Timeline: EJ Action Plan Development (cont.)

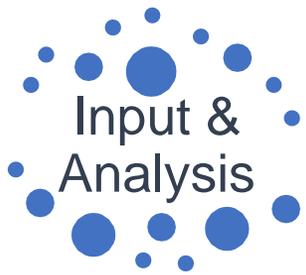
- **September 2023:** Conducted team-building exercise at CAC Retreat to include input from all Council Members on prioritizing “Desired Impacts of an EJ Action Plan.”
- **October 2023:** EJ Policy Ad Hoc Committee met with Division Directors and staff to discuss EJ solutions regarding permitting, compliance, and enforcement procedures.
- **January 2024:** CAC develops 9 EJ Priorities to guide EJ Action Plan and Strategic Plan and presents EJ Priorities to the Board of Directors.
- **Winter & Spring 2024:** Meetings between EJ Policy Ad Hoc and District Divisions continue to develop EJ Strategies for the EJ Action Plan and Strategic Plan.



Strategic Plan Update

- During March CAC meeting, Air District shared information on Strategic Planning process that began in Fall 2023.
- Strategic Plan will have four goals.
 - One goal is to [Advance Environmental Justice](#).
- All goals and strategies will be informed by and support the [CAC's nine draft EJ priorities](#).
- Strategies are also informed by CAC EJ Policy Ad Hoc conversations in [three priority areas](#).

Strategic Planning Process: Fall 2023 to Present



Input &
Analysis



Draft
Mission,
Vision,
Goals &
Objectives



Goals, Vision
& Framework
Development



Draft
Strategies



Draft and
Prioritize
Strategies



Draft
Strategic
Plan for
Review

October –
December 2023

December 2023
– February 2024

January –
March 2024

March –
April 2024

April 2024

Summer 2024

Visionary EJ Document Outline

- Welcome Letter
- Introduction
 - Background and purpose
 - Relationship to the Strategic Plan
 - Project activities and timeline
- Environmental Justice:
A North Star for the Air District*
 - The Seventeen Principles of Environmental Justice
 - The CAC's EJ Priorities
 - The Air District's EJ Journey

** This section would be aligned with similar content in the Strategic Plan.*

Visionary EJ Document Outline (cont.)

- EJ Action Plan Strategies**
 - Data Collection and Usage
 - Permitting
 - Enforcement
 - Additional EJ Strategies from the Strategic Plan
- Looking Ahead
 - Implementation guidance and accountability
 - Conclusion

*** The EJ Action Plan itself will be a working implementation document that goes into more detail about implementation of these strategies.*

Select, Overarching EJ Strategy Ideas in the Draft Strategic Plan

- Approximately 70-80% of the draft strategies for the Strategic Plan have an EJ focus
- Topics covered in the strategy ideas include, but are not limited to:
 - Use targeted assessments, including health impacts, to better tailor local needs for air pollution actions.
 - Partner with community on local data collection and usage.
 - Prioritize actions that reduce inequitable exposures to air pollution.
 - Review and update rules and permitting processes with an EJ lens.

Select, Overarching EJ Strategy Ideas in the Draft Strategic Plan (cont.)

- Improve investigation methods for violations in impacted EJ communities.
- Collaborate with community on developing expanded enforcement response policies.
- Increase communication with community members on violations and investigation procedures.
- Prioritize the recruitment, development and retention of a diverse workforce and leadership reflecting the communities we serve.
- Develop programs for cross-training staff and establish temporary assignments and other mobility opportunities to break down silos across the Air District.

Draft Strategy Ideas: Data Collection and Usage

- Develop targeted, detailed assessments of air quality in overburdened communities.
 - Actions may include:
 - Catalog and assess available data and identify gaps.
 - Partner with communities for additional monitoring and for reporting and tracking results.
 - Develop pathways for incorporating participatory research.
- Use assessments to prioritize reducing inequitable exposures.
- Support the collection and use of community data.

Draft Strategy Ideas: Permitting (1 of 2)

- Review and possibly update rules to ensure significant emission sources, including sources currently exempted from permitting, are adequately regulated to protect public health and consider EJ.
 - Actions may include:
 - Review exemptions in permitting rule to ensure they are health protective and don't exclude impactful sources from an adequate level of protection.
 - Review timing of when and how often the Air District reviews or revisits exempted sources and how a source is determined "exempt."

Draft Strategy Ideas: Permitting (2 of 2)

- Review and possibly update rules to ensure significant emission sources, including sources currently exempted from permitting, are adequately regulated to protect public health and consider EJ. (cont'd.)
 - Additional possible action:
 - Review source categories and develop/update source-specific rules as needed to ensure health protection.
- Improve the communication and transparency of the permitting process.
- Ensure consistency and improve timeliness of permit decisions.

Draft Strategy Ideas: Enforcement

- In conjunction with community input, develop and implement an enforcement policy including deterrence-based penalties, community-focused injunctive relief, and consideration of repeat violations in determining enforcement response.
- Prioritize inspection resources in EJ communities.
- Communicate regularly with impacted communities about compliance and enforcement activities in the community.

Draft Strategies

- Strategies supporting the CAC's nine draft Environmental Justice Priorities are under development throughout the strategic plan.
- These EJ strategies and actions to carry them out will be incorporated in the EJ Action Plan.

Timeline and next steps

- May 15th Workshop: Discussed EJ strategies and possible actions with CAC EJ Policy Ad Hoc, DEOs and Division staff.
- June 10th and future EJ Policy Ad Hoc Committee Meetings to discuss and develop the EJ Action Plan.
- Summer: Continue to work and engage on Strategic Plan.
- Fall: Finalize Strategic Plan for consideration by Board of Directors.

Public Comment

Discussion