



# Prioritizing Public Health and Equity in Climate Resiliency Solutions

*Bay Planning Coalition  
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# Air District Climate Program

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Prioritize greenhouse gas mitigation from major sources:

- Buildings (efficiency, clean electricity and decarbonization)
- Transportation (EV funding, VMT reduction, reducing diesel)

Where adaptation and mitigation intersect:

- Wildfires
- Urban heat islands





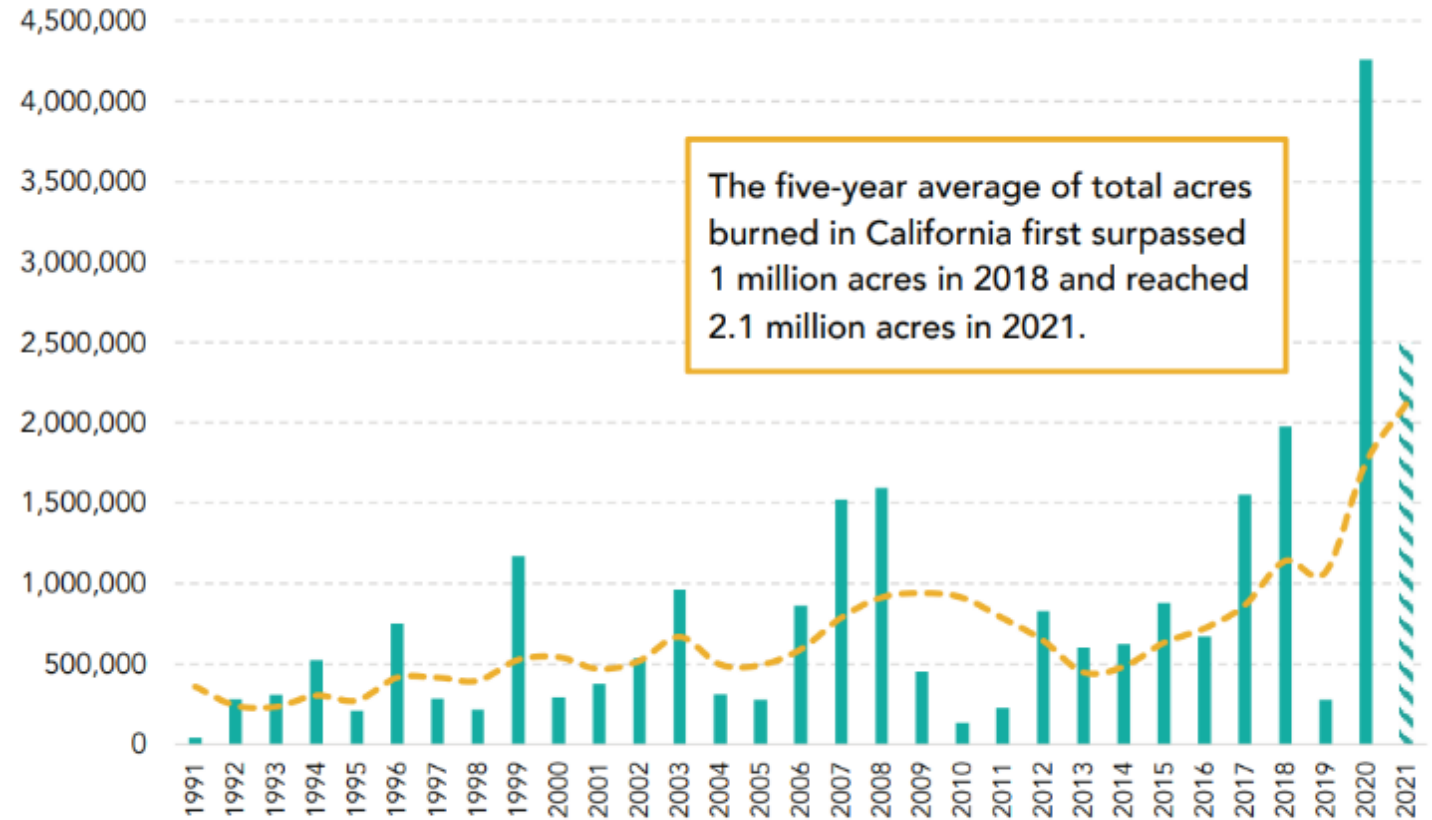


Wildfires



# California Wildfires Growing in Number and Intensity

**Annual Wildfire Acres Burned in California**  
with 5-year Moving Average (1991-2021)



Note: 2021 acres burned is a preliminary estimate through 10/25/2021.

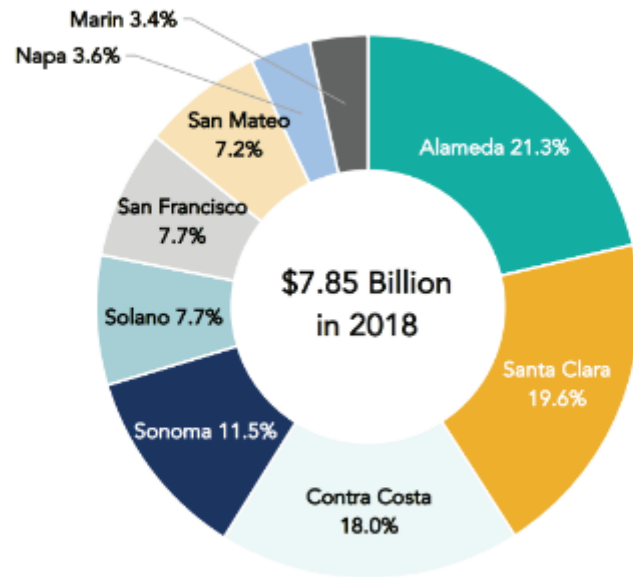
Data: CAL FIRE

Analysis: Bay Area Council Economic Institute

■ Total Acres    - - - 5-year Average

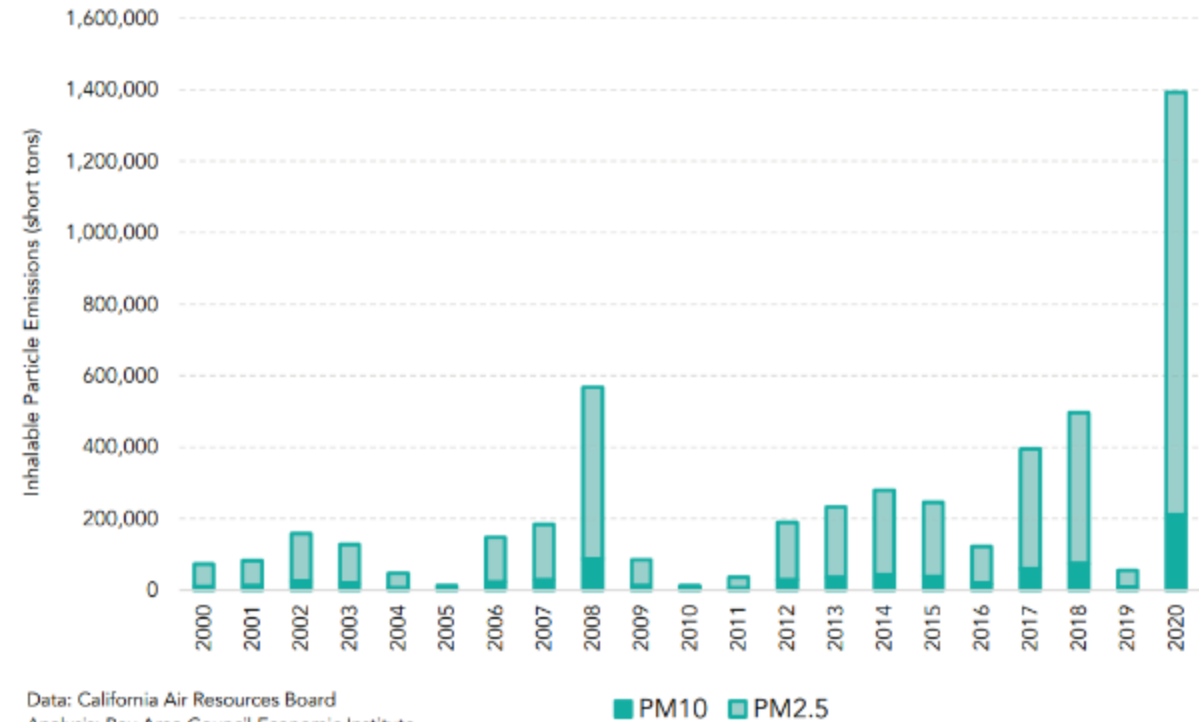
# Consequences of Wildfires

Estimated Bay Area Health Costs Related to Air Pollution Exposure from Wildfires in 2018



Data: Wang, Daoping, Et. Al. "Economic footprint of California wildfires in 2018," Nature Sustainability, December 2020.  
Analysis: Bay Area Council Economic Institute

Annual Wildfire Emissions Estimates for Inhalable Particulate Matter in California (2000-2020)



Data: California Air Resources Board  
Analysis: Bay Area Council Economic Institute

# Wildfire Adaption Strategy:

- School/Home Air Filtration Program
- Clean Air Centers

Provide vulnerable communities most impacted by climate change access to cleaner air when wildfire smoke impacts the region.



# Air Filtration Programs

## Home Air Filtration Program

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- Provide portable air filtration units to low-income residents with poorly controlled asthma
- Impacting 3,000 Bay Area residents
- Partners: Regional Asthma Management and Prevention (RAMP), county health offices, non-profits



## School Air Filtration Program

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- Install and maintain high performance air filtration systems in 12 schools in communities disproportionately impacted by air pollution
- Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Francisco Counties





# Clean Air Centers

## Criteria

1. Located in schools in or near historically underserved communities
2. Provide easy access for vulnerable populations
3. Capacity to meet the needs of vulnerable populations
4. Ready for ventilation and filtration installation, upgrades, or retrofits



## Recommended Facility Types

- Community Centers
- Libraries
- Schools
- Senior Centers
- Sports Centers





# Clean Air Centers: Project Types

## Facility Ventilation Upgrade

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- HVAC system (MERV 13+), insulation, weatherization, etc.
- In smoke burdened areas and historically underserved communities



## Portable Air Purifier

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- Industrial size to serve public spaces
- Priority given to historically underserved communities



## Filter Replacements

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- Hospital grade filter(MERVE 13+) replacement upgrades
- Priority given to historically underserved communities



# Direct Resources to Vulnerable Communities

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## RESEARCH AND IDENTIFY AREAS WITH:

High Air Pollution Burden  
Health Sensitive Populations  
Socioeconomic Challenges



Air Quality: PM2.5



Toxic Releases from Facilities



Asthma



Cardiovascular Disease



Poverty



Educational Attainment



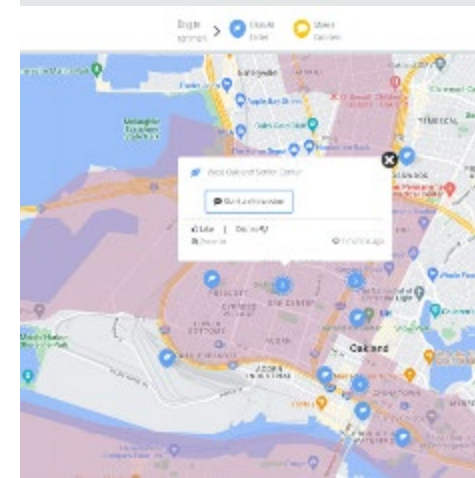
Linguistic Isolation



Housing Burden

# Implementation

- BAAQMD partnered with city and county level Emergency Services and Public Health offices to oversee clean air centers
- Outreach to both community and environmental justice groups to help identify publicly available clean air center sites
- BAAQMD communications office will alert partners and media when wildfire smoke impacts the region and recommend opening of centers
- First Clean Air Center opened September 2022 at San Francisco Bayview Branch Library







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AIR QUALITY  
MANAGEMENT  
DISTRICT

Thank you!  
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