

Alianna Amaya
Emily Aguilar
Giovanni Alvarez
In care of Coliseum College Prep Academy
1390 66th Avenue
Oakland, CA 94621

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California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Randolph and Boardmembers,

We, the undersigned, are a group of seniors at Coliseum College Prep Academy, a public highschool and middle school located at 1390 66th Avenue in East Oakland. We are participating in an air quality and climate internship through our school.

We are writing to support naming East Oakland a priority community for a Community Emission Reduction Plan, because, compared to the vast majority of California communities, East Oakland has higher rates of polluted air with higher risk of health conditions and health problems.

Pollution problems in East Oakland include diesel pollution from petroleum fuel burned by trucks and trains that go through the neighborhood. Our school is located in a neighborhood in the 78th Percentile on Calenviroscreen for diesel. Trains run along San Leandro Blvd; trucks are common on I 880 going to and from the Port of Oakland, and also going to the airport, which is right here in East Oakland. Other vehicles, besides trucks and trains, add to the pollution. Busy streets include International Blvd, Hegenberger Blvd. and others. People who live near schools are exposed to lots of car exhaust during school drop-offs and pick-ups.

Industrial pollution is also a problem. Hexavalent Chromium comes from the AB & I Foundry near San Leandro Blvd and 77th Avenue.

Even trash can be an air pollution problem in East Oakland. We see trash in our streets, especially when we walk home from school. Not only is it a source of odors, trash can be moldy, and send mold spores into the air, along with other possible contaminants.

Wildfires are becoming more frequent as well. And even though those fires aren't in East Oakland they affect East Oakland residents, and can be a big problem for kids and people who have asthma.

The consequences of air pollution are becoming more frequent because the air quality is getting worse with wildfires; we need to make sure that we don't make it even worse in East Oakland by adding more local air pollution.

The health effects of air pollution are already a real problem in East Oakland. These health effects include respiratory and cardiovascular problems. CCPA is located in a neighborhood in the 100th Percentile on CalEnviroScreen for asthma, and the 90th percentile for cardiovascular disease.

<https://www.epa.gov/particle-pollution-and-your-patients-health/health-effects-pm-patients-lung-disease>

For many residents in East Oakland, who have asthma these problems hit home. One of the interns in our group, Emily Aguilar, knows that her mother and brother, who have asthma, have more trouble breathing when they go outside and there's a lot of trash. When the wildfires were bad in 2020 her mother and brother couldn't go outside for anything because they would have trouble breathing. The wildfires meant that her brother had to miss school until everything calmed down.

The pandemic has hit East Oakland particularly hard as well. Comparing case rates in Oakland zip codes:

- CCPA's zip code (94621) has seen 26040.1 reported cases per 100,000 residents.
- Deep East Oakland's zip code (94603) has seen 26105.4 cases per 100,000 residents
- Fruitvale zip codes have had 22527.8 cases per 100,000 residents.
- This compares to the more affluent Rockridge zip code, 94618, where there have been 8,934 cases reported per 100,000 residents.

East Oakland needs support to develop a Community Emission Reduction Plan that gives our residents the same chance to breathe clean, healthy air as wealthier Californians. That plan needs to lower the health risks we face. It also should help East Oakland residents stay safe in the face of climate change. We are all agreed that climate change is not prioritized as it should be. It's important that we talk about it and have more action, so that we can slow the impacts for the future. Climate protection and climate resilience are social justice questions because if you look at statistics you can see who is getting impacted more by climate change. That is clearly low income communities of color, which is tied to historic and ongoing racial and economic injustices that are happening every day.

Some of the solutions that need to be talked about:

- Keeping our communities safe and healthy in the face of wildfire smoke and other climate change impacts without adding to the air quality burden or adding more greenhouse gasses
- (Example air filtration systems, with clean energy and backup storage to keep the power on during wildfire season)
- Better, eco-friendly technology in lower income communities (combining water and heat to use less fuel, solar power with back-up storage,

- Ensuring that communities near schools aren't exposed to unfair amounts of pollution from cars

All in all, we think these reasons and plans are important for the betterment of our communities. We hope to see noticeable change in east Oakland.

We thank you for your careful consideration of these crucial matters. We look forward to receiving information on the plan in the future. You can reach us at:

emilyaguilar1453@gmail.com

alianna.amaya04@gmail.com

giovannialvarez142@gmail.com

Best,

Alianna Amaya, Emily Aguilar and Giovanni Alvarez