# DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION BUILDING A BETTER AGENCY TO SERVE THE BAY AREA

# TODAY'S MENU

- 1. Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- 2. What is Diversity, Equity & Inclusion? Why is it important?
- 3. Key Approaches Undertaken to Advance DE&I
- 4. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Practice
- 5. Conclude with Consideration for Developing a Program

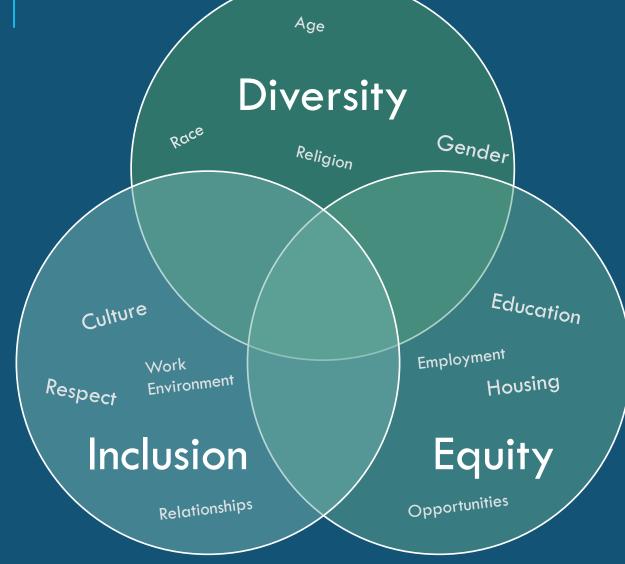
# OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

The Office reflects the Air District's commitment to improve public health outcomes, economic opportunities and environmental injustices in historically marginalized communities of color and that benefit the entire Bay Area.

Vision and guiding principles of the Office are a commitment by the Air District to:

- Value diversity, equity, and inclusion at the agency and throughout the Bay Area;
- Using diversity, equity and inclusion as part of: decision-making strategies, policies, procedures, funding initiatives, public outreach, planning and recruitment;
- A zero tolerance of all forms of discrimination and harassment;
- Workplace with programmatic practices that exemplify these principles

### DEFINING DIVERSITY...AND EQUITY AND INCLUSION DIVERSITY: is the



collection of everything that makes us different.

EQUITY: is the creation of equal access to opportunities that close demographic disparities.

INCLUSION: is the state of being valued, respected and supported.

## KEY APPROACHES USED TO ADVANCE DE&I

### Framework

- Development of Vision, Guiding Principles
- Brochure to Drive Narrative
- Developed Action Plan
- Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE)

#### Internal Assessment

- Engaged consulting firm Cook Ross
- Internal Leadership Assessment
- Conducted Listening Sessions with employees
- Demographic analysis

### Implementation

- Began to Normalize discussion of DE&I
- Speaker Series
- Cultural Awareness Events
- Trainings
- Community Events
- Development of Strategies and Initiatives with internal Departments/Sections

### VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF DE&I IN PRACTICE



# BENEFITS OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Organizations that Embrace Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity:

- Benefit from a greater range of perspectives
- Foster collaborative teams that are better equipped to solve problems and embrace innovation
- Increase cultural competency
- Are able to respond to communities of concern



# GOVERNMENT ALLIANCE ON RACE & EQUITY (GARE)

A national network of government working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all.

- A membership network of jurisdictions in leadership
- Expanding jurisdictions in 30 states and more than 100 cities all levels of government
- Providing tools and resources to put theory into action







## National GARE Participants



# CONSIDERATIONS

- Managing conflict, having awkward conversations (e.g., power / privilege)
- Resistance to Change (e.g., "I don't see the benefits, this is a waste of time, things are perfect the way they are!")
- Cognitive Bias (e.g., confirm pre-existing beliefs)
- Unconscious Bias (e.g., attitudes we may not be aware of)
- Cultural Expectations (e.g., we all have different cultural experiences that inform our expectations)

## HOW TO DEVELOP AN OFFICE/PROGRAM

Build on earlier and existing efforts Conduct Organizational Readiness and Needs Assessment

Create a vision, framework and action plan Build the Narrative for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

# THANK YOU