

We stand with our Black colleagues, partners and the entire Black Community in the wake of the horrific murder of George Floyd. This is not a new battle. Black men and women have been fighting for equality and basic human rights for generations, and we cannot begin to understand the amount of anger, fear, frustration and grief that they face every day.

At the same time, we are inspired by the millions of people across the country making history by peacefully protesting racism and injustice, raising their voices to call for positive and lasting change. These past weeks have shown us that this is not just a moment, but a real movement. Peaceful demonstrations do evoke action. There is power in unity.

In our work, we have seen firsthand how Black communities, as well as other communities of color have not experienced equal treatment in all areas of life, including environmental protection. And while South Coast AQMD has strived to provide a place where voices could be heard, there is so much more we can, and must, do.

Moving forward, we will strive to build stronger bridges with and between our communities, break down barriers that prevent diverse voices from effectively participating to address inequalities and encourage greater community conversations and ideas that can help us learn and grow. We know that we must listen to those that have been ignored and marginalized because of their skin color. Without them, we can't truly be impactful.

We will continue to use our voices to support the Black Community and all communities of color until there is real change.

Black Lives Matter.