Bay REPAIR (Reinvesting Penalties for Air Improvement and Resilience)

Local Community Benefits Fund

Round 1 - Call for Projects
Richmond and Surrounding Communities

Bay Area Air District
January 29, 2026

BACKGROUND

Background

The Bay Area Air District (Air District) adopted the Community Benefits Penalty Funds Policy to directly support communities disproportionately impacted by air pollution. When penalties are assessed against entities violating air quality regulations, this policy enables penalty funds to be reinvested directly back to communities through impactful projects.

Penalty funds and other funds from enforcement actions are administered through the Bay REPAIR (Reinvesting Penalties for Air Improvement and Resilience) program, and are allocated to the Local Community Benefits Fund or the Regional Community Benefits Fund.

In addition to penalties, sometimes violators commit to providing mitigation funds to fund projects to mitigate the harmful effects caused by their emissions as part of the resolution of their violations. For example, in 2024, Chevron USA, Inc., committed to funding the Richmond Community Air Quality Fund to provide mitigation for potential particulate matter emissions at the Chevron Richmond refinery in violation of Air District Rule 6-5. The Air District is administering these mitigation funds through the Local Community Benefits Fund, although they are subject to certain additional restrictions that do not apply to the penalty monies in the Local Community Benefits Fund.

The Local Community Benefits Fund reinvests back in the specific community affected by the air quality violations that led to the penalty. The Local Community Benefits Fund may also invest mitigation funds that are more limited in their scope (e.g., Richmond Community Air Quality Fund).

The Local Community Benefits Fund Program Goals are to:

- Reduce air pollution or mitigate its impacts, improve public health outcomes, and build economic resilience for a just transition away from the harmful effects of a fossil fuel-based economy.
- Advance integrated projects to holistically meet community needs.
- Strengthen community-led and collaborative solutions.

This Call for Projects requests project proposals from eligible applicants in Richmond and surrounding communities. Please refer to the Local Community Benefits Fund Guidelines for overall grant information.

Funding Source

$35,744,460 total is available for Richmond and surrounding communities, derived from the following funding sources. This funding estimate may be revised to account for any accrued interest.

Applicants do not need to identify a specific funding source when submitting their applications; Air District staff will determine the applicable funding source based on the scope of projects selected for funding. As described below, the Richmond Community Air Quality Fund is more restrictive. Thus, projects eligible to be funded by the Richmond Community Air Quality Fund can be funded by either funding source, and will have a higher likelihood of being selected merely due to more available funding. Nevertheless, all eligible project proposals are welcome.

Background	Funding Purpose	Funding Availability
The Air District fined Chevron and several other entities for air quality violations	Penalty funds can be used for any projects eligible for funding under the Local Community Benefits Fund Guidelines	$15,744,460
Chevron committed to pay into a Community Air Quality Fund to mitigate the effects of potential particulate matter emissions in violation of Air District Rule 6-5 (Particulate Emissions from Refinery Fluidized Catalytic Cracking Units)	The Richmond Community Air Quality Fund is designated for projects to reduce particulate matter emissions in the vicinity of the Richmond refinery and reduce particulate matter exposures for members of the community	$20,000,000
		$35,744,460

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Communities

Projects must be located within the boundaries of the eligible communities.

Eligible communities are those located within the Path to Clean Air (PTCA) Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) area, a designated Assembly Bill (AB) 617 Community. The Path to Clean Air area comprises a portion of the City of Richmond, San Pablo and several unincorporated areas in Contra Costa County including Bay View, East Richmond Heights, Rollingwood, Tara Hills, Montalvin Manor, North Richmond, El Sobrante and portions of Pinole.

Path to Clean Air (Richmond – North Richmond – San Pablo) Area

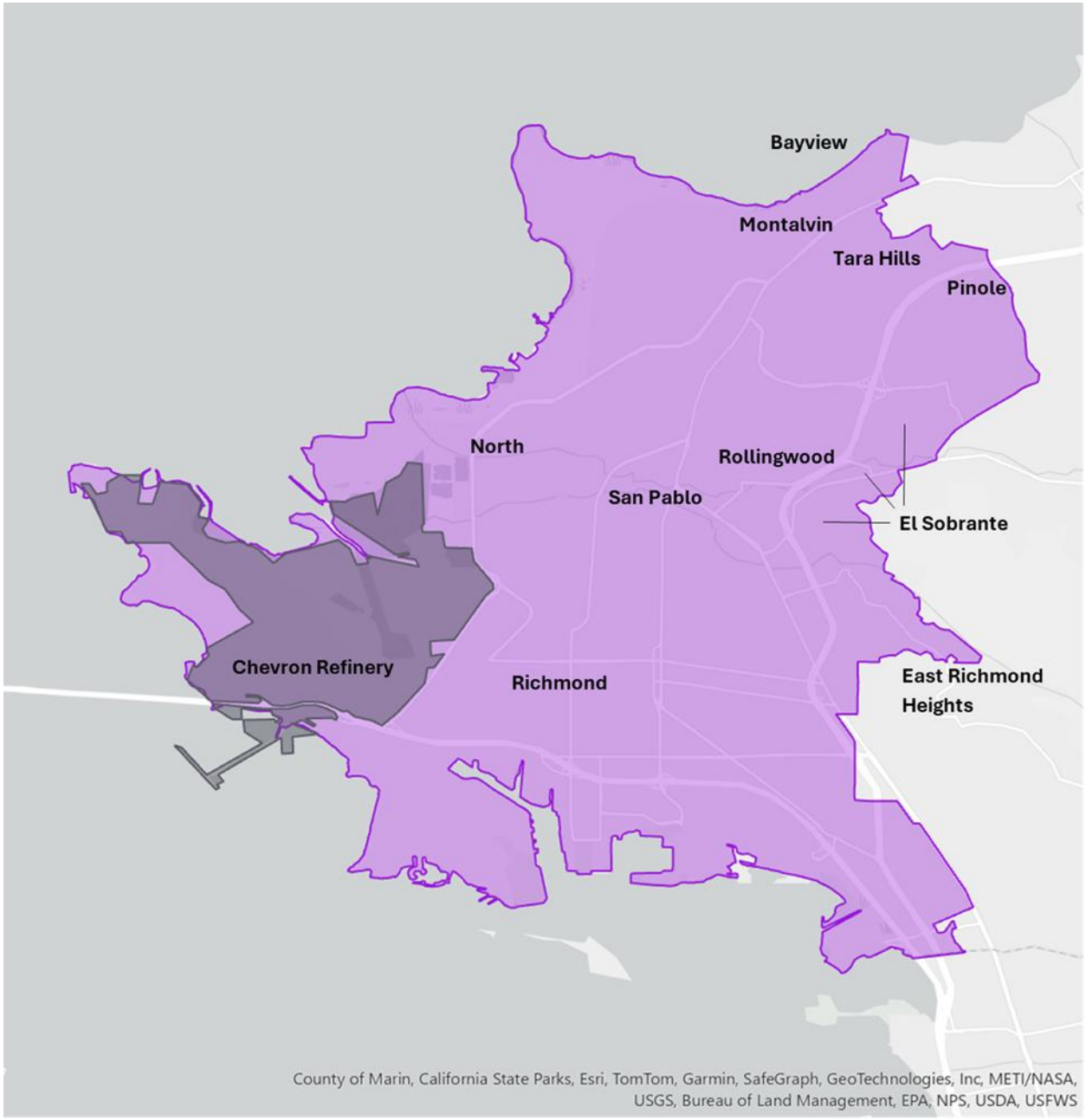

Figure 1: Communities eligible for funding from the Local Community Benefit Fund

The PTCA CERP boundary was established through a formal public process under AB 617. The Air District nominated the PTCA area in partnership with community stakeholders, and the California Air Resources Board selected it for development of a CERP. This designation recognized the PTCA area as one of the most disproportionately burdened communities in the region, with cumulative air quality impacts and associated health disparities well above the Bay Area average. Using the PTCA boundary ensures that funding is directed to the AB

617 community that was publicly identified as bearing the most significant cumulative burdens and as the focus of community-driven emission-reduction priorities.

The PTCA boundary also reflects the lived reality of exposure and vulnerability in western Contra Costa County. The geography spans portions of Richmond and San Pablo as well as nearby unincorporated areas such as Bay View, East Richmond Heights, Rollingwood, Tara Hills, Montalvin Manor, North Richmond, El Sobrante, and parts of Pinole. These neighborhoods are intersected by major freeways (I-80 and I-580), state routes, rail lines, and port facilities, all within proximity to the Chevron refinery—the largest single stationary source of $PM_{2.5}$ and sulfur dioxide in the community-scale emissions inventory. Modeling has shown that local $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations are highest in the northwest PTCA area, where socioeconomic vulnerability is also greatest.

The boundary also reflects stark health disparities that mirror the geographic pattern of air pollution. Within PTCA neighborhoods, asthma emergency-department visits occur at higher rates, life expectancy is lower compared to the rest of Contra Costa County, and low-birth-weight rates remain elevated among several racial groups.

Please visit the Air District website for an online map of the eligible communities.

Grant Awards

The Local Community Benefits Fund supports integrated projects that reduce air pollution or mitigate its impacts, improve public health outcomes, and build economic resilience for a just transition away from the harmful effects of a fossil fuel-based economy. Where sufficient funding is available, the Local Community Benefits Fund is focused on funding consolidated, larger grants with multiple projects that result in more immediate benefits within the community.

The Local Community Benefits Fund and the Richmond Community Air Quality Fund has $35,048,752 in available funding. Funding will be distributed through three grant types.

	Seed	Opportunity	Catalyst
Funding Availability	$35,744,460		
Anticipated Awards	1 - 5 grant awards anticipated	1 - 5 grant awards anticipated	1 – 3 grant awards anticipated
Grant Size	$100,000 - $200,000	$500,000 - $5 million	$10 - $15 million
Grant Term	Up to 2 years	Up to 3 years	Up to 5 years
Eligible Applicants	Open to 501(c)(3) non-profit, no Co-Applicants	Lead Applicant must partner with at least 1 Co-Applicant(s)	Lead Applicant must partner with multiple Co-Applicants
Eligible Communities	Path to Clean Air Community Emissions Reduction Plan area		