

February 19, 2020



The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Tony Atkins  
President Pro Tempore of the California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon  
Speaker of the California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 219  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: 2020-2021 State Budget and Cap & Trade Expenditure Plan – Air Quality and Public Health Concerns**

Dear Governor Newsom, President Pro Tempore Atkin and Speaker Rendon:

On behalf of the City of San Pablo, I am writing to respectfully share our concerns with the introduced state budget with respect to air quality and public health.

As a State-identified disadvantaged community, the population of San Pablo is predominantly low and moderate income, with 20% of the population identified as living at or below the poverty rate, and faces various environmental justice challenges. In particular, San Pablo has significant air quality issues due to its physical location. The City is situated between:

- Interstate 80, which is one of the most heavily trafficked roads in the Bay Area. The section that passes through San Pablo has an annual average daily traffic count of approximately 198,000 vehicles.
- Richmond Chevron Refinery, which is the third largest refinery in the state of California. The Facility is located approximately 3 miles from San Pablo in the neighboring City of Richmond.
- West County Wastewater Treatment Facility, which treats all wastewater for the surrounding region. The Facility is located approximately 1.5 miles from San Pablo in the neighboring City of Richmond.
- West Contra Costa County Sanitary Landfill and Golden Bear Transfer Station, which accepts trash from much of West County and detrimentally impacts air quality for the local community. The Landfill is located approximately 1.5 miles from San Pablo in the neighboring unincorporated Contra Costa County.

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Furthermore, CalEnviroScreen 3.0 has identified much of San Pablo as severely impacted for the following:

- Diesel particulate matter (PM): CalEnviroScreen score of 88, meaning that the rate of PM is higher than 88% of census tracts in California. Sources of diesel PM within and nearby the populated parts of San Pablo emit 32 kilograms per day.
- Asthma: CalEnviroScreen score of 97, meaning that the asthma rates per 10,000 residents is higher than 97% of census tracts in California. San Pablo has an asthma rate of 120 people per every 10,000 residents.
- Cardiovascular Rate: CalEnviroScreen score of 92, meaning that the rate of cardiovascular disease is higher than 92% of census tracts in California. Approximately 12 people for every 10,000 residents visit the emergency department for myocardial infarctions (i.e. heart attacks).

Due to its high cumulative exposure burden to air pollution, San Pablo and the neighboring City of Richmond, were selected by Bay Area residents and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District as an AB 617 priority region. As a result, the Richmond-San Pablo Area Community Air Monitoring Plan Steering Committee has been extremely important in giving community members and stakeholders a voice to ensure that everyone benefits from air quality efforts. San Pablo residents and staff have been highly involved in the Steering Committee, which has been essential for identifying areas of concern and developing practical solutions to local air quality issues.

The proposed budget cuts critical local implementation funding in half which the City believes will result in negative public health consequences for people living in this disadvantaged community. Currently, AB 617 funding allows low-income, high-health burden communities, like San Pablo, to play an active role in making their City a safer, healthier place to live.

Please consider maintaining the current level of funding for AB 617.

The City of San Pablo appreciates the opportunity to provide our input for the upcoming fiscal year. The City is committed to ensuring that its residents do not continue to be disproportionately affected by air pollution and the associated health impacts. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Sr. Environmental Program Analyst Amanda Booth at (510) 215-3066.

Sincerely,

Arturo M. Cruz  
Mayor

ccs: San Pablo City Councilmembers  
San Pablo City Manager Matt Rodriguez  
San Pablo Public Works Director Jill Mercurio