

Matsui, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, Announce Funding to Monitor Air Toxics

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SACRAMENTO, CA – Today, **Congresswoman Doris Matsui (D-CA)** and the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) announced \$435,450 in funding to monitor air toxics in the Sacramento region.

“As we confront the climate crisis and battle back against fire season in Northern California, it is essential that we make bold investments in our local community,” **said Congresswoman Matsui**. “Moving forward, we must work at every level of government to make sure that Sacramentans are breathing clean air. I am glad that these dollars will fund projects that will help us identify and track critical information to help our underserved communities in the Sacramento region.”

“We appreciate US EPA helping us continue and expand the work the Sac Metro Air District is doing to better understand remaining and lingering air pollution burdens in our communities who most need the help,” **said SMAQMD Executive Director Alberto Ayala**. “Air monitoring is such a fundamental piece of the puzzle as we begin to tailor community-centric emission mitigation plans.”

“We know that many of our most disadvantaged neighborhoods suffer from the worst air quality in our region,” **said Sacramento City Councilman and SMAQMD Board Chair Eric Guerra**. “This funding will allow us to further implement critical targeted air monitoring efforts to help address these existing health inequities.”

The grant is part of the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Community-Scale Air Toxics Ambient Monitoring Program. Specifically, the funding will go towards quantifying benzene and mobile source air toxics in environmental justice communities. Nationally, SMAQMD is among 11 state and local agencies selected to receive grants. EPA periodically awards these grants to help state, local and tribal air agencies conduct air quality monitoring projects to address localized air toxics issues.

Air toxics, also known as hazardous air pollutants, are linked to cancer or other serious health effects. Under the Clean Air Act, EPA currently regulates 187 listed air toxic pollutants.

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