

Hopkins, Chris@ARB

From: ARB Clerk of the Board
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2020 12:10 PM
To: Hopkins, Chris@ARB; Bechtold, Bradley@ARB
Cc: Segall, Craig@ARB; Livingston, Aron@ARB; Estabrook, Katie@ARB
Subject: FW: AB&I Foundry--COVID--94621

I think this goes into open comment. Thanks!

From: Marya, Rupa <Rupa.Marya@ucsf.edu>
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2020 12:00 PM
To: ARB Clerk of the Board <cotb@arb.ca.gov>
Cc: Congress EJ Workgroup <congress-ej-workgroup@googlegroups.com>
Subject: AB&I Foundry--COVID--94621

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I am a physician, associate professor of medicine at UCSF where I have been on the frontline of care during the COVID pandemic and a resident of East Oakland who has been working with community for over a year now trying to get BAAQMD, CARB and the EPA to address the health risk from fugitive emissions and noxious fumes from the AB&I Foundry.

In a survey of neighbors, when they smell the odors from AB&I, people complain of chest pain, cough, worsening asthma and headaches. A report of a study that took CARB a full year to complete and share demonstrated VOCs and formaldehyde from the facility. Unfortunately, CARB's study did not capture the timing of these emissions which tends to occur between 5am-10am, with the most noxious odors coming between 8am-10am. Instead they sampled from 8am-3pm, which diluted their sampling data in times where AB&I doesn't make those releases. This ineptitude demonstrates the lack of seriousness with which CARB takes this threat to public health and wellbeing.

I am concerned because VOCs can cause all of those symptoms mentioned by neighbors. They cause lung inflammation and neurotoxicity and have been associated with lung cancer. Air pollution that worsens lung inflammation worsens COVID transmission and disease severity. The infection rates and severity for COVID in Alameda County are highest in those zip codes close to the Foundry. These zip codes have some of the shortest life expectancies in the area, secondary to air pollution. In addition, [nanoparticles of metals](#) have been found to lodge in the brains of children, causing cognitive problems and protein deposition characteristic of Alzheimer's and Parkinsons in the brainstems. We have seen no testing or reporting of emissions of metal nanoparticles from AB&I. Is CARB unaware of the science? Or do they not care enough to check? [Air pollution is damaging to every single body system](#), and CARB's lack of action has been deeply disturbing to sit and watch, as a physician who works to uphold the health of Bay Area people.

The fact that CARB has taken so long to act on a known bad actor in the Bay Area ([the McWane Corporation as documented here](#)), the fact the Nate Miley from BAAQMD has accepted their money for his reelection, as has Rebecca Kaplan, the fact that young people are getting sick and dying in the area surrounding the AB&I Foundry, before the pandemic and now even more so, the people of East Oakland have no confidence in the institutions that are supposed to protect our health.

If there was a polluter like AB&I in Palo Alto or Menlo Park, near homes of wealthy white people, this kind of noxious odor and these toxic emissions would not be tolerated. CARB's molasses pace in addressing the health of the people in East Oakland demonstrates its own pattern of upholding racist structures that directly lead to poor health outcomes for people of color. We need the pollution from the AB&I Foundry to stop immediately. And if CARB will not act, we need to engage the legal system around why this racist policy of laissez-faire for known polluters in Black and Brown communities is being perpetuated through CARB's inaction.

Rupa Marya, MD

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