

Environmental Justice Element

ACHCC ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE BUCKET MEETING #4

APRIL 21, 2022





This meeting will
be recorded

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Where we are in the EJ Element process
- Air Quality and EJ - Guest Speakers:
 - ❖ Air District
 - ❖ Contra Costa County
- Questions/ updates from EJ Bucket

EJ Element Process

- The EJ Bucket of the ACHCC has had three meetings to date:
 - January - Intro EJ & SB1000, Data Gathering and Initial Findings
 - February - “Six Pillars of EJ” (SB1000 topic areas)
 - March - 6th Pillar (Civic Engagement) and Report on Key Issues
- Throughout, you have completed “homework” sheets and shared key insights via meeting breakout groups
- Today is the first meeting where we’ll be taking a more detailed dive into a key issue area from one of the six pillars of EJ: Air quality

Next steps

- We are in the process of developing a Community Engagement Plan for the EJ Element, with outreach proposed to start in May and June. This will inform priorities, policies and plans for the EJ Element.
- In parallel, ACHCC EJ Bucket partner organizations will continue to meet, addressing:
 - May & June – Effective Policy, Best Practices, Gather Policy Ideas, for each of the SB1000 Topic Areas
 - July – Planning for Implementation Framework
 - August** – Reviewing and getting feedback on draft EJ Element



Introduction:
EJ & Air Quality in
unincorporated
Alameda County

EJ & Air Quality

- Our first topic-area discussion as a group is on air quality, because this is an issue area where the data shows that urban unincorporated has some of the highest rates of impact in the State
 - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) is a regional body that oversees air quality, and part of their work includes working with cities and counties on SB1000 EJ Elements
 - Contra Costa County is updating their General Plan, including to incorporate EJ/ SB1000



Pollution and air quality

- **Requirement:**

The EJ Element must identify objectives and policies to reduce the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities by reducing pollution exposure, including the improvement of air, water and soil quality. The EJ Element should consider both indoor and outdoor air quality.

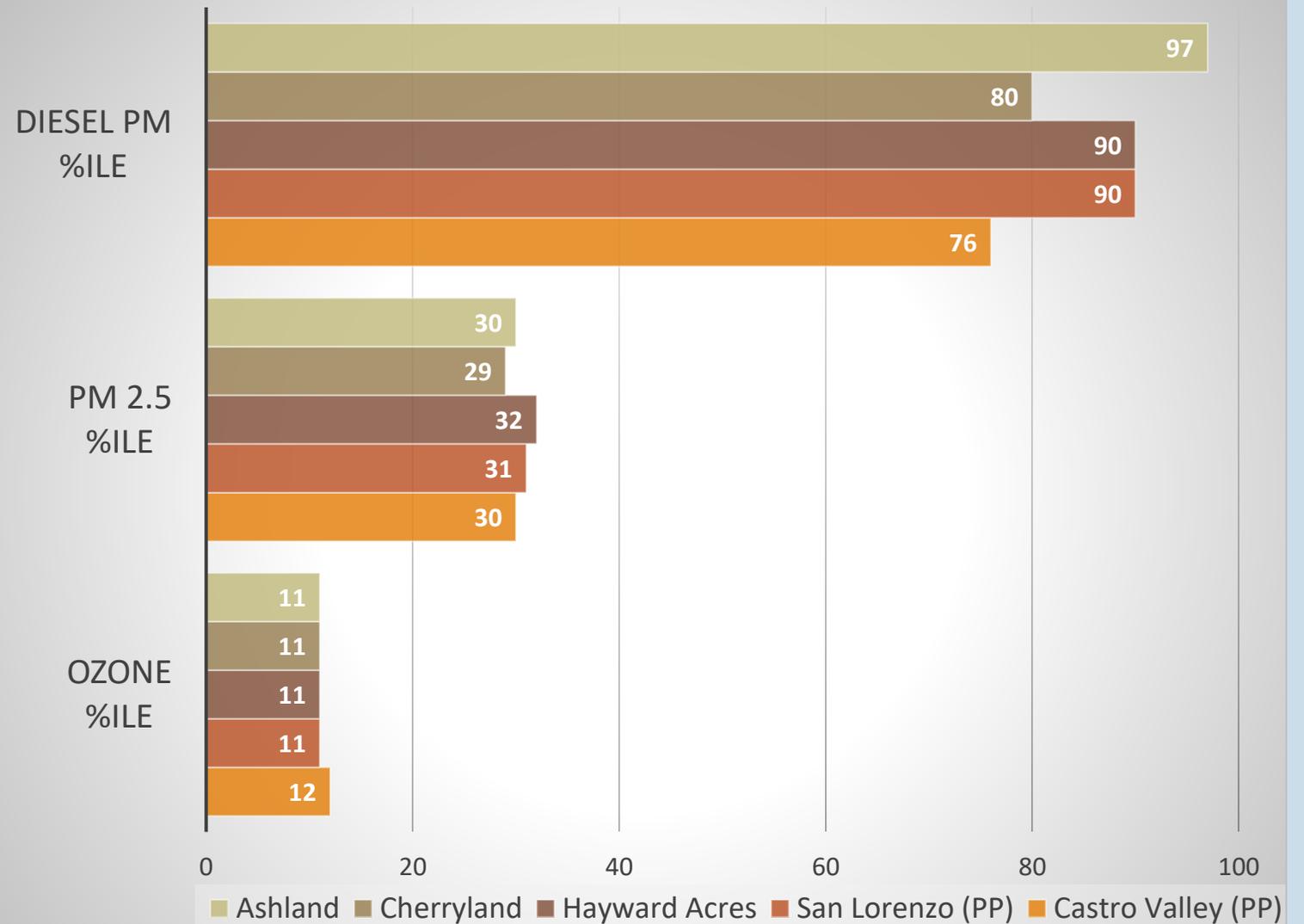
- **Why is this Important?**

Diseases such as asthma, birth defects, cancer, heart disease, neurologic disorders, and reproductive disorders can be linked to pollution in the environment, and certain geographic areas experience a disproportionate share of pollution exposure.

PHD & the consultant team have been gathering and assessing data to inform policy on this topic (i.e, asthma rates, cancer rates, air quality, water contaminants, hazard sites, etc.).

Air Pollution Indicators

- Diesel PM is the pollutant for which priority neighborhoods score worst compared to all California census tracts, and has the most variability among priority neighborhoods
- PM 2.5 is worse than about one third of all California census tracts, and poses a significant health threat
- Ozone concentrations are better than 90% of all California census tracts



Source: CalEnviroScreen 4.0. Ashland, Cherryland, and Castro Valley (PP) are averages of multi-tract percentile scores.

Outstanding Questions: Air Quality

1. What do you see as the critical issues related to air quality in Alameda County?
2. Who are the specific groups most disproportionately affected by negative air quality?
3. Where in the unincorporated areas is traffic concentration the highest?

Ground-truthing the data

Impacts:
cancer rates,
asthma

Sensitivities

Exposure

Prevailing
winds,
geography

Chain of
causality

Communities
lived
experience

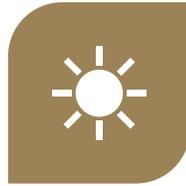
Policy/ program options



RESTRICTIONS ON
NEW DEVELOPMENT



AIR FILTRATION



HOME
WEATHERIZATION &
IMPROVEMENTS



URBAN GREENING



AIR MONITORING



HEALTH SCREENING



MODE SWITCH: BIKE/
PEDESTRIAN/ TRANSIT



TRANSIT-ORIENTED
DEVELOPMENT TO
REDUCE VMT



ELECTRIFICATION:
BUILDINGS &
VEHICLES

Goal D. Reduce the use of and exposure to toxins.

Ashland and Cherryland residents live in a healthy environment where they are protected from the harmful effects of toxins, particulates, hazardous materials, and other contaminants and environmental hazards.

Rationale: Motor vehicles and stationary pollution sources are the principle contributors of particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, and ozone, which contribute to asthma, bronchitis, and cancers. Although people spend about 90 percent of their time indoors, indoor air quality is not as well regulated and can often be worse than outdoor air quality. Creating healthy environments for residents and workers will both support a thriving community and reduce disparate health and environmental impacts.

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Section 3.0: Land Use & Housing

Policies:

Policy D.1. Promote land use mixes and development densities that encourage pedestrian, bicycle and transit modes of travel to reduce air pollutant emissions from automobiles.

Policy D.2. Protect sensitive receptors, including residential uses, schools, early childhood education centers, parks with recreation facilities, and medical facilities from exposure to unsafe levels of pollutants from stationary or mobile sources. Consider the impacts of odors and toxic emissions on sensitive receptors.

Policy D.3. Encourage property owners pursuing new developments or home renovations to design and construct buildings for healthful living and working conditions, including enhanced internal circulation, healthy building materials, design for universal accessibility, and mechanical and HVAC systems that enhance indoor air quality and employee comfort.

Actions:

Action D.1. Consult with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District when considering the placement of sensitive land uses near stationary and mobile sources of pollution (including commercial land uses, industrial land uses, and diesel pollution).

Action D.11. Create and implement indoor air quality standards for new multi-family housing (five or more units) constructed after the adoption of this Element.

Action D.12. Use existing planning tools to prevent and reduce residential exposure to air pollution.

Action D.15. Request that the BAAQMD monitor the area for air quality.

Goal H. Encourage access to safe and convenient public transit and active mobility options for all.

Residents have access to safe, convenient, and reliable public transportation and bicycle and pedestrian facilities that increase physical activity, reduce air and noise pollution, and make streets safe for people of all ages.

Rationale: Car traffic and parking can discourage other more healthful uses of streets and land. Poor design contributes to pedestrian/bicyclist and vehicle collisions. All residents of walkable/bikeable neighborhoods with convenient and reliable public transportation are more likely to achieve the recommended amount of daily exercise, have improved air quality and experience less noise pollution.

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Section 6.0: Active
Safe Transportation

8.0 SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Goal J. Grow sustainably and prepare for the impacts of climate change.
The community protects the air, water, and soil quality and the overall ecosystem in Ashland and Cherryland. Residents and workers are prepared for and have built up resiliency to the potential public health consequences of climate change.

Rationale: In the Bay Area, the predicted negative health impacts of climate change include increased numbers days with extreme hot or cold temperatures, variable rainfall patterns (which can impact flooding), unstable food supply, increased risk of vector-borne diseases, and increased air pollution. These impacts will disproportionately affect vulnerable populations such as young children, the elderly, linguistically isolated residents, people living in poverty, and persons with existing health conditions. The diverse public health and environmental impacts of climate change require strategic planning and action today. Additionally, protecting environmental health today will increase the area's sustainability, the population's environmental health, and help prepare for and adapt to climate change impacts.

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Section 8.0:
Sustainability and
Environmental Health

Potential Partners on air quality

Public Health Department

- CAPE Team (Data/ Epidemiology)
- Health Equity and Policy Planning (HEPP)
- Asthma Start, Community Health Services (CHS)

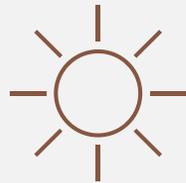
Partner organizations

- Health centers, e.g. TVHC
- Transit agencies (AC Transit, ACTC)
- Building improvements, e.g. Code Enforcement, Building Dept.

Guest Speakers



Bay Area Air Quality Management
District (BAAQMD)



Contra Costa County



Updates/ projects to
share?