



## Land Use & Air Quality Update

The quarterly newsletter of the Sac Metro Air District's Transportation & Climate Change Division. This edition includes updates on the Urban Heat Island (UHI) report, the Friant Guidance, a local project of note, an update on Open Grant Solicitations, and bio's of new Sac Metro Air District staff.

[Visit our Website](#)

### Friant Guidance Finalized

After releasing two draft versions of the *Guidance to Address the Friant Ranch Ruling for CEQA Projects in the Sac Metro Air District*, we would like to thank those who provided comments, suggestions, and information to improve the document. The final document is available on the Sac Metro Air District's CEQA Guidance & Tools webpage.

Users should note that an additional modeling effort was conducted to identify health effects from a proposed project at the location in Sacramento County with the highest population. The *Guidance* and the Strategic Area Health Screening Tool now include this information.

Sac Metro Air District requests users of the *Guidance* include the following information in a CEQA document: report all health effects from the screening tool(s) or modeling effort; append the tool output(s) or supporting modeling data; and provide a discussion of health context related to the project and its location.



[Sac Metro Air District CEQA Guidance & Tools](#)

### Turning Down the Heat!

Some areas of Sacramento are more than 10 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than their rural surroundings, largely because of how neighborhoods have been planned and built. Buildings, roads, pavements, and machinery all generate additional, artificial heat, making our communities hotter. Trees and parks, as well as other strategies, can help to cool communities down, but they are often

lacking in historically under-resourced and under-served communities. For over two years, the Sac Metro Air District and the Local Government Commission have been studying this phenomenon (known as the urban heat island effect) in the region in attempts to reduce heat health risk, particularly among those most vulnerable.



Check out the recording of our webinar to learn more about how heat impacts the air we breathe, why some neighborhoods are hotter than others, and what strategies can help cool communities and protect from extreme heat.

You can find the recording of the webinar towards the bottom of our Public Outreach webpage using the following link [Public Health Outreach](#) or go to our [Youtube Channel](#)

Public Health Outreach

Youtube Channel

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## Caltrans Grant Project for Arden Arcade Features Novel Outreach Strategies in the time of COVID

Earlier this year Sacramento County received a Sustainable Communities Grant from Caltrans to prepare a Sustainable Communities and Complete Streets Plan for the community of West Arden Arcade. The Plan is now in the design stages and includes innovative outreach strategies to obtain community input. As an example, staff from County Planning and Environmental Review have hit the streets to apply bright blue and yellow temporary decals on sidewalks throughout the West Arden Arcade community. These decals include the Plan's website address and anyone with a smart phone can simply scan the QR code to find out more about the planning project. Sac Metro Air District staff applauds the County for this innovative outreach strategy.



Photograph courtesy of Sacramento County.

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## New Grant Solicitations:

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### Sustainable Transportation Equity Project (STEP)

STEP is a new transportation equity pilot that aims to address community residents' transportation needs, increase access to key destinations, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by funding planning, clean transportation, and supporting projects.

Air Resources Board

**Solicitation GFO-20-601 - Blueprints for Medium- and Heavy-Duty Zero-Emission Vehicle Infrastructure**

This is a competitive grant solicitation. The California Energy Commission's Clean Transportation Program (formerly known as the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program) announces the availability of up to \$3 million in grant funds for planning "blueprints" that will identify actions and milestones needed for implementation of medium- and heavy-duty (MD/HD) zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) and the related electric charging and/or hydrogen refueling infrastructure. The purpose of this solicitation is to accelerate the deployment of MD/HD ZEVs and ZEV infrastructure with a holistic and futuristic view of transportation planning.

Additional Resources

### **Solicitation GFO-20-602 - Zero-Emission Transit Fleet Infrastructure Deployment**

The purpose of this solicitation is to fund the electric vehicle (EV) charging or hydrogen-refueling infrastructure needed to support the large-scale conversion of transit bus fleets to zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) at multiple transit agencies serving diverse geographic regions and populations.

Additional Resources

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### **New Arrivals at the Sac Metro Air District:**

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Raef Porter is the Sac Metro Air District's new Transportation and Climate Change Program Manager. Raef's background in transportation, land use, climate change, and business showcases his strong interest in helping to build sustainable, equitable, and efficient systems.

He comes to the Sac Metro Air District from the Del Paso Boulevard Partnership, where he has served as Executive Director since 2019. Raef worked closely with local residents, property and business owners, community-based organizations, partner agencies, and the City of Sacramento to build and implement a collective vision for the business corridor.



Prior to his time at the Partnership, Raef spent over 15 years at the Sacramento Area Council of Governments working on land use, climate change, and transportation-related projects. As the Climate and Energy Team Manager, Raef oversaw projects on electric vehicles, climate adaptation, climate mitigation, transportation innovation, transportation funding, and air quality mitigation.

Raef has lived in Sacramento for 18 years, and with his family and friends owns a small business. On the weekends he enjoys spending time with his family, being outside, and playing golf.

Reach out to Raef at: [rporter@airquality.org](mailto:rporter@airquality.org)

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Andrew Warfield is joining the Sac Metro Air District's Civic Spark Team. Andrew is a California native from San Diego that graduated from UC Riverside with a bachelors in Public Policy. He's motivated by a strong desire to help disadvantaged communities, and interest in how public policy manifests itself into the world that we live in.



Previous to being at the Sac Metro Air District he was a Western Riverside Council of Governments Public Service Fellow with the City of Riverside's Traffic Engineering division, where he worked on the City's Transformative Climate Communities grant application for the Eastside neighborhood. He then went on to work at the Inland Center of Sustainable Development and the Center for Geospatial Sciences where he analyzed Census Bureau data to determine the impacts of Covid-19 by race and class in the Riverside MSA. At the Center for Geospatial Sciences he worked on implementing new features into geospatial research tools. He hopes to attend a graduate school where he can focus on computational analysis, urban policies, and geography.

Reach out to Andrew at [awarfield@airquality.org](mailto:awarfield@airquality.org)

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Matt Renfro also joins the Sac Metro Air District Civic Spark Team. Matt is originally from Fresno, but most recently studied at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo where he majored in Political Science with a concentration in Technology and International Development. Learning more about his hometown's development taught Matt the importance of planning when it comes to a community's economic mobility, public health, and access to resources.



During his time at Cal Poly, he further developed his passion for building new systems to uplift those who have been historically and systemically marginalized. A majority of his studies focused on public transportation as a driver for economic mobility. Matt conducted extensive archival and qualitative research in this area and is grateful to have had the opportunity to present his findings at the CSU, SSRIC Social Science Student Symposium in May 2020. In previous positions Matt served as a research assistant where he explored women's leadership and representation in legal systems. Additionally, he served as a Peer Advisor in the International Center where he gained experience in advising, community outreach, and spearheaded efforts to expand resources for LGBTQ+ students.

As a Civic Spark fellow with Sac Metro Air District, Matt will be serving under the guidance of Shelley Jiang (Associate Planner, Sac Metro Air District) focusing on creating implementation and community engagement opportunities for the Sac Metro Air District's recent Urban Heat Island Report. Under the direction of Katie Cox (Associate Planner,

Sac Metro Air District), Matt will be assisting in application processing, resource creation, and community coalition building efforts for the Clean Cars 4 All program. Matt is excited to have ample opportunities to sharpen his skills in policy research, community outreach, and GIS analysis. He plans to explore these areas further in future graduate studies.

In his free time, Matt enjoys reading about his home country of Guatemala (where he was adopted from), learning about the latest sustainability efforts, and baking treats with way too much sugar.

Reach out to Matt at: [mrenfro@airquality.org](mailto:mrenfro@airquality.org)



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Liliana is a new high school intern working with the Sac Metro Air District's Information Systems team. Now a senior at Cristo Rey High School, she already has three years of experience in the workforce. Liliana is very passionate about computer science, and she thinks that computer technology has positively impacted the real world to become a more connected and innovative place. After high school, she hopes to be accepted at Santa Clara University to accomplish her dream of earning an undergraduate degree in computer science engineering. A summer coding course that she recently attended left her motivated to become one of the few female engineers working in the fast-changing field of computer science. She is grateful for this opportunity and excited to be part of the Information Systems team.

Welcome to the Sac Metro Air District, Liliana!

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Natalie is a Cristo Rey High School student working in the Sac Metro Air District's Land Use and Transportation section. This is her second year at the Sac Metro Air District, having previously worked on clerical projects. She has also worked at the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) as a receptionist and in the office of an elementary school. The experiences at these jobs prepared her for this year's more challenging work in land use planning. Natalie is enthusiastic about working in the Land Use and Transportation section and is excited to see what she will learn.

Welcome back to the Sac Metro Air District, Natalie!

## Current Updates on Regional Air Quality



### Check Before You Burn:

Check Before You Burn season started November 1, 2020. Information on burning restrictions is available at our website.

[Check Before You Burn Website](#)