

RICHMOND - NORTH  
RICHMOND - SAN PABLO  
COMMUNITY

PATH TO

CLEAN AIR

**City of Richmond  
An Overview to the  
Community Emissions Reduction Plan  
(in draft)**

November 14, 2023

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# Background

## Community Air Protection Program (AB 617)

- State-mandated community air protection program
- **Community-based approach** to improve community health **by reducing exposure to air pollution** in the most impacted neighborhoods through the development of Community Emissions Reduction Plans

## Community Emission Reduction Plan

- Plan, co-developed with community, that **contains new strategies and actions** (e.g., regulations, enforcement, incentives, enforceable agreements) that go beyond existing efforts to **further reduce air pollution** disparities
- **Adopted by the Air District Board of Directors**

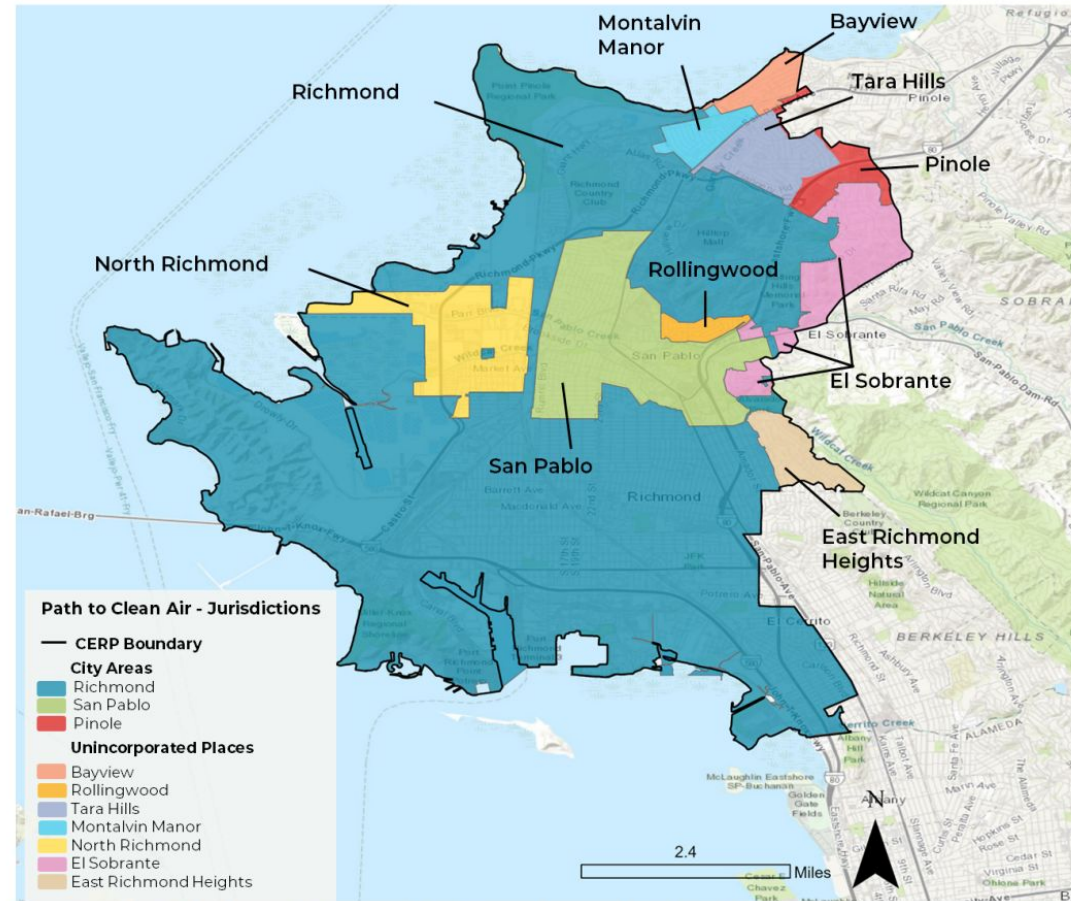
October 26, 2023



# Why was our area selected for a community emissions reduction plan?

The cities of Richmond and San Pablo, and several unincorporated areas in Contra Costa County are **severely impacted by air pollution from:**

- Ports
- Ships
- Marine terminals
- Railroads and railyards
- Heavy-duty trucks
- Congested freeways
- Fuel Refining
- Landfill
- Other industrial and commercial operations

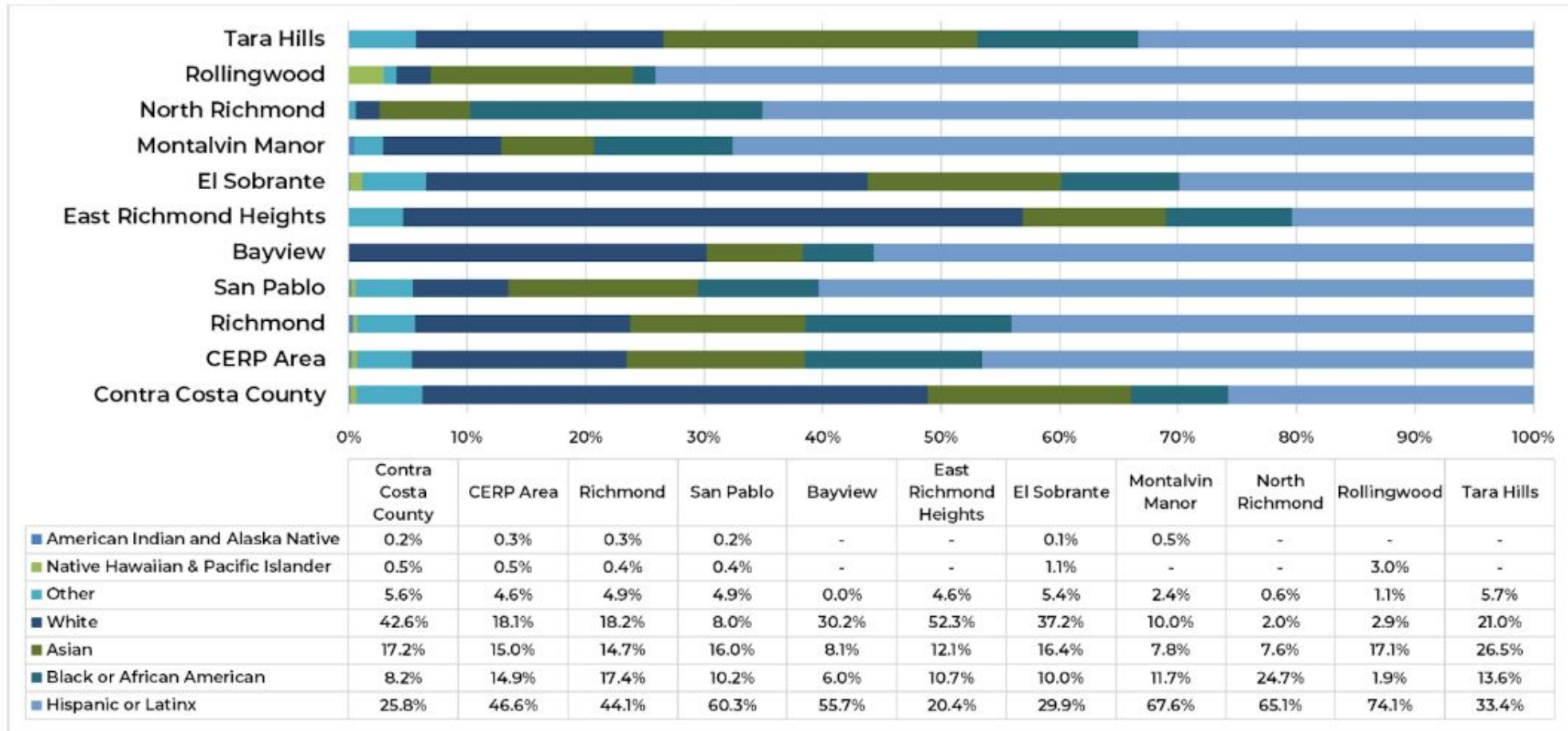


Community Emission Reduction Plan Boundary and Jurisdictions

# Who is impacted?

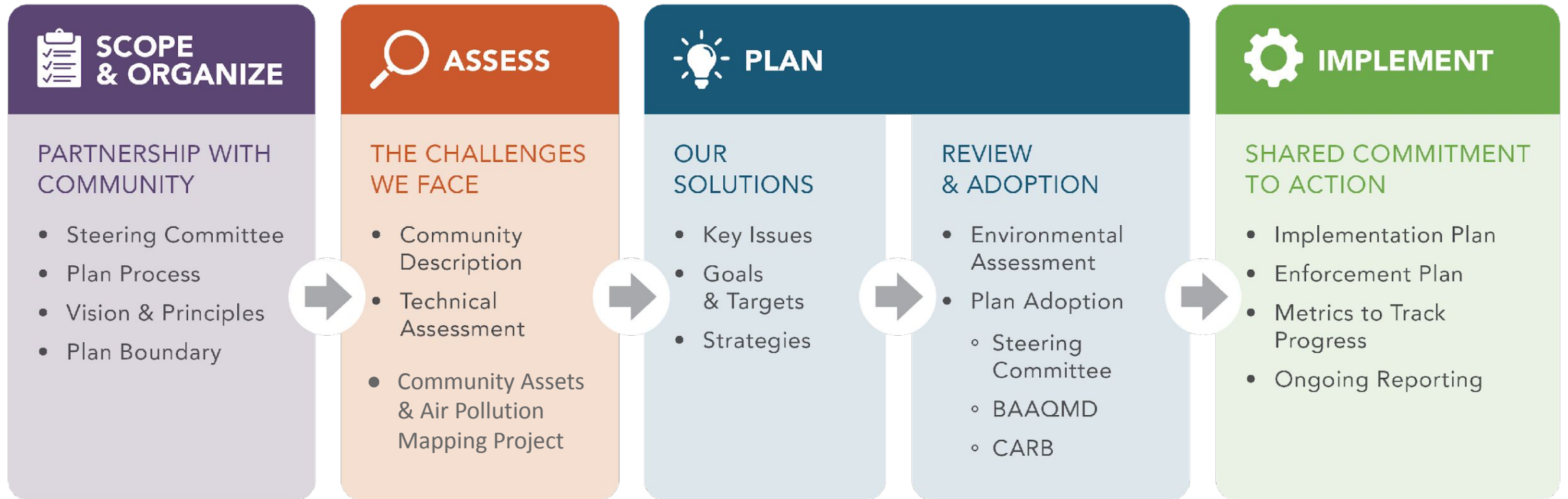
The majority of the community members living in the Path to Clean Air area (which includes Richmond, North Richmond, and San Pablo) are **Latinx, Asian, and Black/African American**.

Figure 13. Race Within the CERP Community.



Source: Census Table B03002, HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN BY RACE, Universe: Total population, 2020-2016: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables. <https://api.census.gov/data/2020/acs/acs5>.

# Plan Process



# Community Concerns

The Plan is focused on five community concerns and includes strategies centered on these priority sources:

- Mobile
- Public Health
- Marine and Rail
- Commercial and Industrial
- Fuel Refining

Other topics the plan addresses:

- Land Use
- Urban Greening
- Compliance and Enforcement

# The PTCA Community Emissions Reduction Plan

Richmond-North Richmond- San Pablo

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# Community Emissions Reduction Plan Goals

**Just Transition:** In pursuit of our right to breathe clean air, promote environmental justice, and ensure the well-being of **our residents and workers**, our community-driven emissions reduction plan is rooted in Just Transition principles. This plan seeks to address the consequences of historical racial disparities by developing **more stringent air pollution policies** that advance social healing and restoration.

**Health:** In pursuit of reducing historically high rates of asthma, cancer, and other chronic health conditions, our plan seeks to **lower** our community's disproportionate **exposure** to air pollution by reducing toxic emissions **from local sources by 30-50% by 2035**.

**Community Engagement:** Through education and engagement, our plan aims to **empower** our community by **providing resources and tools** to promote understanding of air pollution and its impact on our health and environment.

**Hold Government Accountable:** Our goal is to **hold our government accountable** for implementing our **plan**, including its strategies and actions, to protect our health and environment and effectively **enforce regulations** on high-polluting industries and other toxic sources of emissions in our community.

# Example Actions

Community Concern	Example Plan Actions
Mobile Sources (freight trucks, cars)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Heavy-duty truck management (such as designating truck routes and installing design deterrents to prevent trucks from using residential streets)</li><li>● Invest in zero emission bus fleets</li></ul>
Public Health and Reducing Exposures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Reduce vulnerabilities to air pollution by expanding health care</li><li>● Reduce exposure in homes by upgrading windows and installing air filtration systems</li></ul>
Marine and Rail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Implement locomotive regulations to regulate emissions from freight rail operations, prioritizing zero emission technology</li><li>● Advocate for the State to establish more stringent rules to require zero emission cargo handling equipment at ports and railyards</li></ul>

# Example Actions

Community Concern	Example Plan Actions
Commercial and Industrial Near Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Use best practices to control dust at commercial and industrial businesses</li><li>● Require more stringent review of industrial businesses proposed to be located near residential uses</li></ul>
Land Use and Urban Greening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Plant trees in priority neighborhoods (near freeways and within the “fenceline” of industrial facilities)</li><li>● Update regulations to buffer residents from sources of pollution such as freeways and industrial uses (by requiring developers to install air filtration systems and locate windows, balconies and plazas away from pollution sources)</li></ul>
Compliance & Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Develop an education and outreach campaign to inform the community about the Air District Complaints System</li><li>● Investigate targeted facilities of concern</li></ul>

# Fuel Refining Strategy 1

Move Towards a Just Transition

# Strategy 1 Actions- Just Transition

FR 1.1. Educate the CSC and Air District on how Just Transition would apply to the Zero Emission Future and a managed phase-down of fossil fuels in the PTCA area. The CSC will establish a Just Transition Subcommittee (JTS) as part of Path to Clean Air Plan Implementation by Q2 2024

FR 1.2. Incorporate Just Transition Principles and Criteria in the prioritization and implementation of the PTCA Plan and explore incorporating these in governmental policymaking and rulemaking

# STRATEGY 2

Reduce Persistent Flaring and Improve  
Incident Response

# Strategy 2 Actions- Flaring and Major Incidents

FR 2.1. Air District and the CSC will work with the City of Richmond to strengthen the Industrial Safety Ordinance (ISO)

FR 2.2. The Air District will coordinate with the CSC to improve and expand communications about all flaring events for the fuel refining sector in the PTCA area and also for major incidents at both fuel-refining and non-fuel refining sources

- Communications mechanisms will be developed in collaboration with a CSC Communications Subcommittee and include (A) a new webpage and (B) standardized internal and external communication protocols.

FR 2.3. Air District and CSC will collaborate with Contra Costa County to recommend improvements for their Community Warning System.

# STRATEGY 3

Hold Chevron and Other Emitters Accountable for  
Reducing Pollution and Negative Public Health Impacts  
from their Operations



# Strategy 3 Actions - Compliance and Enforcement

FR 3.1. Air District will develop and implement a standardized Chevron inspection protocol in partnership with the CSC

FR 3.2 Increase the frequency of Air District inspections, audits, and investigations at Chevron and Chemtrade

FR 3.3. Build a stronger collaborative relationship with operators and USW Local 5 Health and Safety representatives

FR 3.4. Transparent, Regular, and Inclusive Updates on Compliance and Enforcement Activity at Chevron

# Strategy 3 Actions - Legal and Penalties

FR 3.7. Air District will provide quarterly and annual updates to CSC about penalties assessed against fuel refining sector facilities and all other sources in the PTCA area

FR 3.8. Air District will collaboratively develop, with the CSC, and pilot legal enforcement approaches then expanded to cover all PTCA sources

FR 3.9. First, Air District will partner with the CSC to develop a Community Benefits Policy (CBP) that invests up to 100% of penalty monies from the fuel refining sector back into the PTCA area then be expanded to all sectors in the PTCA area.

# How can local residents and communities get involved?

The success of the plan depends on continued participation and activism of the Richmond, North Richmond and San Pablo community.

- Register to **receive regular electronic email updates** by visiting the [project webpage](#) (and scroll to the bottom of the page)
- Attend the public (virtual) **Community Steering Committee meetings**; visit the [calendar of meetings webpage](#) and look for the “Path to Clean Air Community Emissions Reduction Plan Steering Committee”
- Look out for **calls to action**

