

Air Quality, Environment & Health Branch

Division of Transportation Planning, Office of Regional Planning

AQEHB meets the Strategic Management Plan's goals of Safety and Health, and Sustainability, Livability and Economy, through its focus on air quality compliance; planning and environment linkages (PEL); and health and transportation.

Air Quality

AQEHB supports the Department's compliance with regional and project-level air quality requirements. These are mandated by the federal Clean Air Act of 1970, Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Core Program Activities:

- Statewide technical assistance and training for Interagency Consultation and air quality conformity
- Quality Assurance Reviews of Environmental Documents and NEPA Assignment compliance
- Statewide Conformity Working Group Meetings
- Evaluate and report on regulatory changes set by U.S. EPA and CARB

Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL)

AQEHB works to strengthen the partnership between Caltrans' Division of Transportation Planning (DOTP) and Division of Environmental Analysis (DEA) to streamline project delivery and improve conservation outcomes. AQEHB and DEA now oversee a new program that enables District Environmental staff to charge their time to Planning-level activities. This will help Caltrans identify environmental considerations at a regional and corridor scale, to outline environmental considerations early in Planning and include them in project development.

Core Program Activities:

- Technical assistance to Districts on how to implement the new PEL program
- Cross-functional training about PEL, its benefits, and case studies

Health and Transportation

Transportation's role as one of the social determinants of health is receiving increasing attention from transportation agencies, health advocates, and local communities. AQEHB actively serves on the California Health in All Policies (HiAP) Task Force, fulfilling Executive Order S-04-10 to identify priority programs, policies and strategies to improve the health of Californians.

Core Program Activities:

- With partners from the HiAP Task Force, implement HiAP's Healthy Transportation Action Plan
- Provide technical assistance on incorporating health into Caltrans' planning documents
- Support research on health and transportation

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