



MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 12, 2020

CONTACT: Lisa Fasano, 415.710.3505

Bay Area Air District demands EPA reevaluate PM air standard *COVID-19 impacts potentially higher in areas with elevated particulate matter*

SAN FRANCISCO - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District and County of Santa Clara Health System will come together to discuss the urgent need for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to reopen and reevaluate the fine particulate standard known as PM 2.5.

Last month, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced it would not be reevaluating the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for fine particulate matter, known as PM 2.5. This action flies in the face of the recent health and scientific studies as well as the World Health Organization air quality guideline values.

WHAT: Media availability re: need for federal government to reevaluate PM 2.5 air quality standard

WHO: Cupertino Councilmember Rod Sinks, Air District Board of Directors Chair
Dr. Sanjay Kurani, Santa Clara Valley Medical Center
Rhonda McClinton-Brown, Santa Clara County Healthy Communities Branch Director
Cindy Chavez, Santa Clara County Supervisor District 2

WHERE: Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, 751 S. Bascom Ave. San Jose, CA 95128

WHEN: Thursday, May 14, 10:30 a.m.

WHY: U.S. EPA's own work suggests increased mortality due to increased exposure to particulate matter. Preliminary studies suggest increased mortality from COVID-19 to those in neighborhood's with higher PM 2.5 levels.

Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese and Vietnamese media interviews are available by request via Zoom. Please contact Kristina Chu at 415.519.5397.

The [Bay Area Air Quality Management District](#) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area. Connect with the Air District via [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#).

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Air District Communications Office
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