

BAY AREA AIR DISTRICT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN



DECEMBER 2013



BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT



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ideas**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

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Table of Contents

Executive Officer’s Statement	2
I. The Importance of Public Participation; Introduction to this Plan	3
A. Principles of Public Participation	
B. Legal Authority and Mandate	
C. About the Air District	
D. Air District Internal Organizational Structure	
E. Air District Programs and the Community	
F. Range of Public Participation	
G. Air District Programs and Public Participation	
II. Current Methods and Strategies for Public Engagement	15
A. Public Participation Toolbox	
Public Outreach Tools	
Options for Public Participation	
B. Language Services	
C. Identification of Appropriate Public Participation Activities for Air District Projects	
D. Considerations when Planning Public Participation Processes	
III. Enhancing Public Participation	31
A. Implementation Actions to Enhance Public Participation	
B. Monitoring Public Participation Outcomes	
C. Living Document	
IV. Public Engagement in the Future	42
IV. Glossary of Key Terms	43
Appendix A: Overview of Air District Programs	48
Appendix B: Developing the Public Participation Plan	59
Appendix C: Language Assistance Analysis	61
Appendix D: Stakeholder Advisory Task Force Roster	102
Appendix E: Summary of Public Workshops and Public Participation Activities	103
Appendix F: Summary of Public Comments and Air District Responses	105

Jack P. Broadbent

Executive Officer

Air Pollution Control Officer



Thank you for your interest in the Air District's Public Participation Plan. We began work on this effort after reviewing our effectiveness in communicating air quality activities to Bay Area residents and businesses in languages other than English. Through that effort we recognized that although we had made great strides at reaching Bay Area residents with our messages, we found in some cases we had more work to do, particularly to Limited English Proficient residents. We further recognized the need to better provide information to Bay Area stakeholders regarding how and when they might engage with the Air District to share their comments, concerns and questions.

In this document you will find information about who the Air District is, what air pollution sources we regulate and monitor, and how to engage with us. This Plan, and the Air District's public participation efforts, are geared toward helping Bay Area residents, businesses, local governments and other interested parties understand air quality throughout the region and how we can all work together to both maintain and improve it. Further, this document serves as a guide to know how, when and the most meaningful opportunities to engage with the Air District as we conduct our mission of protecting and improving public health, air quality, and the global climate.

This plan is intended to be a living document – to change and to grow as the Air District continues on its path to providing a healthy breathing environment for every Bay Area resident. The Air District website will become a more useful and user-friendly portal to Air District information in the future and the Air District will make more information available and accessible to all stakeholders throughout the Bay Area. This is a big commitment and we don't take it lightly. We want to help everyone better understand the air they breathe, the regulations that control it, and the role we all play in ensuring our air quality continues to improve.

We hope you find this Public Participation Plan useful. We invite you to provide comments and continue working with us to ensure we all have a voice in improving air quality in our region. Good health starts with clean air and we invite you to work with us as we continue to improve the air we share and breathe here in the greater Bay Area region.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack P. Broadbent". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jack Broadbent
Executive Officer/Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO)



The Importance of Public Participation; Introduction to this Plan

The Public Participation Plan was developed in response to an internal assessment of the Air District’s public participation practices. The intent of the Plan is to enhance the Air District’s public participation process, making it easier for you to know how and when to engage with the Air District and to stay updated on the outcomes of our projects and plans.

In this Plan we have included Principles of Public Participation—ten definitions that capture the spirit and intent of the Air District’s participation goals. The Range of Public Participation on page 11 was developed along with symbols to help users understand what type of engagement is associated with a given Air District function. How the Air District evaluates and monitors public participation outcomes is outlined in the document, as well as a commitment for this Plan to be a living document—with the ability to change or adapt over time as necessary.

The document identifies current public participation methods and strategies using icons the Air District has developed to help the reader quickly identify what type of engagement activity the public can expect around a given Air District activity. A chart is included that illustrates the potential types of engagement for an Air District project or process.

In the Appendices, readers will find:

- An overview of key Air District programs
- Information on the development of the Public Participation Plan
- Language Assistance Analysis
- A list of the stakeholders who assisted with the development of the Public Participation Plan
- A summary of public outreach efforts and comments received during public outreach for the Plan

The Air District considers stakeholders as individuals, small businesses, local governments, industries and other parties interested in Air District rule making, regulation and enforcement activities and those impacted by the outcome of Air District projects or actions.

The Air District believes the Public Participation Plan is a comprehensive summary of the Air District’s activities and opportunities for public engagement. Please review this document, ask questions and provide feedback to help the Air District further improve our public processes now and in the future.

Principles of Public Participation

The Air District developed Principles of Public Participation to act as a cornerstone for each implementation action.

These principles were developed through work with an external Stakeholder Advisory Task Force (Task Force) and an internal working group of Air District staff. A thorough review of best practices of public participation adopted and implemented by agencies similar to the Air District helped guide development of these principles. They are intended to act as benchmarks of successful Air District processes and goals to achieve when developing and implementing public participation processes.

Principles of Public Participation

Meaningful	The Air District supports public participation that enhances Air District decision-making and helps the Air District improve its programs, regulations and effectiveness in fulfilling its mission.
Inclusive	The Air District strives to engage a broad range of stakeholders, with a broad range of interests and perspectives, in its public participation activities.
Transparent	The Air District strives to clearly communicate its decision-making processes and the role of the public in those processes.
Respectful	Public participation activities will be conducted with respect for all stakeholders and differing viewpoints.
Flexible	Public participation activities will accommodate a variety of engagement methods, project types and stakeholders groups, and will be modified as needed.
Timely	Public participation opportunities will be proactive and timely, occurring in advance of final decision-making by the Air District.
Clear, Focused and Understandable	Participation methods will have a clear purpose. The Air District will communicate to the public what type of input it is seeking and how input will be used in language that is easy to understand.
Informed	The Air District strives to provide timely, accurate and clear information to allow members of the public to stay informed, ask questions and provide constructive input.
Responsive	The Air District will carefully consider all public input received, strive to incorporate all public input when appropriate and communicate outcomes to the public - in particular to those stakeholders who took time to submit comments.
Quality	Achievement of each of the above principles will ensure quality public participation processes.



Legal Authority and Mandate

The Air District is one of several local, state and federal agencies that oversee the regulation of air pollution. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District has direct authority to regulate all stationary non-vehicular sources of air pollution in the nine-county Bay Area, including Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, southwest Solano and southern Sonoma counties.

The following is a list of government agencies that regulate sources of air pollution.

Government Agencies

- Local Air Districts – adopt and enforce air quality regulations for stationary facilities and issue permits for these facilities
- Cities and Counties – control where facilities and housing may be located and how they must be built or modified by issuing land use and building permits
- California Air Resources Board (CARB) – implements numerous California air quality laws that guide California standards for air quality (which are generally stricter than federal standards), adopts and enforces California standards for new cars and trucks and oversees efforts by local air districts to meet the national and state standards
- Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) – regulates hazardous waste sites and cleanup activities, including some that may affect air quality
- California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) – helps ARB establish California standards for air quality
- U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – implements the U.S. Clean Air Act, which establishes national regulation of air pollution, including national standards for air quality, national standards for new facilities that produce air pollution, national standards for new and existing facilities that release air toxics, national standards for new cars and trucks and state responsibilities to meet the standards

The Air District develops, adopts and enforces regulations for stationary sources of air pollution in the nine counties of the San Francisco Bay Area. The Air District tracks the amount of air pollution being emitted from regional sources and uses air emission inventories to develop rules that reduce air pollution in the region. Air emission tracking is done through air permits. These air permits are issued by the Air District to inventory emissions from air pollution emitting industries and equipment and to create restrictions on the amount of air pollution a source is allowed to emit. Decisions regarding where a potential air polluting source can be located are made by the city or county.

About the Air District

The Air District is the public agency entrusted with regulating stationary sources of air pollution in the nine counties that surround San Francisco Bay: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, southwestern Solano and southern Sonoma counties. The Air District's mission is to **protect and improve public health, air quality and the global climate.**

The Air District's core values are:

- **Excellence:** Air District programs and policies are founded on science, developed with technical expertise and executed with quality.
- **Leadership:** The Air District will be at the forefront of air quality improvement and will pioneer new strategies to achieve healthy air and protect the climate.
- **Collaboration:** The Air District will involve, listen to and engage all stakeholders, including partner agencies, to create broad acceptance for healthy air solutions.
- **Dedication:** Air District staff members are committed to the Air District's mission.
- **Equity:** All Bay Area residents have the right to breathe clean air.

On the following page is an overview of the local, state and federal government regulatory agencies involved in air quality regulation in California.



Figure 1: Federal and State Regulatory Structure for Air Quality in California

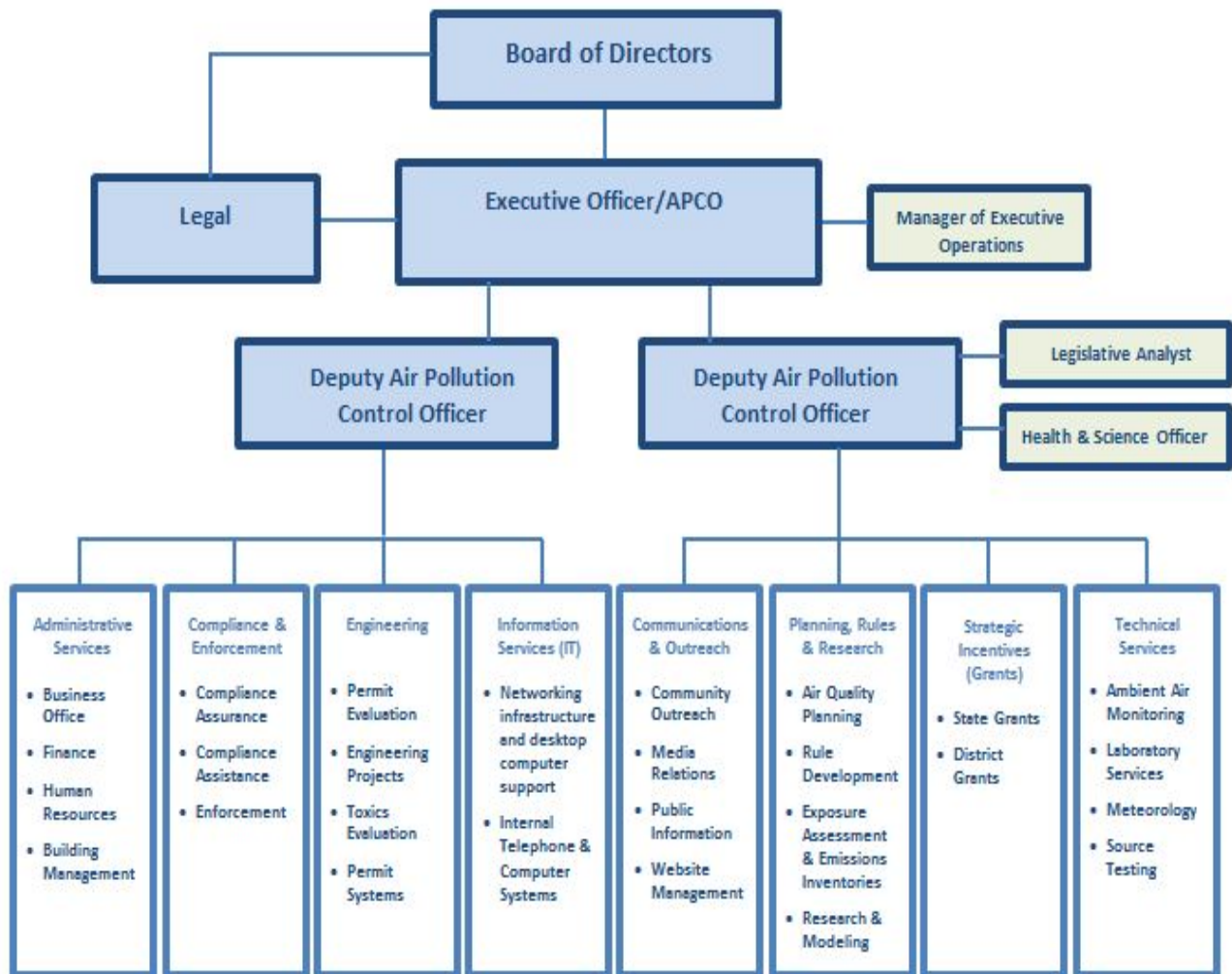


Air District Internal Organizational Structure

The Air District serves more than seven million Bay Area residents. Public participation plays a critical role in successfully carrying out the Air District’s functions.

The Air District is governed by a 22-member Board of Directors composed of locally elected officials from each of the nine Bay Area counties. The Board oversees policies and adopts regulations for the control of certain sources of air pollution within the Air District. The Board appoints the Air District’s Executive Officer/Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO), who implements Board policies and gives direction to staff. It also appoints the District Counsel, who manages the legal affairs of the Air District. The Air District consists of over 320 staff members, including engineers, inspectors, planners, scientists and other professionals.

Figure 2: Air District Internal Organizational Structure



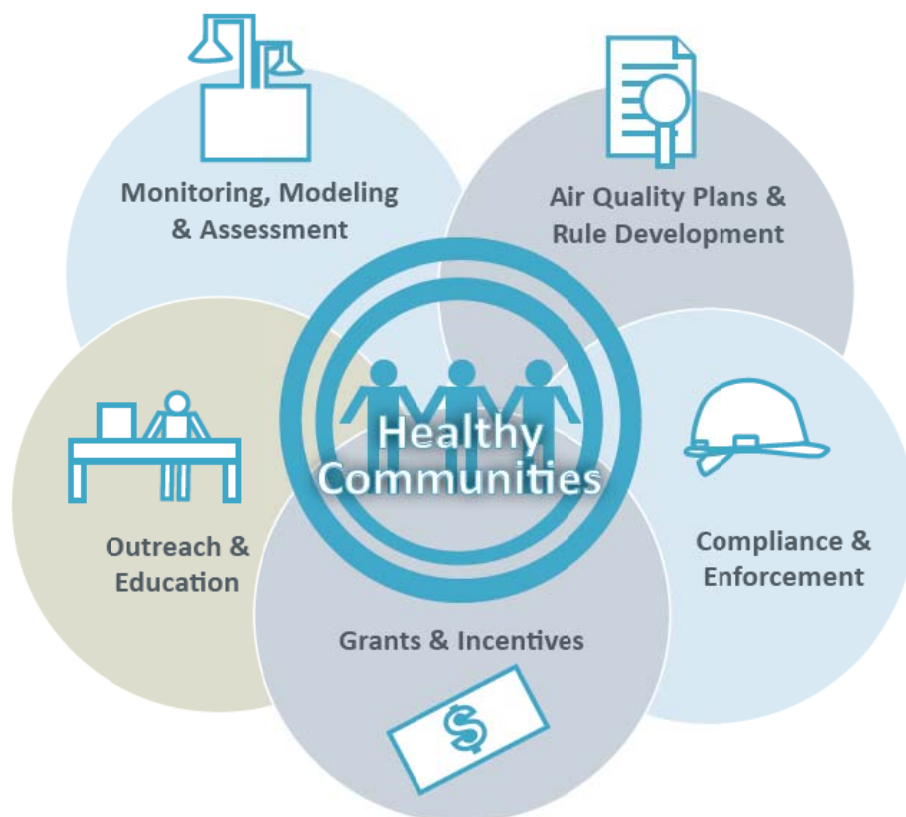


Air District Programs and the Community

Air District divisions work together to effectively achieve the Air District’s mission and vision. In addition to directly regulating stationary and area sources, the Air District administers numerous programs aimed at reducing pollution from sources not under its direct regulatory authority. These programs include incentives and grants for motor vehicles, locomotives, agricultural and construction equipment and marine vessels; guidance for examining air pollution impacts from projects subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and behavior change campaigns like Spare the Air. Many programs at the Air District are cross-divisional; as a result most Air District staff interacts with the public in some capacity through multiple programs and projects.

The Air District currently works with communities in a variety of ways, and many of the Air District’s programs directly interact with the public. The diagram below and the table on the following page illustrate just some of the ways in which Air District program staff engages with communities in the Bay Area.

Figure 3: Air District Programs and Healthy Communities



Air District Programs and the Community

Monitoring, Modeling & Assessment	Grants & Incentives	Outreach & Education	Air Quality Plans & Rule Development	Compliance & Enforcement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with UC Berkeley to study air pollution in West Oakland Joint modeling with City and County of San Francisco and San Jose to support Community Risk Reduction Plans Near roadway monitoring to measure local community impacts Health risk assessments Regional modeling of air pollutants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$300 million to reduce diesel exhaust (2006-2011) Fund charging stations and encouraging early adoption of electric vehicles Electric charging for ships to reduce port pollution Support of biking and other transportation alternatives Shuttle projects around the Bay Area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Participation Plan Website assessment and revision Language assistance and outreach to limited English proficient communities Spanish language portal to website Development of plain language informational brochures Spare the Air programs Community resource teams Employer program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New regulations to reduce local pollution impacts Wood burning rule Cement kiln rule Proposed metal melting rules Proposed refinery emissions tracking rule CARE program Community Risk Reduction Plans Climate protection programs (local Clean Action Plans) Healthy community development guidelines California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines 2010 Clean Air Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobile diesel enforcement programs with trucks and ships Inspections of refineries, dry cleaners and all other stationary sources of air pollution Neighborhood wood smoke patrols Compliance assistance workshops and seminars Compliance assistance brochures and fliers in multiple languages Participate in community meetings regarding regulations or specific air quality issues

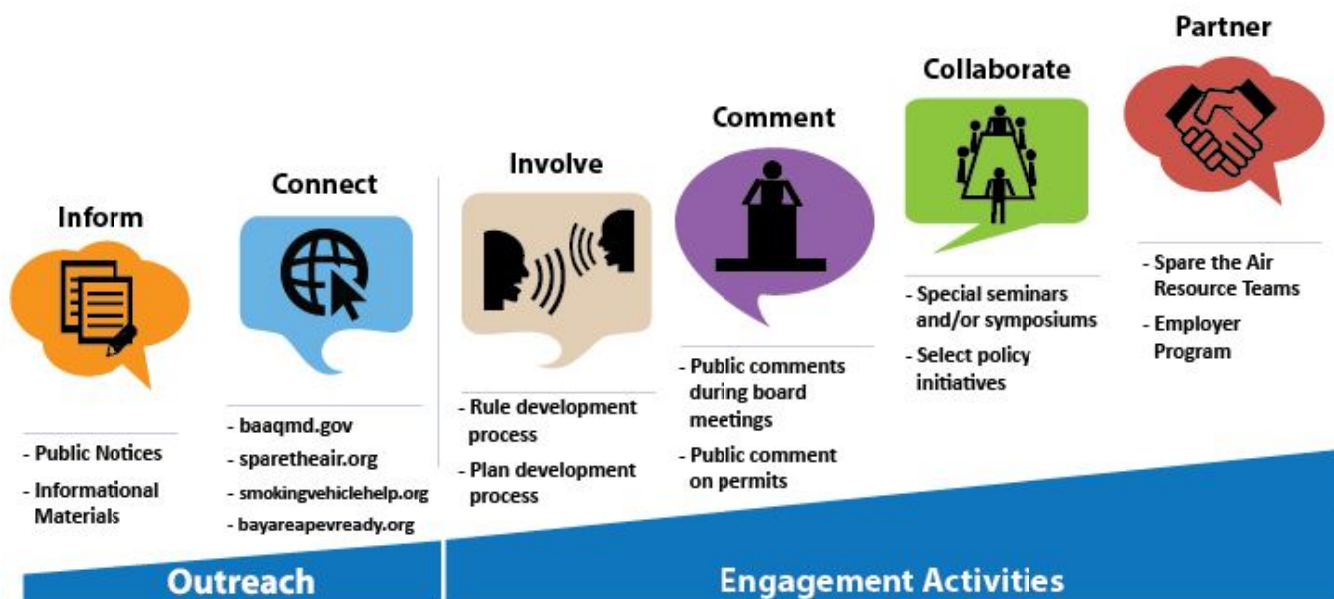


Range of Public Participation

The Air District recognizes that different projects often call for different public participation activities. Figure 4 below outlines a range of public participation levels— inform, connect, involve, comment, collaborate and partner. This range of public participation is based on the Spectrum of Public Participation developed by the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2), but tailored to Air District programs and activities. The levels correspond to the increasing amount of input, or influence, the public can have on a project.

Throughout this document, the Air District has utilized the Range of Public Participation to visually display participation opportunities associated with different Air District activities and processes. The icons act as a guide to easily identify the varying ways the public may participate or stay informed of Air District activities. The levels of input outlined throughout the document for activities and programs reflect the highest level of input and engagement the Air District can seek for a specific project.

Figure 4: Range of Public Participation



Inform

The levels begin with “inform.” When the Air District informs it provides the public with information about Air District programs and activities, as well as relevant air quality information. This information can help the public understand air quality problems and potential solutions. This information can also help stakeholders provide feedback on the Air District’s work and upcoming decisions.



When the Air District conducts outreach it provides the public with information about Air District programs, activities, as well as relevant air quality information on the Air District’s website. This information can help the public understand air quality problems and potential solutions; it is also a more interactive source of Air District information because it allows stakeholders to engage with the Air District by leaving feedback and comments at any time.



When the Air District involves the public, it gathers input on Air District projects and programs to understand the perspectives of different community groups, including industry, interest groups, local government and residents.

Examples of public participation activities that fall in this level include the Air District’s Rule Development process and the air quality plan development process. In general, when developing a rule or an air quality plan, the Air District seeks input from various groups, including interest groups, industry, businesses, local government, residents and other agencies to ensure a plan or rule is comprehensive and effective. The public is invited into the process early, through meetings and workshops, before the rule or plan is brought before the Air District Board of Directors for approval.



When the Air District seeks public comment, it gathers input on Air District projects and programs, usually after it has proposed a solution, issued a draft product, or is close to a final decision on a project.

Examples of public participation activities that fall in this level include requests for public comment on permits that require public notification. In the permits program, the Air District confirms that proposed projects comply with all applicable air quality requirements and then issues permits to projects that comply. The opportunity to submit public comment on some permits allows the public to verify that a project meets all applicable air quality requirements before the Air District issues the permit.



When the Air District collaborates with the public, it works with all interested parties to gather ideas, feedback and input on air quality issues. Similarly, the Air District may be called in by community groups, local agencies and industry groups on projects that impact air quality to offer input and provide technical expertise.

Examples of public participation activities that fall in this level include developing special symposiums related to air quality issues, like the Odor Evaluation Technical Conference held in August 2010.



Another example is the Air District's Community Air Risk Evaluation (CARE) Task Force, comprised of local agencies, clean air advocates and industry that came together to discuss air quality emission reductions in heavily impacted areas such as along major freeways or industrial neighborhoods.



When the Air District partners with the public, it works with stakeholders and community groups directly to affect positive changes in the community.

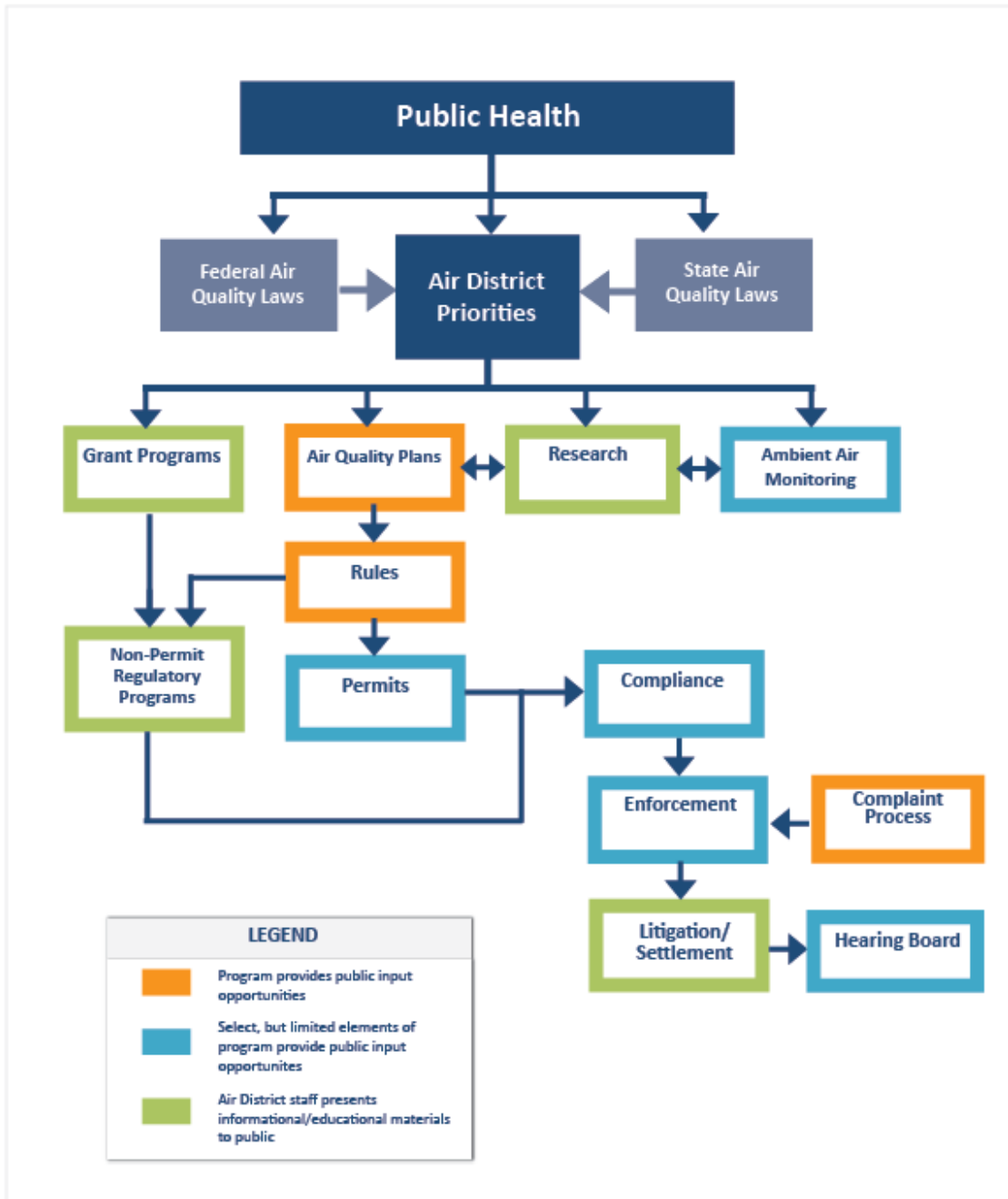
Examples of public participation activities that fall in this level include the Air District's Spare the Air Resource Teams and Employer program. Spare the Air Resource Teams are comprised of local agencies, clean air advocates and industry and affect change and improve air quality on a local level. The Employer Program consists of employers across the Bay Area who help communicate Spare the Air Alerts and alternate commute options to their employees to improve air quality. The Air District works in partnership with organizations like Breathe California, the American Lung Association, the Bay Area Environmental Health Collaborative (BAEHC) and Families for Clean Air to educate the public on the health effects of poor air quality. In addition, the Air District works in partnership with other agencies, like Marin County, in assisting residents to replace woodstoves and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission on a regional Spare the Air Youth program.

The spectrum above distinguishes between activities used to conduct "outreach" and activities used to conduct "engagement."

Air District Programs and Public Participation

Air District programs are highly interconnected and different programs allow for different levels of public participation as illustrated below. Air District priorities and projects are shaped by public health goals, as are federal and state air quality laws that influence and direct Air District priorities.

Figure 5: Air District Programs and Public Participation





Current Methods and Strategies for Public Engagement

Implementation of the Public Participation Plan will augment and improve current public engagement efforts. Currently, the Air District works with stakeholders and interested parties in a variety of different forums: workshops, meetings, conferences and public hearings, to name a few. Implementing the Public Participation Plan will ensure the Air District consistently organizes public participation efforts for all major projects and processes.

The Air District is one of many public entities working together to regulate air quality in the Bay Area and the State of California. The Air District is a regional agency created by the state legislature in 1955. The Air District has the authority to impose rules and regulations to regulate air quality in the nine counties of the Bay Area including: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, Santa Clara, San Francisco, San Mateo, southwestern Solano and southern Sonoma counties.

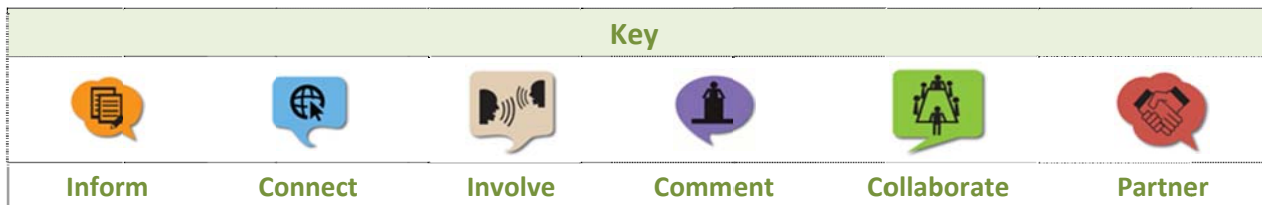
In some cases, the Air District is guided in determining public engagement opportunities because they are set out in state or federal law. In cases where no federal or state law mandates specific public participation efforts, Air District staff work with stakeholders and interested parties to implement public engagement methods that best suit a project or process.

Public participation is an important component of the Air District's work. The Air District must weigh public input in carrying out many of its programs, including the development of regulations, air quality plans and major policy initiatives. In addition, understanding community priorities helps the Air District design more effective air quality programs.

The Air District uses a number of public participation methods to inform the public of Air District programs and activities and to gather public input. The following section first sets context for the Range of Public Participation, and outlines the variety of activities the Air District draws from when conducting public participation activities. It includes both **outreach activities**, which focus on informing the public, and **engagement activities**, which focus on gathering public input. The section then provides general guidance on identifying and selecting the outreach activities most appropriate to a specific project.

Public Participation Toolbox

Below are descriptions of the variety of activities the Air District draws from when conducting public participation activities. The descriptions are divided into public outreach and public engagement opportunities. Public outreach refers to activities that provide information to the public. This information can help interested persons, organizations, businesses and public agencies to provide feedback to the Air District on its work and decisions. Public engagement refers to activities that provide the opportunity for feedback and two-way communication between the public and the Air District. Some tools identified in the outreach opportunities section below could also be used as opportunities for engagement.



Public Outreach Tools

Outreach activities inform the public of Air District programs and activities, and invite the public to participate in the engagement processes for upcoming projects. Outreach activities also provide helpful and relevant information to the public, so that the public can provide informed and constructive contributions during engagement activities. Outreach or information sharing activities generally occur before engagement activities.

Websites

The Air District's website (www.baaqmd.gov) is the main source of information regarding Air District programs and activities.

The website maintains information regarding existing programs and also serves as an announcement mechanism for upcoming projects and activities. Key information provided via the website includes:

- All Air District regulations
- Agendas and minutes for all Board of Directors, Board Committees, Hearing Board and Advisory Council meetings
- Draft permit evaluations for permits subject to formal public review
- Air quality plans
- Air District projects under development, such as rules and plans
- News releases
- Information regarding public participation opportunities



- Monitoring and modeling data

In addition, several Air District programs maintain websites with supplementary information specific to that program; these include:

- Spare the Air: www.sparetheair.org
- Air Monitoring : gate1.baaqmd.gov/aqmet/aq.aspx
- 877-4-NOBURN: www.8774noburn.org
- Smoking Vehicle Help: www.smokingvehiclehelp.org
- Bay Area Plug-in Electric Vehicle Ready: www.bayareapevready.org
- Spare the Air Youth: www.sparetheairyouth.org

Printed Materials



The printed materials described below are generally available on the Air District’s website and can be obtained by calling the Air District’s Public Information Line, (415) 749-4900, for assistance. Air District staff will mail brochures to interested parties.

The Air District develops and distributes educational materials, fact sheets, technical reports, plans, and summaries. These materials provide background information on Air District projects and help create a common understanding between interested parties and the Air District. Air District brochures and fliers include:

- An Introduction to the Air District
- Air Quality and Your Health
- Air Quality Complaint Procedures
- 1-800-EXHAUST flier with information on how to report smoking vehicles
- Wood Burning in the Bay Area: An Overview of the Wood Burning Rule
- Toxic Air Contaminants—a brochure which explains what toxic air contaminants are, sources and regulations
- Coating Operations: Motor Vehicle and Mobile Equipment—a brochure which explains compliance and permitting information for coating operations
- Open Burning Information—a brochure which explains open burning regulations and permitting

Air District fact sheets and plans include:

- Facility fact sheets
- Goods Movement Program information
- Ozone Attainment Plan
- Clean Air Plan
- Compliance tips sheets, including information on asbestos removal and dry cleaning operations
- Compliance information for marsh, stubble and straw burning activities

Telephone Communications



Telephone lines are accessible to a majority of the Air District's constituency and can be used to quickly provide information to the public. The Air District maintains a number of lines that the public can call to obtain Air District information and assistance. These include:

- Agricultural Burn Forecast (800) 792-0787: Callers can hear a recording of the daily agricultural burn forecast.
- Asbestos Technicians (415) 749-4762: Callers are connected to an asbestos specialist to assist with questions regarding asbestos removal or demolition projects that may involve asbestos.
- Compliance Assistance (415) 749-4999: Callers can leave a message for the Compliance Officer of the Day, who will return their call the same day and provide assistance regarding compliance and air quality regulatory information.
- Air Quality and Odor Complaint Line (800) 334-ODOR (6367): Callers are connected with an operator who will document the caller's air quality complaint and forward it to the Enforcement team for review. This line can receive calls in languages other than English.
- HELP AIR (800) 435-7247: Callers can hear a recording of the daily air quality forecast and leave a message requesting additional information.
- Language Services (415) 749-4609: Callers can leave a message requesting translated materials or in-person language assistance at an upcoming Air District meeting. The line is available in five languages – English, Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.
- Permitting (415) 749-4990: Callers are connected to a permit engineer.
- Public Information (415) 749-4900: Calls are answered by Air District Communications and Outreach team or routed to the appropriate Air District staff. This line can receive calls in languages other than English.
- Smoking Vehicle Complaints (800) EXHAUST (794-7664): Callers can report a vehicle emitting visible smoke.
- Check Before You Burn (877) 4NO-BURN (466-2876): Callers can hear a recording of the daily wood burning status in one of five languages - English, Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. Callers can also submit a wood burning complaint.
- Grants Assistance (415) 749-4994: Calls are answered by Air District grants staff who assist individuals interested in grants to improve equipment and reduce emissions.



E-mail Communications from Air District



E-mail is a fast and effective method for distribution of information and notifications. The Air District maintains several e-mail lists for interested parties that can be used to initiate outreach around a specific project. E-mail lists include parties interested in:

- Board of Directors agendas
- Advisory Council agendas
- Regulation changes
- Enforcement settlements
- Air quality plans and programs
- General Air District information
- Spare the Air alerts
- Daily air quality forecasts

The Air District uses these e-mail lists to communicate project developments, notify the public of upcoming meetings and events, and provide general information about the Air District. The Air District also compiles project-specific e-mail notification lists and actively updates these lists during the public participation phase of a project.

Members of the public can sign-up for Air District e-mail listservs on the main Air District website or by calling the Public Information line (415) 749-4900.

Direct Mail



Direct mail can be used to distribute information directly to stakeholders' homes or work locations. Due to the printing and mailing cost and environmental impacted associated with direct mail, the Air District uses direct mail when appropriate. Direct mailings include:

- Notifications of upcoming workshops to libraries or community centers in neighborhood locations
- Notifications to permitted sources regarding regulatory changes affecting their industry
- Notifications to residents near sources of air pollution as outlined by state and federal law

Public Notices in Newspapers and Advertisements



Public notices in newspapers are used to inform the public of Air District programs, activities and upcoming engagement opportunities as required by law.

Advertisements can be used to deliver key messages to a large audience; the Air District utilizes advertisements to share information on beneficial programs at the Air District, like the Smoking Vehicles program, or a lawnmower replacement program, as well as convey health messages that underscore the

importance of clean air on health. The Air District advertises on television, in local newspapers, bus shelters, billboards, buses and other media.

Media News Releases



Media news releases distribute information to television, radio, print and online media sources. The Air District issues news releases regarding Spare the Air alerts; air pollution events, like open-burning season; and changes to regulations or rules; and upcoming workshops and events. News releases can be found on the Air District's website.

Door-to-Door Outreach



Door-to-door outreach allows Air District staff to interact directly and immediately with residents in their own neighborhoods; it also allows Air District staff to meet potential interested parties and understand local needs. The Air District has conducted door-to-door outreach to inform the public of the wood burning regulation in areas known to have high levels of wood burning.

The Air District will continue to do door-to-door outreach for Spare the Air campaigns and consider doing door-to-door outreach for other educational campaigns and projects.

Community Events and Booths



Participating in community events allows Air District staff to meet and interact directly with residents in the Bay Area. Air District staff participates in approximately 100 community events each year, such as Earth Day festivals, county fairs and employer fairs. The Air District participates by hosting a booth, delivering presentations, or simply networking with community members. At these events, Air District staff communicates information regarding the health impacts of air quality, answers questions about local air quality issues and provides information regarding upcoming Air District projects. To invite the Air District to participate in a community event, community members should call the Public Information line (415) 749-4900.

Social Media



Social media networks provide opportunities to provide information quickly to interested members of the public. The Air District maintains Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, Google+, and Pinterest accounts for the Air District's Spare the Air program. Residents can "follow," "like," or subscribe to the Spare the Air program on these platforms. Currently, the Air District does not use social media for its general programs. The Air District will evaluate new social media platforms for other Air District activities.



Text Messaging and Applications



Text messaging is an informal method to immediately contact interested members of the public. The Air District currently utilizes text messaging to communicate Spare the Air alerts; individuals can sign up for text messages by visiting the Air District’s Spare the Air website.

In addition, the Air District’s Spare the Air program offers an “app” for use on smart phones. The app offers information on air quality and Spare the Air Alerts, alerting individuals the following day is a Spare the Air day when an alert is issued. To download the Spare the Air app, visit a smart phone market place, app store, or the Spare the Air website for a link.

Options for Public Participation

The Air District conducts engagement activities when soliciting input from the public on Air District activities. Public engagement is a two-way communication between the Air District and the public. The Air District strives to make all public engagement opportunities accessible and inclusive. The Air District selects public engagement opportunities based on the type of input it seeks from the public. On some projects, the Air District has greater discretion in shaping the project; when the Air District has greater discretion it often seeks extensive public input. Other Air District projects are more stringently guided by existing laws and therefore provide more limited opportunities for public input. In general, the public is encouraged to attend workshops and smaller group meetings, when possible, to provide input on Air District projects.

Key					
Inform	Connect	Involve	Comment	Collaborate	Partner

Public Comment during Board and Council Meetings



The Air District’s Board of Directors, Advisory Council, and Hearing Board meetings provide opportunities for public comment. In accordance with the Brown Act, members of the Boards and Council may choose to respond to public comments or questions but may not take action or enter into substantive discussion on non-agendized items. Air District Board members and staff encourage interested stakeholders to attend workshops and meetings to convey concerns and questions about a project. Involvement earlier in the development of a project allows Air District staff to incorporate feedback and address questions before a project is presented to the Board of Directors. Members of the

public can also view and participate in Air District Board of Directors meetings via webcast, available via the Air District website.

Public Hearings



The Air District's Board of Directors hosts public hearings when considering adopting or amending regulations, rules or basin-wide air pollution control plans; public hearings are typically hosted at the Air District headquarters and allow residents to provide comments and feedback on the proposed action. The public may submit written comment prior to the hearing. The public may also comment during the meeting at which time public comment is generally limited to three minutes per person and is entered as part of the public record for the hearing in addition to any written comments. In addition, the Air District hosts public hearings as directed by state and federal law regarding particular significant projects; for example, the Air District hosted a public hearing for the adoption of the 2010 California Environmental Quality Act Thresholds of Significance. Public hearings are announced 30 days in advance of the hearing.

Public hearings do not allow for two-way dialogue between Air District staff and members of the public; the Air District encourages interested stakeholders to engage with Air District staff early in the process, at meetings, workshops and other activities.

Written Comments



The Air District solicits public comment in written form during comment periods on various projects, including plans, rules and select permits. Comments are accepted in letters or e-mail directed to Air District contacts identified for the project. The Air District generally provides multiple comment opportunities throughout the rule development and planning process. These comment periods can be from 30 to 90 days, depending on the nature of the project and the level of public interest; however, comments are accepted until a rule or plan is adopted by the Board. The public is encouraged to submit written comments early so staff can thoroughly evaluate, respond and incorporate comments as applicable. Written comments allow Air District staff to better understand public input and develop comprehensive and thorough responses. When soliciting public comment for permits, the Air District follows applicable state and federal requirements.

Comments by Phone



Dedicated phone lines can be used to receive comments for a permit, plan or rule development process. Comments by phone allow residents to provide a comment quickly. Comments by phone can take longer for Air District staff to respond to as Air District staff must first transcribe the recorded message for the record. In the past the Air District has utilized dedicated phone lines for plan development, like the 2010 Clean Air Plan. Currently, the Air District provides a telephone comment option with every public



notice related to a permit. The public can leave a voice message of up to one minute on a dedicated telephone line; Air District staff responds to commenters who have provided contact information.

Workshops



The Air District holds workshops to educate the public and solicit input on a specific issue. Workshops are open to the public and often follow a structured format, beginning with a presentation designed to orient participants about the topic, followed by a discussion or question-and-answer session. The discussion can occur in a single large group or in multiple smaller groups to promote more effective dialogue. Discussion and question-and-answer sessions can provide new ideas and approaches for an issue. Participants can provide written or oral feedback at a workshop and potentially have their questions answered immediately by staff. Workshops can be preceded or followed by an open house.

The Air District may partner with stakeholder groups or organizations to co-host events, including workshops, open houses and meetings.

Webinars



The Air District periodically hosts webinars at the Air District office. The public may attend a webinar like a standard meeting or participate electronically. Webinars allow Air District staff to present information in a workshop format and allow individuals to participate across the jurisdiction. Webinars remain on the Air District website and can be viewed at a later time and date. Participants are welcome to e-mail questions to the Air District during the webinar that are read and answered during the webinar.

Open Houses



The open house format provides an opportunity for the public to gather information, ask questions and informally speak with Air District experts on a specific topic. Open houses may begin with a brief opening or presentation by Air District staff before transitioning to a less structured format that allows participants to circulate between information stations at their leisure. Open houses enable Air District staff to gather both written and verbal feedback from participants.

This format can be effective when the Air District is:

- Introducing a decision-making process
- Providing an update on a specific project
- Sharing results with the public

Small Group Meetings



Small group meetings between Air District staff and stakeholders are an effective setting to discuss specific stakeholder interests and concerns. Small group meetings, which normally include up to 12-15

participants, can help identify and resolve potential misunderstandings and conflicts early in a process. Meeting objectives and agendas can be developed collaboratively with the attendees, which helps promote shared ownership of the meeting. Meetings can be initiated by the Air District or the public, and can be a single event or part of a series of multiple meetings.

Presentations to Standing Committees, Commissions and Boards



Government agencies maintain standing committees, commissions or boards comprised of locally elected officials representing the public. The Air District can present at these meetings to engage government agency representatives and their partner organizations in local communities. This format allows the Air District and other parties to receive feedback from government agency staff, elected officials, and stakeholders during public comment.

Direct Conversation



Air District staff are available to engage the public in direct conversation over the phone, in person, or via e-mail. Staff offer expertise on the project and can discuss specific concerns with the public. Direct conversation can be effective in communicating technical material, answering individual questions or ensuring stakeholders are engaged in the Air District process.

Task Forces



Task Forces are groups of individuals, representing different sectors of the public that convene to provide input and feedback regarding a specific Air District policy initiative. Task Forces promote the exchange of information among members, provide valuable insight and knowledge to the project, and foster understanding. Task Forces are utilized for longer projects, like plans and policy initiatives that require detailed public input and assistance, and can ensure the Air District is addressing the public's needs.

Focus Groups



Focus groups are conducted with small, targeted groups of the public around a specific topic or group of topics. During a focus group, a facilitator poses specific questions and gathers feedback and comments from participants. Focus groups are an opportunity for the public to provide the Air District with critical insight on specific ideas or topics.

This format can be effective when the Air District is:

- Rolling out a new educational campaign
- Considering outreach activities to a specific community



Surveys



Surveys allow respondents to provide feedback to the Air District on a specific project. Surveys, which can be qualitative and/or quantitative, allow Air District staff to evaluate the feedback of a large pool of respondents and are convenient and cost-effective. Surveys can be distributed online or in print, including during Air District events.

Technical Work Group Meeting



The Air District periodically creates and hosts Technical Work Group Meetings. Technical Work Groups are comprised of stakeholders that represent varied interests and offer expertise on the subject matter the Air District is exploring. Technical Work Groups have been created to review proposed amendments to rules and regulations. In addition, the Air District has created Technical Working Groups to discuss advancement of special projects.

Industry Compliance Schools



The Air District periodically hosts Industry Compliance Schools. Industry Compliance Schools are focused on small businesses throughout the region. The purpose of Industry Compliance School is to share information on the public health impacts of air pollution, compliance tools and tips, and provide a “hands-on” environment for environmental training. Industry Compliance Schools help improve compliance and provide important resources to businesses to better understand Air District regulations.

Grants and Incentives



The Air District administers local, state and federal grant programs that encourage reductions in air pollution. Currently, funding is focused on mobile sources of air pollution, including cars, trucks, marine vessels, locomotives, agricultural equipment and construction equipment. In addition, the Air District provides grant funding for projects that encourage the use of low emission or zero emission transportation, such as shuttles, ride sharing, bicycle lanes and pedestrian paths. Individuals with qualifying vehicles or projects work with Air District staff throughout the grant application process.

Language Services

The Air District maintains a variety of services for multilingual and Limited English Proficient (LEP) residents who wish to receive information about the Air District. Some of these services include:

1. **Printed Materials:** Materials are translated upon request and many programs provide translation of materials in advance of requests. Compliance tips are available in Chinese, Korean, Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese. Signage for truck idling regulations is posted in Chinese, Punjabi, Spanish and Vietnamese. Select informational brochures are made available in Spanish and Chinese.
2. **In-Person Assistance:** Bilingual staff is available on-site and in the field to provide assistance when needed or requested by other staff. The Air District maintains a Language Services voice-message box at 415-749-4609 to allow residents to request simultaneous translation at Air District meetings, either at the Air District or off-site. Industry Compliance School, which provides classes on the public health impacts of air pollution, as well as compliance assistance, and hands-on environmental training, is conducted in multiple languages at the Air District. Additionally, information about grant cycles is provided in multiple languages and bilingual staff assists potential grantees in submitting the proper paperwork for consideration.
3. **Telephone Assistance:** Air District staff is trained to utilize a live support interpretation system that provides language support in 150 languages. In addition, the Air District provides multilingual assistance in many languages on some high-volume telephone lines, including:
 - Air Quality and Odor Complaint Line (800) 334-ODOR (6367): Callers are connected with an operator who will document the caller's air quality complaint and forward it to the Enforcement team for review. This line can receive calls in languages other than English.
 - Check Before You Burn (877) 4NO-BURN (466-2876): Callers can hear a recording of the daily wood burning status in one of five languages - English, Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. Callers can also submit a wood burning complaint.
 - The Air District also maintains a multilingual Language Services (415) 749-4609: Callers can leave a message requesting translated materials or in-person language assistance at an upcoming Air District meeting. The line is available in five languages – English, Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.
4. **Website:** The Air District maintains a Spanish language Portal on the website with information on specific key Air District programs. Information on how to contact the Air District for Spanish speakers is also widely available on the Spanish language portal.

The Air District also maintains a Spare the Air multilingual page at sparetheairnow.org – a webpage with general Spare the Air information in Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese and Tagalog.
5. **In-House Expertise:** The Air District employs approximately 50 bilingual employees. Currently staff members are contacted on an as-needed basis to provide assistance and technical expertise in non-English languages.



6. ***Ethnic Outreach for Educational Campaigns.*** The Air District conducts outreach to ethnic communities throughout the Bay Area. The Air District maintains an extensive ethnic media contact list that is simultaneously notified when the Air District issues a Spare the Air alert, or when an air quality incident occurs. Press releases are available in non-English languages when the Air District has identified the need for translation. Additionally, the Air District runs educational campaigns regarding Spare the Air and the impacts of unhealthy air in Spanish and Chinese, including appearances on Spanish and Chinese broadcast television. The Air District also maintains Spanish-language web pages with information on making an air quality complaint and the impacts of unhealthy air.

Identification of Appropriate Public Participation Activities for Air District Projects

The Air District recognizes that some of its projects have minimal impact and require fewer activities, while other projects are more complex and need to accommodate more participation opportunities.

The following table illustrates the likely suitability of various public participation activities for the following key Air District projects: plan development, major policy initiatives, rule development, permitting actions requiring public comment and educational campaigns. There are other Air District projects not listed in the table for which one or more public participation activities might be appropriate. The table is intended to serve as a general guide for Air District staff to evaluate the suitability of potential public participation activities for Air District projects.

Public Participation Activities

Engagement Activities by Air District Project Type													
Key:		Engagement Activities*											
✓	Suitable	Public Comment during Board/Council meetings	Public hearings	Written Comments	Comments by Phone	Workshops	Open Houses	Small Group Meetings	Presentations to Standing Committees, Commissions /Boards	Direct Conversations	Task Forces	Focus Groups	Surveys
●	Sometimes Suitable**												
X	Not Suitable												
Project Type*													
Plan development		✓	✓	✓	●	✓	●	●	●	✓	✓	✓	✓
Major policy initiative		●	●	●	●	●	●	✓	●	✓	✓	●	✓
Rule development		✓	✓	✓	●	✓	●	✓	●	✓	●	●	●
Permitting action requiring public comment		●	●	✓	●	●	●	✓	●	✓	X	X	X
Educational campaign		X	X	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	✓	✓

**Sometimes suitable indicates an activity may not be appropriate for all projects within the “Project Type.”

Outreach Tools by Air District Project Type												
Key:		Outreach Tools*										
✓	Suitable	Website	Printed material	Telephone Communications and Hotlines	E-mail Communication	Direct mail	Public notices in newspapers/ Ads	Media News Releases	Door-to-Door Outreach	Community Events and Booths	Social Media	Text Messaging and Applications
●	Sometimes Suitable**											
X	Not Suitable											
Project Type*												
Plan development		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	●	●	●
Major policy initiative		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	●	●	●
Rule development		✓	✓	●	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	●	●	●
Permitting action requiring public comment		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	X	●	●	●
Educational campaign		✓	✓	●	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

*Outreach and engagement activities are recommended by Air District project type and are subject to the discretion of the Air District based on available resources and staff time.



Considerations when Planning Public Participation Processes

The considerations listed below are intended to help Air District staff develop project-specific participation processes when required or necessary. These considerations are based on the Public Participation Principles described in Section I. Below are the list of considerations Air District staff may use to determine what level of stakeholder involvement is necessary or needed for Air District activities.

Identify the Project Scope, Budget, Timeline, and Roles

- What is the scope of the project?
- What staff and budget resources are available to assist with participation activities?
- What is the project timeline?
- Where and during what part of the process will participation activities occur?
- Are there key decision points on the timeline? How will the public participate in these?

Identify the Level of Input and Appropriate Participation Activities

- What type of input will be sought from the public?
- How will the input be considered in the decision-making process? Where will it fall on the range of public participation?
- What are the legal requirements for participation in this project?
- Based on these considerations and those in identifying the scope, budget, timeline and roles, what are appropriate outreach activities for the project?

Identify Affected and Interested Stakeholders

- What stakeholders will be directly affected by the project?
- What stakeholders are likely to be interested in this project?
- Are there individuals or organizations who have previously expressed interest in related projects?
- Is there an existing database of identified stakeholders?

Identify Language Needs

- Will the stakeholders identified require materials or assistance in languages other than English?
- Does the project encompass a specific geographic area? If so, what are the language characteristics of the affected area?
- Can the timeline and budget accommodate translation of materials into many languages?
- Does the project encompass the entire Bay Area? If so, can the timeline and budget accommodate the translation of materials into Spanish and Chinese, the major non-English languages spoken in the Bay Area?

Identify Stakeholder Interests and Concerns

- What are the interests, priorities and potential concerns of the public related to the project and how will this be addressed?
- Can this information be collected through preliminary outreach?

- Would the project benefit from more formal preliminary outreach, such as an introductory webcast or e-mail?
- Would the project benefit from a more formal assessment of public interest, such as a series of interviews or focus groups?

Determine Information Needs

- What level of understanding will the public need to have in order to participate productively in the project?
- What materials will be needed to foster this level of understanding?
- Which materials should be translated? Can the timeline and budget accommodate the translation of materials into those languages?

Implement Participation Activities

- Conduct identified outreach activities for the project. If there are language needs for the project, how will the non-English speakers be notified?
- Conduct identified engagement activities.
- Keep a database of all individuals who participate in these activities so that they may be notified of the outcome and of future related projects that may be of interest to them.
- If there are in-person participation opportunities, can the timeline and budget accommodate in-language assistance, such as a simultaneous interpreter or help line?

Evaluate Public Input and Integrate into Project

- Can the public concerns, interests and comments received be accommodated, given the legal requirements of the project, the timeline, budget and scope of the project?
- Has the project changed sufficiently to warrant an additional round of outreach and engagement? If so, how will the project timeline and budget be affected? If not, can the project move on to its next step on the timeline?
- Can all public concerns, interests and comments received and outcomes be documented?

Communicate Outcomes and Next Steps

- Clearly post the outcome of the project on the Air District website; indicate the location in outgoing newsletters, like the “What’s New?” email newsletter distributed by the Air District.
- Ensure the page on the website provides an overview of how comments received were used in the project.
- Include further contact information and information related to projects on the webpage so interested parties can sign-up for mailing lists or inquire about upcoming Air District activities.

Evaluate Public Participation Outcomes

- How effective were the public participation activities?
- How many people participated? How did they hear about the project?
- Were participants able to provide informed input?
- Were controversial items anticipated and addressed in advance?

Enhancing Public Participation



A central focus of the Air District's Public Participation Plan is to improve the Air District's public engagement efforts with a focus on better understanding and notice of Air District activities. Enhanced public participation efforts will allow for greater participation from a greater number of Bay Area residents and will ensure Air District staff are aware of the public's air quality concerns.

The nature and shape of Air District public participation efforts will continue to be influenced by its dynamic, evolving relationship with the public. The Air District wishes to ensure public participation efforts are directed to communities throughout the region in a way that best fits their needs whenever possible. In addition, the Air District is committed to improving communication and outreach to Limited English Proficient (LEP) communities and will take steps to provide more multilingual information.

The Air District will regularly take steps to ensure the best public participation strategies and processes are incorporated into Air District projects, and will work to implement changes when necessary.



During the development of the Public Participation Plan, the Air District solicited recommendations regarding how it could improve its public participation practices from the Stakeholder Advisory Task Force, a group comprised of local government agency representatives, community groups, environmental interest groups and industry and the Air District's Internal Working Group comprised of staff from each Air District program. The Stakeholder Advisory Task Force and Air District staff identified a number of ways in which the Air District could improve existing public participation efforts, and establish new ways of engaging the

public.

In this section, the Air District outlines a work plan for implementing recommendations from the Stakeholder Advisory Task Force and Air District staff. In addition, the Air District will make every effort to ensure that improvements in public participation help the Air District achieve its mission and vision and strengthen its commitment to the Air District's Principles of Public Participation (p. 4).

Implementation Actions to Enhance Public Participation

On the following pages, the Air District has outlined actions for implementation; these actions are directed at improving specific tools or methods of public participation, including the Air District website, methods of notification, public engagement activities like workshops and public hearings, and communication tools like brochures and flyers. For more information on Air District programs referenced in the actions, or for more information on public participation opportunities related to the implementation actions, please see *Appendix A: Overview of Air District Programs*.

Each implementation action will improve and enhance public participation with the Air District; in addition, each action will help the Air District further its commitment to public participation principles described on page 4. Each of the implementation actions helps the Air District achieve at least one of the stated Principles of Public Participation.

Implementation actions are divided by subcategories that organize the actions by time frame. The Air District envisions implementation will take place in three phases, spanning approximately five years. The phased approach for adoption or development of public participation enhancements is based on the need for funding, personnel, planning and multi-agency and stakeholder coordination. The extended timeline estimated here does not mean the Air District will not begin work to implement many of these actions immediately, but indicates the length of time for items to be fully implemented.

The Air District has already begun implementing changes in communications and outreach to improve participation and engagement over the last two years. Some of the work the Air District has initiated includes:

- Developing a multilingual Language Services phone line at 415-749-4609 for the public to request materials in Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Tagalog and Vietnamese.
- Developing a Spanish language Portal on the Air District website to host air quality information in Spanish; the Air District is expanding this effort over the next year and during the website rebuilding process to include more information in more languages
- Reviewing and testing simultaneous translation capabilities in multiple languages at Air District meetings, including at an Air District Board of Directors meeting and public workshops; the Air District will evaluate capacity to provide simultaneous translation at more public meetings
- Surveying Air District staff on their multilingual fluencies and abilities to provide translation and interpretation assistance to Air District staff
- Providing more workshop notices, flyers and informational brochures and materials in Spanish and Chinese; the Air District has also begun providing materials in appropriate languages for industries where there is a specific language need, such as Korean, Punjabi and Laotian
- Providing greater outreach to multilingual communities in the Bay Area; including visiting local community groups to speak about the Air District and the Public Participation Plan; the Air District will continue to broaden outreach to multilingual and LEP communities throughout the Bay Area and will work to present information to these social service organizations in-language
- Begun the process of reorganizing the Air District website to be more user-friendly and accessible



IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

KEY



INFORM



CONNECT



INVOLVE



COMMENT



COLLABORATE



PARTNER

Communications: Workshops, Symposiums, Hearings, Meetings

Tasks

Phase One
2013-2014



The Air District will provide sign-up sheets for e-mail notification available at all public meetings, workshops and outreach events. Clear and simple descriptions of the e-mail notification lists will be provided at public events and prominently featured online.



The Air District will set agendas for any Task Force meetings or meetings with community groups, collaboratively with attendees; distribute meeting notes after meetings in a timely manner; ensure action items occur in a timely manner.



The Air District will develop useful brochures available in additional languages as identified in the Limited English Proficient (LEP) assessment.



The Air District will develop appropriate, effective, and targeted public participation approaches for projects requiring an enhanced public participation process.



The Air District will meet with stakeholders early in public participation processes, incorporating input as appropriate.



The Air District will develop standard templates for educational and informational materials, such as meeting and workshop notices, public comment solicitation notices and fact sheets.



The Air District will explore the formation of a Community Council or other forum for residents to discuss and review air quality issues in the nine-county Bay Area.

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

KEY



INFORM



CONNECT



INVOLVE



COMMENT



COLLABORATE



PARTNER

Phase One

2013-2014



The Air District will develop educational materials that explain standard public noticing practices and public input opportunities conducted by the Air District. This information will be designed to provide public guidance for engaging with the Air District during a public participation process.



When designing project-specific participation approaches, the Air District will develop a clear statement on the type of public input the Air District is seeking for the project and how the input will be used. This statement will be used in informational materials and explained in person at public meetings creating realistic stakeholder expectations.



The Air District will implement a 30-day public notice period except in cases in which local, state or federal statutes require different noticing periods.

Tasks

Phase Two

2015-2016



The Air District will create a database with all interested parties contact information collected electronically, via sign-in sheets and over the phone. This database will be used to contact interested parties when meetings and projects of interest are announced.



For draft permit evaluations undergoing a public review process, the Air District will include references to regulations that the permit is addressing, and how to find more information on that regulation.



The Air District may use professional and impartial facilitators as appropriate for task force meetings, public meetings about complex projects or meetings where high public attendance is expected.











The Air District will develop a process for following-up on comments delivered verbally at public meetings.



The Air District will develop a standard template for response to comments. The response to comments will provide a short statement on how the information was considered, used or not used.



IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS					
KEY					
INFORM	CONNECT	INVOLVE	COMMENT	COLLABORATE	PARTNER
Phase Two 2015-2016	 	The Air District will provide notification of the project outcome to all individuals who have submitted comments during a public comment period.			
	 	The Air District will develop guidelines for enlisting community assistance in outreach efforts. These regularly updated guidelines will ensure outreach partners maintain neutrality in conducting outreach.			
	 	When developing new printed materials, documents and web content, the Air District will utilize reader-friendly, accessible language and content tailored for stakeholders.			
Tasks					
Phase Three 2017-2018		The Air District will consider hosting regional symposiums to create dialogue and discuss air quality issues in the Bay Area.			
		The Air District will work to make the public comment process for permits easier to understand.			

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

KEY



INFORM



CONNECT



COMMENT



INVOLVE



COLLABORATE



PARTNER

Website Improvements

Tasks

Phase One
2013-2014



The Air District will evaluate and edit content on the Air District website for clarity and accessibility.



The Air District will develop a user friendly online, agency-wide calendar to post information, public participation activities and events.



The Air District will include instructions for requesting materials in other languages on the Air District website.



The Air District will post Hearing Board meeting agendas, final orders and quarterly reports on the Hearing Board webpage.



Develop a list of commonly used terms in Air District work and translate these terms in multiple languages as identified in the LEP assessment ensuring consistent and accurate translation across many languages.



Expand and improve multilingual language information on the website by consistently adding and updating the Spanish language portal and adding additional portals as identified in the LEP assessment.



The Air District will rebuild its main website, www.baaqmd.gov. The rebuild will aim to make the website easier to use and navigate.









Where possible, the Air District will use multiple types of media (podcasts, videos, pictures) for more effective communication with the public.



In designing the new website, the Air District will conduct meetings with stakeholders to get feedback.



IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS					
KEY					
INFORM	CONNECT	COMMENT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	PARTNER
Phase One 2013-2014		The Air District will create a webpage on www.baaqmd.gov dedicated to communicating the health impacts of air quality.			
		The Air District will develop, test and deploy a public-facing web interface tool. This new tool will allow Bay Area residents to access information regarding their neighborhood air quality. In addition, the tool will include information from the CARE program, air quality forecasts, and select permitting data.			
Tasks					
Phase Two 2015-2016		The Air District will create a policy for responding to and tracking e-mails and phone calls received from the public.			
		The Air District will post a centralized list of current public input opportunities online.			
		<p>The Air District will create a weekly list of permit applications and post on the Air District website. The public will either access the list from the website or will be able to sign up to receive automatic email notification of the list. The Air District will investigate the feasibility of making the lists searchable by facility or county.</p> <p>In addition, a sign-up feature will be added to the Air District's website for the permit applications list.</p>			
	The Air District permit application list email notification will include information regarding the Air District's Permit Ombudsman and how to submit comment to the Ombudsman. The public will be able to contact the Permit Ombudsman with any questions or concerns regarding an Air District permit application. Communication with the Permit Ombudsman will become part of the Air District's official public record.				

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

KEY



INFORM



CONNECT



COMMENT



INVOLVE







COLLABORATE












PARTNER

Air Quality Complaint Systems

Tasks

Phase One 2013-2014		The Air District will provide feedback to all wood smoke complainants in the form of an end-of-season summary.
		The Air District will develop new materials/brochure on Air District complaint processes. These materials will be made easily accessible online and available at public meetings and workshops.
		The Air District will implement an online complaint system.
Tasks		
Phase Two 2015-2016		The Air District will explore the development and implementation of a centralized, multilingual phone system.



IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS					
KEY					
					
INFORM	CONNECT	COMMENT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	PARTNER
Community Outreach					
Tasks					
Phase One 2013-2014		The Air District will participate in community events hosted by community-based organizations that serve LEP communities.			
		The Air District will identify and engage with community-based organizations that serve the Bay Area LEP community to ensure LEP stakeholders are informed of Air District actions.			
		The Air District will host a yearly public meeting to review annual Air District progress.			

Multilingual Accessibility

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

KEY



INFORM

CONNECT

COMMENT

INVOLVE

COLLABORATE

PARTNER

Tasks

Phase One

2013-2014



In some areas around the Bay there are significant differences in population size between the top ranked non-English language spoken in the area and other non-English languages spoken. The Air District will consider these population differences, as well as geographic scope of projects and stakeholder interest, when considering language translation needs in its regulatory development, permitting and planning processes.



The Air District will seek to make executive summaries of new draft proposed regulations available on the District's website and at public meetings in languages for Limited English Proficient (LEP) populations. Materials in other languages will be made available upon request and the Air District will develop a protocol for informing the non-English speaking audience of its actions.



The Air District has begun conducting outreach to broaden contacts with social organizations that serve multilingual and LEP communities throughout the Bay Area. The Air District will work to present information to these social organizations in-language to increase awareness of the Air District and its actions in LEP communities. Outreach staff will continue improving and expanding notice lists throughout the region.



Monitoring Public Participation Outcomes

The Air District will regularly monitor and evaluate public participation activities and will continue to look for ways to improve effectiveness. If clear opportunities for improvement are identified through these evaluation processes, the Air District will consider modifying its guiding documents and procedures as appropriate.

Methods for evaluating public participation outcomes may include:

- Participant surveys or questionnaires following workshops, meetings, and other Air District activities
- Surveys and/or questionnaires distributed regularly at Air District events, like fairs, festivals, and other events the Air District attends, or via the website and e-mail distribution list in appropriate languages, to provide continuous feedback on participation activities
- Individual or group interviews with stakeholders
- Focus group meetings after a public participation activity and/or process to gain insight and feedback on that activity or process

Considerations during evaluation processes may include:

- Consistency with the Air District's Public Participation Plan and the Air District's commitments to the public participation process
- Common themes that emerged from public feedback and input into the process
- The effectiveness of participation activities targeted to engage impacted and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) communities

As appropriate, the Air District will also consider taking quantitative measurements of its outreach efforts, including the:

- Number of participants involved in a participation activity and/or process
- Number and percent of responses received to a survey or questionnaire
- Percentage of participants satisfied with a participation activity or process
- Number of visits to specific pages on the Air District website

Living Document

The Air District's Plan is intended to serve as a living document that will be updated and modified over time. The Air District will continue to seek public input and look for ways to improve its public participation efforts. The Air District invites members of the public to review the Plan and continue a productive dialogue about public participation with the Air District.

Public Engagement in the Future



Since the Air District's creation in 1955, we have made great strides in curtailing and reducing air pollution in the Bay Area. The Air District is routinely at the forefront of air quality science and recognized nationally and internationally for its innovation.

This is possible because the Air District is made up of dedicated staff who believe in the mission and vision of the Air District and consider the input of stakeholders and residents when developing air quality regulations. We recognize the incredible value of public input and feedback in the work we do; the strategies outlined in this document are a step toward ensuring this crucial part of Air District processes remains a key component in all the work we do.

The Bay Area is a growing and changing place; as it grows our air pollution concerns change and shift. Air quality issues impact everyone's lives in the Bay Area. The Air District will continue to work to achieve federal and state air quality standards. This cannot be done without greater awareness of air quality impacts, and awareness is rooted in honest, communicative partnerships with local community groups, government agencies, small business and other groups who understand the concerns of stakeholders they represent. In taking this opportunity to improve our processes, the Air District aims to make it easier for all stakeholders to voice their concerns, ask questions and get involved.

One of the first steps the Air District will take is to explore establishing a Community Council or other forum for residents to discuss and review air quality issues in the nine-county Bay Area.

Additionally, the Air District will consider the creation of an online portal to engage local residents for feedback and actively outreach to multilingual communities by providing increased information in multiple languages at Air District events.

The Air District recognizes it is charged with the tremendous responsibility of protecting and improving public health, air quality and the global climate; and we cannot meet our goals without improving our communication and engagement methods and ensuring we fulfill our commitments to the public. We hope this document serves as a first step in outlining the Air District's goals in future public engagement activities, as well as the Air District's unwavering commitment to transparency and good government, public engagement and a healthy breathing environment for every Bay Area resident.



Glossary

of Key Terms

Here you can find key words used throughout the Public Participation Plan and commonly used in air quality regulations or actions.

Action: Refers to formal approval of a permit, submission of a Title V permit to EPA, etc. Actions are not necessarily discretionary, but all actions require Air District staff review.

Affected and Interested Parties: Affected and interested parties refers to stakeholders who may be directly affected by an Air District decision (affected), and those who are not directly impacted but are interested in being informed about and involved in the decision-making process (interested). The Air District aims to involve both affected and interested parties in its public participation activities.

APCO: APCO refers to the Air District’s Air Pollution Control Officer who is also the Executive Officer of the Air District. The APCO reports directly to the Board of Directors.

Area Sources of Air Pollution: Stationary sources not identified individually are called area sources. This term is sometimes extended to cover groups of numerous small point sources, such as dry cleaners or gas stations. Area sources also include the diverse, unpermitted small sources which individually do not emit significant amounts of pollutants but which together make an appreciable contribution to air pollution.

Community: The term “community” is used in the broad sense to refer to the general population, which includes both individuals and organizations interested in Air District activities and decisions. This includes but is not limited to: Bay Area residents; environmental, health, and other advocacy organizations; civic associations; the business community, including industries permitted or otherwise regulated by the Air District, and their respective trade, industrial and labor organizations; professional societies, universities, and educational associations; and local governments, their staff, elected officials and associations. (See also *public*.)

Four-factor analysis of language needs: The U.S. Department of Justice, which is responsible for coordinating government-wide implementation of Executive Order 13166, instructs agencies (and recipients of federal funding, of which the Air District is one) to conduct an individualized language needs assessment, or Four-Factor Analysis, to guide communication with limited English proficient (LEP) communities. These factors include:

- *Factor 1:* The number of LEP persons in the eligible service population or likely to be encountered in activities or programs of agencies receiving federal funds,
- *Factor 2:* The frequency with which LEP individuals come into contact with the agency's program(s),
- *Factor 3:* The nature and importance of the program, activity, or service provided by the program to people's lives, and
- *Factor 4:* The resources available to the agency and costs

By completing this Four-Factor Analysis, an agency ensures that it has collected and analyzed the information required to identify the appropriate suite of services for that meaningful access by its LEP stakeholders.

Impacted Communities: Impacted communities within the Bay Area are defined as having a combination of highest exposure of sensitive populations to toxic air contaminants, increased estimated cancer risk per million people from increased exposure to toxic air contaminants and areas in which over 40% of the population at the Census Block Group level is 185% below the federal poverty level.

Interested Parties: Interested parties are residents, interest groups, industry groups, or community groups who have an interest in an Air District process or project but may not be directly impacted by the process or project; interested parties are interested in the outcomes of the project and seek information about a project but may not be directly involved in public participation processes related to the project.

Interpretation: Interpretation is defined as the explanation of a verbal communication in another language. The Air District will make every effort to provide interpretation services at meetings, workshops and hearings upon request.

Jurisdiction of the Air District: The California Legislature created the Air District in 1955 as the first regional air pollution control agency in the state, recognizing that air emissions overflow political boundaries. The nine counties of the San Francisco Bay Area form a regional air basin, sharing common geographical features and weather patterns, and therefore similar air pollution burdens, which cannot be addressed by counties acting individually.

The Air District is the public agency entrusted with regulating stationary sources of air pollution in the nine counties that surround San Francisco Bay: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, southwestern Solano, and southern Sonoma counties.

Limited English Proficient (LEP): The Federal government defines an LEP individual as, "Individuals who do not speak English as their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, speak, write or understand English can be limited English proficient, or 'LEP.' These individuals may be entitled to language assistance with respect to a particular type or service, benefit, or encounter."



Modified Source of Air Pollution: A modified source of air pollution is an existing source of air pollution that has been altered and no longer meets the original permit requirements; modified sources are evaluated by the Air District.

New Source Review (NSR): As defined by the Environmental Protection Agency, the NSR permitting program was established by Congress as part of the 1977 Clean Air Act Amendments and, “is a preconstruction permitting program that serves two important purposes. First, it ensures that air quality is not significantly degraded from the addition of new and modified factories, industrial boilers and power plants. In areas with unhealthy air, NSR assures that new emissions do not slow progress toward cleaner air. In areas with clean air, especially pristine areas like national parks, NSR assures that new emissions do not significantly worsen air quality. Second, the NSR program assures people that any large new or modified industrial source in their neighborhoods will be as clean as possible, and that advances in pollution control occur concurrently with industrial expansion. NSR permits are legal documents that facility owners/operators must abide by. The permit specifies what construction is allowed, what emission limits must be met and often how the emissions source must be operated.”

Notice of Violation: A Notice of Violation (NOV) is a formal record of the Air District’s conclusion that a violation of a state or federal law regarding air quality or of an Air District regulation has occurred. An NOV may subject an entity to monetary penalties, or, in serious cases, to civil or criminal prosecution. In most cases, an NOV can be settled by taking corrective action and paying a penalty.

Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD): As defined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), “PSD applies to new major sources or major modifications at existing sources for pollution where the area the source is located is in attainment or unclassifiable with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). It requires the following: 1) installation of the ‘Best Available Control Technology (BACT);’ 2) an air quality analysis; 3) an additional impacts analysis; and 4) public involvement.”

Principles of Public Participation: The Air District’s Principles of Public Participation are guidelines by which the Air District will put its core values into practice.

Project: Project refers to any Air District program, process or policy that could potentially impact the public. Air District programs will be informed by varying degrees of public participation depending on several factors, including level of impact on the public, public priority in comparison to other projects, legal requirements and available resources.

Public: The term “public” is used in the broad sense to refer to the general population, which includes both individuals and organizations interested in Air District activities and decisions. This includes but is not limited to: Bay Area residents; environmental, health, and other advocacy organizations; civic associations; the business community, including industries permitted or otherwise regulated by the Air District, and their respective trade, industrial and labor organizations; professional societies,

universities and educational associations; and local governments, their staff, elected officials and associations. (See also *community*.)

Public engagement: The term “public engagement” refers to activities that provide the opportunity for feedback and two-way communication between the public and the Air District about its projects.

Public hearing: The Air District's Board of Directors hosts public hearings when considering adopting or amending regulations, rules or basin-wide air pollution control plans; public hearings are typically hosted at the Air District headquarters and allow residents to provide comments and feedback on the proposed action. The public may submit written comment prior to the hearing. The public may also comment during the meeting at which time public comment is generally limited to three minutes per person and is entered as part of the public record for the hearing in addition to any written comments. In addition, the Air District hosts public hearings as directed by state and federal law regarding particular significant projects; for example, the Air District hosted a public hearing for the adoption of the 2010 California Environmental Quality Act Thresholds of Significance. Public hearings are announced 30 days in advance of the hearing.

Public participation: The term “public participation” is used in this Plan to mean the full range of activities employed by the Air District to engage the public in its work and decisions. The ultimate goal of public participation is to make better, more fully-informed decisions.

Included under the term public participation are public outreach and public engagement. Public outreach refers to activities that provide information to the public. This information can help interested persons, organizations, businesses and public agencies prepare to provide feedback to the Air District on its work and decisions. Public engagement refers to activities that provide the opportunity for feedback and two-way communication between the public and the Air District about its projects.

Public Participation Plan: The Air District's Public Participation Plan is a document that identifies the Air District's values and commitment to public participation in its decision making. It also describes the strategies and methods the Air District intends to put into practice to demonstrate those values and commitments.

Public Outreach: Public outreach refers to activities that provide information to the public. This information can help interested persons engage with the Air District when there is a public engagement opportunity. Information provided through public outreach activities can also assist organizations, businesses and public agencies with registering equipment, applying for or renewing air quality permits and applying for grants.



Response to Public Input: Following the finalization of a decision or document related to a project, the Air District will develop and disseminate a Response to Public Input that details the following:

- The project outcome;
- Comments received and responses to comments indicating why requests were or were not accommodated; and
- How public participation affected the project outcome.

The response will include a description of the final action taken or next step if the action is moving forward for Board consideration. The response will also provide access to information on the Air District’s website about the project outcome or next steps.

Stakeholder: The Air District identifies a stakeholder as individuals, small businesses, local governments, industries and other parties interested in Air District rule making, regulations and enforcement activities, and those impacted by the outcome of the projects, rules or actions.

Stationary Sources of Air Pollution: A fixed, non-mobile producer of pollution, usually at industrial or commercial facilities.

Title V: A section of the 1990 modifications to the federal Clean Air Act that requires a federally enforceable operating permit for major sources of air pollution.

Translation: Translation is defined as the adaptation of a written document into another language; the Air District provides translation services upon request and makes every effort to provide documents in other languages in advance.

Transparency: Transparency means conducting business in a way that makes clear the decision-making process. This includes who will make the decision; the roles of the stakeholders; steps in the process; parameters such as legal and regulatory constraints to the potential outcomes; when and how stakeholders can provide input; and how that input will be considered.

Appendix A: Overview of Air District Programs

Public Participation Opportunities in Key Air District Programs

Air Quality Plans

Program Overview

The Air District periodically prepares and updates air quality plans in order to attain state and national air quality standards, comply with federal and state air quality planning requirements, and achieve the goal of healthy air. Air quality plans report on progress in improving air quality and provide a road map and priorities to guide the Air District's future activities. The Air District develops or updates an air quality plan every two to five years, depending on state and federal requirements and air quality data for the region. The most recent plans developed by the Air District include:

- PM (Particulate Matter) 2.5 Plan—This plan will fulfill U.S. EPA requirements regarding the federal PM 2.5 standard.
- 2010 Clean Air Plan—Adopted September 2010. This plan updates the Bay Area ozone plan in accordance with the requirements of the California Health & Safety Code.
- Source Inventory of Bay Area Greenhouse Gas Emissions—Updated in February 2010, this document inventories direct and indirect sources of greenhouse gas emissions from human activity.
- California Environmental Quality Act Guidance (CEQA)—Updated May 2012, this document provides assistance to lead agencies in evaluating air quality impacts of projects in the Bay Area.

In developing air quality plans, Air District staff reviews the following information:

- Air quality monitoring data collected by the Air District
- Computer modeling conducted by the Air District
- Emission inventories collected by California Air Resource Board and the Air District
- Public input, review and comment
- Scientific research conducted by academic and research institutions

Legal Basis

Development of air quality plans is required by both federal and state law. The Federal Clean Air Act requires that states adopt plans demonstrating how they will implement, maintain and enforce federal ambient air quality standards. The Air District is responsible for developing the Bay Area's portion of this statewide plan. The statewide plan is called the State Implementation Plan.

In addition, the California Clean Air Act requires air districts that violate state air quality standards to prepare attainment plans that identify a strategy to reduce emissions and attain state standards. Air districts are required to adopt and implement plans that either (a) achieve reductions in Air District-wide emissions of five percent or more per year for each non-attainment pollutant, or (b) include feasible measures to reduce emissions of each non-attainment pollutant. No air district has been able to achieve annual emission reductions of five percent, so state attainment plans include feasible measures to reduce emissions for each pollutant the area was not in attainment for.

Bay Area air quality plan documents contain two key elements: an overview of progress in air quality in the Bay Area, and a “control strategy,” which guides the Air District’s future clean air activities. Control strategies address methods to reduce stationary, mobile and area sources of air pollution. Stationary sources of air pollution include businesses and industry that emit air pollution, while mobile sources include cars, trucks, off-road equipment and other mobile sources of air pollution. Control strategies include regulations the Air District has adopted or intends to develop and adopt to reduce air pollutant emissions from industrial facilities and commercial processes, as well as some incentive and education programs designed to reduce emissions from vehicles. Federal plans also include regulations for mobile sources and consumer products adopted by the state.

Opportunity for Public Participation



State law requires the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to conduct a public hearing prior to submitting an area’s federal plan to the U.S. EPA for inclusion in the State Implementation Plan. In general, the Air District allows for a greater degree of public participation than is required by law. The Air District relies on public input, review and comment in developing all air quality plans. Public participation activities for recent plans have included workgroups, workshops, small group meetings and dedicated voicemail phone lines. In addition, Bay Area air quality plans are prepared in cooperation with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), sister multi-county agencies responsible for planning and overseeing transportation and regional development in the Bay Area.

Because air quality plans serve as a road map for future regulatory activities, and because the Air District has a considerable measure of flexibility in their development, they offer a significant opportunity for the public to influence Air District activities.

More information on air quality plans developed by the Air District is available at the Air District website at www.baaqmd.gov/Divisions/Planning-and-Research/Plans.aspx.

Rule Development

Program Overview

The Air District Board has developed and adopted over 100 regulations on stationary sources of air pollution. The Air District continually strengthens and refines its rules to further protect the health of Bay Area residents.

Recently adopted or enhanced rules include:

- Regulation 12; Rule 13: Foundry and Forging Operations – May 1, 2013. This rule requires foundries and forges that melt or heat treat more than 2500 tons of metal, other than certain aluminum, to develop and implement an Emissions Minimization plan that addresses fugitive emissions of particulate matter and odorous substances in a rolling twelve month period.
- Regulation 6 – Rule 4: Metal and Recycling and Shredding Operations– May 1, 2013. This rule will require that metal recycling operations that have a metal throughput of more than 50,000 tons of metal scrap in a rolling twelve month period and that operate a metal shredder or receive or process scrap containing shredder residue to develop and implement an Emissions Minimization Plan to address fugitive emissions of particulate matter. Metal recycling operations that process 1000 tons or more in a rolling twelve month period will be required to keep records of metal throughput.
- Regulation 2 – Rule 4: Emissions Banking–November 7, 2012. The principal changes made by the amendments include: adding new NSR and Title V permitting requirements for fine particulate and for greenhouse gases (GHGs), revising the “Prevention of Significant Deterioration” (PSD) permitting program, expanding the applicability provisions for NSR permitting to satisfy current EPA requirements, expanding the requirements for NSR permit applicants to demonstrate that their projects will not contribute to violations of national ambient air quality standards and expanding the public notice and comment provisions for NSR permitting.

In developing and amending rules, Air District staff considers and reviews a broad range of information including; recent air quality plans, changes to state and federal requirements, emission inventories, industry compliance records, and air quality complaints received.

Legal Basis

The California Health & Safety Code provides California air districts with primary responsibility to control air pollution from all sources other than vehicular sources. Air districts have the authority to adopt and amend regulations affecting stationary sources of air pollution, and, in general, these regulations may be stricter than those set by federal or state law.

The Health & Safety Code outlines requirements for the adoption and amendment of rules by air districts. These include a required demonstration that a proposed rule or rule amendment is necessary and that the air district has the authority to adopt or amend the rule. The Health & Safety Code also

mandates that air districts assess the socioeconomic impacts of the proposed rule and make a good faith effort to minimize these impacts.

The Air District is also required to evaluate whether a proposed rule or rule amendment might have any adverse environmental impacts. As a draft rule is developed, an analysis pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is conducted, and the Air District is required to determine whether or not environmental impacts are expected from the proposed rule, and if so, how they will be mitigated.

New rules and rule amendments contain specific requirements for operating stationary sources of air pollution. Rules can include emissions limits, administrative requirements, and monitoring and record-keeping requirements.

When developing a proposed rule or rule amendment, Air District staff will also produce the following documents: a workshop notice, a workshop report, a draft rule or rule amendment, and a staff report including response to comments, a socio-economic analysis and a CEQA determination.

Opportunity for Public Participation



The California Health & Safety Code requires the Air District to hold a public hearing prior to the adoption of a proposed rule or rule amendment. The Air District is required to provide 30 days' advance notice for the hearing and to provide a copy of the draft rule with the notice.

In addition to the participation requirements in the Health & Safety Code, the Air District conducts meetings with the affected businesses, community groups, and other interested parties to discuss issues and exchange information as a rule is being developed. In advance of issuing a notice for a regulatory public hearing, Air District staff conducts one or more public workshops for each new rule or rule modification so that all affected and interested parties can discuss, comment on, and ask questions about the proposed rule.

Rules specify how sources of emissions will operate, and the Air District encourages public input.

More information is available at the Air District website at www.baaqmd.gov/Divisions/Planning-and-Research/Rule-Development.aspx.

Permits

Program Overview

The Air District is responsible for the issuance of air quality permits for stationary equipment in the Bay Area and the management of the resulting air emissions (pollutants). An air quality permit is a document that gives the permit holder authorization to build and operate equipment that emits pollutants through its processes. Each project is evaluated before a business can build and operate their equipment to ensure that all air quality requirements are met. The permits are typically reviewed and renewed annually.

There are approximately 10,000 facilities with Air District permits. Any business that has the potential to release air emissions into the atmosphere may require Air District permits. Examples of the large businesses that need permits include petroleum oil refineries, chemical plants and electricity-generating power plants. Small businesses that require permits include dry cleaners, gasoline stations, paint shops, commercial printing facilities, coffee roasters and restaurant char-broilers. Other common Air District-regulated businesses include landfills (garbage dumps), sewage treatment facilities, crematories, quarries and the semiconductor industry.

There are several common equipment types that may be permitted that are not exclusive to a particular industry, such as industrial boilers and engines used for back-up electricity.

Here are common documents that the Air District issues in the permit program:

Authority to Construct (A/C) – This is a pre-construction permit that is issued before equipment is installed. An A/C typically requires the permit holder meet certain conditions before operation can begin, such as an initial emissions compliance demonstration (source test).

Permit to Operate (P/O) – This permit allows the holder to operate (use) all equipment or activities listed on the permit.

Certificate of Registration – This type of permit is given to specific types of equipment or activities that are smaller in nature. Individually, registered equipment may not pose a significant impact to public health, but collectively they are tracked by the Air District.

Banking Certificate for Emission Reduction Credits (ERCs) – Under the Emissions Banking program companies may receive emission reductions credits when companies shut down permitted equipment or voluntarily reduce air emissions.

Banking Certificate for Interchangeable Emission Reduction Credits (IERCs) – Under the Interchangeable Emission Reduction Credits program companies may receive emission reductions credits when companies voluntarily reduce nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions from permitted equipment. Their use is different from ERCs in that IERCs may only be used by the company that generated the credits as an alternate way to meet NO_x standards in Regulation 9 and the Air District must approve a plan for their use annually. They also have an expiration date.

Major Facility Review (Title V) Permits – This is a federal operating permit that is issued to facilities that have the ability to produce large amounts of air pollutants. This type of permit is renewed every 5 years. The Title V permit is separate from the P/O that is also required.

The permit program also manages an air emissions inventory from all permitted equipment. The inventory is used to track, predict trends and to make future decisions to reduce air emissions by tightening Air District rules.

Legal Basis

The Air District issues and renews permits in order to implement local, state and federal laws and regulations. The Air District’s permitting authority comes from the Federal Clean Air Act and California law, specifically the California Health & Safety Code. From this authority, the Air District has adopted several permit rules for these programs.

Air District Regulation 2 includes a number of rules that help shape the Air District’s permitting program including:

- Rule 1 – General Permit Requirements: Includes criteria and process for issuing or denial of permits.
- Rule 2 – New Source Review: This rule contains additional requirements for new or modified sources of air pollution. A new or modified source is a source that has the potential to increase emissions.
- Rule 3 – Power Plants: Contains special provisions for the review of, and standards for, the approval of authorities to construct power plants within the Air District.
- Rule 4 – Emissions Banking: Includes procedures for banking emission reductions.
- Rule 5 – New Source Review of Toxic Air Contaminants: Applies permit review to new and modified sources of toxic air contaminants.
- Rule 6 – Major Facility Review: Establishes procedures for large facilities to obtain a federal operating permit (Title V) permits.
- Rule 7 – Acid Rain: Adopts federal standards for control of emissions that produce acid rain.
- Rule 9 – Interchangeable Emission Reduction Credits: Regulates use and trading of Interchangeable Emission Reduction Credits from stationary sources of nitrogen oxides.
- Rule 10 – Large Confined Animal Facilities: Provides requirements for agricultural sources of air pollution and complies with the provisions of State Bill 700.

Opportunity for Public Participation



There are several opportunities for the public to provide input. The normal process is to publish the notice in a widely circulated newspaper where the project is located and to post the notice on the Air District website. During the public comment period, comments are accepted via postal mail, e-mail or through the Permit Ombudsman. The comment period is usually 30-days. The Air District takes the

comments into account in the final decision and responds back to all commenters. The following are common opportunities for public participation:

New Major Facility and Major Increases in Emissions

A public comment period is required for permit applications with the potential to release significant emissions prior to issuance. This can be a new facility or a change to an existing permitted facility. Public hearings are conducted for major decisions to seek additional public input, as needed.

Major Facility Review - Title V Permits

Title V permits are required for facilities with the potential to release a large amount of air emissions. These facilities are called “major facilities,” as defined by the Air District in Regulation 2, Rule 6. A public comment period is required before a new Title V permit is issued and before the Title V permit can be renewed. Because the Title V permit is a separate permit, this public comment period is in addition to any other public comment period required by the Air District.

When issuing, renewing or making significant revisions to a Title V permit, the Air District publishes public comment period notices in newspapers and on its website and sends e-mail notices to those who have requested them. Comments are accepted via postal mail, e-mail or through the Permit Ombudsman during the public comment period. Public hearings are occasionally conducted for Title V permits or other major decisions. This may be done when the Air District seeks additional public input and determines that a public hearing would be an effective way to receive comments.

Air Toxics “Hot Spots” Information and Assessment Act

Emissions from permitted businesses are routinely updated. Under the Air Toxics Hot Spots (ATHS) Program, public notification procedures are mandated when the health risks from a business’ emissions reach certain action levels. The impacting business would prepare a health risk assessment (HRA) that is reviewed by the Air District and Cal/EPA’s Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). After the review, the business is required to send notice of a public meeting where the HRA and the results are explained. The Air District participates in these meetings.

Public Notice for Schools also known as Waters Bill Notification Program

A public notice is required when an application for an Authority to Construct or Permit to Operate has the potential to release hazardous air emissions, as defined by federal and state laws, located within 1,000 feet from a Kindergarten through Grade 12 (K-12) school. In addition to the newspaper and website posting, the public notice is distributed to the parents/guardians of the students and mailed to the residences within ¼ mile the project.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

For permits that trigger environmental review under this law and for which the Air District is the lead agency, the Air District prepares a draft CEQA determination. A CEQA determination is part of a larger

document that evaluates the potential environmental impact of a project; projects that are determined to have an impact on the environment must go through a CEQA review process. The Air District posts the CEQA determination on the Air District website, and provides it to public agencies affected by the permit. Air District staff may also choose to host a meeting in advance of preparing the draft CEQA determination. Once the draft determination is posted, the public, including other public agencies, may submit comments during a comment period to the Air District via postal mail or e-mail. Air District staff responds to public comments and makes any necessary changes to the draft CEQA determination before the Air District's Board of Directors votes to adopt a final CEQA determination.

Emissions Banking

Emissions Banking is a program that allows companies to “bank” credits for reductions in air pollution. Generally, these reductions occur when companies shut down old sources of emissions or voluntarily reduce emissions by adding new control equipment to existing sources of air pollution. Banked emission reductions may be used to offset increases in emissions from new projects that are subject to Air District permit requirements. For Emission Banking applications for emissions reductions greater than 40 tons per year, the Air District publishes notices in newspapers and on its website and sends e-mail notices to those who have requested them.

Interchangeable Emissions Reduction Credits

IERCs allow companies to “bank” credits for reductions in air pollution. Generally, these reductions occur when companies voluntarily reduce emissions by adding new control equipment to existing sources of air pollution. Currently, IERCs apply only to nitrogen oxide (NO_x) reductions and are used as an alternate way to meet NO_x standards in Regulation 9. For IERC banking applications for emissions reductions greater than 40 tons per year and before approving the initial plan to use the IERCs for a specific source or group of sources, the Air District publishes notices in newspapers and on its website and sends e-mail notices to those who have requested them.

Maximum Achievable Control Technology

For “hazardous air pollutants,” or any pollutant listed in Section 112(b) of the federal Clean Air Act, the U.S. EPA may determine that a particular industry or equipment type must meet the maximum degree of emission reduction achievable. This is known as the Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) and is defined in the federal Clean Air Act. There is a public comment period before a permit is issued for any project involving a MACT requirement.

More information on these programs is available on the Air District website:
www.baaqmd.gov/Divisions/Engineering.aspx.

Compliance and Enforcement

Program Overview

The Air District has approximately 70 field-based inspection staff that conduct inspections of air pollution sources, verify compliance, investigate breakdowns, document violations, and respond to resident complaints about air pollution and accidental releases of air contaminants. Inspectors are assigned geographic areas throughout the Bay Area. Inspectors are responsible for all permitted sources and inspection activity within that geographic zone. In addition, the Air District has several specialized inspection groups that handle refineries, auto body shops, dry cleaners, gas stations, and asbestos demolition and renovation activities. Routine inspections combined with targeted audits of sources of air pollution help ensure emission reductions written into existing regulations are achieved.

The Compliance and Enforcement program utilizes cooperative working relationships with regulated sources in conjunction with increasing levels of enforcement actions to maintain compliance with air quality regulations. The Compliance and Enforcement program is committed to fair, reasonable, and equitable treatment of regulated sources. The Compliance and Enforcement program maintains a number of educational and technical assistance programs to ensure compliance. The Compliance and Enforcement program utilizes cooperative working relationships with regulated sources in conjunction with increasing levels of enforcement actions to maintain compliance with air quality regulations. Compliance and Enforcement division staff takes action when regulated sources are out of compliance with Air District regulations.

The Compliance and Enforcement program produces brochures for air pollution regulatory programs. In addition, as part of general inspections and investigations, the Compliance and Enforcement program produces complaint investigation reports, completes wood smoke patrols, and produces informational materials to help inform regulated businesses, as well as inspects, investigates and reports possible compliance violations. These materials and documentation provide compliance and enforcement histories of regulated stationary sources of air pollution in the Bay Area.

Legal Basis

The California Health & Safety Code provides California air districts with primary responsibility to control air pollution from all sources other than vehicular sources within its jurisdiction. The Air District has the authority to determine and enforce stricter standards than outlined by law or by the state board of any non-vehicular sources, including marine sources. The Air District may adopt and enforce any rules and regulations that help the Air District meet state and federal ambient air quality standards. In addition, the Air District may enforce all applicable provisions of state and federal law.

Opportunities to Stay Informed of Compliance and Enforcement Activities



The Air District maintains a robust complaint process that includes round-the-clock service to field complaints. Additionally, regulated sources can participate in Air District programs or use Air District resources to ensure compliance. The Compliance and Enforcement program maintains a number of tools to help businesses and interested parties stay informed of Compliance and Enforcement activities, including:

- A number of telephone lines, including an Asbestos, Compliance Assistance, General Odor Complaint lines
- Incident reports
- Fliers on frequently asked questions and compliance tips
- Brochures, fliers and a guidebook to inform and educate permitted businesses; including information on completing self-inspections to help ensure compliance
- Notifications to permitted sources regarding regulatory changes affecting the industry or Compliance Advisories
- Courtesy facility reviews
- Industry compliance schools
- Policy and Procedure Guidelines handbook that provides a basis for self-inspection to ensure compliance

Compliance and Enforcement activities are reported to the Air District Board of Directors annually; members of the public may also receive a summary of Winter Spare the Air wood smoke information via the Air District's website or via e-mail.

Litigation/Settlement

Program Overview

The Air District Legal Counsel represents the Air District in enforcement matters and oversees the Air District's Mutual Settlement and Civil Penalty Programs. Through these programs, the Air District's legal staff resolves violations of air quality regulations through negotiated settlements. For cases that cannot be settled through negotiation, Air District attorneys represent the Air District in civil litigation and, in matters involving lower penalties, the Air District Counsel oversees a Small Claims Court program. In recent years, the Air District has settled approximately five-hundred violations per year. The Air District enters into a litigation or settlement process after compliance or enforcement issues have been discovered by the Air District's Inspectors.

Legal Basis

The Air District's enforcement powers are defined by the California Health & Safety Code. To ensure judicial fairness and prevent political influence, enforcement power resides with the Air Pollution Control Officer and the Air District Counsel and not the Air District Board of Directors, which is comprised of elected officials.

Litigation and settlement ensure Air District rules and regulations are complied with and enforced, thereby ensuring the public health of Bay Area residents. Settlement money is placed in the Air District's general fund pursuant to the California Health & Safety Code. Settlement monies are allocated along with all general fund revenue through the Air District's public budget process. The Air District budget is determined annually and approved after a public hearing at an Air District Board of Directors meeting.

Opportunity for Public Participation



Opportunities for public participation in the litigation and settlement process are extremely limited to ensure prosecutorial and judicial fairness. As a result, opportunities for public participation are limited to the time allotted for public comment at a Hearing Board meeting.

Interested individuals can sign up to receive e-mail alerts regarding settlement information on the Air District website.

Appendix B: Developing the Public Participation Plan

A. Plan Development

Air District staff oversaw the development of the Public Participation Plan. The Air District contracted with Kearns & West, a firm specializing in collaboration and strategic communications, to assist in developing the Plan, specifically for tasks in which external review and external facilitation assistance was required. Below are some of the key components in development of this Plan.

Assessment

Kearns & West conducted an assessment of the Air District's public participation activities. Kearns & West conducted interviews with internal staff and over 20 external stakeholders. The assessment provided a broad set of findings and initial recommendations to begin development of the Plan.

Stakeholder Advisory Task Force

The Air District convened a Stakeholder Advisory Task Force (Task Force) to participate in development of the Plan. The 29-person Task Force represented the broad interests and geographies within the Air District's jurisdiction. The Task Force included representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), regulated businesses and business associations, and county planning and health agencies. Task Force members dedicated significant time and expertise by providing recommendations for improving the Air District's public participation practices, and guidance in development of the Plan. Task Force members also advised the Air District on conducting outreach for the Plan.

The Task Force roster is included as *Appendix D* in the Plan.

Internal Working Group

The Air District convened an Internal Working Group of 12 Air District staff representing nine divisions within the Air District to participate in the development of the Plan. Internal Working Group members served as liaisons to staff in their respective Divisions during the Plan development process, assisted in the evaluation of potential practices for improving Air District public participation, and contributed to a detailed review of the Plan.

Solicitation of Recommendations and Incorporation into the Plan

The Air District solicited recommendations on improving public participation practices from several sources: the Task Force, the Internal Working Group, and Kearns & West. These recommendations were evaluated against objective criteria, including regulatory constraints, feasibility, cost-effectiveness, and

whether they support and advance the Air District’s mission and vision. The recommendations that scored well have been identified in the Plan as implementation actions, and are included in Section 1. These implementation actions provide the Plan with additional tools to enhance its public participation activities and implement the Principles of Public Participation.

Language Assistance Analysis

The Air District recognizes that the Bay Area’s diversity presents a distinct challenge for communicating with and actively engaging its stakeholders, some of whom have limited English proficiency. A Language Assistance Analysis was developed concurrently with the Plan to better understand the language needs of the Air District’s limited English proficient (LEP) audiences and to identify when language assistance services are most needed.

The Language Assistance Analysis is included as *Appendix C*.

Public Participation to Inform Plan Development

With guidance and assistance from the Task Force, the Air District hosted several regional workshops and supplemental public participation activities around the Plan. The purpose of these activities was to introduce the Air District to a broad audience, identify the best ways to inform and engage Air District stakeholders, and obtain feedback on the preliminary draft Plan. A summary of public participation activities is included in the Plan as *Appendix E*.

The preliminary draft Plan was available for public review on the Air District website, and via public participation activities hosted across the region. The Air District notified the public of the opportunity to comment via e-mail, media outreach and community groups. The final draft summarizes the public review process and includes a summary of Air District responses to comments received during public review as *Appendix F*.

Presentation to Board of Directors and Public Notification

The Air District considered and incorporated comments as appropriate before presenting the final draft of the Public Participation Plan to the Board of Directors.

Once the Air District Board of Directors has reviewed the final draft Public Participation Plan, Air District staff will begin to implement the Public Participation Plan. The Air District will notify the public and parties in the review process of the availability of the final Plan via e-mail.

Appendix C: Language Assistance Analysis

The Air District recognizes the need to provide information in multiple languages and in formats that are easily accessible to Limited English Proficient (LEP) individuals. LEP is defined by the federal government and includes individuals who do not speak English as their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, write or understand English.

The Air District should proactively recognize the needs of the community and create materials best suited for communication. In instances when the Air District cannot easily anticipate language needs, the Air District will work with local community groups to better understand language needs. Any individual can request translated materials or simultaneous translation and the Air District will attempt to meet the request.

A. Language Characteristics in the Region

The Air District jurisdiction is home to a diverse, multilingual population. To better understand the needs of communities in the jurisdiction, the Air District utilized American Community Survey Data 2006-2009.

Methodology

The Air District mapped American Community Survey data that asked participants which languages they spoke in addition to English, and their ability to speak English. Participants could respond that they spoke English “very well,” or, “less than very well.”

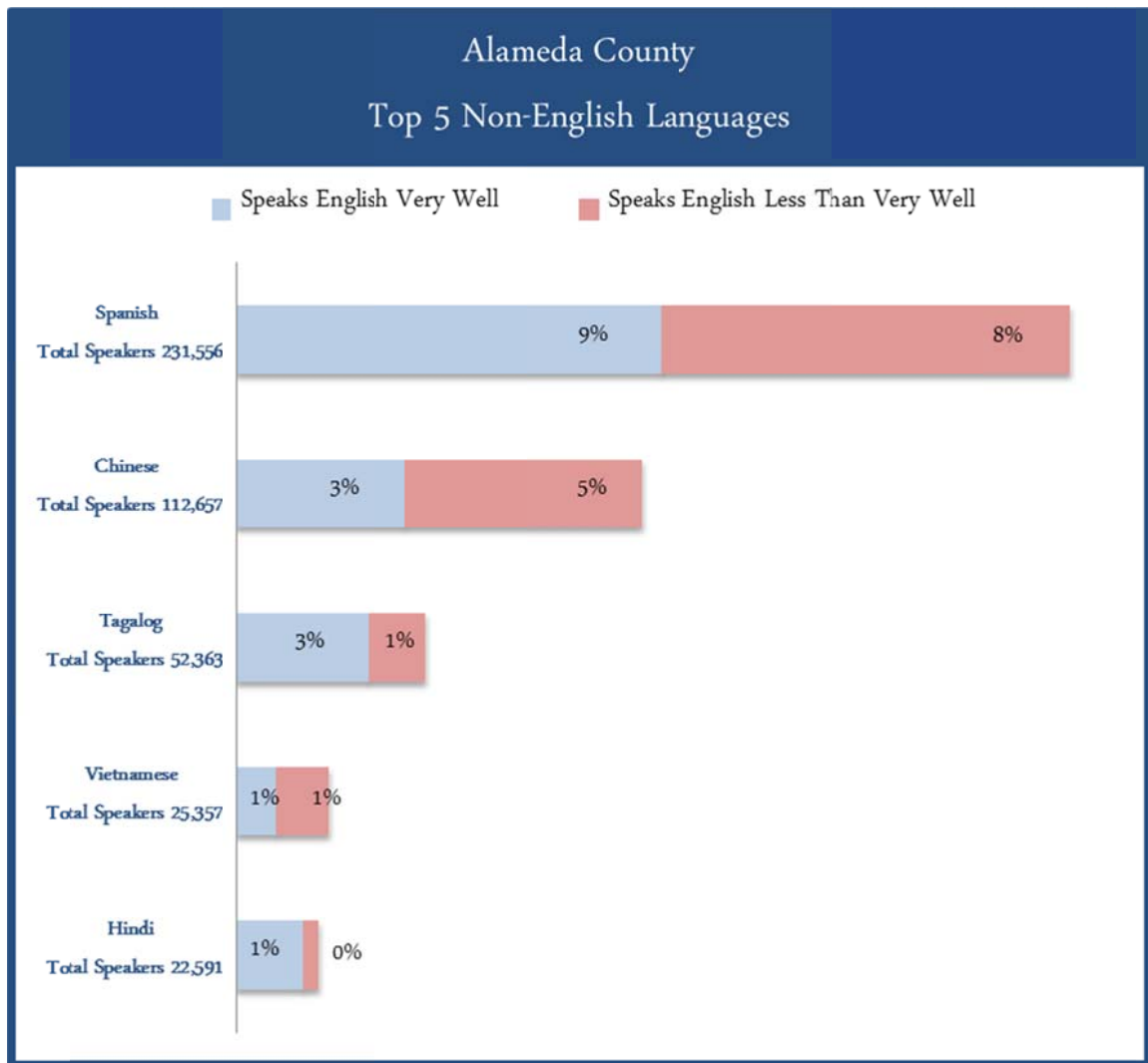
The Air District determined which languages were the top five spoken languages in each county, after English. In counties in which the LEP population for the language exceeded either 10,000 individuals or 5% the Air District created additional maps illuminating census tracts in which over 5% of the total population of the census tract is LEP for the language. This level of analysis assists in the Air District in understanding when translation or interpretation services might be necessary in the most commonly spoken languages in the county.

Analysis

Alameda County

In Alameda County the top five most spoken non-English languages were:

- Spanish
- Chinese
- Tagalog
- Vietnamese
- Hindi

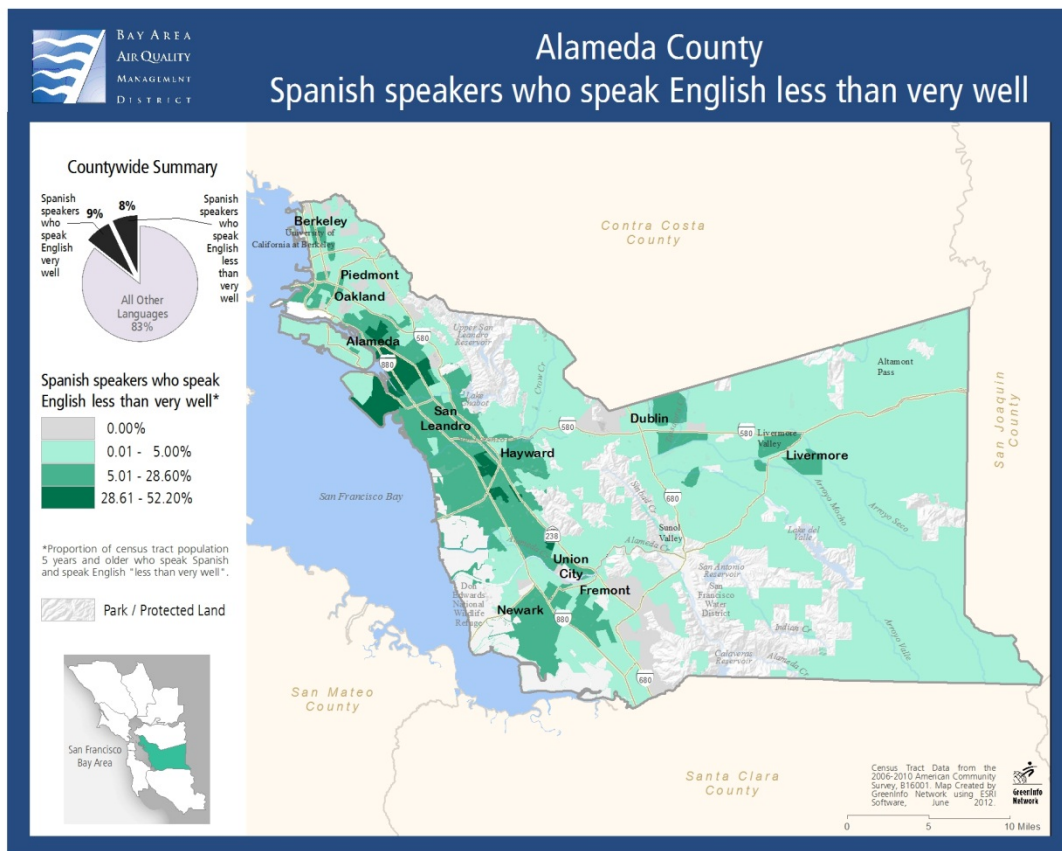


In Alameda County,

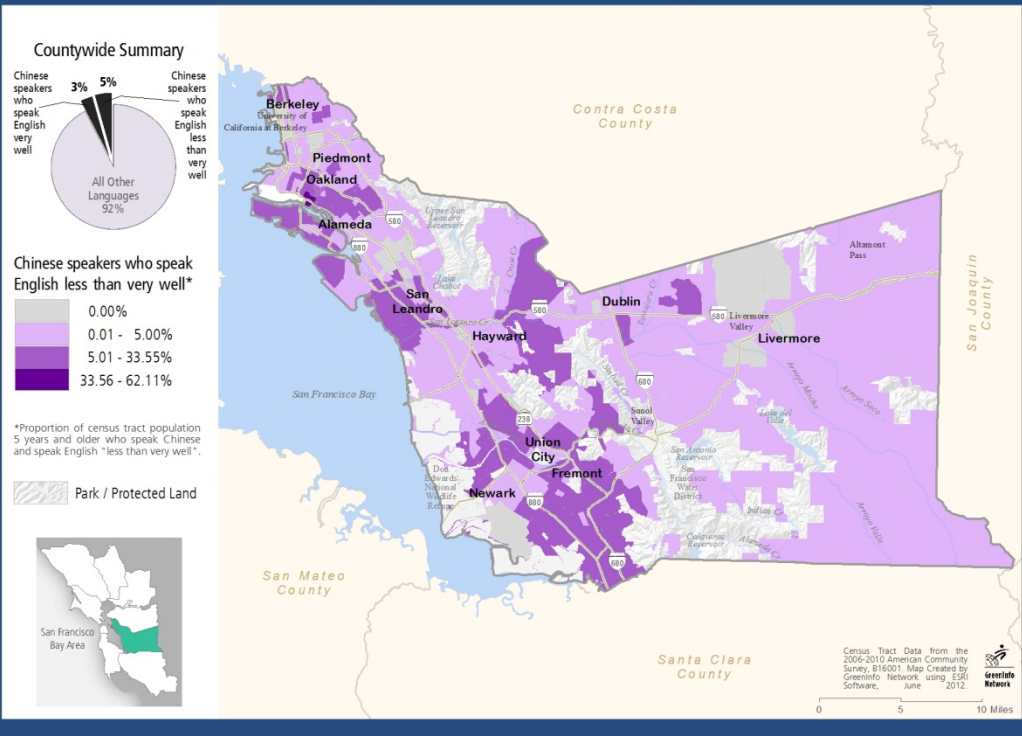
- Eight percent of the total county population speaks Spanish and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”
- Five percent of the total county population speaks Chinese and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”

- Three percent of the total county population speaks Tagalog and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”
- One percent of the total county population speaks Vietnamese and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”
- Less than 1% of the total county population speaks Hindi and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”

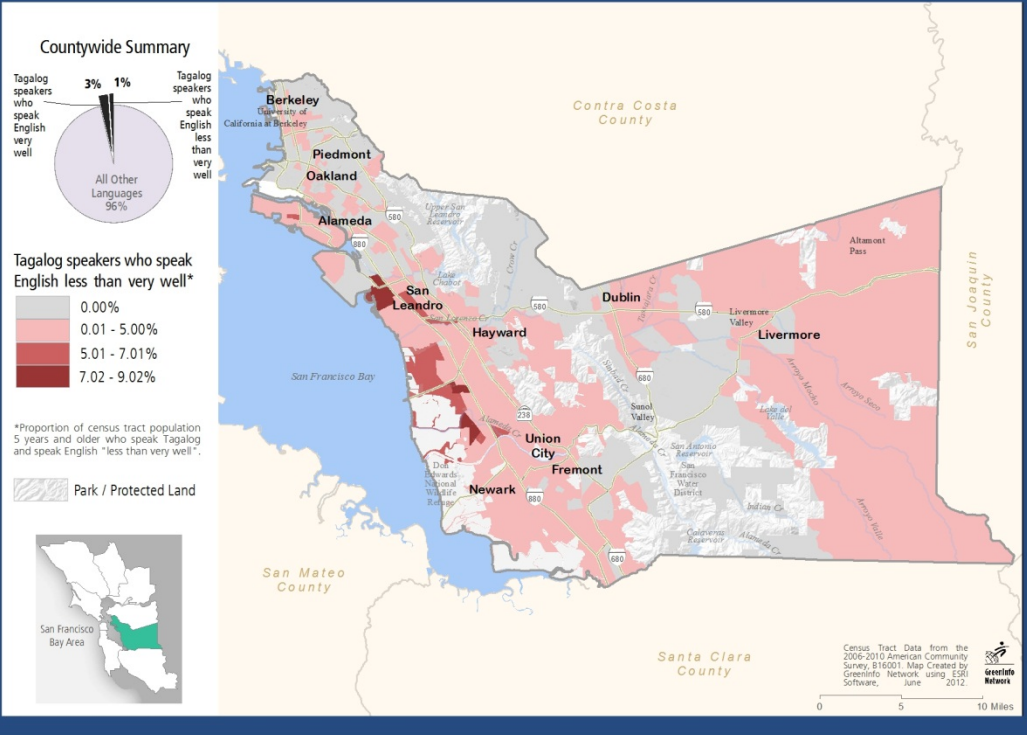
In Alameda County over 10,000 individuals or over 5% of the total population of the county identify as LEP in Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese and Chinese.



Alameda County Chinese speakers who speak English less than very well



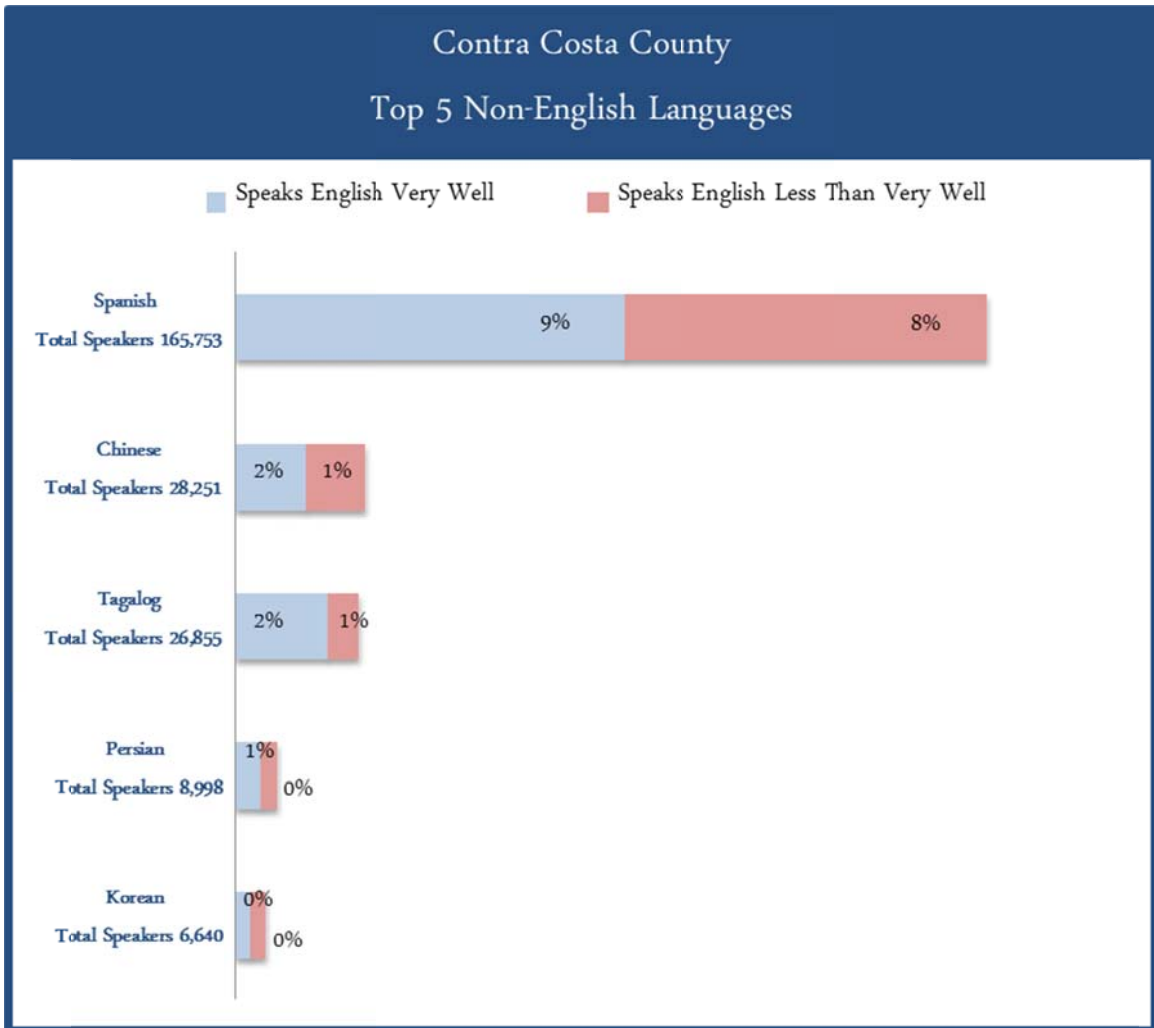
Alameda County Tagalog speakers who speak English less than very well



Contra Costa County

In Contra Costa County the top five most spoken non-English languages were:

- Spanish
- Chinese
- Tagalog
- Persian
- Korean

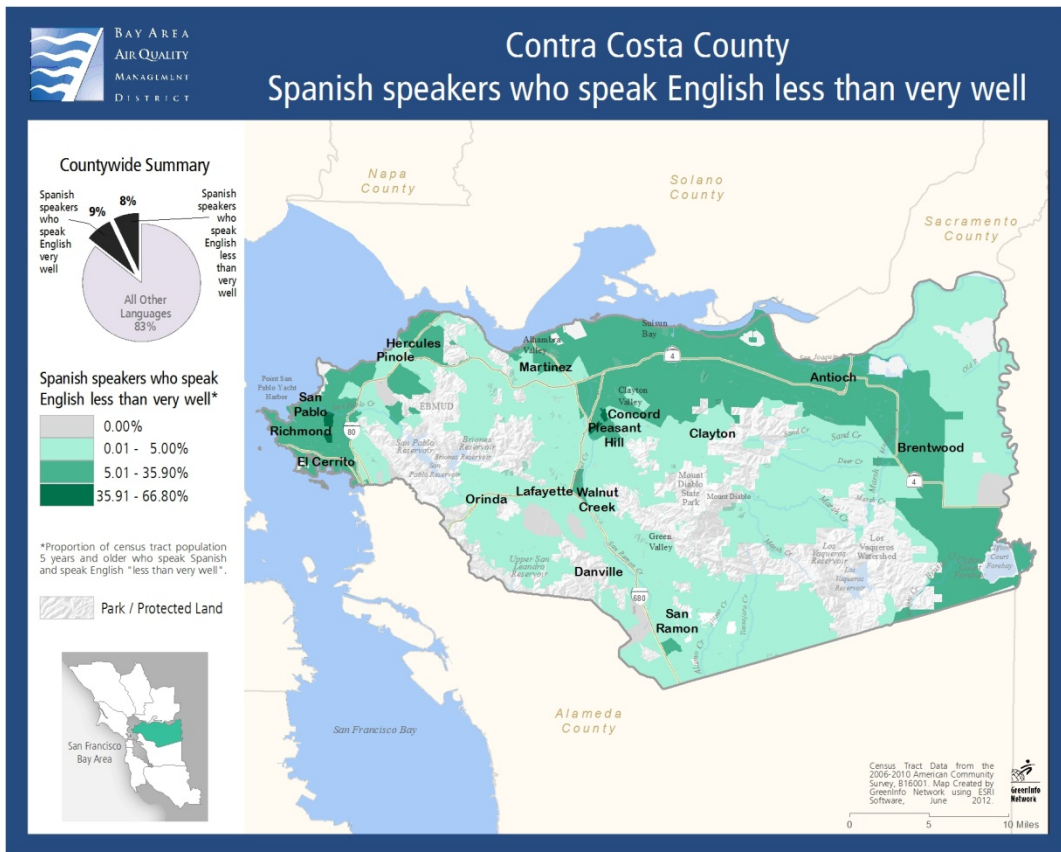


In Contra Costa County,

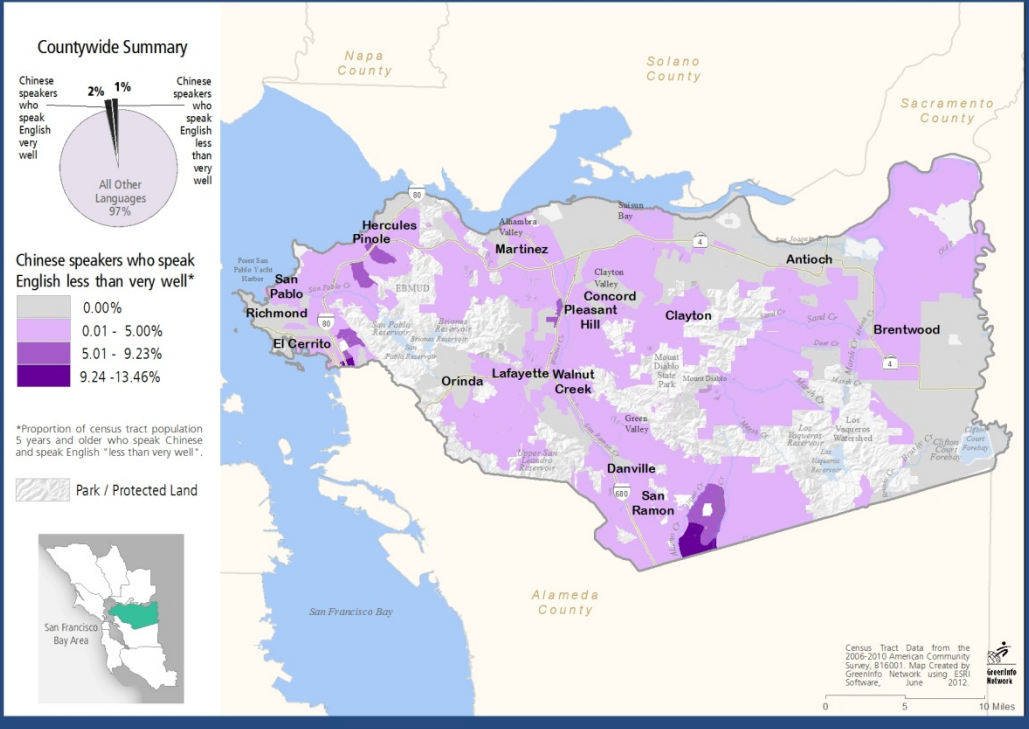
- Eight percent of the total county population speaks Spanish and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”
- One percent of the total county population speaks Chinese and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”
- One percent of the total county population speaks Tagalog and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”

- Less than 1% of the total county population speaks Persian and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”
- Less than 1% of the county population speaks Korean and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”

In Contra Costa County over 10,000 individuals or over 5% of the total population of the county identify as LEP in Spanish and Chinese.



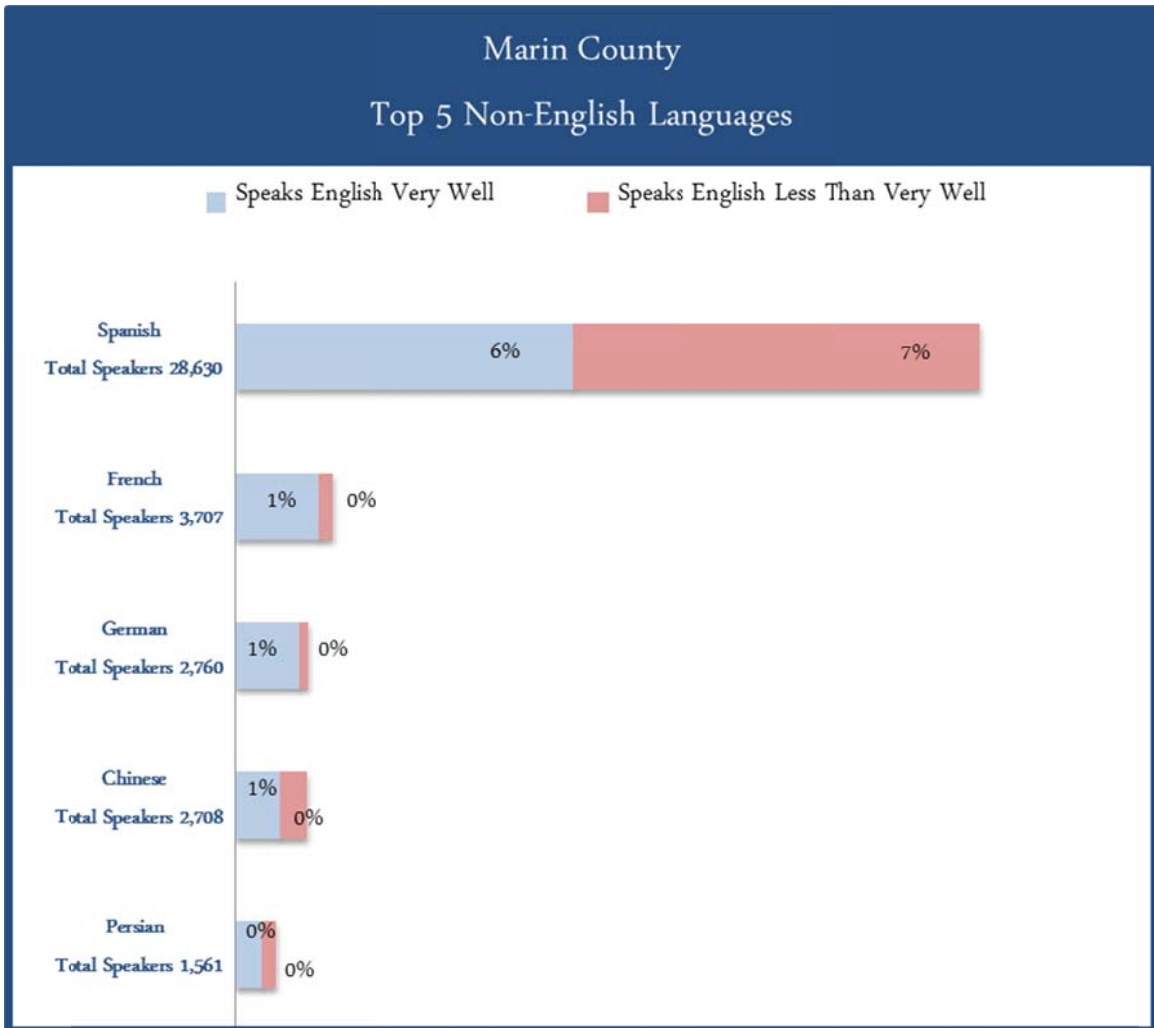
Contra Costa County Chinese speakers who speak English less than very well



Marin County

In Marin County the top five most spoken non-English languages were:

- Spanish
- French
- German
- Chinese
- Persian

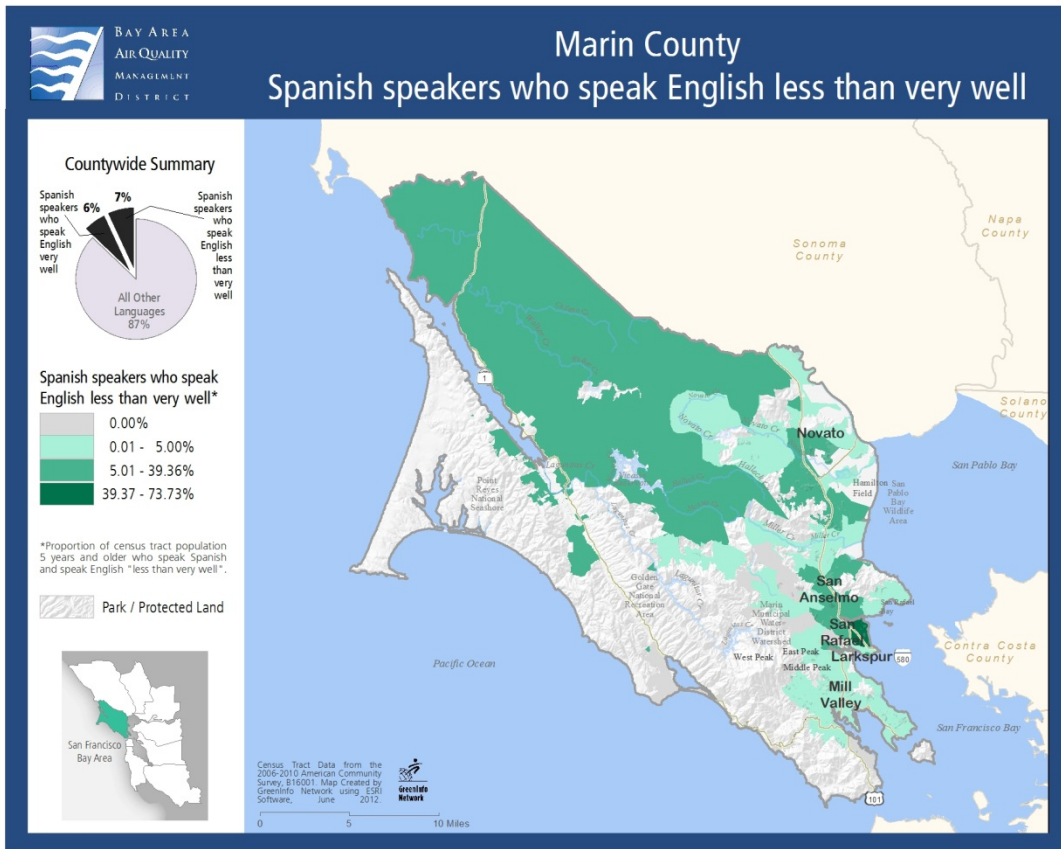


In Marin County,

- Seven percent of the total county population speaks Spanish and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”
- Less than 1% of the county population speaks French and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”
- Less than 1% of the county population speaks German and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”

- Less than 1% of the county population speaks Chinese and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”
- Less than 1% of the county population speaks Persian and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”

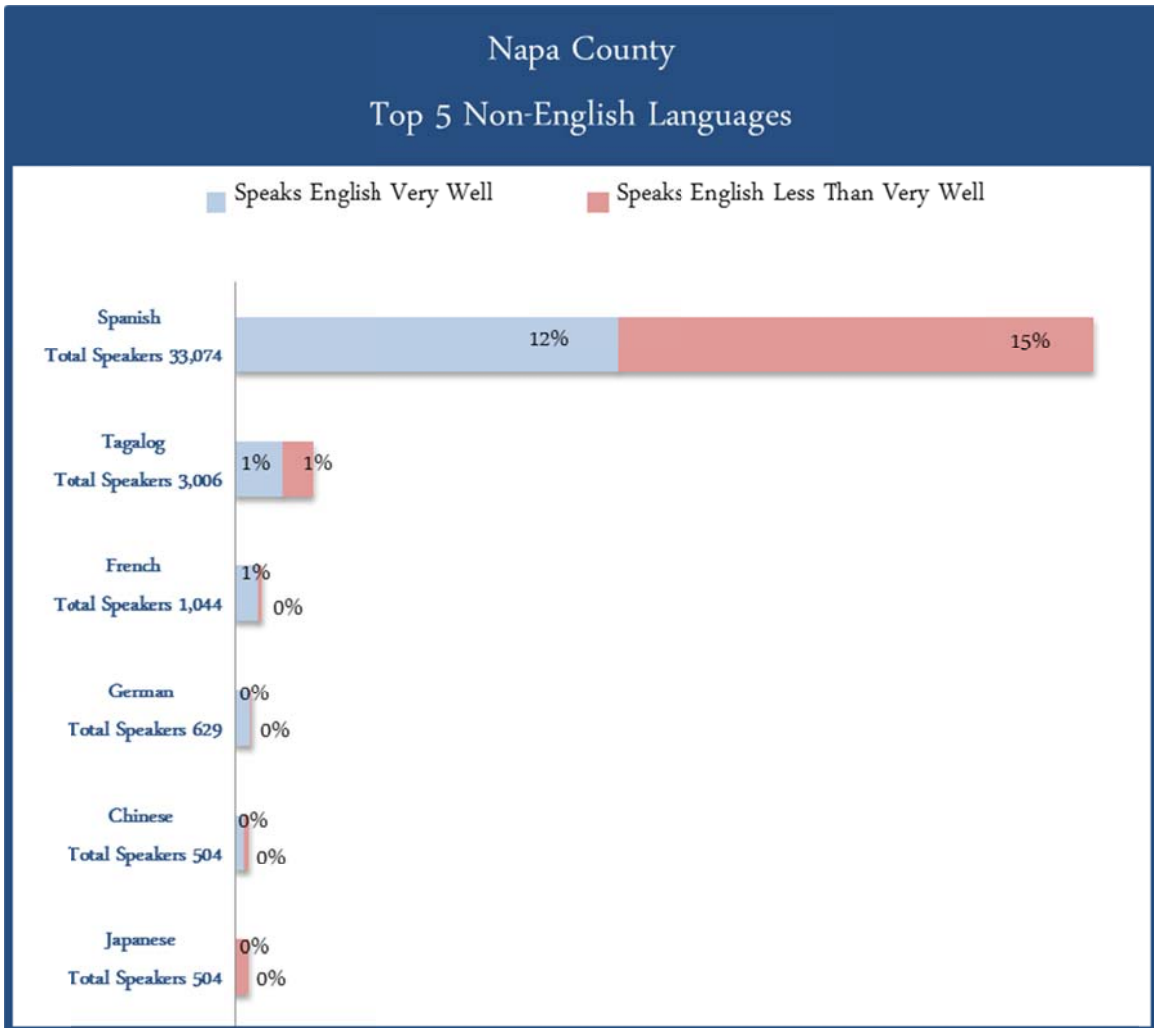
In Marin County over 10,000 individuals or over 5% of the total population of the county identify as LEP in Spanish.



Napa County

In Napa County the top five most spoken non-English languages were:

- Spanish
- Tagalog
- French
- German
- Chinese and Japanese (tied for 5th)



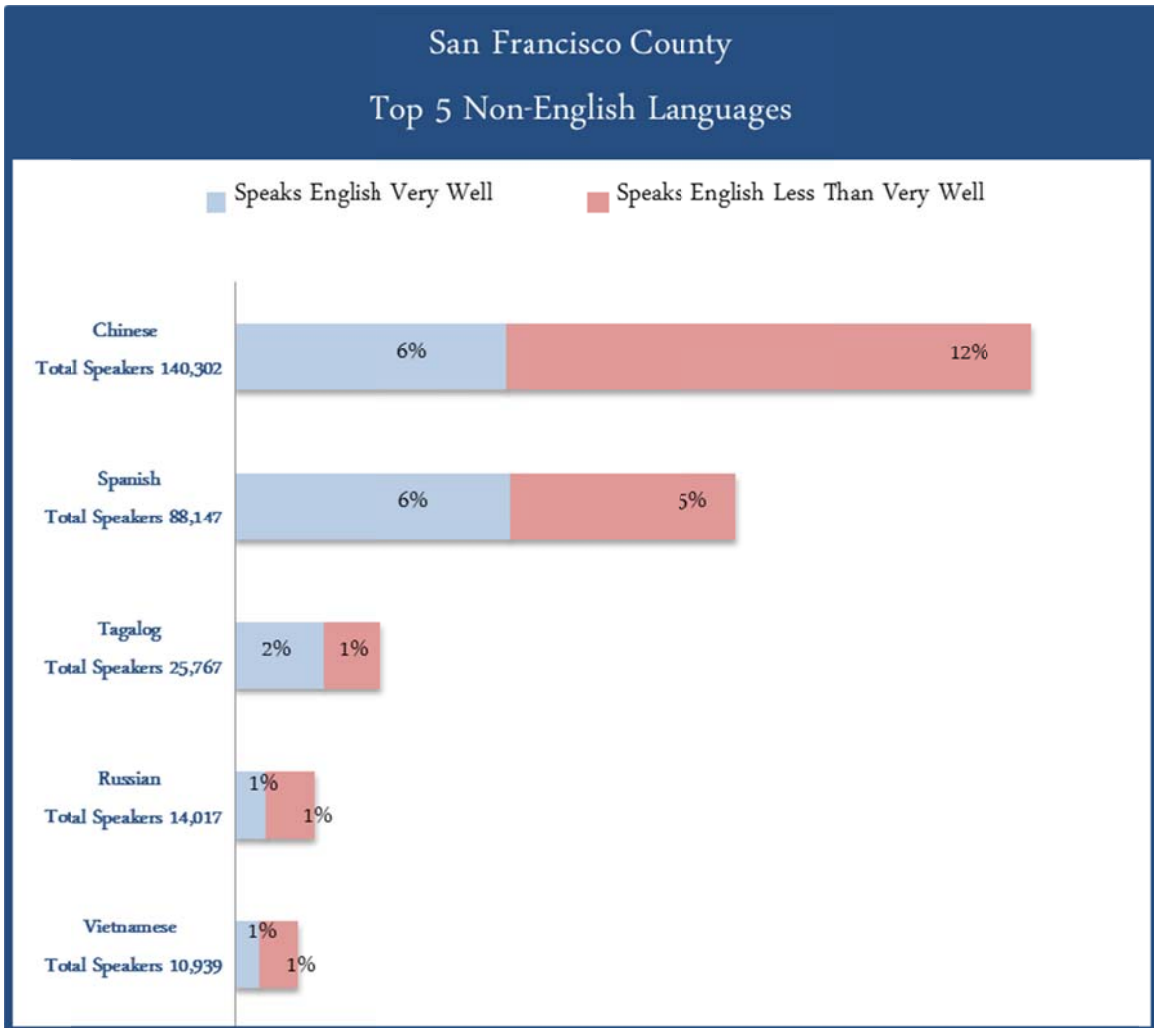
In Napa County,

- Fifteen percent of the total county population speaks Spanish and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”
- One percent of the total county population speaks Tagalog and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”
- French speakers account for 1% of the county population. None indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”

San Francisco County

In San Francisco County the top five most spoken non-English languages were:

- Chinese
- Spanish
- Tagalog
- Russian
- Vietnamese

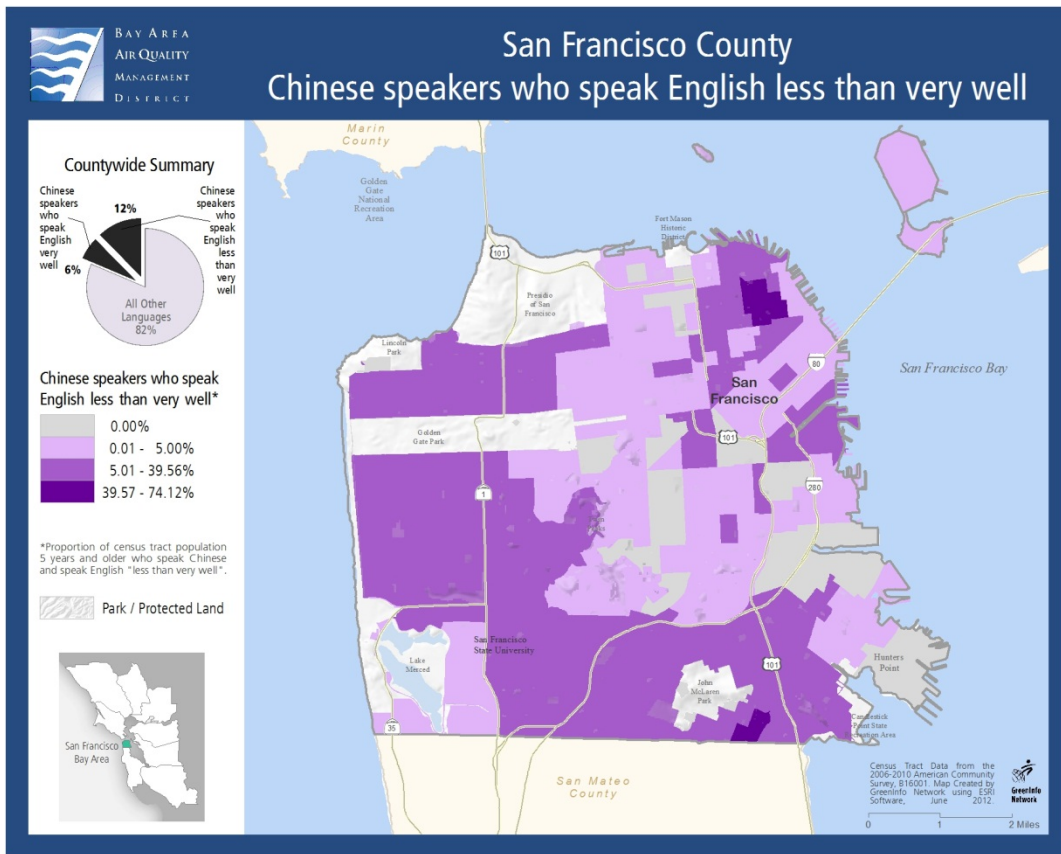


In San Francisco County,

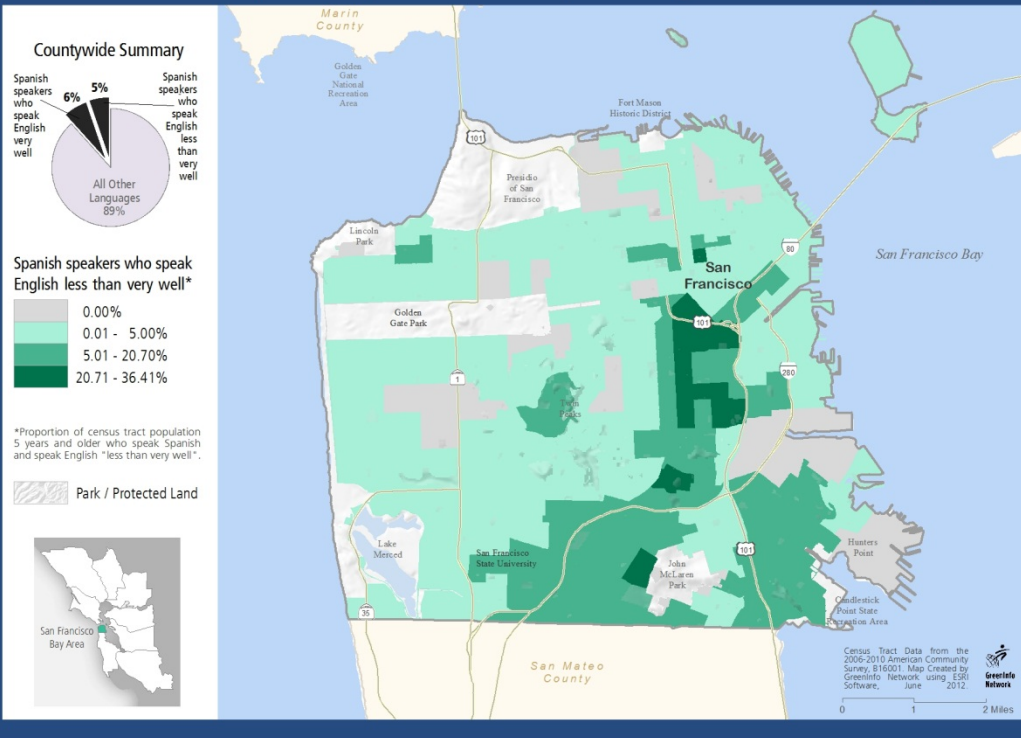
- Twelve percent of the total county population speaks Chinese and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”
- Five percent of the total county population speaks Spanish and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”
- One percent of the total county population speaks Tagalog and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”

- One percent of the total county population speaks Russian and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”
- One percent of the total county population speaks Vietnamese and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”

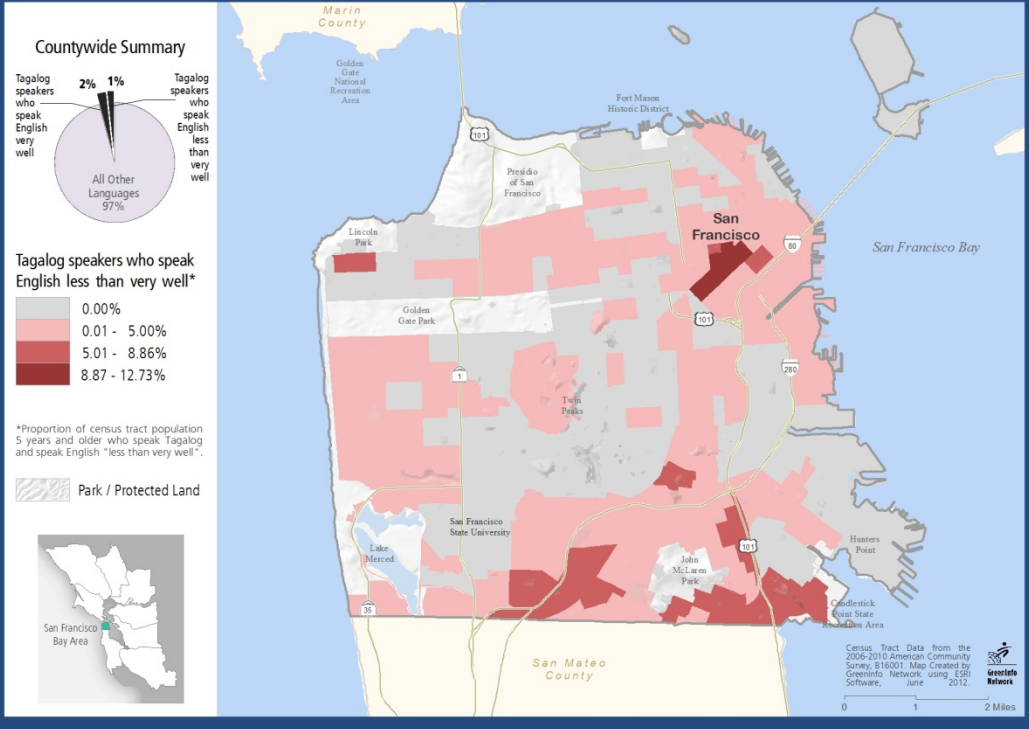
In San Francisco County over 10,000 individuals or over 5% of the total population of the county identify as LEP in Chinese, Spanish and Tagalog.



San Francisco County Spanish speakers who speak English less than very well



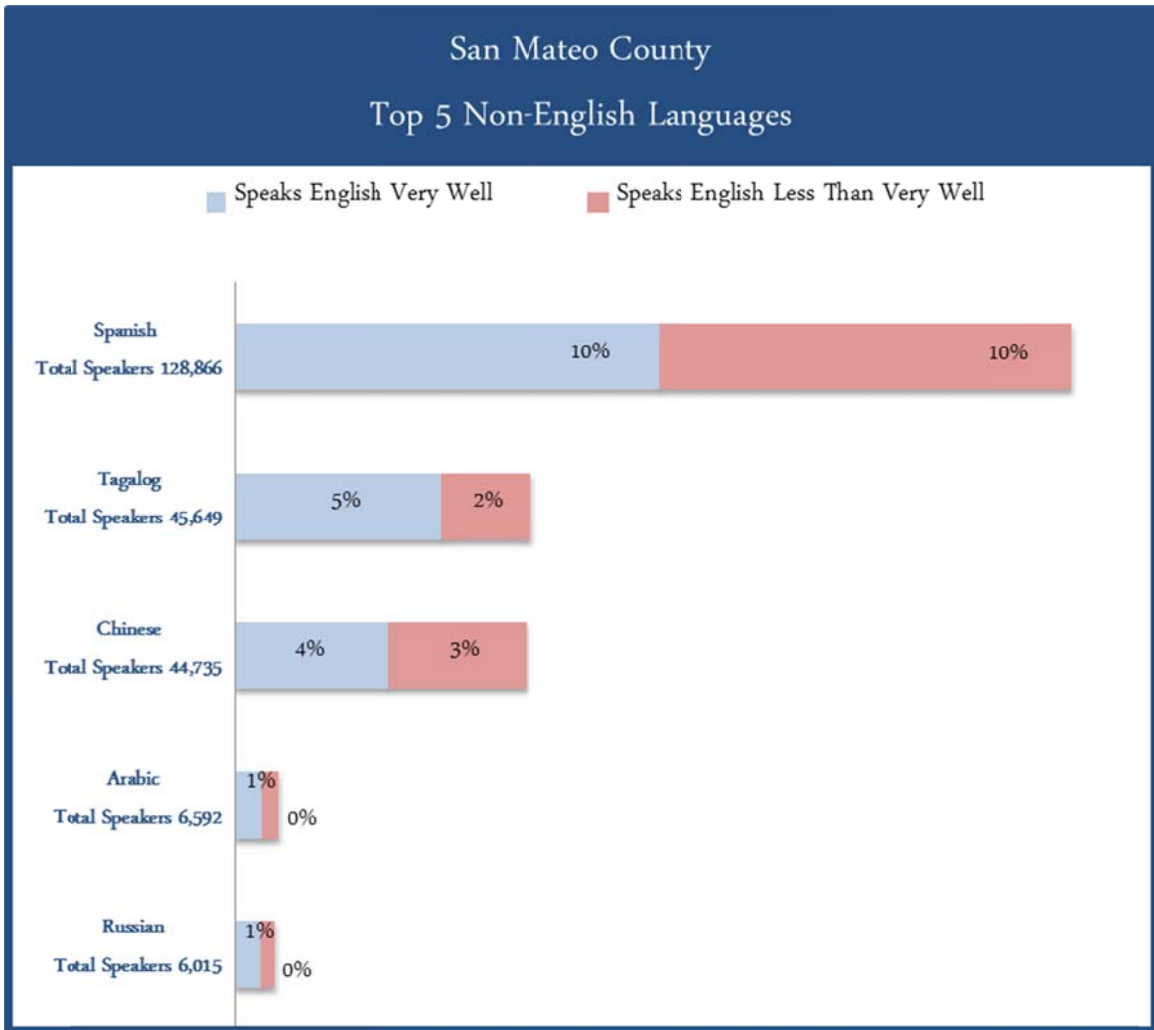
San Francisco County Tagalog speakers who speak English less than very well



San Mateo County

In San Mateo County the top five most spoken non-English languages were:

- Spanish
- Tagalog
- Chinese
- Arabic
- Russian



In San Mateo County,

- Ten percent of the total county population speaks Spanish and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”
- Two percent of the total county population speaks Tagalog and indicated that they speak English “less than very well,” or
- Three percent of the total county population speaks Chinese and indicated speaking English “less than very well.”

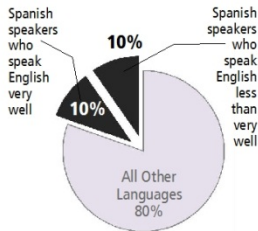
- Less than 1% of the total county population speaks Arabic and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”
- Less than 1% of the total county population speaks Russian and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”

In San Mateo County over 10,000 individuals or over 5% of the total population of the county identify as LEP in Spanish, Tagalog, and Chinese.

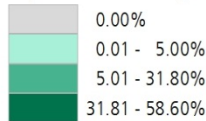
San Mateo County

Spanish speakers who speak English less than very well

Countywide Summary

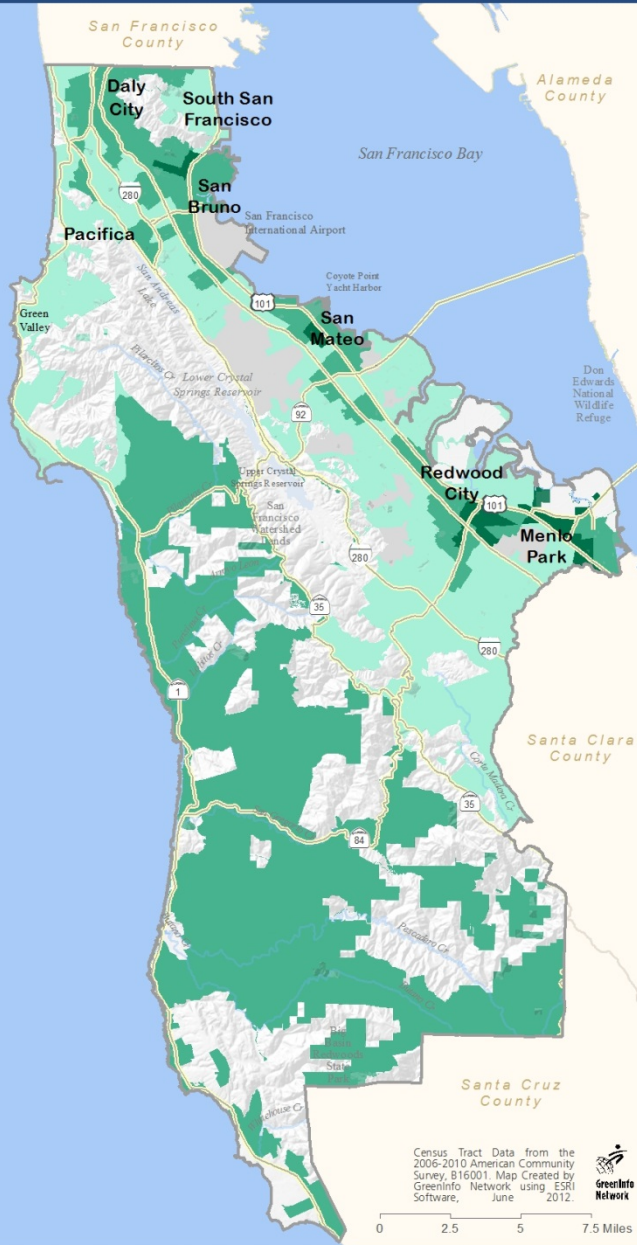


Spanish speakers who speak English less than very well*



*Proportion of census tract population 5 years and older who speak Spanish and speak English "less than very well".

Park / Protected Land



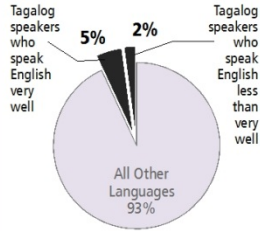
Census Tract Data from the 2006-2010 American Community Survey, B16001. Map Created by GreenInfo Network using ESRI Software, June 2012.



San Mateo County

Tagalog speakers who speak English less than very well

Countywide Summary

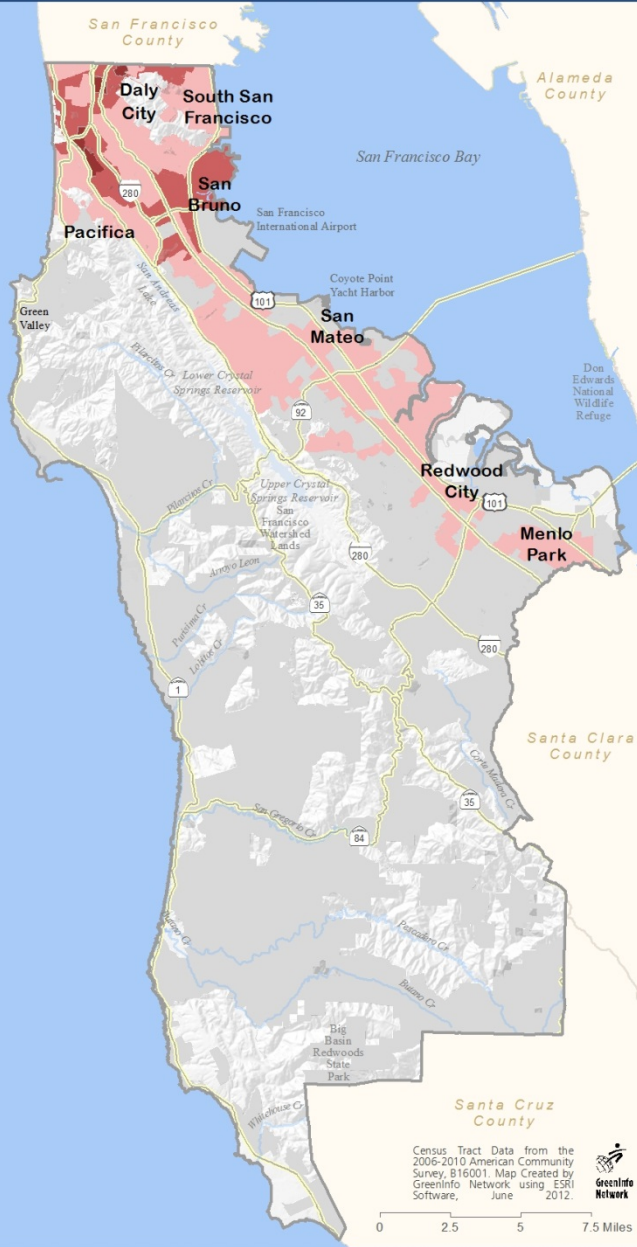


Tagalog speakers who speak English less than very well*



*Proportion of census tract population 5 years and older who speak Tagalog and speak English "less than very well".

Park / Protected Land



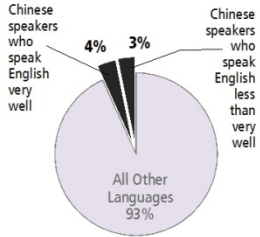
Census Tract Data from the 2006-2010 American Community Survey, B16001. Map Created by GreenInfo Network using ESRI Software, June 2012.

0 2.5 5 7.5 Miles

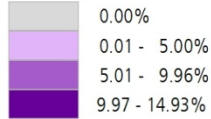
San Mateo County

Chinese speakers who speak English less than very well

Countywide Summary

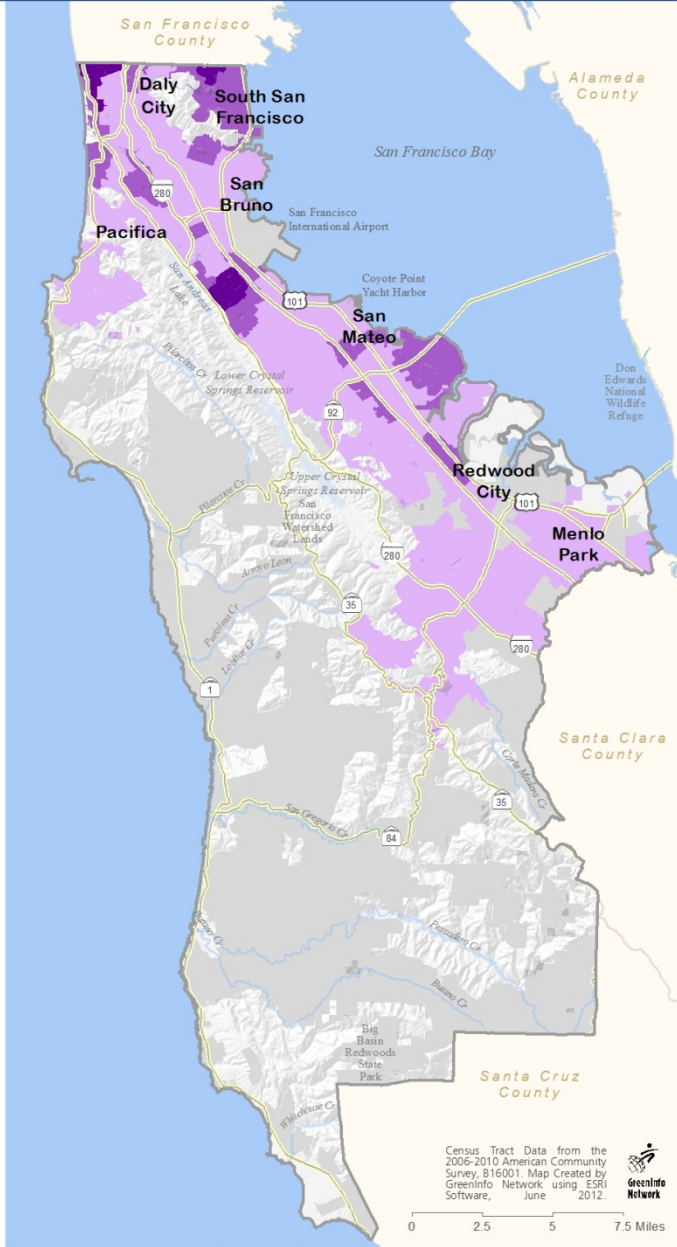


Chinese speakers who speak English less than very well*

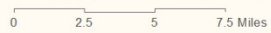


*Proportion of census tract population 5 years and older who speak Chinese and speak English "less than very well".

Park / Protected Land



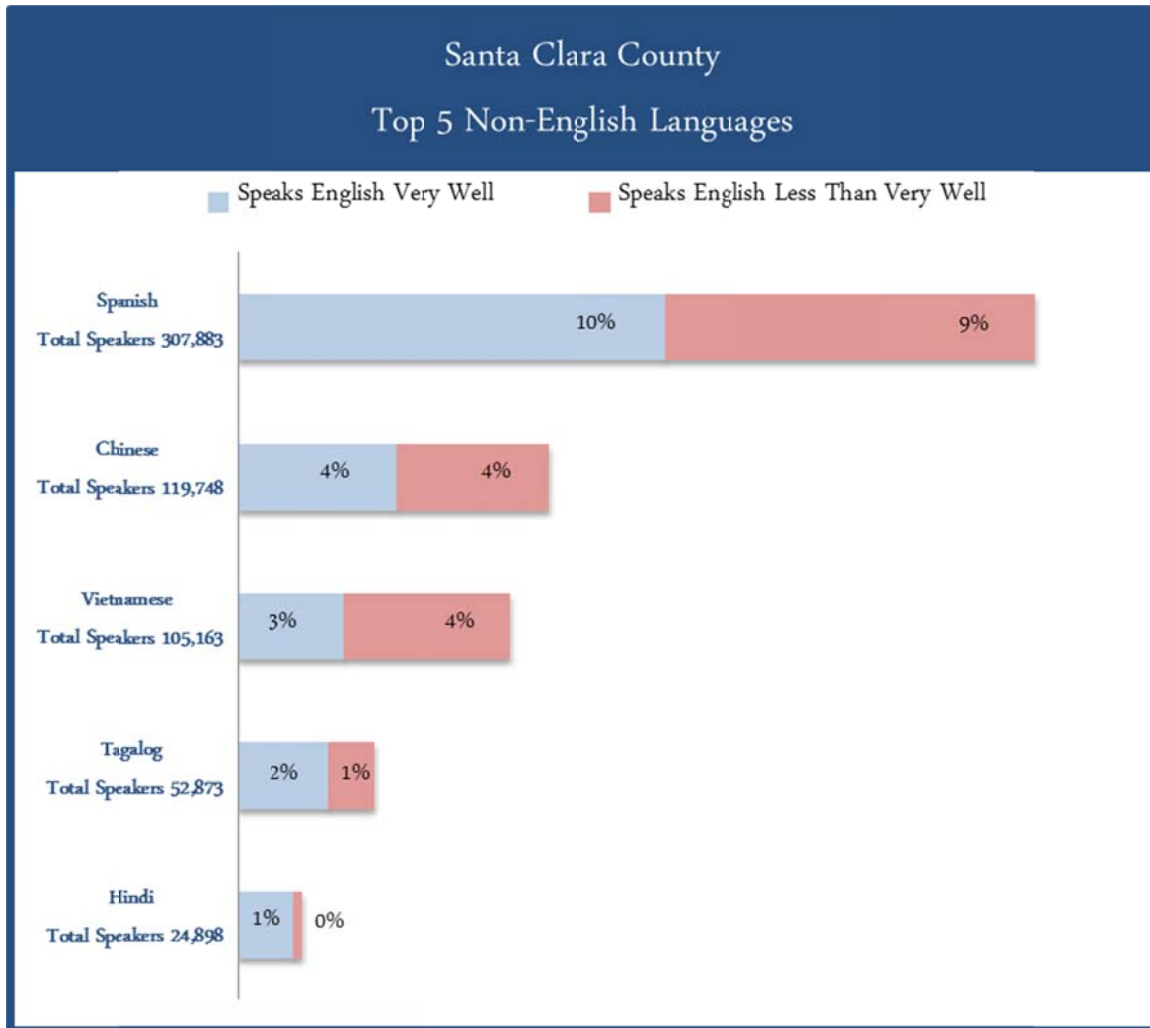
Census Tract Data from the 2006-2010 American Community Survey, B16001. Map Created by GreenInfo Network using ESRI Software, June 2012.



Santa Clara County

In Santa Clara County the top five most spoken non-English languages were:

- Spanish
- Chinese
- Vietnamese
- Tagalog
- Hindi

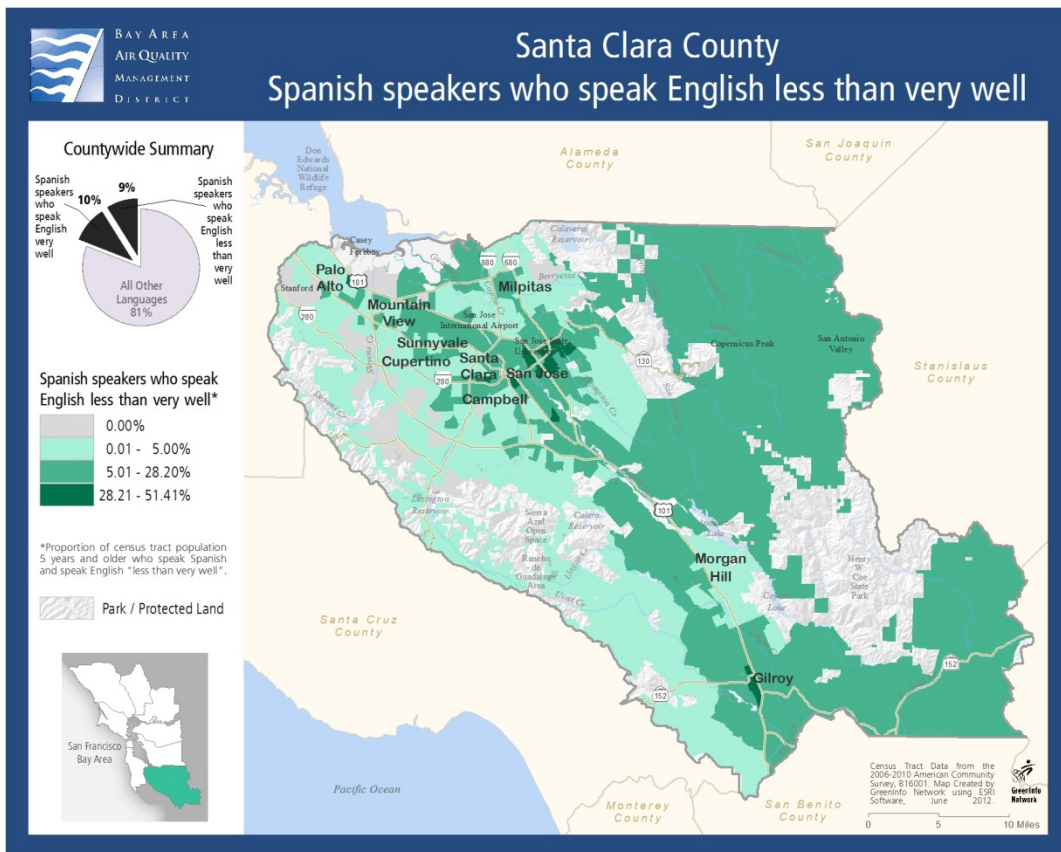


In Santa Clara County,

- Nine percent of the total county population speaks Spanish and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”
- Four percent of the total county population speaks Chinese and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”
- Four percent of the total county population speaks Vietnamese and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”

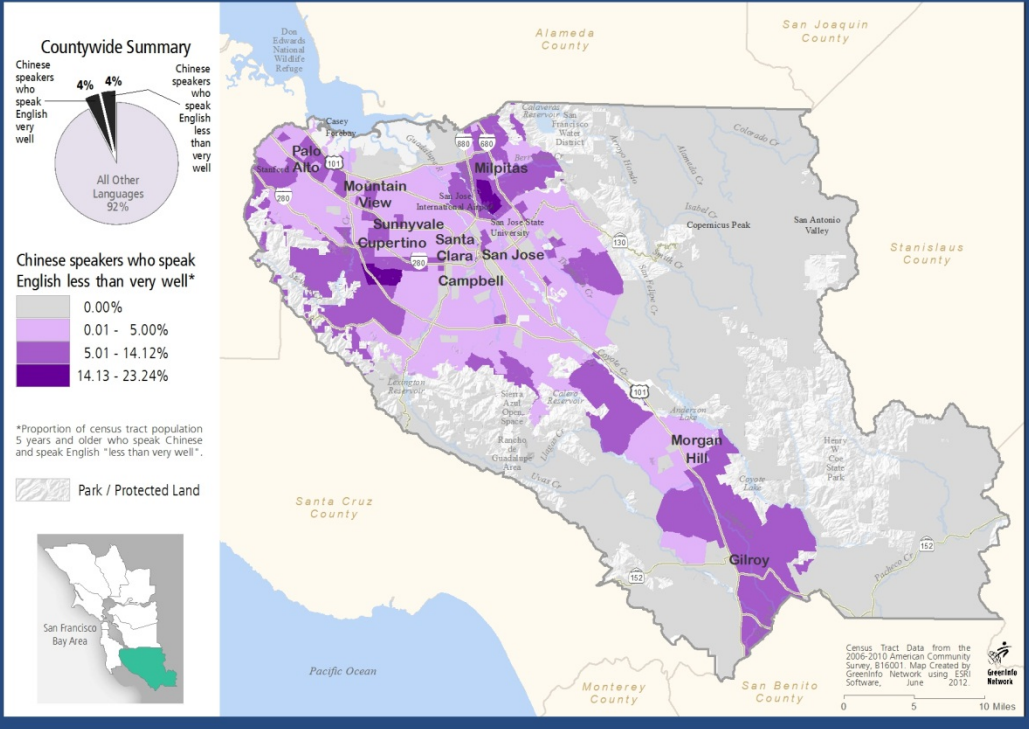
- One percent of the total county population speaks Tagalog and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”
- Less than 1% of the county population speaks Hindi and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”

In Santa Clara County over 10,000 individuals or over 5% of the total population of the county identify as LEP in Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, and Korean. Though the county has a significant number of Hindi speakers, a majority of Hindi speakers do not identify as LEP, while a larger percentage of the population identifies as LEP in Korean.

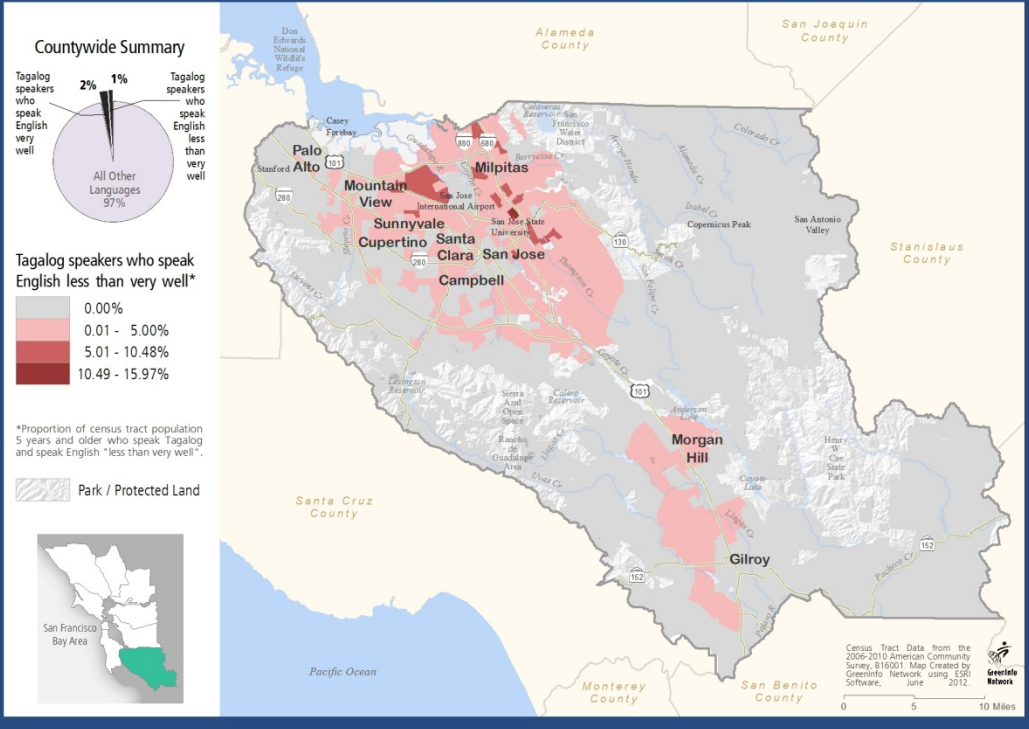


Santa Clara County

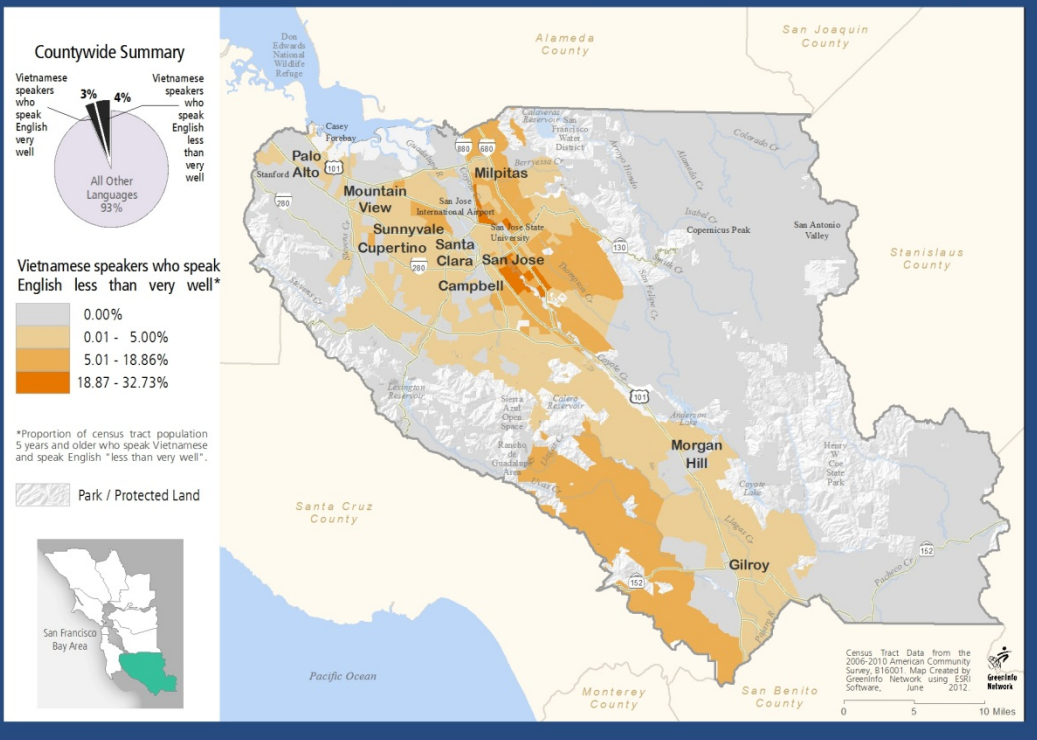
Chinese speakers who speak English less than very well



Santa Clara County Tagalog speakers who speak English less than very well

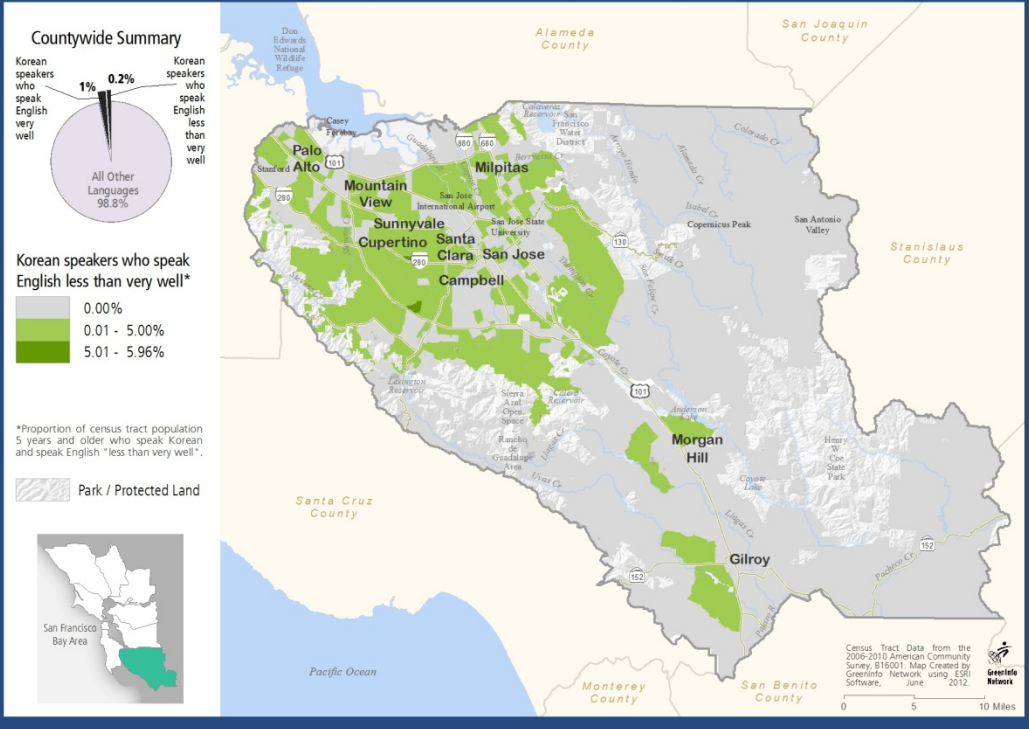


Santa Clara County Vietnamese speakers who speak English less than very well



Santa Clara County

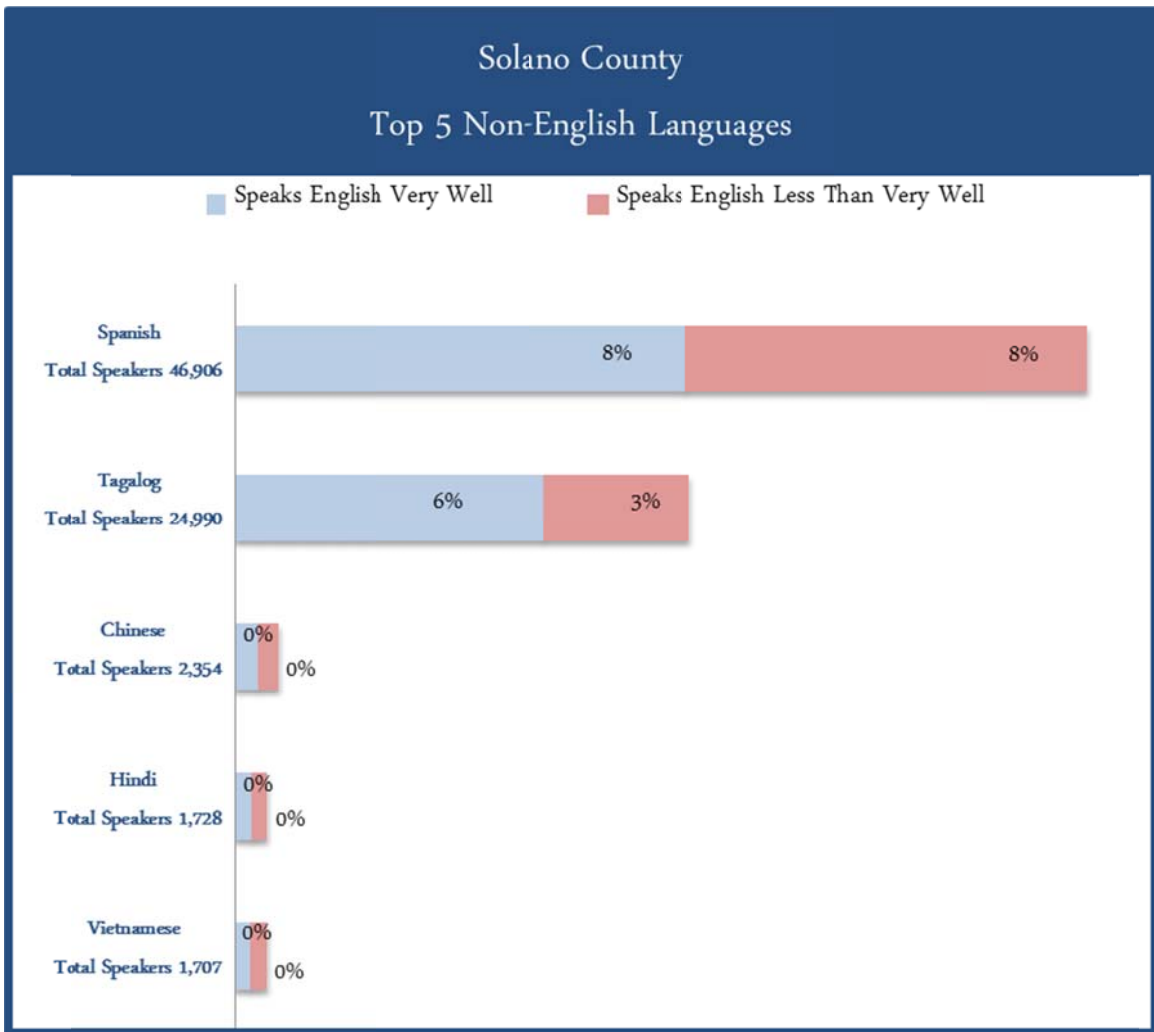
Korean speakers who speak English less than very well



Solano County

In Solano County, language data presented here is reflective of only the area that is within the Air District’s jurisdiction. In the portion of Solano County within the Air District jurisdiction, the top five most spoken non-English languages were:

- Spanish
- Tagalog
- Chinese
- Hindi
- Vietnamese

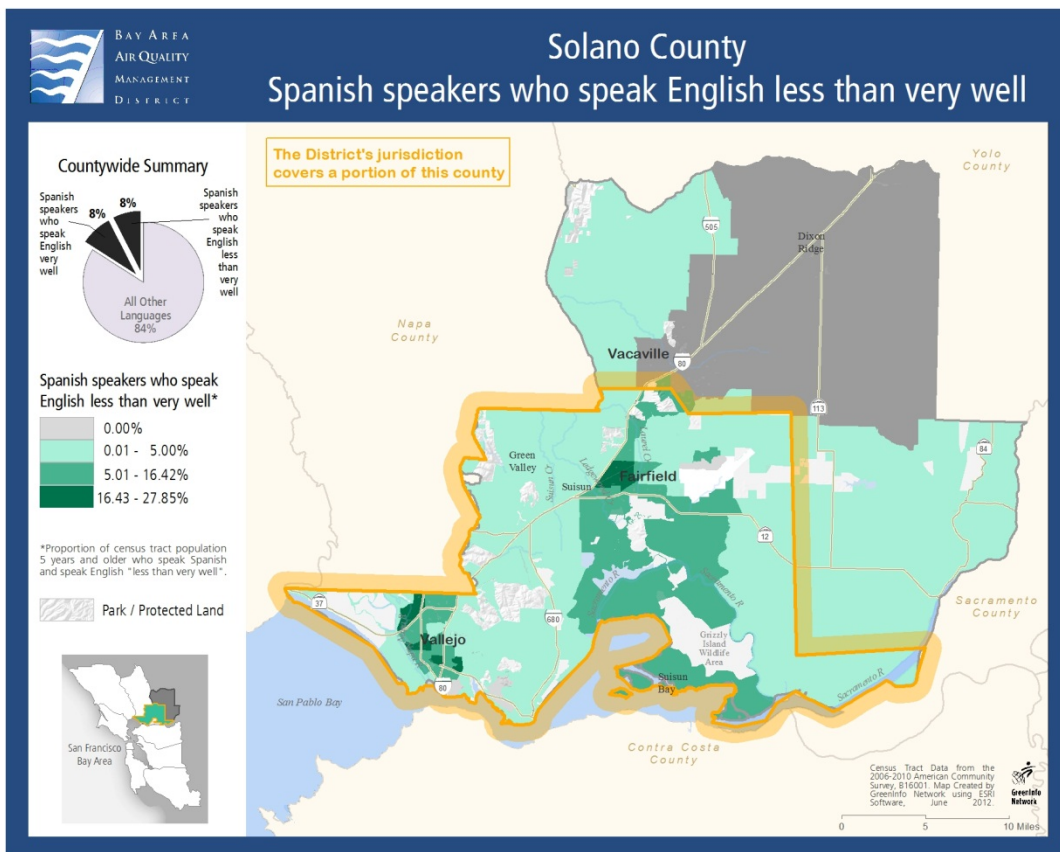


In the portion of Solano County within the Air District jurisdiction,

- Eight percent of the population within the Air District jurisdiction speaks Spanish and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”
- Three percent of the population within the Air District jurisdiction speaks Tagalog and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”

- Less than 1% of the population within the Air District jurisdiction speaks Chinese and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”
- Less than 1% of the population within the Air District jurisdiction speaks Hindi and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”
- Less than 1% of the population within the Air District jurisdiction speaks Vietnamese and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”

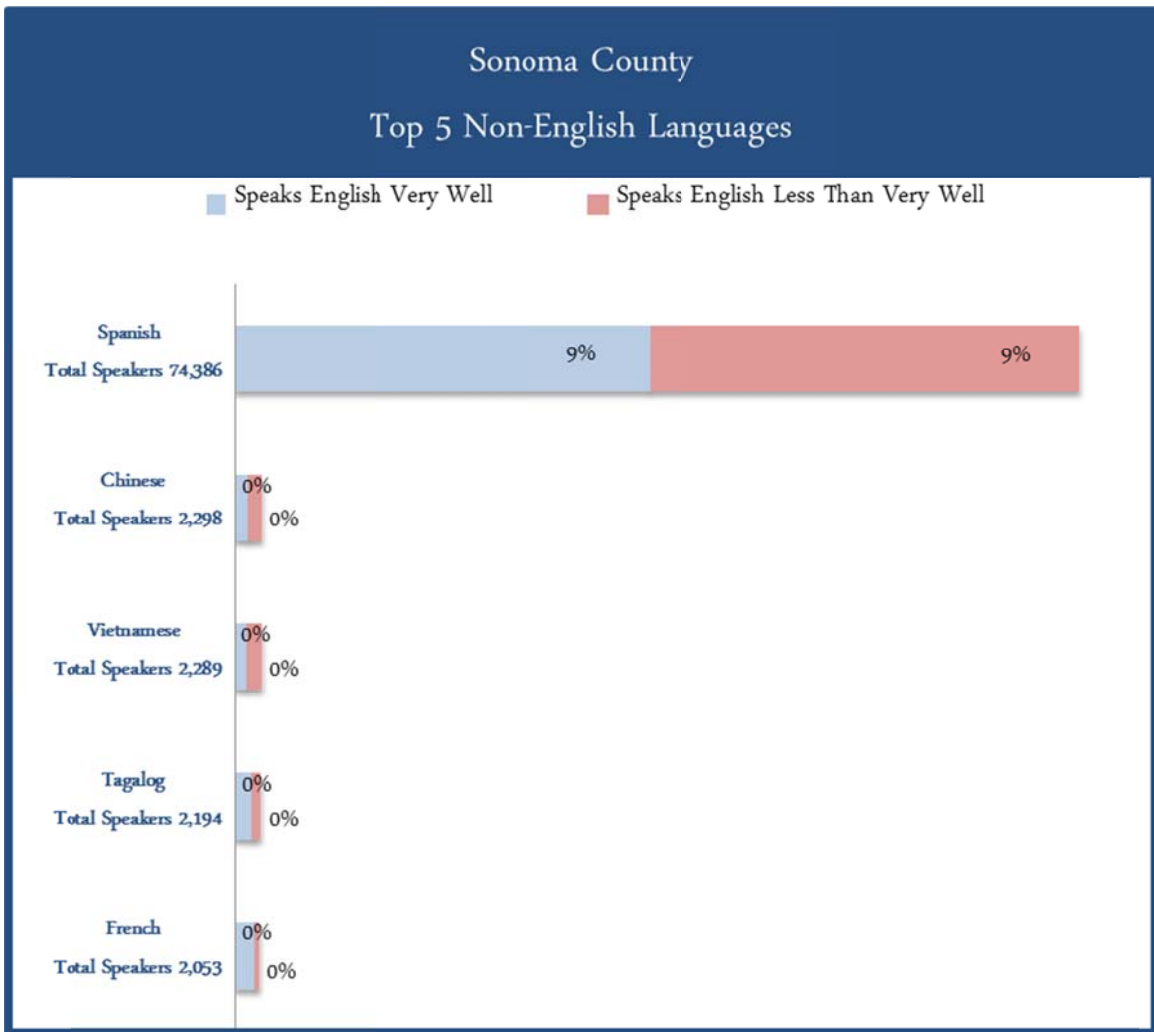
In Solano County over 10,000 individuals or over 5% of the total population of the county identify as LEP in Spanish.



Sonoma County

In Sonoma County, language data presented here is reflective of only the area that is within the Air District’s jurisdiction. In the portion of Sonoma County within the Air District jurisdiction, the top five non-English languages spoken were:

- Spanish
- Chinese
- Vietnamese
- Tagalog
- French

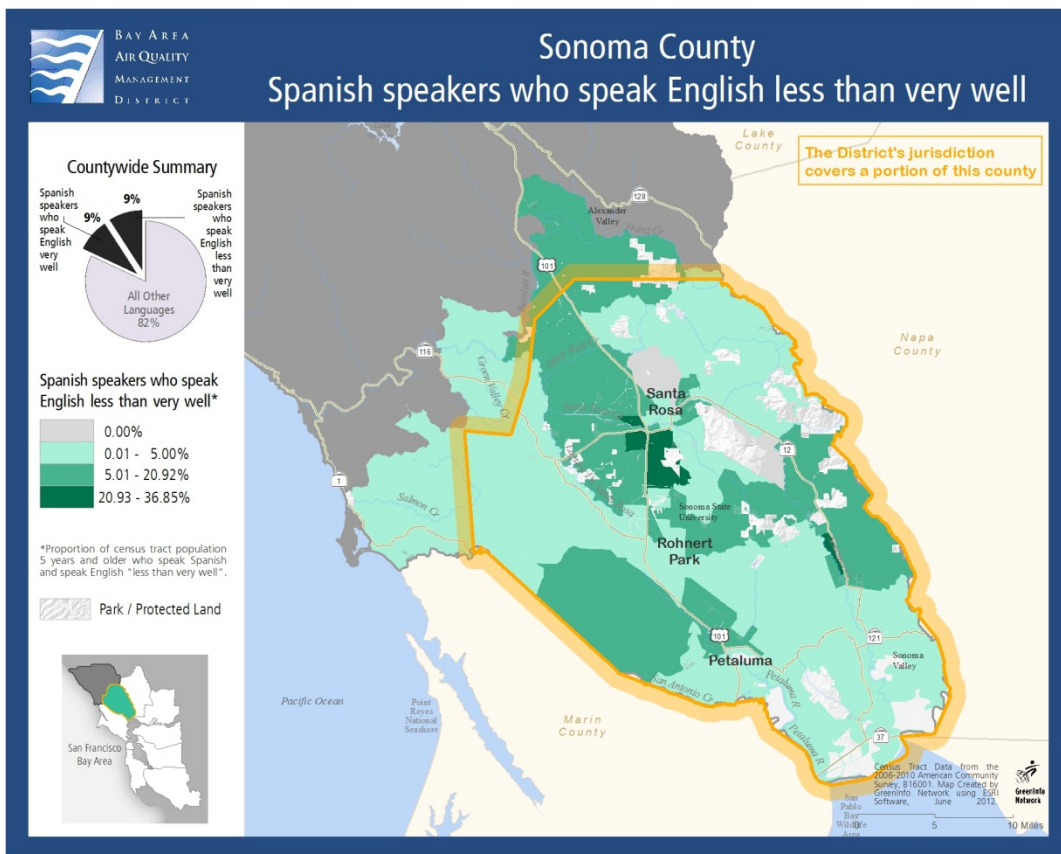


In the portion of Sonoma County within the Air District jurisdiction,

- Nine percent of the population within the Air District jurisdiction speaks Spanish and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”
- Less than 1% of the population within the Air District jurisdiction speaks Chinese and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”

- Less than 1% of the population within the Air District jurisdiction speaks Vietnamese and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”
- Less than 1% of the population within the Air District jurisdiction speaks Tagalog and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”
- Less than 1% of the population within the Air District jurisdiction speaks French and indicated that they speak English “less than very well.”

In Sonoma County over 10,000 individuals or over 5% of the total population of the county identify as LEP in Spanish.



Key Findings and Considerations

- Spanish and Chinese are the most common non-English languages throughout the Air District’s jurisdiction.
- In some counties, there are significant differences in the population size between the top ranked non-English language spoken in the county and other non-English languages spoken. The Air District will consider these population differences, as well as geographic scope of the project and stakeholder interest, when considering language needs.
- Data regarding language diversity does not capture populations that commute in to work within the jurisdiction of the Air District. The Air District should consider transient populations in determining translation and interpretation needs.
- In some areas, a large percentage of the county population speaks a non-English language; however, the percentage of individuals who speak English “less than very well” or “not at all” is considerably smaller.
- Census data collects information regarding ability to speak English and another language but does not collect data about language preferences, or an individual’s preferred language for receiving spoken or written information.
- Data does not reflect language concentrations by industry or any information regarding workers. Information about workers and industry-specific language concentrations should be considered when determining the scope of a project and interpretation and translation needs.

B. Frequency of Contact with Limited English Proficient Residents

To assess the frequency of contact with Limited English Proficient (LEP) individuals, staff examined LEP contact by air quality inspection staff in the field and by front-line phone staff, including the Air District's Radio Room, Public Information Officers and administrative staff, as these staff seemed most likely to encounter LEP individuals in their work.

Inspection Staff Contact

The Air District has approximately 80 inspectors on staff. Air quality inspectors conduct nearly 12,000 inspections a year at regulated facilities, including refineries and gas stations. Additionally, inspection staff responds to approximately 4,500 complaints per year from Bay Area residents.

Of the 57 inspectors surveyed, over 75% indicated they had come in contact with LEP individuals in the field. While many of the inspectors indicated they seldom came in contact with LEP individuals, about a quarter of respondents indicated they came in contact with LEP individuals either "often" or "very often." The languages they came in contact with most frequently were Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Korean and Vietnamese.

Inspectors indicated they often encountered industry-specific language clusters. Inspectors identified that in the fields of construction/asbestos removal, agriculture and burning, and auto-body/coating, Spanish was likely to be the primary language of an LEP individual and Spanish-language materials were most helpful. Similarly, inspectors identified that some industries like Gasoline Dispensing Facilities (GDFs), Port Trucking and Dry Cleaners were more likely to be multilingual industries. Identifying industry-specific language clusters is a particularly important component to understanding frequency of contact with LEP individuals because of the nature of the Air District's work in permitting industry, and because Census Bureau demographic information does not capture language information by industry, or individuals who might travel into the Air District's jurisdiction for work.

Summation of Findings:

- Eighty-one percent of respondents indicated that they had contact with LEP residents in the course of work.
- When asked to characterize the frequency of encounters with LEP residents, 5% of those surveyed indicated "very often," 23% indicated "often," 68% indicated "seldom," and 4% said "never."
- A majority of respondents used a combination of two or more methods when encountering language barriers.
- Twenty-nine inspectors indicated relying upon another individual present to act as an interpreter.
- Twenty-three inspectors indicated using visual aids in the field to communicate with LEP individuals.
- Nineteen inspectors indicated they utilized the Language Line provided by the Air District to assist in communicating with LEP individuals in the field.

- Fourteen inspectors indicated utilizing their own proficiency in other languages as a tool to communicate with LEP individuals, though six inspectors indicated their command of the language was basic and they were not bilingual.
- Sixty-eight percent of respondents indicated that they did encounter industry specific language clusters.
- Monolingual language clusters such as construction/asbestos removal, agriculture and burning, and auto body/coating were characterized as Spanish-speaking.
- Multilingual language clusters including GDF, port trucking, and dry cleaners were characterized as consisting of as many as seven languages and ethnic groups: Farsi, Punjabi, Vietnamese, Spanish, Hindi, Arabic and Korean.
- Utilizing bilingual coworkers' language proficiency is an oft-used strategy when encountering LEP individuals in the field. Fifty-six percent of respondents indicated that they never sought coworkers' language assistance, 39% indicated "seldom," 4% "often," and 2% "very often."

Phone Staff Contact

Air District general phone lines rarely receive calls in non-English languages. Calls that are received are primarily in either Spanish or Chinese (Cantonese or Mandarin). Often, these calls are handled internally by bilingual Air District staff. At this time, the Air District has no method of collecting data on non-English language calls and has not tracked the number of non-English calls the Air District receives.

Estimated Number of Phone Calls to the Air District in English and a non-English Language (per calendar year)		
<i>Phone Line</i>	<i>Calls in English</i>	<i>Calls in non-English language</i>
1-800-334-ODOR	8,500	120
1-877-4NOBURN	6,000	N/A
415-749-4900	3,500	40
Phone Alerts	18,700	100

Air District phone staff is trained to utilize Language Line, a telephone service that provides simultaneous interpretation on demand. Inspectors are equipped with educational materials in additional languages. Bilingual inspectors utilize their language skills. Field staff can also call bilingual staff at the Air District headquarters or use the Language Line as a resource while in the field.

C. Nature and Importance of the Program in Residents' Lives

Over the last 55 years the Bay Area's air quality has significantly improved because of the rules, regulations and plans developed and adopted by the Air District. Founded in 1955 by the California State Legislature, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District was the first air quality district in the state of California and, as a result, has always been at the forefront of air quality science and information. As a regulatory agency, the Air District operates a number of programs that impact every

regulated organization in the Bay Area and as the agency that monitors air quality in the Bay Area, the Air District is charged with notifying residents when air quality is forecast to be unhealthy. As a result, the work of the Air District affects every Bay Area resident.

Programs vary in importance to individuals: small business owners or individuals affected by respiratory illness may value programs differently. Permits, as well as Compliance and Enforcement primarily impact business owners, while programs like Winter Spare the Air or the Carl Moyer Grant program often impact broader groups of residents and stakeholders.

For the purposes of this analysis, the following Air District functions and their importance in residents' lives are reviewed:

1. Air Quality Forecast and Alerts
2. Governing Boards
3. Permits and Compliance and Enforcement
4. Planning and Rules
5. Air Monitoring
6. Grants
7. Public Information

Air District divisions work in coordination to execute each of these primary functions.

Air Quality Forecast and Alerts

The Air District provides the public with air quality conditions and forecasts daily. This information is critical for the breathing health of Bay Area residents. On days when air quality is forecast to be unhealthy, the Air District issues Summer Spare the Air Alerts, triggered by high ozone levels, and Winter Spare the Alerts, triggered by high levels of particulate matter. These alerts inform the public of elevated pollution levels and let people know how they can protect their health.

In addition, Winter Spare the Air Alerts remind the public that it is illegal for Bay Area residents and businesses to use fireplaces, woodstoves and inserts, pellet stoves, outdoor fire pits, or any other wood-burning devices for the duration of the Alert. These reminders help reduce pollution levels and help residents avoid tickets for violating the wood burning ban.

Governing Boards

The Air District is governed by a 22-member Board of Directors composed of locally elected officials from each of the nine Bay Area counties. The number of Board members from each county is proportionate to its population. The Air District is assisted by an Advisory Council that provides input to the Board and the Executive Officer/APCO on air quality matters. The Council is made up of 20 representatives from community, health, environmental and other organizations.

Additionally, an independent, five-member Hearing Board adjudicates regulatory compliance and enforcement issues between the Air District and local industries. The Hearing Board also hears appeals of permitting decisions made by the Executive Officer/APCO.

The Board of Directors directs and oversees the Air District's work throughout the year with assistance from the Advisory Council, determining yearly goals to reduce air pollution and ensuring the Air District is meeting its vision and mission.

Permits

Permits reviewed and issued by the Air District ensure facilities comply with all applicable air quality regulations. Permit applications evaluated by the Air District include those from Prevention of Significant Deterioration, Acid Rain, and federal Title V permits. The permitting process verifies that the facility will comply before the facility begins construction or operation. Once the facility is in operation, the permit must be renewed on an annual basis. This permitting process is a critical step in protecting the public from pollution levels above those permitted by federal, state and local air quality regulations.

Compliance Assistance

The Air District provides a range of education and compliance assistance activities to help regulated facilities comply with air quality regulations and their permit conditions. This program helps the regulated facilities avoid tickets or fines. It is another critical step in protecting the public from pollution levels above those permitted by federal, state and local air quality regulations.

Enforcement

The Enforcement program is intended to verify that facilities adhere to their permit conditions. The Air District conducts nearly 13,000 inspections each year. This total includes inspections of permitted facilities and sites handling asbestos, and diesel engine inspections. The Air District's Compliance and Enforcement Division ensures a high degree of compliance with air-quality-related federal, state and Air District laws, regulations and permit conditions. When violations of air quality regulations are discovered, the Air District provides enforcement action to expedite return to compliance.

Complaint Reporting and Investigation

In 2011, the Air District received approximately 5,880 air pollution complaints. The complaint reporting phone line, 1-800-334-ODOR, allows residents to contact the District when they have an immediate concern regarding an odor, dust or smoke in their neighborhood. The Air District investigates complaints it receives and follows up with complainants who provide contact information.

Planning and Rule Development

The Air District periodically prepares and updates plans in order to attain state and national air quality standards, comply with air quality planning requirements, and achieve the goal of healthy air. Clean Air Plans also set the regulatory agenda for the agency. All rules developed begin as a "control measure" in a Clean Air Plan. This is important to the public at large because the Clean Air Plan and control measures outlined in the Plan provide a level of pollution protection for the public beyond that provided in federal or state regulations. The development of plans and rules are vital to regulated facilities as updated plans and rules affect operational costs and activities.

Public participation is an integral element of this process and the Air District engages in extensive outreach to both affected industries and the public. Draft rules are viewed at public workshops and comments are considered and integrated as appropriate. When a draft has been finalized and reviewed at public meetings, it is brought before the Air District's Board of Directors for approval. Public participation at early stages in the planning and rule development process allows residents the opportunity to ask questions, engage with development staff, and ensure their comments are heard and discussed.

Grants and Incentives

The Air District administers grant and incentive programs to improve air quality in the Bay Area. These programs offer funding to public agencies, private companies, and Bay Area residents for projects that reduce or eliminate air pollution and greenhouse gases from mobile sources such as cars, trucks, marine vessels, locomotives, and construction equipment. In the Bay Area, mobile sources and wood burning are the greatest contributors to air pollution. One of the larger grant programs administered by the Air District is the Carl Moyer program. The Carl Moyer Program is a state-funded incentive program created by the California Legislature to reduce emissions from heavy-duty engines. Managed locally by the Air District, the Carl Moyer Program provides grants primarily for installing new, cleaner engines or emission-control devices in heavy-duty equipment such as trucks and buses, marine vessels, construction equipment, locomotives and agricultural irrigation pumps.

Additionally, the Air District operates a Goods Movement program. The emphasis of the Goods Movement Program is to quickly reduce air pollution emissions and health risk from freight movement at Bay Area ports and along the region's major roadways. The program funds the retrofit and replacement of older, higher-polluting diesel trucks, locomotives, cargo-handling equipment and marine vessels, as well as the installation of shore-side power systems.

Grants offer local residents the opportunity to upgrade and improve equipment while simultaneously reducing emissions and improving air quality. Air District staff work closely with grantees to ensure grant applications are complete and meet state and federal guidelines. Grants allow small businesses to remain competitive while ensuring fleet vehicles are cleaner.

Public Information and Outreach

The Air District provides information to the public upon request and also utilizes tools like the website, social and print media to inform the public of Air District activities and events. Public information covers a wide range of information regarding air quality, health impacts and Air District records and activities. Individuals may contact the Air District with general questions or specific inquiries about air quality and speak with public information experts who answer or direct their inquiries. In addition, public information professionals ensure local print and broadcast media are aware of Spare the Air Days and air quality incidents in the Bay Area. By knowing when air quality is forecast to be unhealthy residents can respond with informed choices.

Air District staff also attend school, business and community events throughout the region, engaging with local residents, answering air quality questions and discussing the health impacts of unhealthy air. Air District staff distribute materials and information about the Air District’s work and air quality forecasts, and encourage residents to sign up for Air Alerts, the Air District’s method of informing individuals when air quality is forecast to be unhealthy. Air District presence at events throughout the community means a greater awareness of the health impacts of air quality and air quality information, and affords residents the opportunity to speak with Air District staff one-on-one in person. As a result of these efforts, the Air District and its Spare the Air messages are widely recognized throughout the Bay Area.

D. Resources Available and Cost of Services

In an effort to improve communication and provide air quality information, the Air District currently provides a number of services in multiple languages. Services are handled in-house by bilingual employees with language skills and program knowledge or by contractors.

Resources Available

The Air District provides a number of multilingual services in various formats.

1. **Printed Materials:** Materials are translated upon request and many programs provide translation of materials in advance of requests. Compliance tips are available in Chinese, Korean, Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese. Signage for truck idling regulations is posted in Chinese, Punjabi, Spanish and Vietnamese. Select informational brochures are made available in Spanish and Chinese.
2. **In-Person Assistance:** Bilingual staff is available on-site and in the field to provide assistance when needed or requested by other staff. The Air District maintains a Language Services voice-message box at 415-749-4609 to allow residents to request simultaneous translation at Air District meetings, either at the Air District or off-site. Industry Compliance School, which provides classes on the public health impacts of air pollution, as well as compliance assistance, and hands-on environmental training, is conducted in multiple languages at the Air District. Additionally, information about grant cycles is provided in multiple languages and bilingual staff assists potential grantees in submitting the proper paperwork for consideration.
3. **Telephone Assistance:** Air District staff is trained to utilize a live support interpretation system that provides language support in 150 languages. In addition, the Air District provides multilingual assistance in many languages on some high-volume telephone lines, including:
 - Air Quality and Odor Complaint Line (800) 334-ODOR (6367): Callers are connected with an operator who will document the caller’s air quality complaint and forward it to the Enforcement team for review. This line can receive calls in languages other than English.

- Check Before You Burn (877) 4NO-BURN (466-2876): Callers can hear a recording of the daily wood burning status in one of five languages - English, Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. Callers can also submit a wood burning complaint.
 - The Air District also maintains a multilingual Language Services (415) 749-4609: Callers can leave a message requesting translated materials or in-person language assistance at an upcoming Air District meeting. The line is available in five languages – English, Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.
4. **Website:** The Air District maintains a Spanish language Portal on the website with information on specific key Air District programs. Information on how to contact the Air District for Spanish speakers is also widely available on the Spanish language portal.
- The Air District also maintains a Spare the Air multilingual page at sparetheairnow.org – a webpage with general Spare the Air information in Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese and Tagalog.
5. **In-House Expertise:** The Air District employs approximately 50 bilingual employees. Currently staff members are contacted on an as-needed basis to provide assistance and technical expertise in non-English languages.
6. **Ethnic Outreach for Educational Campaigns.** The Air District conducts outreach to ethnic communities throughout the Bay Area. The Air District maintains an extensive ethnic media contact list that is simultaneously notified when the Air District issues a Spare the Air alert, or when an air quality incident occurs. Press releases are available in non-English languages when the Air District has identified the need for translation. Additionally, the Air District runs educational campaigns regarding Spare the Air and the impacts of unhealthy air in Spanish and Chinese, including appearances on Spanish and Chinese broadcast television. The Air District also maintains Spanish-language web pages with information on making an air quality complaint and the impacts of unhealthy air.

Cost of Services

Internal

Currently, the Air District does not track staff time spent on providing language assistance. The Air District does offer bilingual pay for staff that has used bilingual skills for a minimum of 10 hours in a single 80-hour pay period. Bilingual employees request this pay infrequently, as employees rarely reach the 10-hour minimum in a single pay period. However, the Air District estimates that employees spent nearly 200 hours in fiscal year ending (FYE) 2011 utilizing skills for translation and interpretation, executing contracts and coordinating services.

Bilingual employees provide the following services on an as-needed basis:

- Assist in bilingual phone calls
- Provide translation services
- Verify technical translation work done by outside contractors
- Record bilingual phone lines

- Provide in-person assistance in filling out Air District forms or documents

Contracted Services

The Air District maintains contracts with vendors for translation and interpretation services. In the last five fiscal years, the Air District has spent an estimated \$45,000 on interpretation and translation. This figure does not reflect staff time utilized to administer language-related contracts, coordinate translations and interpretations, or check the quality of contracted translation work. An estimate of those staff hours is included in the section above.

Program Services via Contractors

In addition, the Air District employs a number of contractors to execute advertising and media campaigns, including the Spare the Air and Winter Spare the Air program. These contractors provide program materials in multiple languages as necessary, sometimes contracting third-party vendors to complete this work. Contracted costs during FYE 2011 are estimated to have been around \$130,000.

Future Services and Costs

The Air District recognizes the diversity of the Bay Area and its jurisdiction and the need to provide information in multiple languages. The Air District has made every effort to meet requests for services or translation and aims to formalize and streamline the process for requests via the Public Participation Plan.

The Air District will continue to provide services to LEP communities and will seek to enhance services. The following language assistance enhancements will be implemented in FYE 2013 and FYE 2014:

1. Continue to add additional information and resources to the Spanish Language Portal on the Air District website www.baaqmd.gov.
2. Launch a Chinese Language Portal on www.baaqmd.gov with information and resources provided in Chinese.
3. Widely publicize the Air District's available services in multiple languages, including the 877-4NO-BURN hotline, currently available in six languages.
4. Update demographic data as it becomes available, to most accurately provide service within the Air District's jurisdiction.
5. Meet with local LEP communities to gather feedback on services and consider possible enhancements and improvements.

These services and enhancements will be developed and launched as resources become available. The Air District projects enhancing and improving services to LEP communities could cost an estimated \$150,000 to \$200,000 between FYE 2013 and FYE 2014, including staff time, development and implementation.

Appendix D: Stakeholder Advisory Task Force Roster

The Air District invited community members, environmental activists, government agencies and industry members to the Stakeholder Advisory Task Force. Members listed below, or a designated alternate, attended at least one meeting of the Stakeholder Advisory Task Force.

Wafaa Aborashed, Bay Area Healthy 880 Communities San Leandro

Jenny Bard, American Lung Association

Guy Bjerke, Western States Petroleum Association

Henry Clark, West County Toxics Coalition

Randy Colosky, West Oakland Air Monitors

Margaret Gordon, West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project (Alternate: Brian Beveridge)

Marianna Grossman, Sustainable Silicon Valley (Alternate: Linda Meiss)

Marie Harrison, Green Action (Alternate: Tessie Esther)

Gillian Hayes, Santa Rosa City Planner

Stan Hayes, Air District Advisory Council Vice-Chair

Charlene Henderson, Black Coalition on AIDS

Edward Kangeter, Custom Alloy Scrap Sales

John Knox-White, Transform

Le Tim Ly, Chinese Progressive Association (Alternate: Antonio Diaz)

Jane Martin, Alameda County Health Department

Ken Mendelbaum, Families for Clean Air (Alternate: Susan Goldsborough)

Paloma Pavel, Breakthrough Communities (Alternate: Carl Anthony)

Kathy Renfrow, Monument Community Partnership

Tom Rivard, San Francisco Department of Health

Dave Robinson, AB&I Foundry

Rosina Roibal, Bay Area Environmental Health Collaborative

Janice Schroeder, West Berkeley Alliance (Alternate: Denny Larson)

June Wallace, California Donor Transplant Network

Janet Whittick, California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance

Appendix E: Summary of Public Workshops and Public Participation Activities

A. Outreach Efforts

Air District staff hosted four regional workshops to engage residents regarding the draft Public Participation Plan. These workshops were held in San Jose, Santa Rosa, Oakland and San Francisco. In addition, staff discussed the Public Participation Plan at scheduled summer outreach events, including the Alameda County and San Mateo County Fairs, the Contra Costa 100 Library Celebration and other events. Additionally, Air District staff hosted three local workshops with local community groups. In the Bay View area of San Francisco, the Air District partnered with the African American Community Health Equity Council to host a workshop, in Richmond the Air District partnered with Neighborhood House of North Richmond, and in San Leandro the Air District partnered with the Lion’s Club.

Residents were encouraged to submit comments via email, electronically at a website dedicated to collecting comment for the Public Participation Plan, or to call the Air District’s Public Information line to speak with staff.

Included is a list that identifies workshops or events the Air District participated in and engaged the public regarding the Draft Public Participation Plan:

Air District Hosted Workshops
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• San Francisco—This event was webcast, allowing residents to participate remotely• San Jose• Santa Rosa• Oakland
Co-Hosted Workshops with Local Community Groups
<p>Air District partnered with the following organizations to co-host workshops for local residents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• African American Community Health Equity Council in Bay View Hunters Point, San Francisco• Neighborhood House of North Richmond in North Richmond• The Lion’s Club of San Leandro in San Leandro

Community Events

The Air District attended community events throughout the summer and discussed the Draft Public Participation Plan with attendees. The community events the Air District attended includes:

- Alameda County Fair
- San Mateo County Fair
- Marin County Fair
- Contra Costa County Library 100
- Centro de Servicios
- San Jose Health Fair
- Sonoma Winegrowers BBQ

Presentations to Community and Business Groups

Air District staff made a number of presentations to community and business groups, at standing meetings, or meetings convened to discuss the Public Participation Plan, including:

- West Contra Costa Council of Industries
- Southern Alameda County Spare the Air Resource Team
- Contra Costa Spare the Air Resource team
- San Jose Green Team
- Santa Clara Spare the Air Resource Team
- Tri-Valley Spare the Air Resource Team
- East Bay Leadership Council
- North Richmond Municipal Advisory Council
- La Clinica de la Raza Meetings
- Sacred Heart of San Jose
- Moffett Business Park Staff Presentation

Appendix F: Summary of Public Comments and Air District Responses

A. Public Comment

The Air District gathered public comment in a variety of ways. At local events, like county fairs and workshops residents attended, Air District staff asked residents, “What air quality issue interests you?” Residents were given sticky notes and markers to write issues and concerns in addition to comment cards specific to the Public Participation Plan.

Residents listed many local and regional issues that concerned them; below is a selection of some of the concerns Air District staff heard at events across the Bay Area:

- Cars = dirty air
- Cumulative impacts of air pollution that disproportionately impact communities of color
- Clean air for Residential Areas, Especially those with Elementary School
- Times that I can't breathe
- Climate Change
- When will we have more Spare the Air Days? Is it a lack of funding?
- How does air quality in SF Bay compare to other regions?
- Spare the Air!
- Easier search/listing of rules
- Clean air for exercising outside
- If crowded transportation corridors are the only areas where the poor can afford to live, what kind of mitigations can be given to community to ensure a measure of parity with those who are better off and living in “better” neighborhoods???
- More funding for planning and land use options?
- More regional planning and coordination to assure transportation efficiency in terms of rail, shipping and tracking
- Regional bonding to achieve infrastructure improvements
- More consideration given to POA Development to ensure most critical areas receive soonest attention
- More BAAQM Participation/Advocacy of JPC/to help motivate ABAG, BCOC, etc.
- Know about new rules
- Ensure balance of industry and community
- How much worse it's getting
- Ways to find out particle levels in air according to address
- A tougher law protecting neighbors relating to wood smoke. A ban on re 'smoking out a neighbor' (like Oregon)
- Better outreach for wood burning Spare the Air days
- Intergenerational projects
- Connection with churches and schools

- Protecting sensitive receptors and special populations
- How does changing people’s behavior fit into this?
- Factories in residential areas that are polluting the air. AT&T and a soda bottling co. in East Oakland
- Tevis Avenue for AT&T Behind that facility is the Bottling Company. I see the smoke coming from the facilities at night when most people are sleeping. I cannot sleep at night so I am in and out the front door. That is when I discovered the smoke.
- Post materials in local neighborhood centers for non-internet users to stay informed
- Health education meetings/events/more information about air quality and health in the local community
- The implementation action section is good; however, it’s easy to forget what each symbol means. Perhaps include a key or footnote for people to easily refer to page 10.

In addition to these comments, the Air District received some comment cards with comments more specific to the draft Public Participation Plan including:

- “1) Plan is missing the recommendations of BAEHC and the BAAQMD Public Engagement Task Force, a) especially at public hearings on proposed regulatory actions in or affecting highly impacted areas (not just permit decisions) and b) translated public notices and summary translation of long documents. We are concerned about the outreach process for the public workshops too. Please meet with BAEHC.” - Rosina Roibal of the Bay Area Environmental Health Collaborative
- “An amazingly thorough document. Well done. I think more public participation would be good just so everyone knows the rules. I.e. my neighbors burn their leaves every year. I doubt they know it is illegal. Thank you.” -Anonymous
- “Page 9: Air District programs and the community, it would be great if you can go to various communities and share the information on regarding the program. There are so many people that are unaware of what they need to know about air quality issues. I would be interested in bringing this information to my community and share information regarding the factories in our neighborhood. If someone could contact me and arrange a date and time. I would get the neighbors to come out for your presentation and to provide some input that would be beneficial to all of us. We have a community center in our neighborhood that would let us meet there. Please give me three dates that I can use to see what dates would be available for the community center.” -Juanita Carter-White
- “Many complaints to your district with little or no results. Clyde resident complaining about Valero Refinery.” –Chris Master

Additional comments received via comment card encouraged the Air District to remove smoking vehicles from roadways, visit specific school sites in the Bay Area with information on air quality, and more local projects and workshops.

The Air District also received public comment in the form of letters from the following organizations:

- East Bay Leadership Council

- Bay Area Environmental Health Collaborative
- West Berkeley Alliance
- California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance
- Santa Clara County Farm Bureau

Air District staff oversaw the development of the Public Participation Plan. The Air District contracted with Kearns & West, a firm specializing in collaboration and strategic communications, to assist in developing the Plan, specifically for tasks in which external review and external facilitation assistance was required. Below are some of the key components in development of this Plan.

B. Public Comment and Air District Response

In the public comment process the Air District received a number of comments regarding addressing potential inclusions or revisions to the document. Below is a synthesized list of the edits, inclusions and revisions that were suggested to the Air District.

Below are excerpts from letters the Air District received; or comments received in person, while speaking with residents and stakeholders about the Public Participation Plan. Following this are the letters that were submitted to the Air District regarding the Plan. Please refer to these letters for more information or the exact text regarding suggested revisions.

Commenter	Suggested Revision	Air District Comment
<p style="text-align: center;">California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance</p>	<p>The document should reflect the broad stakeholders the Air District interacts with, particularly regulated entities that must comply with local, state and federal air quality regulations.</p>	<p>The Air District recognizes industry and business organizations are a part of the Air District’s broader stakeholders and will make appropriate revisions to the document to provide clarity.</p>
	<p>The document should include Guiding Principles for the Air District’s Rule Development Program that outline steps to engage stakeholders, including stakeholder meetings, posting of draft rules, staff reports and other background materials, and public hearings. The Air District should include a commitment to engage affected parties as early as possible in the rule development process.</p>	<p>The Air District will review the contact and notification process for all workshops and Air District processes. In addition, in the Implementation Actions, the Air District has committed to involving affected parties earlier in the process (p. 33).</p>
	<p>More clearly define the terms, public and community. These definitions should be included in the introduction of the draft Plan.</p>	<p>The Air District will more clearly define both public and community.</p>

	<p>The Community Council, suggested on page 30 of the draft Plan, should include stakeholders such as industry and local government</p>	<p>The Community Council or other forum will include stakeholders that broadly represent the Air District.</p>
	<p>Information should be included on Grants, Incentives and Other Business Assistance Activities in sections of the document discussing public participation opportunities.</p>	<p>The Air District will include information on grants, incentives and other business assistance activities in discussing public participation opportunities (p. 20).</p>
	<p>Add Monitoring and Modeling data to the list on page 15 of “Key Information provided via the website.”</p>	<p>The Air District will add “Monitoring and Modeling data” to the list on p. 17.</p>
	<p>On page 32 and as part of website improvements, include data on air quality trends over time, not just forecasts.</p>	<p>At this time the Air District is working to restructure and improve the Air District website and will consider presenting data and air quality trends over time more clearly in the new structure.</p>
	<p>Commit to working with all stakeholders on how the Air District will provide permit information from the production system or the public-facing portion of the website</p>	<p>The Air District is committed to developing an email notification system that notifies interested stakeholders of upcoming permits. Information will be included on contacting the Air District Permit Ombudsman to discuss the permits. For further information, please refer to the Implementation Actions in the section, Enhancing Public Engagement.</p>
	<p>Consider adding a principle for “Consistency” to the list on page 4.</p>	<p>The Public Participation Plan and the principles outlined in the document together create consistency across Air District divisions and programs. The Plan has been amended to include information on efforts to create consistency in the Principles of Public Participation section (p. 4).</p>
	<p>Consolidate the number of icons to make simpler and more understandable; consider combining Inform & Connect as well as Collaborate & Partner.</p>	<p>The Air District will consider consolidating the icons of Inform and Connect; however, the Air District strongly feels that there are unique qualities of Collaborate and Partner that would not be served well by collapsing these categories.</p>

	Switch <i>Involve</i> and <i>Comment</i> ; in cases when written comments are submitted to the Air District Board of Directors, stakeholders have likely already been involved with the Air District in informal and formal discussions	The Air District will switch <i>Involve</i> and <i>Comment</i> for increased clarity.
	Add “impartial” to the third task on page 32 so that it reads: “The Air District may use professional <i>and impartial</i> professional facilitators as appropriate...”	The Air District has added the word impartial.
	Add “beta test” to the tenth task on page 32 so that it reads: “In designing the new website, the Air District will conduct meetings with stakeholders to get feedback, <i>and will beta test the redesigned site before launching and replacing the current site.</i> ”	<i>Under review</i>
Santa Clara County Farm Bureau	Notices should go out to all affected stakeholders utilizing burn notices and information on file from previous applications for permits to ensure all stakeholders receive notice of upcoming rules and regulations	The Air District currently maintains email lists to notify individuals of workshops and Air District events; individuals can sign up for these lists on the Air District website. The Air District will consider initiating a method to allow individuals filing for permits to be added to lists for future mailings.
	The Air District should lengthen the notice period for workshops; in the past notice periods have been as short as 10 days which does not allow agencies to circulate notice to membership and ensure attendance at events. 30-90 day public notice suggested.	The Air District intends to implement a 30 day comment period consistently, with the exception for where state and federal statutes determine the notice period, upon implementation of the Public Participation Plan. This is included as an additional Implementation Action in the Plan.
	Air District Board of Directors should participate in local events to ensure Air District Board members <i>hear</i> comments for rules and regulations from the public.	Air District Board of Directors meeting information is posted at the Air District, available online and emailed to individuals electronically. Residents and stakeholders with concerns are encouraged to get involved with the Air District early in the process. Implementation actions outlined will encourage greater communication earlier in rule development processes.

	<p>The Air District should create a more user-friendly website; rules and regulations might be easier to find if ordered chronologically with rules and regulations currently being discussed or amended listed first. The current system requires users to know the regulation number.</p>	<p>The Air District has begun the process of restructuring the website to be more user-friendly and will consider reordering rules and regulations to better match the needs of users. The launch date of the revamped website is June 2014.</p>
	<p>Staff in Grants and Incentives does a better job informing the public of Carl Moyer grants and incentives than Rule making staff.</p>	<p>The Air District has developed a Public Participation Plan with implementation actions in an effort to ensure greater consistency in service across the agency.</p>
	<p>Public meetings should be held in locations accessible to regional residents locally (i.e. not in San Francisco).</p>	<p>The Air District is making greater efforts to provide workshops and meetings in areas accessible for local residents. The Air District makes efforts to host workshops across the Bay Area. Satellite offices are sometimes available to view Board meetings and submit public comment in Santa Rosa and San Jose.</p>
<p>West Berkeley Alliance for Clean Air and Safe Jobs</p>	<p>The effectiveness of the Community Council will largely depend on its implementation, which is not described in the draft Public Participation Plan; the Air District should consider the US Environmental Protection Agency model to involve community members in inspection and enforcement decisions as part of its Los Angeles Environmental Enforcement Collaborative.</p>	<p>The Air District is currently exploring the structure of a Community Council or other forum. More information will be provided when it is available.</p>
	<p>The Air District should track all emails and phone calls of all stakeholders so interested community members know what communications have been initiated between District staff and industry.</p>	<p>The Air District will consider creating a system that creates greater efficiency in responding to public inquires in the future.</p>
	<p>The Air District should continue a complaint system via telephone, as all community members do not have access to an online complaint system.</p>	<p>The Air District will continue to maintain a telephone complaint system.</p>
	<p>The Air District should initiate an online complaint system. The Air District should send confirmation emails for all complaints received online with a complaint number</p>	<p>The Air District will implement an online complaint system, as noted in the Implementation Actions chart in the section, Enhancing Public</p>

	to ensure a complaint log is built.	Engagement. The Air District will research creating a system that distributes confirmation emails with a complaint number.
	The Public Participation Plan should include information on how online odor nuisance complaints will be confirmed in a timely manner.	The Air District will develop a method to confirm receipt of online complaints when developing the online complaint system.
	The Air District should consider restructuring the website to allow residents to search for local information about sources impacting their neighborhoods. Information about each community should be easily organized by zip code so all relevant neighborhood information is easily accessible.	The Air District is currently working to redesign the Air District website to be more accessible and user-friendly. In doing this redesign the Air District is considering options to make it easier for residents to find useful information about their city or neighborhood.
	The Air District should develop clear, transparent rules for public comments at hearings, workshops and town hall meetings to ensure all members of the public are given an opportunity to participate in the process and to ensure meetings are organized and respectful.	The Air District follows Robert’s Rules of Order when conducting hearings, workshops and town hall meetings. The Air District will develop a summary that describes these rules and make it available online and at meetings.
	The Air District should host town hall meetings in impacted communities to allow community members to voice concerns while giving an overview of sources in the community.	In exploring the Community Council or other forum, the Air District will explore the idea of hosting meetings in impacted areas throughout the region to provide greater opportunity to community members to voice concerns.
	To strengthen the Air Quality and Odor Complaint Line, the Air District could have community members who are designated to help verify complaints, especially odor and opacity complaints that could be verified without the use of expensive equipment.	The Air District is regulated by state and federal statutes that define how complaints can be confirmed. Odor complaints can only be verified by Air District staff.
	The Air District is encouraged to consider translating material into other languages when the particular project is located in a community that has specific language needs that may not be the same as the larger area.	The Air District is committed to improving communication and outreach to LEP communities throughout the Bay Area. Currently, the Air District provides notices in Spanish and Chinese for all workshops. The Air District is also committed to

		providing materials in community-specific languages, as well.
Neighborhood House/North Richmond Workshop	The Air District is encouraged to post material in local neighborhoods, at community centers like Neighborhood House, for non-internet users.	The Air District provides information and brochures to residents or community groups who request them and welcomes the opportunity to distribute more information. To request materials for a local organization, please call the Air District Public Information line at 415-749-4900.
	The Air District should host health education meetings or events to provide more information about air quality and health in the local community.	The Air District currently visits community groups, schools, employers, and other organizations that express interest in learning more about air quality. In addition, Air District staff host booths at community events, like Health Fairs, County Fairs, and Earth Day events, throughout the year to encourage understanding and awareness of air quality issues. Individuals interested in having an Air District staff person attend or make a presentation at a community event can call the Air District’s Public Information line at 415-749-4900.
San Jose Green Team	On page 10 of the Public Participation Plan, include a key or footnote to help individuals quickly understand what each symbol means.	The Air District has included a key for further clarity.
Global Community Monitor	Global Community monitor submitted a statement in support of including the Bay Area Environmental Health Collaborative recommendations in the Public Participation Plan.	The Air District appreciates the comment.
East Bay Leadership Council	The Plan definition of “stakeholder” included in the Glossary of Terms and on page 40 should be expanded to include businesses, particularly small businesses. The Air District should consider active outreach to affected businesses. The East Bay Leadership Council suggests the following definition, “The Air District identifies a stakeholder as an individual,	The Air District has expanded the definition of stakeholder in the Plan to more explicitly include small businesses.

	<p>business, entity, or group of individuals who have identified and communicated interest in an Air District project or process and are impacted by the outcome of the project or process.”</p>	
	<p>Link permit application information to real world examples to better reflect the engine-permit reality versus linking applications to regulations that do not contain the measures and information needed for completing permit applications</p> <p>The Air District should consider reorganizing the page numbers to be on the left and right margin for easier readability.</p>	<p>The Air District recommends permit seekers review the Permit Handbook posted on the Air District website to read what regulations are related to common permit types. The Permit Handbook is on the Air District website and can provide further information.</p> <p>The Air District will reorient the page numbers for greater clarity and easier readability.</p>
<p>Bay Area Environmental Health Collaborative</p>	<p>The Air District should include an explicit statement of commitment to reach LEP individuals regionally ensuring that this is standard practice.</p>	<p>The Air District will include an explicit statement of its commitment to reaching Limited English Proficient (LEP) individuals regionally. The Air District Implementation Actions are an effort to ensure consistency in outreach.</p>
	<p>The Air District should improve the process of public noticing by defining the process.</p>	<p>The Air District intends to implement a 30 day comment period consistently, with the exception for where state and federal statutes determine the notice period, upon implementation of the Public Participation Plan. This is included as an additional Implementation Action in the Plan.</p>
	<p>Notices should be provided in multiple languages to ensure LEP residents are aware of upcoming workshops.</p>	<p>The Air District currently provides notices in Spanish and Chinese and is committed to providing notices in multiple languages to ensure LEP residents are aware of upcoming workshops.</p>
	<p>The Air District should host public hearings in CARE areas for any increases in emissions.</p>	<p>The Air District provides workshops and public meetings in CARE areas when impacted by a project; the Air District is making greater efforts to provide meetings in convenient locations for residents.</p>

	The Air District should establish information repositories, in addition to rebuilding the Air District website	The Air District will explore posting information in locations in the Bay Area, like libraries and community centers. The Air District is committed to rebuilding a more user-friendly website.
	The Air District should maintain inspectors after hours to ensure industries are within compliance.	The Air District maintains a robust complaint process that includes round-the-clock service to field complaints. The complaint line can receive calls 24 hours a day.
	The Air District should implement the Bay Area Environmental Health Collaborative Recommendations/Protocols.	The Air District appreciates the comment.
Wafaa Aborashed	The Air District should mirror the efforts of MTC in providing information to LEP individuals and should implement the recommendations/protocols of the Bay Area Environmental Health Collaborative.	The Air District is committed to improving communication and outreach to LEP communities throughout the Bay Area. Currently, the Air District provides notices in Spanish and Chinese for all workshops. The Air District is also committed to providing materials in community-specific languages, as well.
American Lung Association	It is unclear if, on page 26, the List of Considerations when Planning Public Participation Processes, if this relates to current practices, there should be clear reference to how this list will be revised/updated. Additionally, it would be helpful to include information on health impact evaluation. For example: Assess health impacts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What air quality data is available to provide information on health effects of exposures • What are the health impacts based on available data and how will this be shared by the air district with the public • What are the limitations of the data • What are the cumulative impacts* 	The Air District intends to develop information on the website dedicated to informing residents on the health impacts of air pollution; the new website design will provide maps and other visual information regarding the localized or neighborhood impacts of air pollution.
	A section on Cumulative Exposure Impacted should be included in the	As the Air District redesigns the website, it intends to create a page

	<p>“Enhancing Public Participation section,” and included in the Glossary of Terms. This would describe cumulative exposures.</p>	<p>dedicated to information on the health impacts of air pollution. A definition of cumulative impacts is being developed for the glossary.</p>
	<p>The American Lung Association would like to see the inclusion of information to interpret health impacts of the air quality data available on the website. This would provide meaningful information to the public when looking at air quality data and help residents better understand the numbers.</p>	<p>The Air District is currently working on restructuring the Air District website to be more user-friendly. The Air District will consider providing data and information in a more user-friendly manner for greater clarity. The launch date of the revamped website is June 2014.</p>
	<p>Page 2 – Add “and make it easier for the general public to influence decision making process” at end of first paragraph.</p>	<p><i>Under review</i></p>
	<p>Page 10 – Range of Public Participation is used as a title of a program (capitalized) and a descriptor (not capitalized) and is a little confusing. I would reword to something else more general such as “Options for Public Participation.”</p>	<p>The Air District has retitled the section, “Options for Public Participation” for greater clarity.</p>
	<p>Page 20 – Include district webcast meetings in listing of “public comment” opportunities</p>	<p>The Air District will include Air District Board of Director meeting webcasts as an opportunity for public comment.</p>
	<p>Page 22 – For “Presentations to Standing Committees, Commissions and Boards,” it is unclear what role public has here or can play. May rewrite from point of view how public can participate in meetings of government agencies.</p>	<p>The Air District attends the meetings of standing committees, commissions and boards of other agencies to inform the public on air quality issues. At these meetings, the Air District is an item on the agenda. Across the Bay Area, government agencies maintain different protocols of notifying the public beyond compliance with the Brown Act.</p>
	<p>Public Participation Activities (page 25) It was unclear how this chart was developed and the criteria for “suitability, sometimes suitable, and not suitable.” There should be a description included for each term.</p>	<p>The chart on Public Participation Activities was developed as a guide. The Air District will include better descriptions in the document.</p>
	<p>Page 35 – Under methods for evaluating public participation outcomes may include: add a bullet: Website feedback link (to provide place for public to ask questions,</p>	<p>The Air District currently has an online feedback mechanism available on every page of the Air District website. The Air District will consider taking</p>

	<p>send in comments or concerns about information)</p>	<p>feedback on our workshop processes at workshops in the future.</p>
	<p>The title “Airing Ideas” is a little confusing and some people may not know what “airing” actually means, although it is a great play on words. It may help to have a focus group test the name.</p>	<p>The Air District has utilized the Airing Ideas logo to unify materials for the Public Participation Plan and considers the Public Participation Plan’s title to be just the Public Participation Plan. To clarify the title more clearly, the Air District has restructured the cover page.</p>
	<p>Appendix E – which provides an overview of air district programs and opportunities for public engagement doesn’t make it clear how this section will integrate with the recommendations for enhanced public participation. Perhaps an introductory paragraph to explain how the new processes will be integrated into current programs. On page 29, perhaps there could be a reference to this appendix, with explanation as well.</p>	<p>The Air District has added some information to more clearly inform how the Appendix relates to the Implementation Actions in the Plan.</p>

C. Letters submitted to the Air District

Included are letters submitted to the Air District regarding the Public Participation Plan. These letters are referenced in the table in Appendix H; Section B.

East Bay Leadership Council



Chair of the Board

Terry Bowen
Principal, Gray/Bowen

Chair Elect

Keith Archuleta
Principal, Emerald HPC International, LLC

Vice President – Finance

Ron Wetter
Community and Government Relations, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.

Vice President - Events

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Andrew Sabey
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Steve Van Wart
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Peter McGaw
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Immediate Past Chair

Bob Brown
Public Affairs Director, AAA Northern CA, NV & UT

President and CEO

Tom Terrill

July 24, 2013

Mr. Jim Smith
Community Outreach Manager
Bay Area Air Quality Management District
939 Ellis Street
San Francisco, CA 94109

Re: Comments on Draft Public Participation Plan

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you for attending the meeting of the East Bay Leadership Council's Environmental and Manufacturing Task Force last Friday to inform us regarding the Air District's Draft Public Participation Plan. By all accounts, the presentation was informative and led to a stimulating discussion.

The East Bay Leadership Council is a non-profit corporation involved in public policy issues that affect the economy and quality of life in Contra Costa County, The Tri-Valley and the Greater East Bay Region.

On behalf of the East Bay Leadership Council, I would like to reiterate one of the comments that was made at last Friday's meeting. The Plan's definition of "stakeholder" (Glossary of Terms, Page 40) does not include a reference to "business." Businesses, particularly small businesses, do not always have the resources to track activities and proposals at the Air District, yet they can certainly be affected by those activities and proposals. Affected businesses clearly are "stakeholders" in many Air District activities and should be included in any outreach efforts. For completeness, the East Bay Leadership Council requests the word "business" be added to the definition of "stakeholder" so that it would read as follows:

Stakeholder: The Air District identifies a stakeholder as an individual, business, entity, or group of individuals who have identified and communicated interest in an Air District project or process to the Air District and are impacted by the outcome of the project or process.

By making this request, the East Bay Leadership Council does not intend to suggest that the Air District has not included businesses in its outreach activities in the past. On the contrary, last Friday's meeting is a perfect example of outreach by the Air District to the business community, and the Plan does reference outreach to businesses in several locations. Rather, the East Bay Leadership Council simply wishes to ensure that the definition of "stakeholder" is complete so that all stakeholders are included in future activities by the District.

Thank you for considering this request and, again thank you for attending our meeting.

Very truly yours,

Tom Terrill
President and CEO

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www.eastbayleadershipcouncil.com



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Environmental Justice Air Quality Coalition · Immigrant Power for Environmental Health and Justice · Bay Area Clean Air Task Force · Ditching Dirty Diesel Collaborative · Environmental Law and Justice Clinic · Regional Asthma Management and Prevention Initiative

**Comments on BAAQMD's Public Engagement Plan & Policy
Submitted by the Bay Area Environmental Health Collaborative
July 2013**

The Bay Area Environmental Health Collaborative (BAEHC) appreciates the commitment by BAAQMD to improve its practices of Public Participation. BAEHC hopes that the BAAQMD Public Participation Plan & Policy will be a catalyst for a cultural shift within BAAQMD that will result in bringing affected community residents into BAAQMD's decision-making process. For three years, BAAQMD has responded to our advocacy and recommendations by committing to include our protocols (Public Participation, Language Access, & Website improvement) in the BAAQMD Public Participation Plan & Policy. BAEHC would like to see our original (attached) recommendations included in the Plan. In addition, we also have the following comments on the proposed draft Plan & Policy content and process:

CONTENT

1. Almost NONE of BAEHC's original recommendations were included, especially:
 - a. LEP-translation of public notices appropriate for affected populations; summary translation of long documents and full for short documents (the current plan doesn't include ALL permit documents).
 - b. Public Notice-Use neutral language to seek public input on proposed actions (the plan only says 'accessible,' but we also want 'neutral.'
 - c. Public hearings-Conduct public hearings on proposed regulatory actions in or affecting highly impacted areas (not just permit decisions).
2. BAEHC recommends that BAAQMD develop outreach plans for the communities that BAAQMD's Community Air Risk Evaluation (CARE) Program has identified as being highly impacted, and work with residents in the CARE communities to develop their specific outreach plans.
3. The language of the Plan is very vague. It seems more like a policy than a plan. A plan should be more specific, deliberate, and direct.
4. The plan needs to improve and change the practices, not just state some of the things you already do.
5. The Plan should include benchmarks.
6. The Plan should include the resources going into this work.

BAEHC c/o RAMP office
180 Grand Avenue Suite 750, Oakland, California 94612 · Tel. 510.545.3293 · www.baehc.org
Contact: Rosina Roibal, Program Coordinator · rosina@baehc.org

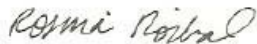
7. We want to see “best practices that address gaps and enhance strengths” in the phases document, as was planned in August of 2011 by BAAQMD.
8. The Plan should include a toolbox of outreach methods and explain under what circumstances each method is used. The Air District should be clear about what kind of input is desired from each engagement tool.
9. The Plan page 30 *Communications: workshops, symposiums, Hearings, Meetings*
These tasks are very vague and don't make any changes to the old processes (the first one are just sign up sheets).
10. The Plan page 33 *Website Improvements*
BAEHC would like BAAQMD to state that they will not only post a list of current public input opportunities online, but expand opportunities as well.
11. The Plan page 34 *Multilingual Accessibility task: summaries*
BAEHC asked for summaries of all permit documents, not just those related to projects with region-wide impact.
12. BAEHC proposes to add: *BAAQMD recognizes that residents need to be involved early in the regulatory action process and that a procedure with steps is needed in the Public Engagement Plan (from BAEHC's Proposed draft Public Engagement Resolution 2011).*
13. BAEHC proposes to add: *BAAQMD recognizes that BAAQMD should increase opportunities for residents to participate in regulatory proceedings through improved public notice, comment, and hearings (Proposed draft Public Engagement Resolution 2011).*
14. The PEPP task force was told that the document would outline *how and when stakeholders will be involved (12/20/11 task force meeting).*
15. The PEPP task force recommended that the Plan should include *Engagement process should be designed around these core principles: a.) early input b.) responsiveness to public comment and concerns c.) clarity about what type of input is wanted, what level of information is desired, and how and when input will be incorporated (1/11/12 task force meeting).*
16. The Task Force discussed that *The Plan should include a toolbox of outreach methods and explain under what circumstances each method is used. The Air District should be clear about what kind of input is desired from each engagement tool (1/11/12).*
17. BAAQMD committed to include in the Plan a written statement of which documents BAAQMD translates, which will be in the future, which are full and which are executive summaries. PROJECT DOCUMENTS: For health risk evaluations, public notices, public comments and response to comments, EIR-related documents (draft EIRs included), fact sheets related to permitting, and related documents, the Board must make accessible: Full Translation of documents less than eleven pages, Executive summaries for documents more than eleven pages.

BAEHC c/o RAMP office
180 Grand Avenue Suite 750, Oakland, California 94612 • Tel. 510.545.3293 • www.baehc.org
Contact: Rosina Roibal, Program Coordinator • rosina@baehc.org

PROCESS

1. BAAQMD ignored the plans developed by the task force and BAAQMD to work in collaboration with task force members to publicize and facilitate public workshops.
2. Attendance was extremely low at BAAQMD public workshops for the Plan. BAEHC believes that BAAQMD should have been more ambitious with outreach and should have coordinated them in collaboration with community organizations to ensure successful participation. BAEHC recommended this to BAAQMD at a PEPP task force meeting and additional meetings.
3. BAAQMD didn't follow through with the commitment to ask residents the best ways to reach and engage them, at the public workshops.
4. The Task Force had recommended to BAAQMD that outreach for the public workshops for the Plan serve as an opportunity to model and innovate outreach and engagement methods, and to tailor outreach to specific communities. This did not happen.

Thank you for your time and work,



Rosina Roibal and the Bay Area Environmental Health Collaborative

CC: Jack Broadbent APCO, Jim Smith, Lisa Fasano

BAEHC c/o RAMP office
180 Grand Avenue Suite 750, Oakland, California 94612 • Tel. 510.545.3293 • www.baehc.org
Contact: Rosina Roibal, Program Coordinator • rosina@baehc.org



Sean Gallagher
Clerk of the Boards
Bay Area Air Quality
Management District

Bay Area Air Quality Management District
939 Ellis St.
San Francisco, CA 94109

July 23, 2013

Dear Mr. Broadbent and Air District Board:

The West Berkeley Alliance for Clean Air & Safe Jobs (“Alliance”) submits these general comments concerning the Bay Area Air Quality Management District’s (“the Air District’s”) Public Participation Plan.

Overall, the Air District’s attempt to articulate a concrete plan to engage the public is a positive first step to encouraging increased involvement by the community in decisions that impact air quality. Many parts of the Air District’s Public Participation Plan reflect thoughtful consideration of how it can engage with community members and public stakeholders.

In particular, some parts of the plan describe steps that the Alliance views as important to ensure meaningful public participation. For example, the formation of a Community Council has the potential to be an excellent tool for involving the impacted community in the process if it is effectively utilized and given appropriate authority. The effectiveness of the Community Council will largely depend on its implementation, which is not described in the Participation Plan.

The Alliance encourages the Air District to work with community stakeholders to develop and implement the Community Council. The Alliance suggests that the Air District consider the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s recent effort to involve community members in inspection and enforcement decisions in its Los Angeles Environmental Enforcement Collaborative¹ when it defines the role of the Community Council.

¹ See U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 EJ Showcase Community, Los Angeles, CA, <http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/grants/ej-showcase-r09.html>.

The Alliance appreciates the Air District's plan to develop a policy for tracking and responding to emails and phone calls. We encourage the Air District to do the same for all stakeholders so that interested community members would know what communications have been initiated by industry as well.

The Alliance also commends the Air District's plan to develop an online complaint process. We encourage the Air District to also allow community members to call with complaints since some community members do not have the ability to submit complaints online.

To ensure that this online complaint process is an effective method for submitting complaints, the Alliance urges the Air District to verify that complaints were received by sending a confirmation email, and by assigning a complaint number to each complaint lodged. This will help maintain a comprehensive log of complaints received. In the Air District's Public Participation Plan, the Alliance would ask for a delineation of the steps for how online odor nuisance complaints could be confirmed in a timely manner.

The Alliance also has several suggestions to strengthen the Air District's Public Participation Plan. Initially, the Alliance urges the Air District to restructure its website to help community members locate information about sources impacting their neighborhoods. The current website structure is difficult to navigate to find information about facilities, sources and emissions impacting certain communities. The Alliance suggests that all of the information relevant to each particular community would be easy to locate through a single search. For example, perhaps the Air District could organize permits, emissions, and other source information by zip code.

In addition, the Alliance requests that the Air District develop clear, transparent rules for public comments at hearings, workshops and town hall meetings to ensure that all members of the public are given a fair opportunity to participate in the process. These rules should ensure that meetings are conducted in an organized, respectful manner.

The Alliance also encourages the Air District to hold town hall meetings in impacted communities to allow community members a chance to voice their concerns while giving an overview of sources in that community. Impacted communities may not have ready access to computers and phones during the day, so this type of outreach would be an important way to provide these communities with a voice in the Air District proceedings.

Furthermore, the Alliance encourages the Air District to strengthen the Air Quality and Odor Complaint Line. In the past, the Air District has not been able to verify complaints in a timely matter due to resource constraints, which can lead community members to feel that their voice was not being heard. To help alleviate this issue, the District could have community members who are designated to help verify complaints, especially odor and opacity complaints that could be verified without the use of expensive equipment. Section 114(a)(2) of the Clean Air Act allows an "authorized

Page 3

representative” to perform emissions monitoring. One possible way to designate community monitors would be to designate the members of the Community Council. The Alliance believes that empowering community members is central to engaging the community in issues related to air quality.

Lastly, the Alliance has a concern related to the Air District’s plans to translate its materials into other languages. Although the Alliance commends the Air District for evaluating the need to provide materials in other languages, the Alliance encourages the Air District to consider translating material into other languages if the particular project is located in a community that has specific language needs that may not be the same as the larger area.

Respectfully,
Janice Schroeder
On behalf of the West Berkeley Alliance for Clean Air and Safe Jobs

California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance



California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance

100 Spear Street, Suite 805, San Francisco, California 94105
415-512-7890 phone, 415-512-7897 fax, www.cceeb.org

April 24, 2013

Lisa Fasano
Director of Communications and Outreach
Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD)
939 Ellis St. San Francisco, CA 94109

RE: Draft Public Participation Plan “Airing Ideas”

Dear Ms. Fasano,

Please find comments from the California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance (CCEEB) on the draft Public Participation Plan (“draft Plan”). CCEEB is a coalition of California business, labor and public leaders that strives to advance strategies to achieve a sound economy and a healthy environment. Our members operate many facilities and businesses within the San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin, and CCEEB is an active participant in both the Public Engagement and CARE Task Forces. We sincerely appreciate the opportunity to provide you our comments on the draft Plan, and look forward to working with you and the District on its successful implementation.

The draft Plan generally does a good job describing communication and outreach tools employed by the BAAQMD (or “District”). However, CCEEB believes that more should be done to acknowledge and address the different types of public stakeholders with whom the District interacts, particularly regulated businesses and other entities who must legally comply with local, state and federal air quality rules and regulations. We note that this was a comment raised consistently at the task force meetings by CCEEB and others (including local government representatives who identified a still different set of engagement needs for partner agencies). As currently written, the draft Plan seems almost wholly focused on engagement with individual residents or professional “activists,” with very little attention given to other types of stakeholders.

What follows are specific suggestions that CCEEB believes could help enhance the draft Plan’s utility for the regulated community. Additionally, CCEEB offers more minor comments about the general structure and contents of the draft Plan.

Include Guiding Principles for the District’s Rule Development Program

<http://www.baaqmd.gov/Divisions/Planning-and-Research/Rule-Development.aspx>

These principles include critically important steps to engage stakeholders and affected parties, such as: stakeholder meetings; posting of draft rules, staff reports and other background materials; workshops; and public hearings. They should be included prominently in the draft Plan. The District should also make an explicit commitment to engage affected parties as early in the process as possible, and that facilities or businesses likely to be regulated under new or amended rules should be among the first stakeholders with whom the District shares any initial rulemaking concepts. Ideally, and as outlined in the guiding principles, this outreach to affected parties should begin *before* a draft rule is posted or workshops held. Affected parties should also be included in any working group or task force convened to work on rule development.

Broadly Define “Public” and “Community” to Include All Stakeholders

On page 11 of the draft Plan, these terms are somewhat defined: “When the Air District involves the public, it gathers input on Air District projects and programs to understand the perspectives of different community groups, including industry, activists, local government, and residents.” [Emphasis added.] A clear and explicit definition of who the District views as “public” and “community” should be added to and highlighted up front in the introduction.

Include Other “Community” Groups in the Community Council

On page 30 of the draft Plan, staff proposes forming a Community Council for residents. Other “community” stakeholders, such as industry and local government, should be recognized and included, particularly since the District plans to retire its multi-stakeholder CARE Task Force. Staff should also consider rotating co-chairs from different community sectors in order to ensure balance and enhance opportunities for cross-sector collaboration and consensus building.

Include Discussion of Grants, Incentives and Other Business Assistance Activities

The draft Plan includes these activities on pages 7-8 and 82 as part of the District’s organization structure and program descriptions, but does not mention them at all in terms of public participation or engagement. Indeed, the effectiveness of outreach to potentially eligible businesses and operations has not been raised at all by staff or consultants as part of the development of the draft Plan, yet this is a very important function the District serves on behalf of state and federal grant programs. Similarly, for individual residents, the District’s vehicle buy-back or scrappage program may be of interest. At a minimum, these functions and services should be discussed and highlighted as part of any website revision. Additionally, outreach on grants and incentives should be considered as part of the District’s language assistance efforts.

Other, Minor or General Suggestions

- Add Monitoring and Modeling data to the list on page 15 of “Key Information provided via the website.” On page 32 and as part of website improvements, include data on air quality trends over time, not just forecasts.

- Commit to working with all stakeholders on how the District will provide permit information from its new production system in the public-facing portion of the website; work to provide information that meets community needs without “data dumping” and while preserving confidentiality and legal protections for permit applicants.
- Consider adding a principle for “Consistency” to the list on page 4. For example, “The Air District strives to communicate a consistent message and information to all parties in order to help foster a common understanding of air quality issues.”
- Consolidate the number of icons to make simpler and more understandable; consider combining *Inform & Connect* as well as *Collaborate & Partner*, which reduces the number of icons from six to a more manageable four.
- Switch *Involve* and *Comment*; for example, “comments” in writing or to the Board usually come after the District has already “involved” stakeholders in both informal and formal discussions about rules and plans.
- Add “impartial” to the third task on page 31 so that it reads: “The Air District may use professional *and impartial* professional facilitators as appropriate...”
- Add “beta test” to the tenth task on page 32 so that it reads: “In designing the new website, the Air District will conduct meetings with stakeholders to get feedback, *and will beta test the redesigned site before launching and replacing the current site.*” Many stakeholders found the last site redesign challenging, in part because important documents were removed.

Thank you again for considering our comments. Should you or your staff have any questions, or wish to discuss our comments further, please contact Janet Whittick of CCEEB at (415) 512-7890 ext. 111 or janetw@cceeb.org.

Sincerely,



Bill Quinn
CCEEB Vice President and Bay Area
Partnership Project Manager



Janet Whittick
CCEEB Policy and Communications
Director

cc: Gerald D. Secundy, CCEEB President
Henry Hilken, BAAQMD
John Chiladakis, BAAQMD
Jim Smith, BAAQMD
Sonam Shah, BAAQMD

Santa Clara County Farm Bureau

Hi Jim and Sonam,

Sorry for the delay in getting my remarks over to you. My concerns about public outreach are probably different than what you heard at most of your meetings, since I represent the regulated community rather than just the general public. After dealing with numerous public agencies, it is clear to me that agencies should treat the regulated community differently than the general public. Agencies that take care to establish good relationships with the regulated community are rewarded by better communication and improved outcomes. To that end, here are my thoughts. Please let me know if you have any questions and thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback.

--In the past, the Farm Bureau has received short notice of upcoming workshops and the regulated community has received no notice. No notice from BAAQMD at all. For example, on January 22, 2013 I received notice from BAAQMD regarding workshops in February to discuss fees for open burning. The local workshop was to be held in Gilroy on February 5, just ten work days later. It's really great that the workshops were held throughout the region, one workshop per county, but without adequate notice there will be minimal participation and the workshop is held in vain. We included notice of the workshop in our weekly e-newsletter, but it was much too late for us to include the notice in our bimonthly printed newsletter. No farmers or ranchers attended the meeting. I asked Jim what the level of outreach was, and it sounded like the only outreach was the short notice provided to Farm Bureaus and other ag organizations. This is unacceptable. BAAQMD should have a mailing list for the regulated community since burn notices have been provided for years, and notice should have been sent to those who would be affected by these fees. We felt this issue was relevant enough to our members that we spent our own time and money to send notice out to all our ranchers, vineyard owners, and tree fruit growers since they may be affected by open burn fees. We should not be relied upon to distribute information to the regulated community, that burden rests with the district.

--It is difficult to attend BAAQMD workshops in San Francisco. It would be great if board members participated in local workshops. For instance, I attended the February 5 meeting and made comments to the staff members there, but I doubt these were conveyed back to the board. Of course I can provide my comments to the board in writing, but they will not be conveyed with the same force and emphasis as spoken communications and who's to say the board will even read our letters? If board members attended in person they would better understand the issues and it would show a level of commitment and responsiveness to make the regulated community feel their opinions are valued.

--Documents are hard to find on the website. I have used the site a few times now so my searches take less time than before, but it still is not user friendly. One suggestion is that it would be easier if the Rules and Regulations were in chronological order, so the rules and regulations currently being discussed or changed are listed first. Since topics are listed in chronological order by regulation number, I must first know the regulation number.

--Staff representing incentives programs and grants programs is better at keeping in touch than those proposing changes to rules and regulations. We still don't receive regular communication, but I think we are at least informed when new Carl Moyer grant funding cycles begin.

Jennifer Scheer
Executive Director
Santa Clara County Farm Bureau
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FARMING LOOKS MIGHTY EASY WHEN YOUR PLOW IS A PENCIL, AND YOU'RE A THOUSAND MILES FROM THE CORN FIELD.

--DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER