



## ***Air Quality & Environmental Justice*** ***Monterey, California – May 9, 2024***

Today is the fourth day of Air Quality Awareness Week focusing on Air Quality & Environmental Justice. Clean air is important for everyone's health. Yet, studies show that many people are disproportionately impacted by air pollution, including those who live in communities of color and low-income communities. Exposure to poor air quality has been found to cause short and long-term health effects, especially for older adults, children and pregnant women. The health burden of air pollution is higher for those living in areas of poor air quality. Residents of low-income neighborhoods and communities may be more vulnerable to air pollution because of proximity to air pollution sources such as factories, major roadways and ports with diesel truck operations. They also may be more susceptible to air pollution because of social and economic factors.

### **California Community Air Protection Program**

Signed by Governor Brown in 2017, [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 617](#) was authored by Assembly Member Cristina Garcia to address the disproportionate impacts of air pollution in environmental justice communities. In response to this bill, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) established the Community Air Protection Program (CAPP) to reduce pollution exposure in communities based on environmental, health and socio-economic information, essentially prioritizing air quality improvements in these communities by enhancing air monitoring, providing cleaner technologies, and engaging the community.

AB 617 has key elements, such as adding and accelerating requirements for Best Available Retrofit Control Technology (BARCT) for industrial sources, creating a technology clearinghouse, increasing penalty fees, and greater transparency and availability of air emissions data.

### **Monterey Bay Air Resources District Community Air Protection Program**

- Identified disadvantaged communities in Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties
- Clearly defined funding priorities: Disadvantaged Community (DAC), Low-income Area (LI), Zero-emission project, and Project Cost Effectiveness
- Over \$8 million awarded for CAPP projects since 2019.

For more information about the Community Air Protection Program, please visit:

<https://www.mbard.org/ab-617-community-air-protection>

Photo attached.

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