



COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

CLEAN AIR FOR ALL



CAC CO-CHAIR JOHN KEVIN JEFFERSON

Community Advisory Council Hosts Two-Day Retreat to Advance Environmental Justice

Earlier this year, the Bay Area Air District's Community Advisory Council convened for their two-day annual retreat focused on advancing environmental justice priorities, improving community engagement and aligning efforts with the Air District's Strategic Plan. The retreat brought together Council members, community leaders and Air District staff for open dialogue, shared learning and collaborative planning.



CAC MEMBER MS. MARGARET GORDON

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL CO-CHAIRS:
JOHN KEVIN JEFFERSON, MAYRA PELAGIO, KEN SZUTU

Day 1: Transparency, Innovation and Environmental Justice in Practice

The retreat opened with welcoming remarks from **Lynda Hopkins**, Chair of the Air District's Board of Directors. The first day centered on community perspectives and innovative approaches to air quality monitoring:

- **Community Air Quality Concerns:** Community leaders including **Charles Reed** (East Oakland AB 617 Steering Committee), **Paul Wenker** (Citizen Air Monitoring Network of Vallejo), **Marina Muñoz** (East Oakland resident) and **Ed Kelly** (Vallejo resident) shared lived experiences and called for responsive action.



CAC MEMBER CYNTHIA PRIETO-DIAZ

- **Roadmap to Improved Air Monitoring Programs:** **Dr. Kate Hoag**, assistant Meteorology and Measurements manager, outlined upcoming air monitoring enhancements and how they align with EJ priorities through 2026 and beyond.



CAC MEMBER PATRICK MESSAC

- **Cumulative Impacts and Permitting:** **Dr. Phil Martien**, Vice Chair of the Air District's Advisory Council, discussed key findings from the Advisory Council's work on integrating cumulative impacts into the permitting process.
- **Air Quality Complaint Data Web Tool:** **Anja Page**, assistant Enterprise Systems manager, demonstrated a new online tool under development to enhance public access to air quality complaint data.



GUEST PRESENTER: PHIL MARTIEN

Day 2: Integrating EJ into Core Functions and Community Investments

The second day of the retreat opened with welcoming remarks from **Dr. Philip M. Fine**, executive officer of the Air District. The second day focused on policy, compliance and investments to support equitable outcomes:

- **Notice of Violation Trends and Legal Remedies: Council Member Patrick Messac and Alexander Crockett**, general counsel, presented data trends and legal tools being used to address air pollution violations across the Bay Area.
- **Targeted Inspection Program and Policy: Dennis Quach**, air quality specialist, introduced a new inspection approach informed by compliance data and community insights, including a pilot project in Bayview Hunters Point.
- **Five-Year Rulemaking Schedule: Victor Douglas**, director of Rules and Strategic Policy, led a discussion on upcoming rule development, with the Council providing input on prioritization criteria.
- **Managing Community Investments: Miriam Torres**, senior advanced projects advisor, presented an overview of regional funding strategies through the Community Investments Office, including allocation of penalty funds and the Local Community Benefits Fund.



LEFT TO RIGHT: CAC MEMBERS
LATASHA WASHINGTON AND DR. JEFF RITTERMAN



CAC MEMBER DR. JUAN AGUILERA

The retreat reaffirmed the Council's commitment to ensuring that community voices shape air quality solutions, particularly in areas most impacted by pollution and environmental injustice.

For any questions, contact Amy Smith at asmith@baaqmd.gov