

# Understanding Air Quality Data Sources

When wood smoke or wildfire smoke impacts the Bay Area, air quality readings may vary across websites or apps. That's because air quality data comes from different types of monitors that measure and process pollution differently.

## Air District Regulatory Monitors: *Most accurate for air quality alerts*

### **WHAT THEY ARE**

Air District air monitoring stations use high-quality instruments that meet strict federal requirements.

### **STRENGTHS OF REGULATORY MONITORS**

- Data is validated and quality assured
- Monitors are carefully placed using EPA siting standards
- Measurements are used to determine whether air quality standards are being met
- Data is used for official air quality forecasts and Spare the Air Alerts

Air District monitors are the Bay Area's most accurate source of air quality information. Because these monitors require specialized equipment and careful siting, they cannot be placed in every neighborhood.

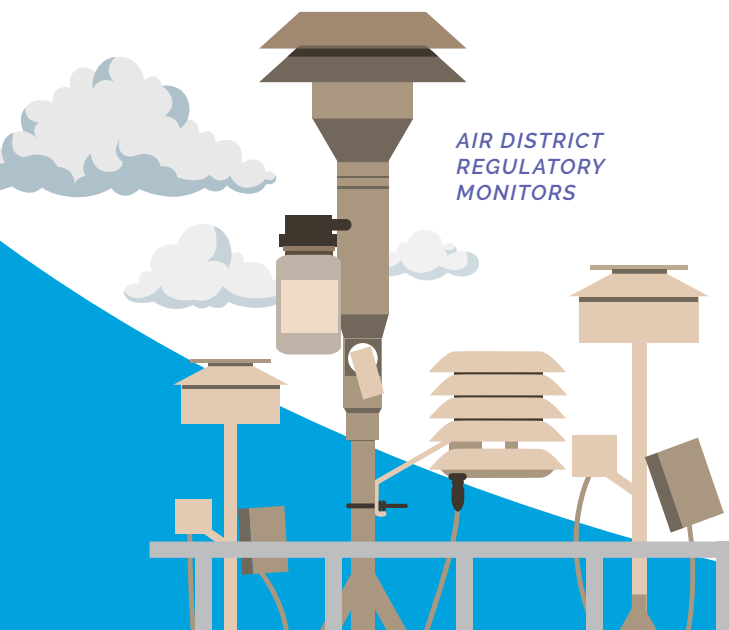
## Air Sensors: *Helpful for local trends, but less accurate*

### **WHAT THEY ARE**

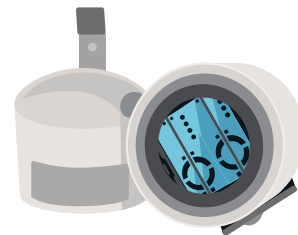
Air sensors are privately owned or community-operated devices that provide much denser geographic coverage.

### **WHAT THEY CAN DO WELL**

- Show changes in smoke conditions from neighborhood to neighborhood
- Fill geographic gaps between regulatory monitors
- Provide more localized information



AIR DISTRICT  
REGULATORY  
MONITORS



AIR SENSOR

