

## **NEWS** RELEASE



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## Air District partners with community leaders in Bayview Hunters Point/Southeast San Francisco to develop plan that reduces unfair levels of air pollution & supports public health

Public invited to participate in kickoff meeting to ask questions & provide input

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District today announced the development of a pollution reduction plan that will help improve local air quality and health in Bayview Hunters Point/Southeast San Francisco.

To combat the disproportionate pollution burdens that exist in the Bayview Hunters Point and Southeast San Francisco neighborhoods, the Air District, in partnership with the Marie Harrison Community Foundation and the Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates, will develop a Community Emissions Reduction Plan, or CERP, that will serve as a blueprint for improving local air quality in this historically significant and culturally rich Bay Area community.

"This community-driven process will direct focused attention to neighborhoods severely impacted by longstanding environmental injustices, health inequities and poor air quality," said Dr. Philip Fine, executive officer of the Air District. "Together with the community, we are partnering to address the unequal burden of air pollution in Southeast San Francisco, and we look forward to beginning this process to achieve the goal of cleaner air for this vibrant community."

The final plan will establish public health-focused solutions centered on community air quality priorities that will be implemented by the Air District, California Air Resources Board and the community. A community-based steering committee reflecting the diverse makeup of this community will meet monthly to guide the plan development process. Residents are encouraged to attend the kick-off meeting on Tuesday, January 16, at 5 PM at the Southeast Community Center located at 1550 Evans Avenue in the Alex Pitcher Room in San Francisco.

Bayview Hunters Point/Southeast San Francisco, located mainly in District 10, is the fourth AB 617 area in the Bay Area, joining West Oakland, Richmond-North Richmond-San Pablo and East Oakland. The goal of this plan effort is to identify and accelerate new actions selected by the community that go beyond existing state and regional programs to provide direct reductions in local air pollution emissions and exposures.

Bayview Hunters Point/Southeast San Francisco is one of the most racially and economically diverse communities in the San Francisco Bay Area. The per capita income is roughly half of that in the larger San Francisco metropolitan area. The area has one of the highest mortality

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rates and one of the lowest life expectancy rates in all of San Francisco. Bayview Hunters Point/Southeast San Francisco is home to a significant concentration of hazardous waste and other industrial and commercial facilities. The largest mobile sources of pollution come from the I-280 and I-101 freeways.

AB 617 is a state law which recognizes that while California has seen tremendous improvement in air quality, not all communities have benefited equally, and some communities located close to freeways, ports, industry or other cumulative pollution sources need additional focus and resources to reduce exposure levels.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality and the global climate in the nine-county Bay Area. Connect with the Air District via <u>Facebook, X, Instagram</u> and <u>YouTube</u>.

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