

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:** Erin DeMerritt, 415.517.4147

### **Air District receives U.S. EPA grant for community air monitoring in East Oakland**

*CBE partnership will help advance air monitoring & environmental justice*

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District has received a \$298,114 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to enhance air quality monitoring in the Bay Area.

The Air District is partnering with Communities for a Better Environment to implement the project funded by this grant in East Oakland, a densely populated community faced with a high air pollution burden.

"We are excited to partner with the East Oakland community and begin work on this project, which will direct critical tools and resources where they are needed most," said Sharon Landers, interim executive officer of the Air District. "We applaud the EPA's commitment to advancing environmental justice by supporting air monitoring in communities that are overburdened by pollution, historically marginalized and underserved."

"Frontline communities like East Oakland face significant challenges stemming from ongoing and historical divestment as it relates to meaningful engagement in all policy and rule-making arenas," said Esther Goolsby, Northern California co-director of Communities for a Better Environment. "Our communities have been the most harmed by these decisions, and we are also the most burdened by the persistent threat of industrial pollution and increasing spells of climate-related chaos. This project addresses a critical need to engage East Oakland residents about what is in the air that we breathe, daily, as well as the cumulative impacts on our health and environment. We look forward to partnering with the Air District on this project and building East Oakland's capacity to actualize self-determination through collective transformation for a safe and healthy future."

The grant will enable the Air District to use an air monitoring van to perform exploratory measurements of pollutants and conduct studies. In addition, a network of air sensors and filtration units will be deployed to community members and schools, who will be trained to interpret data and respond to air quality emergencies, such as wildfire smoke events.

The grant is part of the largest investment for community air monitoring in EPA history and is funded through President Biden's Climate and Economic Plans and the Justice40 initiative. The Biden-Harris Administration created the Justice40 Initiative to confront and address decades of underinvestment in disadvantaged communities by directing resources to communities most impacted by climate change, pollution and environmental hazards.

[Communities for a Better Environment](#) builds people's power in California's communities of color and low-income communities to achieve environmental health and justice. This is achieved by preventing and reducing pollution and building green, healthy and sustainable communities and environments. Learn more about CBE's efforts via [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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*  
375 Beale Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94105  
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