

Bay Area Air Quality Management District

Environmental Justice & Community Outreach

**Darrell E. Waller, Community Outreach
Coordinator**



Encompasses

- **9 Counties**
- **6000 Square Miles**



Governed by a 22-member Board of elected officials.

Environmental Justice & Community Outreach

Definition

“... is committed to environmental policymaking and enforcement practices that are fair and equitable to all residents regardless of age, culture, ethnicity, gender, race, socioeconomic status, or geographic location in order to protect against the health effects of air pollution.”

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Origins

- **Policy adopted by Board in 2001**
- **Based on input from local communities and environmental groups**
- **Intended to acknowledge**
 1. **our commitment to fair enforcement policies**
 2. **increased public participation**

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Overall Strategy: Pitfalls

- **Hostility**
- **Groups or individuals claiming to “represent the community”**
- **Lack of knowledge of the community and its issues**
- **Complaint response**
- **Dissemination of inaccurate information**

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Overall Strategy: Successes

- **Increased community presence**
- **Engaging “real people”**
- **Addressing community concerns**
- **Greater knowledge of the community and its people**

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What we've done

- **Strengthen and leverage resources**
 1. **Expand database of EJ stakeholders**
 2. **Work with community on publications**
 3. **Community meetings**
 4. **Incorporate information on website**

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What we've done

- **“Build Bridges to the Community”**
 1. **Seek input on Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) funds**
 2. **Partner with community and environmental groups**
 3. **Improve communication**

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EJ Resource Teams

- **Created in 2001**
- **Communicate air quality message on grass-roots level**
- **Two teams in EJ communities**
- **Work on community-selected projects**

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Community Concerns

- **Cumulative risk factors (CARE)**
- **“Flaring” control measures**
- **Reducing diesel emissions**
- **Improving public participation & outreach**
- **Indoor air quality & global warming**

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C. A. R. E. Program (Community Air Risk Evaluation)

Program Goals

- **Evaluate health risk from air toxins in Bay Area neighborhoods**
- **Provide health risk information to the communities**
- **Plan & implement risk reduction measures**

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C. A. R. E. Program

Other Highlights and Goals

- **Started July 2004**
- **Est. cost: \$1-million (FY 2004-05)**
- **Completed in 2-3 years**
- **Includes Advisory Committee of diverse stakeholders**

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C. A. R. E. Program

Other Highlights and Goals

- Provides enhanced air monitoring
- “Gridded” emission inventory for diesel particulates and other air toxics
- Cumulative risk assessment within a selected community

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