



BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

AGENDA: 4

Vote to Adopt the Community Advisory Council's Environmental Justice Call To Action

Community Advisory Council Meeting

November 21, 2024

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

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

Latasha Washington, EJ Policy Ad Hoc Committee Co-Chair

Presentation Outcome

- Receive an update from the Community Advisory Council (CAC)'s Environmental Justice Policy Ad Hoc Committee on the finalization of *A Call to Action: Charting a New Course Towards Environmental Justice at the Bay Area Air Quality Management District*
- Vote to adopt *A Call to Action* as a CAC document

Requested Action

- Vote to adopt the Community Advisory Council's *A Call to Action: Charting a New Course Towards Environmental Justice at the Bay Area Air Quality Management District*

Presentation Outline

- Review highlights from the content edits and formatting updates made since the September 19, 2024, CAC meeting draft presentation on *A Call to Action*
- Vote to adopt *A Call to Action* as a CAC document

Background of *A Call to Action*

- CAC's nine (9) Environmental Justice Priorities presented to the Board of Directors in January 2024 served as a foundational guide for development of Goals, Strategies and sample actions in the Air District's *2024-2029 Strategic Plan*
- 80% of the 36 strategies in the *Strategic Plan* have an environmental justice focus which responds to concerns and priorities identified by impacted communities, including CAC Members

Background of *A Call to Action* (cont.)

- EJ strategies and actions were developed in collaboration with the Air District and the EJ Policy Ad Hoc Committee over several collaborative meetings and are highlighted in *A Call to Action*
- Key milestones about how to use an environmental justice approach, building trust, and sharing expertise from community, staff, and leadership have been foundational in this process

Background of *A Call to Action* (cont.)

- Over two (2) years, the EJ Policy Ad Hoc Committee collaborated with The Metropolitan Group consultants and the Air District on co-learning sessions and the development of:
 - CAC's nine (9) EJ Priorities
 - *2024-2029 Strategic Plan*
 - *A Call to Action*
 - Preliminary reviews of implementation plan actions
- If adopted today by the CAC, *A Call to Action* will be presented as informational items to:
 - Community Equity, Health, and Justice Committee on December 11, 2024
 - Board of Directors in early 2025
- The final EJ Policy Ad Hoc Committee meeting is planned for December 9, 2024

***A Call to Action* Table of Contents**

- Executive Summary
- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: Our Environmental Justice Priorities: A Call to Action from the Community Advisory Council
- Chapter 3: At A Glance: The Air District's Environmental Justice Commitments
- Chapter 4: Charting the Course: Actions the Air District will Take to Advance Environmental Justice
- Chapter 5: The Journey Ahead: Implementation and Accountability

***A Call to Action* Table of Contents (cont.)**

Appendices:

- A. The 17 Principles of Environmental Justice
- B. What is an Environmental Justice Community? (Definitions)
- C. The Environmental Justice Action Planning Process (in 2023-24)
- D. Crosswalk of Strategies from the Air District's 2024-2029 Strategic Plan with the Environmental Justice Priorities and Focus Areas for Early Implementation
- E. Federal, State and Regional Air Quality Responsibilities

Summary of nine (9) CAC EJ Priorities

1. Advance Environmental Justice
2. Provide Meaningful Agency Support to Advance Environmental Justice
3. Integrate Environmental Justice Considerations in Core Functions
4. Implement Environmental Justice Best Practices and Innovation
5. Communicate with Clarity, Transparency, and Integrity

Summary of nine (9) CAC EJ Priorities (cont.)

6. Grow Capacity of Air District Staff and Board Members to Integrate Environmental Justice
7. Grow Capacity of Environmental Justice Communities and Organizations
8. Seek Appropriate Legal Remedies and Coordinate with Environmental Justice Communities
9. Provide Technical Assistance to Local Governments

Input from the September 19, 2024, CAC Meeting

- The CAC's September 19, 2024, meeting was designed as an opportunity to provide feedback on the then draft of *A Call to Action*, which was publicized weeks prior to the meeting via:
 - CAC email list
 - Assembly Bill (AB) 617 Community Steering Committees
 - AB 617 Air District email listservs
 - Five (5) Air District social media posts on Facebook, X (Twitter), LinkedIn, Threads, and Instagram
- No public comments were received on *A Call to Action*
- All public comments made on the Air District's 2024-2029 *Strategic Plan* that overlapped in content were incorporated into *A Call to Action*

Highlights of Content Edits Made Since Sept. 19

- Comments made by CAC Members and Air District staff and leadership both at and after the September 19, 2024, meeting were incorporated into this final version of *A Call to Action*, including:
 - Letter from Davina Hurt, Chair of the Board of Directors
 - Crosswalk with Strategic Plan edits from public comment period

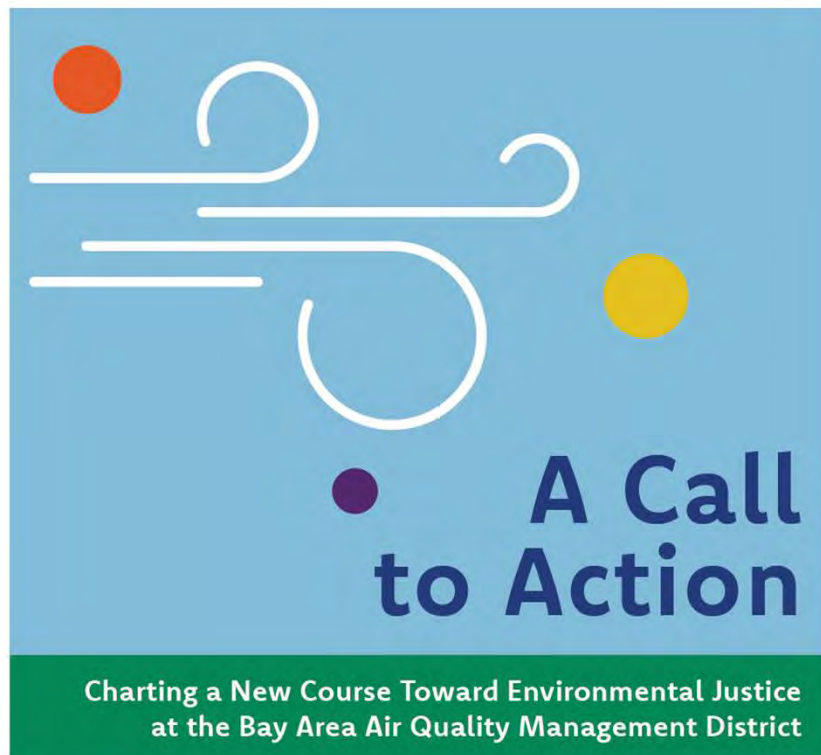
Highlights of Content Edits Made Since Sept. 19 (cont.)

CAC Member suggestions related to:

- Resilience Hubs as a community benefits model
- The Color of Law, by Richard Rothstein, listed as a historical reference for systemic racism
- The need to build meaningful, working relationships with counties, cities and mayors
- Incorporate robust, legally admissible data from communities into enforcement efforts
- Provide EJ communities with tools to help them address legal barriers to advancing EJ
- CalEnviroScreen 4.0 map of air pollution in the Bay Area

Highlights of Design Formatting Since Sept. 19

- Copy editing and proofing
- Colorful, In-Design software formatting and design
- Photos from CAC Members and the Air District
- Wayfinding colors and icons for each EJ Priority to guide readers
- Illustration by artist, Jose Solis, for Chapter 3: "At A Glance" representing the following six overarching EJ themes:
 - Localize air quality data approach
 - Respond quickly to air quality complaints and incidents
 - Engage environmental justice communities
 - Prioritize environmental justice communities for equity
 - Strengthen enforcement response
 - Improve continuously and collaboratively



From the Community Advisory Council of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District

November 2024



PRIORITY 2:

Provide Meaningful Agency Support to Advance Environmental Justice



The Air District can support the health and well-being of communities by re-envisioning its mission through the lens of equity and environmental justice. A strong vision that is actively supported by leadership must focus on achieving fair and equitable outcomes of clean air for everyone, as well as striving to eliminate disproportionate harm caused by current and long-standing legacy pollution.

Effective enforcement of stricter rules is a key area where the Air District can make great strides in advancing environmental justice. Communities especially want more transparency and accountability in how the district holds violators accountable. Communities also want greater transparency in how the district works with other private entities and state and municipal agencies to enforce air quality regulations.

In order to provide meaningful support, the Air District will need to dedicate more resources and funding for air quality management approaches that recognize and reduce disparities in local air pollution. This investment to advance environmental justice will enable the Air District to become a more inclusive, accountable, effective, and community-oriented organization.

The Environmental Justice Policy Ad Hoc Committee emphasized budget allocations, meaningful community participation, and enhanced enforcement and transparency around the permitting process as some of the critical ways the Air District could provide meaningful agency support.



"We need to take advantage of the strength of the community ... they are always there. Include them in community-engaged monitoring and community-engaged enforcement."

— Ken Szutu

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Policy Ad Hoc Committee would like the Air District to work with Environmental Justice communities in the future.

These Environmental Justice Priorities serve as a call to action for the Air District, and are detailed in Chapter 2. The Environmental Justice Priorities are intended to guide the agency to advance and address environmental justice within all aspects of the Agency's operations. They identify the conditions needed for the Air District to be an effective partner with frontline environmental justice communities who are most affected by air pollution to improve air quality and overall environmental justice outcomes.



Reflections from the Environmental Justice Policy Ad Hoc Committee Members

"The way in which staff showed up in this planning process showed a level of commitment and gave me a level of assurance that they want to listen. I see that being an outcome that really contributed to where we are right now. One way to rebuild trust is presence, and I think that the mere presence of folks in the meetings has been a success. And as a result, we now have this beautiful working action plan. I can't discount the way staff interacted, and also the way that the Community Advisory Council has interacted with staff. Because that's hard to do right?"

—Joy Massey



Credit: Ken Szutu



Public Comment





Questions?



COUNCIL VOTE

Vote to adopt the

***A Call to Action: Charting a New Course
Towards Environmental Justice at the Bay Area
Air Quality Management District***

Results





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AGENDA: 5

Implementation Planning for Compliance & Enforcement-Related Strategic Plan Strategies

**Community Advisory Council Meeting
November 21, 2024**

Meredith Bauer, PhD
Deputy Executive Officer of Engineering and Compliance
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Alexander “Sandy” Crockett
General Counsel
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Presentation Outcome

- Provide an overview of the compliance and enforcement strategies in the 2024-2029 Air District's Strategic Plan
- Discuss opportunities for meaningful community engagement

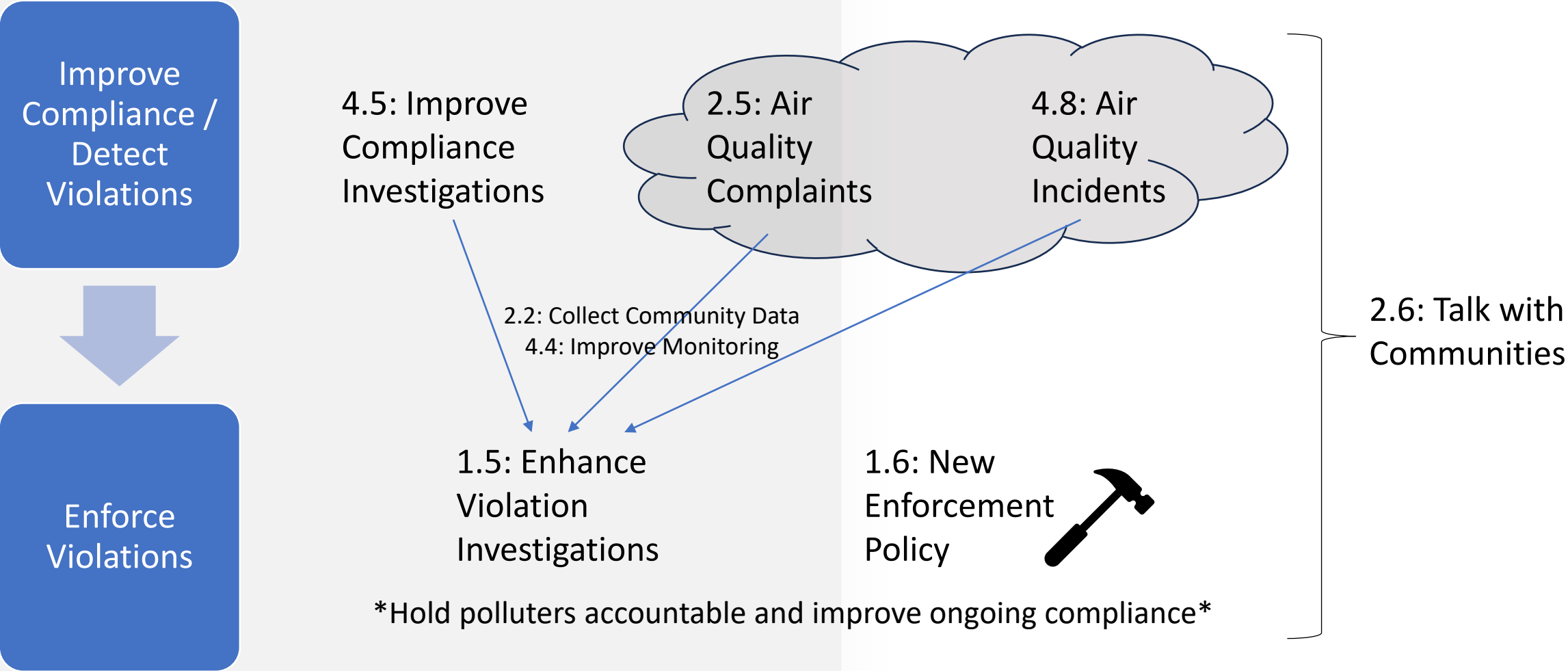
Requested Action

- None – Informational Presentation

Presentation Outline

- Compliance and Enforcement-Related Strategies and Commitments
- Compliance-Related Strategies and Commitments
- Enforcement-Related Strategies and Commitments
- Discussion and Feedback

Compliance and Enforcement-Related Strategies and Commitments



Compliance-Related Strategies and Commitments

- **Strategy 4.5 – Improve Compliance Investigations:** We will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of inspection and investigation resources to improve compliance and increase the impact of our enforcement program.
- **Strategy 2.5 – Air Quality Complaints:** We will improve the complaint process to ensure it is effective and transparent.
- **Strategy 4.8 – Air Quality Incidents:** We will enhance our incident response program in collaboration with government partners.

Implementation Process for Compliance Strategies

- Work with Compliance & Enforcement (C&E) Ad Hoc Committee to Identify Needs
 - Use case studies to assess what is working and what needs improvement in for inspections, complaints, and incident response
- Develop Content and Draft Policies/Plans/Documents
 - Targeted inspection policy and program based on priority sources and community input
 - Updated complaint system
 - Improved coordination and communication procedures during incidents
- Broad Public Comment Period & Review by Oversight Bodies
 - Full, formal public comment period on draft documents and policies
 - Presentation to Community Advisory Council (CAC), Assembly Bill (AB) 617 Community Steering Committees (CSCs), other external bodies
 - Presentation to Board of Directors / Board Committees

Preliminary Draft Implementation Timeline for Compliance Strategies

Work Begins Q4 2024	Project Scoping <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Select compliance-related case studies• Internal planning (set up staff teams, develop budget, etc.)• Convene C&E ad hoc committee meetings
Q1 2025	Phase I – Conceptual Development <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collect and review case study information to identify process improvements• Draft and finalize implementation plans
Q3 2025	Phase II – Content Development and Drafting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draft documents: targeted inspection policy => updates to incident response program => improvement to complaint system
Q1 2026	Phase III – Public Comment and Finalization of Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formal public comment period• Presentation to relevant bodies (CAC, Board of Directors/Board Committees)
2026-2027	Implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Begin implementing new plans & policies

Enforcement-Related Strategies and Commitments

- **Strategy 1.5 – Enhance Violation Investigations:** We will enhance our procedures for investigating violations of Air District regulations in communities overburdened by air pollution to better protect community health.
- **Strategy 1.6 – New Enforcement Policy:** We will collaborate with communities to develop an enforcement policy to better prevent violations of air quality regulations.
- **Strategy 2.6 – Talk with Communities:** We will meet with communities about air pollution problems in their neighborhoods, their concerns, how we are addressing them, and what more they need from us, so we are more responsive to communities.

Implementation Process for Enforcement Strategies

- Convene Implementation Working Group (IWG)
 - Broad community representation, but size must be manageable
 - Potential stakeholders: CAC, AB 617 CSCs, refinery corridor, industry
- Develop Content and Draft Policies/Plans/Documents
 - IWG initial input on conceptual design
 - Draft documents and present to IWG for review, discussion and feedback
 - Iterate as necessary to complete final drafts
- Broad Public Comment Period & Review by Oversight Bodies
 - Full, formal public comment period on draft documents
 - Presentation to CAC, AB 617 CSCs, other external bodies
 - Presentation to Board of Directors / Board Committees

Preliminary Draft Implementation Timeline for Enforcement Strategies

Q4 2024	Project Scoping <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meet with external stakeholders (ad hoc committee, Richmond CSC, etc.)• Internal planning (set up staff teams, develop budget, etc.)• Draft and finalize implementation plans
Q1 2025	Phase I – Conceptual Development <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set up Implementation Working Group• Initial meeting to discuss and gather input on policy content
Q2 2025	Phase II – Content Development and Drafting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draft documents• Circulate and discuss with Implementation Working Group• Iterate as necessary
Q3 2025	Phase III – Public Comment and Finalization of Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formal public comment period• Presentation to relevant bodies (CAC, Board of Directors/Board Committees)
Q4 2025	Implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Begin implementing new plans & policies

PUBLIC COMMENT

Questions & Discussion

Some questions for consideration:

- How do we maximize community input, in the most effective way?
 - Want broad and diverse input
 - CAC; AB 617 CSCs (esp. PTCA*); Refinery Corridor Working Group; community-based organizations, etc.
 - Need to keep the group size manageable
 - What is the right place for input by regulated industry?
- How do we keep the CAC informed of our progress?
- Timeline considerations
 - Don't want to rush – need to provide for meaningful community engagement
 - Don't want to delay – important initiatives that need to be implemented

*Path to Clean Air

DISCUSSION