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## Air District announces Kimberly Leefatt as new civil rights officer

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The Bay Area Air District announced today the appointment of Kimberly Leefatt as the Air District's civil rights officer, bringing deep experience in environmental law, public agency practice and environmental justice.

Leefatt joins the Air District from the Natural Resources Defense Council or NRDC, where she served as a senior attorney working on complex environmental and public health matters at the local, state and federal levels. Her work has focused on advancing environmental protections, centering equity in decision-making, and supporting communities disproportionately impacted by poor air and water quality.

“Strong air quality protections depend on experienced public servants who understand the law and how it is applied in real communities,” said Philip Fine, executive officer of the Air District. “Ms. Leefatt’s new role strengthens the Air District’s ability to develop and implement Air District programs consistent with the law, to uphold civil rights protections and ensure that the benefits of clean air reach all Bay Area residents.”

“This office exists to make sure civil rights are not an afterthought in environmental decision making,” said Arsenio Mataka, deputy executive officer of the Air District. “Ms. Leefatt has worked with nationally recognized environmental justice organizations to hold systems accountable and confront disproportionate harms, and she brings the experience needed to ensure civil rights compliance remains central to protecting public health and earning community trust here in the Bay Area.”

At NRDC, Leefatt advised community coalitions on regional transportation and air and water quality initiatives, represented organizations on equity-centered policy development, and led litigation and advocacy efforts related to agency actions. She has also worked extensively on public agency law, environmental review and regulatory enforcement through prior roles at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck LLP and Latham & Watkins LLP.

“Being entrusted with the role of the civil rights officer is a responsibility I take seriously. At the intersection of civil rights and environmental compliance, there is often confusion,” said Kimberly Leefatt, civil rights officer of the Air District. “I am honored to be a part of building an office dedicated to dispelling that confusion by deliberately responding to community concerns with clarity, accountability and respect.”

Leefatt is admitted to practice law in California and the District of Columbia and is a graduate of Howard University School of Law, where she earned her Juris Doctor degree cum laude. She also holds a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation from the University of Florida.

The [Bay Area Air District](#) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area. Connect with the Air District via [X](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

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