



NEWS RELEASE

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Air District and Richmond-San Pablo community members release first-of-its-kind air monitoring plan

Plan increases air monitoring, helps reduce health disparities in Richmond-San Pablo

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District, in partnership with community members, has released the *Path to Clean Air*, a Richmond-San Pablo community air monitoring plan – the first to be developed with co-leadership from the community.

The Air District worked alongside a committee of individuals from community organizers, environmental justice advocates and neighborhood groups as well as education, public health, government and industry stakeholders in the Richmond-San Pablo area to develop the community air monitoring plan. Together, they defined the geographic boundary for air monitoring, the air pollution sources of concern and the air monitoring objectives. The air monitoring study area includes Richmond, San Pablo, North Richmond, Montalvin, parts of Tara Hills, El Sobrante and the Richmond Annex.

“Living close to major sources of air pollution, residents in Richmond-San Pablo have historically experienced a disproportionately high health burden,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “This community air monitoring plan will provide vital information to the Air District and the community as we work together to reduce health and air quality disparities.”

The plan is one result of state law AB 617, which requires reduction of air pollution levels in selected communities with higher than average air pollution burdens.

Richmond-San Pablo’s approximately 150,000 residents are regularly exposed to emissions from a high density of air pollution sources near their homes which include large industrial facilities, freeways, rail yards, a marine port and many smaller sources. People living in the Richmond-San Pablo area experience more asthma emergency room visits, higher rates of cardiovascular disease, greater unemployment, lower educational attainment, higher housing cost-burden and lower life expectancy than in other areas of Contra Costa County.

"With the monitoring plan, the community is able to find out where, why and how our community is being affected by pollution sources and come up with a plan to make sure that Richmond/San Pablo has healthy and clean air for generations forward," said Randy Joseph, Richmond/San Pablo Resident and Community Co-Lead.

Members of the public are invited to download and review the plan at the webpage below:
<https://bit.ly/35zPc5c>.

Questions may be emailed to AB617info@baaqmd.gov.

With completion of the Richmond-San Pablo Community Air Monitoring Plan, the Air District will provide regular updates about the ongoing monitoring and results. This information will guide a Community Emission Reduction Plan as well as other ongoing air quality improvement efforts outside of the AB 617 process.

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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