



Air Pollution Control District Governing Board

San Diego County Air Pollution Control District

AGENDA ITEM #G.3

DATE: January 19, 2022

TO: Air Pollution Control District Governing Board

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN AND PROPOSED GOALS

REQUESTED ACTION:

1. Receive an update on the development of the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District's Public Participation Plan
2. Consider the proposed priorities for the Public Participation Plan and provide input
3. Direct staff to return to the Board in three months with a proposed Public Participation Plan addressing the Board's and the Public's input

OVERVIEW:

In 2019, the California State Auditor (CSA) conducted an audit on the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District's (APCD) operations. The CSA's July 2020 Audit Report included proposed recommendations for APCD to create and implement a Public Participation Plan (PPP) to become more responsive to the public and encourage public participation. In February 2021, APCD added a full-time staff position to serve as outreach coordinator to enhance its outreach and communications activities and to start developing the PPP. In July of 2021, APCD entered into a contract with professional consulting firms MIG Communications and Pueblo Planning to assist with the development of the PPP. APCD partnered with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) including the Environmental Health Coalition, Casa Familiar, Bayside Community Center, El Cajon Collaborative, Vista Community Clinic and community members County-wide to help develop the practices and principles that will inform and help shape the APCD's PPP. CBO partners were selected with input from the APCD Ad Hoc Governance Committee, based on their relationships with communities that are most impacted by air quality issues (environmental justice communities, low-wealth households, immigrants, people of color, etc.) and their geographical representation throughout the County.

The key priorities identified for the PPP from community listening sessions and CBO interviews and workshops are detailed in Attachment A. These priorities are the foundation for the following list of proposed overarching goals for the PPP. With your Board's additional input, these would become the goals that will inform and shape the PPP:

Proposed Overarching Goals for PPP

- Build relationships and trust with the community, particularly those which have experienced disproportionate air quality impacts
- Provide the community meaningful tools, resources, and information so that the community is empowered to be an engaged partner in APCD decision making
- Connect with community members in places they trust and provide consistent engagement opportunities
- Conduct community engagement that is inclusive, accessible, trauma-informed, and transparent
- Invest in an organizational culture and structure that supports proactive community engagement
- Establish partnerships with community-based organizations, government departments, and agencies to ensure community outreach is coordinated and demonstrates collaborative results

Also, based on the initial engagement with CBOs and the public, proposed principles were identified to guide participation and engagement activities for APCD. The proposed principles are also informed by concepts of popular education, which is a teaching methodology that fosters a high degree of community participation and social awareness to effect social change. By applying the proposed principles, both APCD and the community are teachers that learn from one another and partners in effecting change. These principles will guide the creation of strategies to accomplish the goals of the PPP:

Proposed Principles for Implementation of the PPP

- The current distribution of resources is unjust, and change is possible if we invest in our most impacted communities.
- Community participation and engagement should directly result in building trust and creating change: reducing harm and increasing health and benefit to the most impacted communities
- Community engagement should be prioritized for every topic addressed by APCD
- Lived experiences and cultural expectations among those who are most impacted by poor air quality are important to informing our current and future needs and solutions.
- Engagement should be intentional, inclusive, trauma-informed, and transparent in respecting lived experiences
- Community members' time and contributions are valuable and should be respected in how engagement and participation are organized, conducted, and documented
- Participation and collaboration should occur in languages of engaged communities and in spaces and places that are frequented and trusted by community members who are most impacted by poor air quality
- We learn with our heads, our hearts, and our bodies. Participation and engagement should include providing the community with meaningful and accessible educational tools, resources, and information that are place-based and public health-focused to directly inform APCD's decisions and air quality improvements.

- New ideas from the community should be prioritized, studied, documented, tracked, and accessible as knowledge that is part of APCD’s decision-making.
- APCD’s decision-making process should include regular and ongoing communication and feedback with communities that are most impacted by poor air quality

Finally, a project website was launched in English (www.participatesdapcd.org) and Spanish (www.participatesdapcd.org/es) to promote and facilitate continuous engagement from members of the public. The project website provides up to date information on the development process of the PPP as well as a questionnaire that serves as an additional tool the public can use to provide input on the PPP.

The information and input provided by the CBOs and the public, as well as by the Board in today’s meeting will be incorporated into a draft PPP that will then be released for public comment this winter. Today’s recommendation is for the Board to receive an update on the development of the PPP, provide input on the proposed goals and principles for the PPP, and direct staff to return to the Board in three months with a proposed PPP addressing the Board’s and the public’s input.

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT:

N/A

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:

N/A

RECOMMENDED BY:

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ATTACHMENTS:

[Item4_AttA_Key Com Priorities Public Participation Plan.pdf](#)