

# County of Santa Clara

Office of the County Executive

County Government Center, East Wing

Eleventh Floor – East Wing

70 West Hedding Street

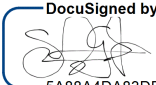
San Jose, California 95110



DATE: February 28, 2022

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors  
Jeffery V. Smith M.D, J.D., County Executive

FROM: Sylvia Gallegos, Deputy County Executive  
Jasneet Sharma, Director, Office of Sustainability

DocuSigned by:  
  
5A88A4DA83DF41D...

DocuSigned by:  
  
3946B0B8C6694D5...

SUBJECT: **Update on County Collaboration with BAAQMD on Program Resources for the Small Business Resiliency and Air Filtration Pilot Program**

During the November 2, 2021, Board of Supervisors meeting (Item No. 24), at the request of Supervisor Chavez, the Board directed Administration to provide an Off-Agenda Report to the Board relating to County collaboration with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) regarding program resources for the County's proposed Small Business Resiliency and Air Quality Grant Pilot Program (Pilot Program).

The County's Pilot Program proposes the establishment of a countywide grants initiative for small businesses and non-profit organizations affected by COVID-19 and wildfire smoke for the purchase and installation of portable air filtration units and other related filtration system enhancements to improve indoor air quality.

This Off-Agenda Report provides an overview of BAAQMD's existing air filtration programs, lessons BAAQMD learned through their Clean Air Filtration Program that may be applicable specifically to the County's Pilot Program for small and medium sized businesses, and opportunities for the County to partner with BAAQMD on programs resources.

## **Background: BAAQMD's Clean Air Filtration Program**

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Clean Air Filtration Program aims to provide access to high efficiency air filtration to help those who are most vulnerable to wildfire smoke and air pollution. Projects range from services to homes, evacuation centers, and public buildings. There are four specific sub-programs in place currently:

- The Home Air Filtration Program is focused on Medi-Cal patients, and undocumented adults, within the 9 Bay Area counties who have poorly controlled asthma. Eligible adults who have a medical diagnosis of asthma are given air filtration units as well as an in-home visit that provide culturally and linguistically appropriate asthma care, education, and mitigation.

- The Pilot Program and Partnership is a two-year pilot project where BAAQMD is providing the American Red Cross with air filtration units to deploy to evacuation centers and sheltering facilities during wildfire disasters that impact the Bay Area. The Red Cross will then coordinate with local county emergency management officials to open evacuation centers and sheltering facilities across the Bay Area.
- In partnership with County Office of Emergency Services, BAAQMD is providing heavy-duty portable air filtration units to regional emergency management authorities in the Bay Area to deploy to shelters and evacuation centers and indoor congregate facilities such as schools, libraries, and community centers in preparation for bad air quality from wildfire smoke episodes. The County of Santa Clara's partnership agreement with BAAQMD for this work was executed in November 2021
- The Wildfire Smoke Clean Air Center for Vulnerable Populations Incentive Pilot Program, in collaboration with the California Air Resources Board, aims to establish a network of clean air spaces across the Bay Area. The program has not started yet but will provide funding to retrofit air filtration and ventilations systems, as well as purchase portable air cleaners or replacement filters to improve indoor air in public buildings in disadvantaged and smoke-burned communities and buildings used for emergency evacuation and sheltering.

### **Future County and BAAQMD Collaboration Opportunities**

County staff connected with BAAQMD in late 2021 and again in January 2022 to learn from BAAQMD program efforts and strategize future partnership opportunities. County plans to utilize BAAQMD's approved list of filtration units for the procurement of the Pilot Program's portable units as well as continue to check in with BAAQMD and utilize them as a resource for the air filtration related work.

### **Portable Air Filtration Units**

Appropriate small or large filtration units for the Pilot Program would be selected from the list of fifteen vendors recently approved by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) through a competitive bid process for bulk-purchase pricing of portable units as part of the Clean Air Filtration Program. BAAQMD considered a set of specifications when evaluating these units, which ranged from the rating of HEPA filter used in the unit, ENERGY STAR or California Air Resource Board (CARB) certifications, Clean Air Delivery Rating or Cubic Feet/Minute specifications, and 110-volt outlet compatible units.

### **Guidance on Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Partners and Companies**

BAAQMD staff recommended a private company that produces filtration units and provides facility upgrade services. This company also has a Foundation that services low-income individuals in polluted and/or fire areas to retrofit homes or provide air filters for free. However, the company is based in Southern California, and their pricing is higher compared to estimates given by local HVAC companies. County staff would like to work with local HVAC partners to keep goodwill interaction with businesses as well as keep prices down to serve more small businesses.

In terms of program success with HVAC upgrades, BAAQMD so far has only completed one HVAC upgrade at one school site, the cost for which was in the \$100,000-\$200,000 range. The Pilot Program aims to serve smaller businesses and County is in the process of estimating the

number of businesses that it can support with HVAC upgrades as well as budgeting costs for the Program.

As BAAQMD builds and expands its own air filtration program, it can serve as an excellent resource as well as vet outreach ideas when the project starts. In addition to the opportunities mentioned above, County Staff intend to partner and work with BAAQMD in the following ways:

- Strengthen relationships with BAAQMD and encourage participation in forthcoming Pilot Program by continuously keeping in communication and program updates.
- Explore opportunities to collaborate with BAAQMD to identify resources to conduct indoor air quality monitoring and provide long-term resiliency for small businesses.
- Support BAAQMD in developing relationships across Santa Clara County to build capacity for future air quality programs.
- Promote BAAQMD programs, resources, and grant funding opportunities to the Small Business Resiliency Grant Program network, including co-hosting resources and grant funding informational sessions.
- Collaborate on the distribution plan for County and BAAQMD air filtration programs by prioritizing populations at risk.

Cc: Chief Board Aides  
Miguel Marquez, Chief Operating Officer  
James R. Williams, County Counsel  
Sylvia Gallegos, Deputy County Executive  
Erica Kelly, Office of Budget and Analysis