

Local Community Investment Fund

Call for Projects:
Richmond and Surrounding Communities

Bay Area Air District
October 2025

BACKGROUND

Background

The Bay Area Air District established 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 are allocated to the Local Community Benefits Fund or the Regional 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 goals are to:

- Reduce air pollution or mitigate air pollution impacts, improve public health outcomes and build economic resilience for a just transition.
- Advance innovative and integrated projects that drive transformation.
- 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. This funding estimate may be revised to account for any accrued interest.

Applicants do not need to identify a specific fund when submitting their applications; 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 funding being available. Nevertheless, all eligible project proposals are welcome.

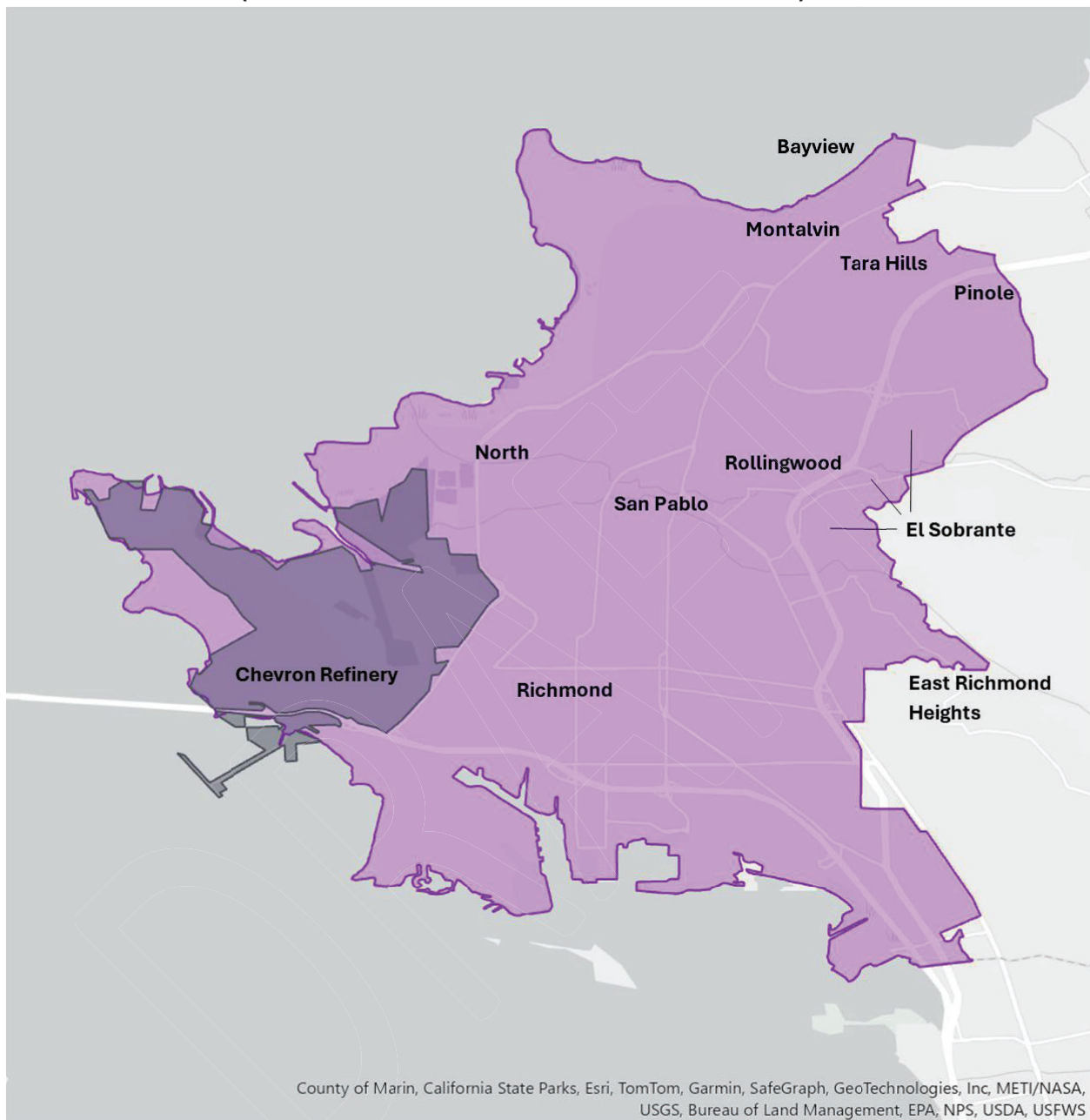
Funding Source	Fund	Funding Availability
The Air District fined Chevron and several other entities for air quality violations, and a portion of the penalty money has been allocated to the Local Community Benefits Fund.	<u>Local Community Benefit Fund</u> : designated to reduce air pollution, mitigate air pollution impacts, and improve health outcomes in the specific community affected by the air quality violations that led to the penalty.	\$15,744,460
Chevron committed to pay into a Community Air Quality Fund in settlement of its lawsuit challenging Air District Rule 6-5.	<u>Richmond Community Air Quality Fund</u> : designated 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

Eligible communities are those located within the Path to Clean Air (PTCA) Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) area, a designated Assembly Bill 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



The PTCA CERP boundary was established through a formal public process under Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617). The Bay Area 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.

Grant Awards

The Local Community Benefits Fund supports integrated projects that reduce air pollution or mitigate air pollution impacts, improve public health outcomes and builds economic resilience for a just transition. 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. Catalyst Grants are the primary focus of the Local Community Benefits Fund, and it is expected that a majority of the available funding will be awarded to Catalyst Grants.

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