

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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100 Free Portable Air Quality Sensors Available For Residents, Businesses and Schools in High-Need, Underserved Sacramento Neighborhoods

Sacramento, Calif. (Dec. 12, 2022) – City of Sacramento residents and businesses now can apply to receive a free portable Purple Air sensor as part of a pilot project aimed at enhancing air quality data in high-need, underserved neighborhoods. Schools located anywhere within the City of Sacramento also are eligible.

There are 100 sensors available under the project, which is a partnership between the City of Sacramento and the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (Sac Metro Air District).

“By distributing these sensors and educating residents on how to use them, the City of Sacramento and the Sac Metro Air District are empowering our most vulnerable community members to better protect themselves from the negative health consequences of air pollution,” said Sacramento Mayor Pro Tem and Sac Metro Air District Chair Eric Guerra. “The data we collect will also provide a better understanding of the air quality challenges in our under-served neighborhoods and the ability to seek additional funding to address these challenges using real numbers.”

Supported by a one-time investment of the Sacramento City Council to advance the City’s near-term climate action priorities, the project also includes funding for innovative street-level monitoring and community outreach and education to help communities access and utilize the air quality data.

These sensors will help residents make decisions about everyday activities to protect their families’ health from air pollution. The project will also provide information to the public and policymakers to inform future decisions on climate action and reducing emissions.

“This is an exciting partnership to support our neighborhoods and collect data to help guide our efforts to reduce pollution,” said the City’s Climate Action Lead Jennifer Venema. “Sacramento has some of the most polluted air in the nation and equipping our neighborhoods to better understand local air quality is an imperative step in our environmental justice efforts.”

Those interested in applying can visit the City of Sacramento's website at cityofsacramento.org/air-quality.

Supplies are prioritized for high-need areas in the City of Sacramento including North Sacramento, South Sacramento and outside of Downtown/Central City. Recipients will be selected based on geography and other criteria to ensure equitable distribution among neighborhoods.

The application will remain open until all sensors have been allocated. Residents and businesses that apply by Jan. 6, 2023 will be notified in mid- to late-January if they have been selected. Subsequent awards will be made monthly until there are no remaining sensors.

The easy-to-install compact air sensors do not have cameras, or microphones and do not collect personal information.

For questions regarding the application or application process, please email PortableSensors@airquality.org.

The Sac Metro Air District is working directly with public school districts located within the City of Sacramento to deploy portable sensors. School officials with questions about this project can email PortableSensors@airquality.org.

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About City of Sacramento's Office of Climate Action & Sustainability

Located in the City Manager's Office, the Office of Climate Action & Sustainability (OCAS) leads the City of Sacramento's efforts to address climate change and accelerate City actions to achieve a resilient, carbon zero future. Formed in 2021, OCAS works closely with City departments to plan and operationalize urgent climate initiatives.

For more information about the Office of Climate Action & Sustainability, please visit www.cityofsacramento.org/climateaction.

About Sac Metro Air District

The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District is responsible for monitoring air quality, reducing air pollution, and enforcing air quality regulations, and helps to achieve statewide carbon reduction goals. The District develops and administers programs to reduce air pollution levels below the health-based standards established by the state and federal governments and improve air quality in our region.

For more information about the Sac Metro Air District, please visit www.AirQuality.org.