



News Release

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Sac Metro Air District Partners With the City of Sacramento to Expand Monitoring in Low-Income Communities

The Sacramento City Council voted to partner with the Sac Metro Air District to expand air quality monitoring, which will include the deployment of 100 air quality monitors to residents, schools, community-based organizations and businesses. Priority locations will be in low-income communities disproportionately affected by air pollution.

"Air quality data from underserved communities is continuously missing, which is why I requested that the City put funds towards filling the data gap," said City of Sacramento Councilmember and Sac Metro Air District Chair Eric Guerra and Chair. "Increasing data gathering throughout the city will help us better understand the air quality conditions of under resourced communities and enable us to go after state and federal resources to address health and environmental inequities."

The Sac Metro Air District will deploy portable air quality monitors into the community, monitor and collect data, and partner with a community-based organization to provide outreach and education to help communities access and utilize the data.

"Information is power. This project is about empowering residents with the air quality information they need to make informed decisions to protect themselves and their families. Air quality monitoring is becoming commonplace thanks to new sensor technology. And, with the reality of extreme wildfires and heat, our changing climate will only exacerbate our air pollution challenges," said Sac Metro Air District Air Pollution Control Officer, Dr. Alberto Ayala. "We are pleased to collaborate with the City of Sacramento to implement one of the most extensive air monitoring initiatives of recent time that engages both residents and businesses."

The program also includes funding for innovative mobile air quality monitoring to measure pollution block-by-block.

The monitoring will help residents protect themselves from ongoing air pollution challenges, including critical air pollution events caused by wildfires, a major climate risk factor in Sacramento, said Climate Action Lead Jennifer Venema, who leads the City of Sacramento's new Office of Climate Action and Sustainability.

The City of Sacramento and its partners can use the data collected through this program to inform climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts, such as by identifying major pollution sources or prioritizing locations for mitigation measures like green infrastructure and clean air centers.

The Sac Metro Air District will work with the community to identify locations this winter. The real-time, publicly accessible data generated from the air quality monitors will be available to the public online shortly thereafter.

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