



October 6, 2020

Mr. Richard Corey
Executive Officer
California Air Resources Board
1001 "I" Street
Sacramento, CA 95812

Re: San Joaquin Valley AB 617 Third Year Community Recommendation

Dear Mr. Corey:

Enclosed are the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's (District) recommendations for additional communities to be selected by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for additional clean air resources and public engagement under AB 617 for the state's third-year implementation.

During the public hearing on September 17, 2020, the District Governing Board approved staff recommendations that CARB consider the community of Arvin/Lamont in South Kern County for both community air monitoring and emission reduction programs and a secondary nomination for the community of La Vina in South Madera County. Given the extensive requirements established under this new state program and significant ongoing work to implement community monitoring and community emission reduction programs in Year 1 and 2 communities, the District's recommendations for any additional communities are contingent upon sufficient state resources being made available to support implementation of this program.

Please find included the District's September 17, 2020, Governing Board memo "*District Community Recommendation for CARB under Third-Year Implementation of AB 617*" for details regarding community characteristics, prioritization methodology, and public outreach approach.

If you have any questions regarding this recommendation, please contact Jason Lawler at jason.lawler@valleyair.org or at (559) 230-6000. The District thanks you and your staff for your assistance and collaboration.

Sincerely,

Ryan Hayashi
Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer

Attachment:

District Community Recommendation for CARB under Third-Year Implementation of AB 617 (49 pages)

Samir Sheikh
Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer

Northern Region
4800 Enterprise Way
Modesto, CA 95356-8718
Tel: (209) 557-6400 FAX: (209) 557-6475

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Supervisor, Madera County

Samir Sheikh
Executive Director
Air Pollution Control Officer

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DATE: September 17, 2020

TO: SJVUAPCD Governing Board



FROM: Samir Sheikh, Executive Director/APCO
Project Coordinator: Ryan Hayashi

RE: **ITEM NUMBER 8: DISTRICT COMMUNITY
SELECTION RECOMMENDATION FOR CARB
UNDER THIRD-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION OF AB
617**

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and approve recommendation that CARB consider Arvin/Lamont for additional clean air resources and public engagement under AB 617 for the state's third year implementation. This proposal also includes a secondary recommendation that CARB also consider La Vina for selection. These recommendations are contingent upon sufficient state resources being made available to support implementation of this program.

BACKGROUND:

In September 2017, the State Legislature and Governor agreed to extend Cap and Trade as part of a legislative package that included the appropriation of \$1.5 billion in Cap and Trade funding. The Cap and Trade deal also included the passage of AB 617, the Community Air Protection Program that requires the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and air districts to develop additional plans and measures in an effort to reduce air pollution exposure in impacted disadvantaged communities.

The air quality challenges that the communities in the San Joaquin Valley face are unmatched by any other region in the nation. Despite decades of progress and significant reductions in air pollution, the San Joaquin Valley, due to its unique geography, topography, and meteorology, continues to face challenges in meeting the latest federal health-based air quality standards. AB 617 presents opportunities to

bring additional clean air resources and strategies to Valley disadvantaged communities that build on the significant emissions reductions that have already been achieved regionally. For communities selected by CARB for AB 617 implementation, resources are provided to implement community-specific air quality monitoring networks, develop and implement emission reduction programs, improve community access to air quality and emissions information, and invest substantial funding in the community through voluntary incentive funding measures.

For decades, the District has been engaged in developing and implementing comprehensive air quality improvement strategies to reduce air pollution in the San Joaquin Valley. These efforts have achieved significant reductions in air pollution and have improved public health in communities across the San Joaquin Valley. While significant progress has been made, the District continues with its efforts to further reduce air pollution in Valley communities and meet the latest ambient air quality standards for PM_{2.5} and ozone. The District believes that community-specific measures to reduce air pollution under AB 617 can also help the San Joaquin Valley in its efforts to reduce air pollution regionally and attain health-based federal standards.

Under state law, CARB is required to select communities for action under the AB 617 program. As a part of that process, communities throughout the state and air districts may nominate potential communities for consideration by CARB. In October 2018, CARB selected South Central Fresno and Shafter as first-year communities for the implementation of AB 617 in the San Joaquin Valley. Throughout 2019, the District worked closely with the Community Steering Committees, CARB, and other agencies to develop and launch monitoring and emissions reduction programs in both communities, with final Community Emissions Reduction Programs adopted by your Board in September 2019, and approved by CARB in February 2020. For the second year solicitation, CARB selected the District-recommended community of South Stockton and was one of three additional communities selected statewide for AB 617 implementation.

As required by state law, CARB is now required to select additional communities for action under the third year of AB 617 implementation (Year-Three) by January 1, 2021. CARB has indicated that the state resources for the program are uncertain, and as a result, the expected number of new communities selected by CARB to be limited for the third year of community identification and prioritization. CARB has asked air districts to submit their recommendations for communities by October 2020 to ensure a robust, statewide public process ahead of their final community selection in December 2020.

In developing the Year-Three Valley community recommendations for additional clean air resources under AB 617, the District conducted a public engagement process to seek input from Valley residents, businesses, agencies, and other stakeholders through a public workshops and discussion at various public meetings seeking community input into the process and community recommendations. Based on nomination's received and the District's analysis, staff proposes for your Board's consideration that Arvin/Lamont be recommended for CARB selection for both community air monitoring

and emissions reduction programs under AB 617. Staff's proposal also includes a secondary recommendation that CARB also consider La Vina for selection. These recommendations are contingent upon sufficient state resources being made available to support implementation of this program.

DISCUSSION:

Public Process for Community Identification and Prioritization

In an effort to facilitate a robust public process, the District has been engaging with the public during the community identification process in a number of ways. On August 11, 2020, the District held a community selection public workshop, where staff presented information on all of the program components of AB 617, including the community identification process, potential prioritization methodology, and CARB's short list of communities based on existing community needs. At this workshop, the public provided their perspectives and ideas on which communities could be selected for Year-Three, and what should be considered when selecting a community.

During this meeting, the District heard substantial support from residents, local government agencies, and community advocates for the nomination and selection of the Arvin/Lamont area in southeastern Kern County for Year-Three selection. The District was also asked to consider the community of La Vina in Southern Madera County. Both the Arvin/Lamont and La Vina communities were nominated in 2019 and are on the CARB list of continually supported communities recommended for selection in upcoming years¹. Overall, the public also recommended that resources be focused on the most burdened communities in the Valley.

The District has also engaged Valley stakeholders on the AB 617 program through a number of other meetings and venues, including the Citizens Advisory Committee and the Environmental Justice Advisory Group. Additionally, the District conducted an outreach campaign, through social media, requesting suggestions and community nominations. The District also solicited feedback on community identification and prioritization through the District's AB 617 Community Identification webpage at: <http://community.valleyair.org/community-identification>. Through these mechanisms, the District received multiple recommendations, which the District took into consideration in the formation of this recommendation (Attachment A). The nominations received to date were largely in support of the Arvin/Lamont community, with one nomination submitted by Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability on behalf of the La Vina community, for Year-Three implementation under AB 617.

¹ https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2020-06/CAPP_2020ComRecWebinarInfoSheet_0.pdf

District's Community Identification and Prioritization Methodology for Third Year Implementation of AB 617

Following the recommendation process outlined by CARB during their June 30, 2020, Community Selection Process and 2020 Community Recommendation webinar², the District focused the prioritization and selection process based on communities that have been continually supported through past solicitations. The District agrees that there have been significant, effective resources already at work on the short-list of continually supported communities, and leveraging the community capacity and interest would facilitate third year implementation. Therefore, the District focused this round of community prioritization on the disadvantaged communities in the Valley that were nominated in past solicitations. The opportunity to nominate communities was an open and transparent process and the District welcomed and received community suggestions and nominations for prioritization of communities throughout the Valley under AB 617. In supporting the nomination process for Year-Three communities, the District also looked to the state's CalEnviroScreen tool to understand the socioeconomic and pollution burden characteristics of each community on CARB's short list.

Year-Three Community Recommendations

Based on the results of the District's analysis, and with the continuous, resounding support from residents, local government agencies, and community advocates, District staff recommends that Arvin/Lamont be considered for selection by CARB for Year-Three implementation of community air monitoring and emissions reduction programs. In addition to its high prioritization under the above methodology, residents and community groups in Arvin/Lamont have been highly active in advocating for additional resources and attention to address community concerns, as described in more detail below. If selected by CARB, this increased community capacity can be leveraged to develop and implement AB 617 strategies in Arvin/Lamont.

In addition to Arvin/Lamont, the District also received a nomination for the community of La Vina in Southern Madera County. As described below, the La Vina community is interested in working with the District, local agencies, CARB, and others to address community concerns. Given the ongoing interest and nomination of the La Vina community for participation in the AB 617 program, staff's proposal includes a secondary recommendation that CARB also consider La Vina for selection.

Description of Arvin/Lamont Community

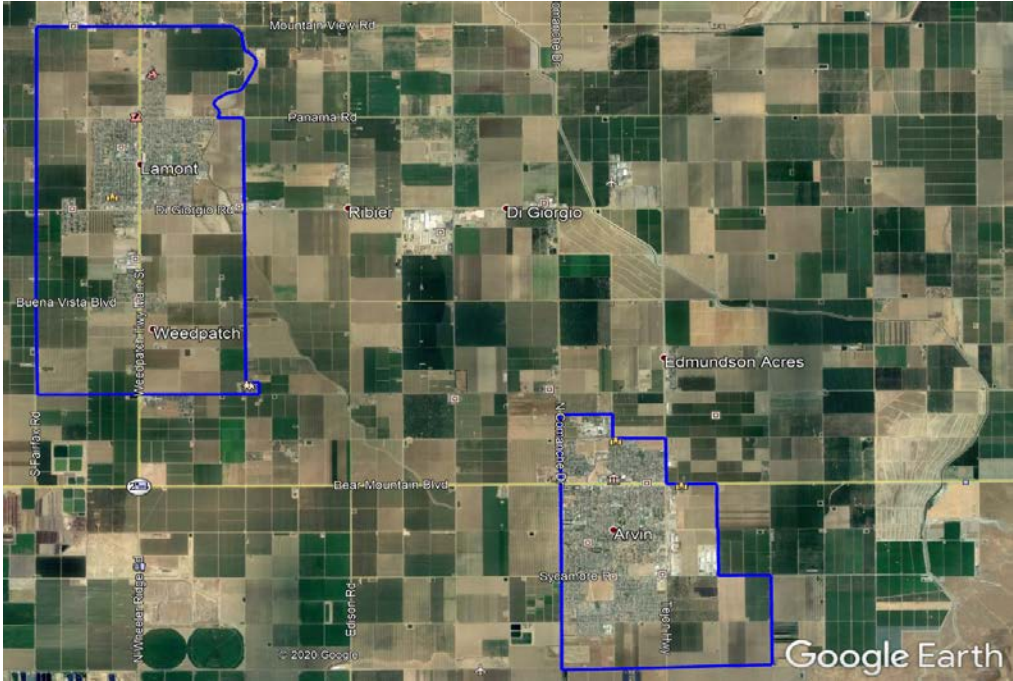
The City of Arvin and nearby Lamont are part of a small, rural community in Southeast Kern County, and have long been recognized as one of the most air quality impacted areas of the Valley. A number of heavily trafficked highways pass nearby, including Hwy 184 and Hwy 223, contributing to overall emissions in the community. The

² https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2020-06/CAPP_2020CommunityRecProcess.pdf

community is also surrounded by agricultural operations, industrial sources, and emissions traveling downwind from the City of Bakersfield to the northwest.

The proposed community of Arvin/Lamont (Figure 1) is approximately 17 square miles and has an estimated population of 37,000. The Arvin/Lamont community is impacted across a number of health and pollution indicators. Using the State CalEnviroScreen tool, the census tracts located within the proposed community rank in the top 15% statewide for overall CalEnviroScreen score, weighted for PM2.5 and ozone impacts, which represents a number of health and socioeconomic factors (asthma, cardiovascular disease, low birth weight, educational attainment, housing burdened low income households, linguistic isolation, poverty, and unemployment). Additionally, the Arvin/Lamont community was selected for the Institute for Local Government’s Boost Program in collaboration with the Strategic Growth Council, which has afforded them technical assistance with capacity building for air quality improvement and energy reduction. These efforts in the community allow the District and community to leverage resources to maximize benefits under AB 617.

Figure 1 Proposed Community of Arvin/Lamont

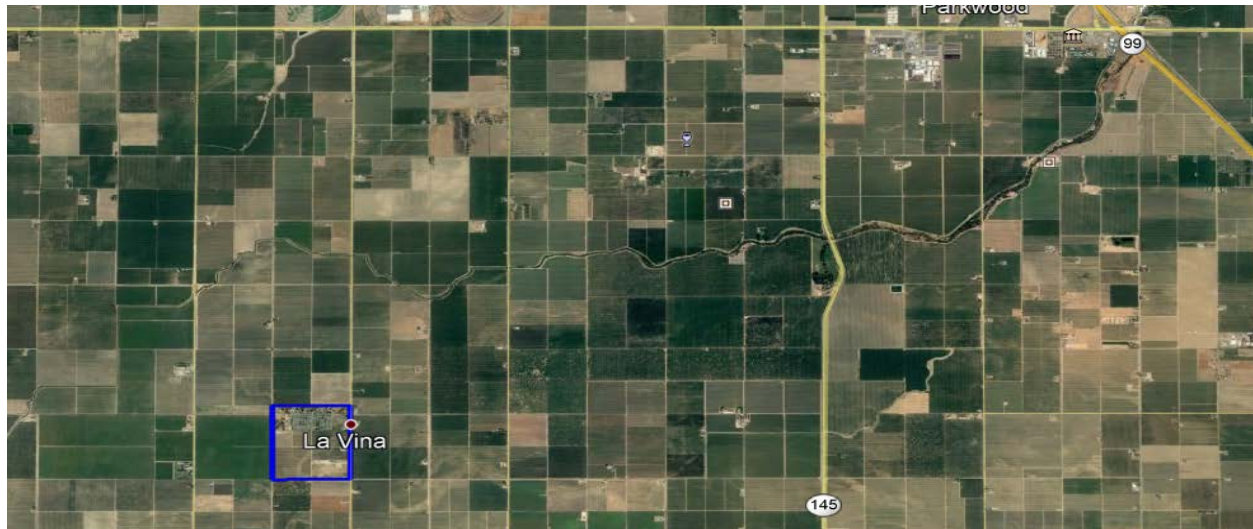


Description of La Vina Community

La Vina is a small, disadvantaged rural community in southern Madera County east of State Route 99 and Highway 145. Based on the state CalEnviroScreen 3.0 tool, the community ranks in the top 15% statewide for overall environmental, health, and socioeconomic indicators, and the top 5% statewide for PM2.5 pollution. The

community, with a population of 288 people, is situated in an agricultural area, and emissions sources include heavy-duty traffic, residential burning, and ag-related activities. Several community groups, including Self Help Enterprises and Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, have established long-standing partnerships with impacted community residents, regularly meeting with concerned community members to advocate for local and regional resources.

Figure 2 Proposed Community of La Vina



AB 617 Funding Availability

CARB has indicated that the number of communities recommended to their Board for third year AB 617 implementation will be determined on the amount of available funding. The new 2020-21 state budget includes \$50 million statewide for AB 617 implementation funding for the next year, which is the same amount as was available in the prior year. This means that air districts will be required to incorporate the additional costs for new communities with the same amount of funding that was available in prior years. Additionally, many of the community-identified and recommended measures in the CERPs rely on incentive funding to replace older, dirtier equipment with near- and zero-emission equipment. While this funding was prioritized in the Governor's May Revise Budget for allocation in the state budget, it was not ultimately included in the adopted state budget. Decisions about how much funding may be available for AB 617-related incentives will not be made until January, 2021 at the earliest. Given this, there is considerable uncertainty as to whether and how much money will be available for incentive-based measures for third year selected communities. Therefore, staff recommendations are contingent upon sufficient state resources being made available to support implementation of this program.

Attachment:
Community Recommendation Submittals (42 pages)

San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District
Meeting of the Governing Board
September 17, 2020

**DISTRICT COMMUNITY SELECTION RECOMMENDATION FOR CARB
UNDER THIRD-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION OF AB 617**

Attachment:

Community Recommendation Submittals
(42 PAGES)

Central California Environmental Justice Collaborative/Mural Arts Institute
A program of the Arts Council of Kern

June 29, 2020

Division Chief Office of Community Air Protection

California Air Resources Board

1001 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue

Fresno, CA 93716

Attn: AB617, Letter of Support

Dear AB 617 Community Selection Committee,

The Central California Environmental Justice/Mural Arts Institute (*The Collaborative*) is pleased to support the nomination of the community of Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region as an AB617 community for the third year. Joining us in this recommendation: The San Joaquin Valley AB 617 Environmental Justice Steering Committee (SJV-AB617-EJ-SC) ranked Arvin-Lamont as the number one area in the rural category submitted to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD).

The nomination is a result of a thorough analysis of indicators that included population characteristics, regional and local air pollution; health data as well as the capacity from community-based organizations necessary to successfully engage with residents, the Air District and CARB in the AB617 CAPP process. Factors contributing to the pollution include large scale agricultural practices, concentrated warehouse distribution centers, and neighborhood oil and gas development.

The Collaborative in conjunction with the Arts Council of Kern works with local leadership and residents to address environmental justice concerns through the lens of artistic expression. Recent Collaborative projects in Arvin-Lamont: Arte de La Tercera Edad, DeColores: A Community Stories Project, the Nomadic Mural Project and the Arvin Quilt Project.

The South Kern Region at the southernmost tip of the San Joaquin Valley sits at the base of the Tehachapi mountain range creating a bowl that traps air and small particle pollution resulting in serious local air quality issues. *The Collaborative* is committed to improving public health and safety by supporting infrastructure improvements to reduce air pollution and help the region meet clean air mandates. *The Collaborative* will continue partnering with the community to identify opportunities to uncover solutions that develop and deploy strategies that work to reduce toxic air contaminants, fugitive dust, industrial pollution and the myriad issues directly related to regional and localized sources of pollution.

The Central California Environmental Justice/Mural Arts Institute is pleased to support effective reductions in fugitive dust to improve air quality in our Valley and move forward to attainment of state and federal air quality standards.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rosanna Esparza



June 30, 2020

Division Chief Office of Community Air Protection
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
1990 E. Gettysburg Ave.
Fresno, CA 93716

Attn: AB617 Nomination Letter of Support for Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region

Dear AB 617 Community Selection Committee,

Bike Bakersfield is pleased to support the nomination of the Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region as an AB 617 Community for Year 3. Between 2013 and 2019, Bike Bakersfield, alongside Building Healthy Communities South Kern opened Bike Arvin, which served as the only bike shop and active transportation hub for the entire South Kern community. We were a full service bike shop, but also a community space handing out free helmets and lights, leading repair workshops and rides, teaching in schools, conducting outreach to parents, and advocating for regional active transportation projects and studies.

Despite closing our doors, we still continue to receive requests to reopen Bike Arvin, and still do small educational programs for interested residents and students. We are working diligently with the local and regional leadership to address environmental justice concerns, particularly through projects that would invest in transportation modes and other innovation projects that would benefit the lifestyles of all Kern County residents, but most importantly impact the air quality of the Arvin/Lamont South Kern region and its residents.

The Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region is at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley at the base of the Tehachapi mountain range, which effectively traps air pollution causing serious local air quality problems. Bike Bakersfield and what was formerly Bike Arvin are still committed to improving public health and safety by advocating, supporting, and encouraging infrastructure that reduce air pollution to help the region meet clean air mandates. We are willing and highly motivated to partner with the community to identify opportunities to tackle and find localized, community-based solutions that work to reduce toxic air contaminants, fugitive dust, industrial pollution and many other issues caused by regional and localized sources of pollution.

We write this letter to express our full support for the communities of Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region to be selected for the Third-year implementation of the AB617 Community Air Protection Program. We are not alone in this recommendation. The San Joaquin Valley AB617



BIKE BAKERSFIELD

Bicycling for Everyday Transportation

Environmental Justice Steering Committee (SJV-AB617-EJ-SC) ranked Arvin-Lamont as the number one area in the Rural category in the nomination document they submitted to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD). This nomination was the result of a thorough analysis of indicators that included Population Characteristics, Regional and local air pollution; health data as well as the capacity from community-based organizations that is necessary to successfully engage with residents, the Air District and CARB in the AB617 CAPP process.

There is already vetted and reproducible data suggesting that the South Kern Region is highly affected by the regional air pollution as well as significant factors that contribute to the pollution such as local large scale agricultural practices, concentrated warehouse distribution centers, neighborhood oil and gas development as well as other factors.

Bike Bakersfield's Board of Directors and staff is excited for the opportunity to progress our partnerships with the Air District and Arvin/Lamont and South Kern community to strategize effective reductions in fugitive dust that will improve air quality in our Valley and move toward attainment of state and federal air quality standards.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Asha Chandy'.

620DB6B4E13E426...

Asha Chandy

Programs Manager
Bike Bakersfield
(661)703-4168
Asha@bikebakersfield.org

Monday, 29th 2020

Center on Race, Poverty, and the Environment



Division Chief Office of Community Air Protection
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
1990 E. Gettysburg Ave.
Fresno, CA 93716
Attn: AB617

Dear AB 617 Community Selection Committee,

CRPE- Center on Race, Poverty, and the Environment is pleased to support the nomination of the community of Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region as an AB 617 community for year 3. CRPE has been working diligently with the local leadership to address environmental justice concerns, particularly through transportation modes that affect disadvantaged communities in Kern County.

The Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region is at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley at the base of the Tehachapi mountain range, which effectively traps air pollution causing serious local air quality problems. CRPE is committed to improving public health and safety by constructing infrastructure improvements that reduce air pollution to help the region meet clean air mandates. CRPE is willing to partner with the community to identify opportunities to tackle and find localized solutions to develop and deploy strategies that work to reduce toxic air contaminants, fugitive dust, industrial pollution and many other issues caused by regional and localized sources of pollution.

We write this letter to express our full support for the communities of Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region to be selected for the Third-year implementation of the AB617 Community Air Protection Program. We are not alone in this recommendation. The San Joaquin Valley AB617 Environmental Justice Steering Committee (SJV-AB617-EJ-SC) ranked Arvin-Lamont as the number one area in the Rural category in the nomination document they submitted to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD). This nomination was the result of a thorough analysis of indicators that included Population Characteristics, Regional and local air pollution; health data as well as the capacity from community-based organizations that is necessary to successfully engage with residents, the Air District and CARB in the AB617 CAPP process.

There is already vetted and reproducible data suggesting that the South Kern Region is highly affected by the regional air pollution as well as significant factors that contribute to the pollution such as local large scale agricultural practices, concentrated warehouse distribution centers, neighborhood oil and gas development as well as other factors.

CRPE is excited for the opportunity to progress our partnerships with the Air District and community to strategize effective reductions in fugitive dust that will improve air quality in our Valley and move toward attainment of state and federal air quality standards.

Sincerely,

CRPE, AB 617 Team.



June 29, 2020

Division Chief Office of Community Air Protection
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
1990 E. Gettysburg Ave.
Fresno, CA 93716
Attn: AB617

Dear AB 617 Community Selection Committee,

Central California Asthma Collaborative (CCAC) is pleased to support the nomination of the community of Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region as an AB 617 community for year 3. CCAC has been working diligently with the local leadership to address environmental justice concerns, particularly through transportation modes that affect disadvantaged communities in Kern County.

The Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region is at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley at the base of the Tehachapi mountain range, which effectively traps air pollution causing serious local air quality problems. CCAC is committed to improving public health and safety by constructing infrastructure improvements that reduce air pollution to help the region meet clean air mandates. CCAC is willing to partner with the community to identify opportunities to tackle and find localized solutions to develop and deploy strategies that work to reduce toxic air contaminants, fugitive dust, industrial pollution and many other issues caused by regional and localized sources of pollution.

We write this letter to express our full support for the communities of Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region to be selected for the Third-year implementation of the AB617 Community Air Protection Program. We are not alone in this recommendation. The San Joaquin Valley AB617 Environmental Justice Steering Committee (SJV-AB617-EJ-SC) ranked Arvin-Lamont as the number one area in the Rural category in the nomination document they submitted to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD). This nomination was the result of a thorough analysis of indicators that included Population Characteristics, Regional and local air pollution; health data as well as the capacity from community-based organizations that is necessary to successfully engage with residents, the Air District and CARB in the AB617 CAPP process.

There is already vetted and reproducible data suggesting that the South Kern Region is highly affected by the regional air pollution as well as significant factors that contribute to the pollution such as local large scale agricultural practices, concentrated warehouse distribution centers, neighborhood oil and gas development as well as other factors.

CCAC is excited for the opportunity to progress our partnerships with the Air District and community to strategize effective reductions in fugitive dust that will improve air quality in our Valley and move toward attainment of state and federal air quality standards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Hamilton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kevin D. Hamilton, RRT
Co-Founder & Co-Director
Central California Asthma Collaborative
4991 E. McKinley Ave, Ste 109
Fresno, CA 93727
www.centralcalasthma.org



Central California Environmental Justice Network

Monday, 29th 2020

Division Chief Office of Community Air Protection
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
1990 E. Gettysburg Ave.
Fresno, CA 93716
Attn: AB617

Dear AB617 Community Selection Committee,

Central California Environmental Justice Network-CCEJN is pleased to support the nomination of the community of Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region as an AB 617 community for year 3. CCEJN has been working diligently with the local leadership to address environmental justice concerns, particularly through transportation modes that affect disadvantaged communities in Kern County. In fact, pre AB 617 CCEJN had its own Community Air Monitoring Network at the neighborhood scale that identified trends and shed light to the injustice of frontline communities to industrial polluters.

The Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region is at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley at the base of the Tehachapi mountain range, which effectively traps air pollution causing serious local air quality problems. CCEJN is committed to improving public health and safety by constructing infrastructure improvements that reduce air pollution to help the region meet clean air mandates. CCEJN is and has been willing to partner with the community to identify opportunities to tackle and find localized solutions to develop and deploy strategies that work to reduce toxic air contaminants, fugitive dust, industrial pollution and many other issues caused by regional and localized sources of pollution.

We write this letter to express our full support for the communities of Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region to be selected for the Third-year implementation of the AB617 Community Air Protection Program. We are not alone in this recommendation. The San Joaquin Valley AB617 Environmental Justice Steering Committee (SJV-AB617-EJ-SC) ranked Arvin-Lamont as the number one area in the Rural category in the nomination document they submitted to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD). This nomination was the result of a thorough analysis of indicators that included Population Characteristics, Regional and local air pollution; health data as well as the capacity from community-based organizations that is necessary to successfully engage with residents, the Air District and CARB in the AB617 CAPP process.

There is already vetted and reproducible data suggesting that the South Kern Region is highly affected by the regional air pollution as well as significant factors that contribute to the pollution such as local large scale agricultural practices, concentrated warehouse distribution centers, neighborhood oil and gas development as well as other factors.

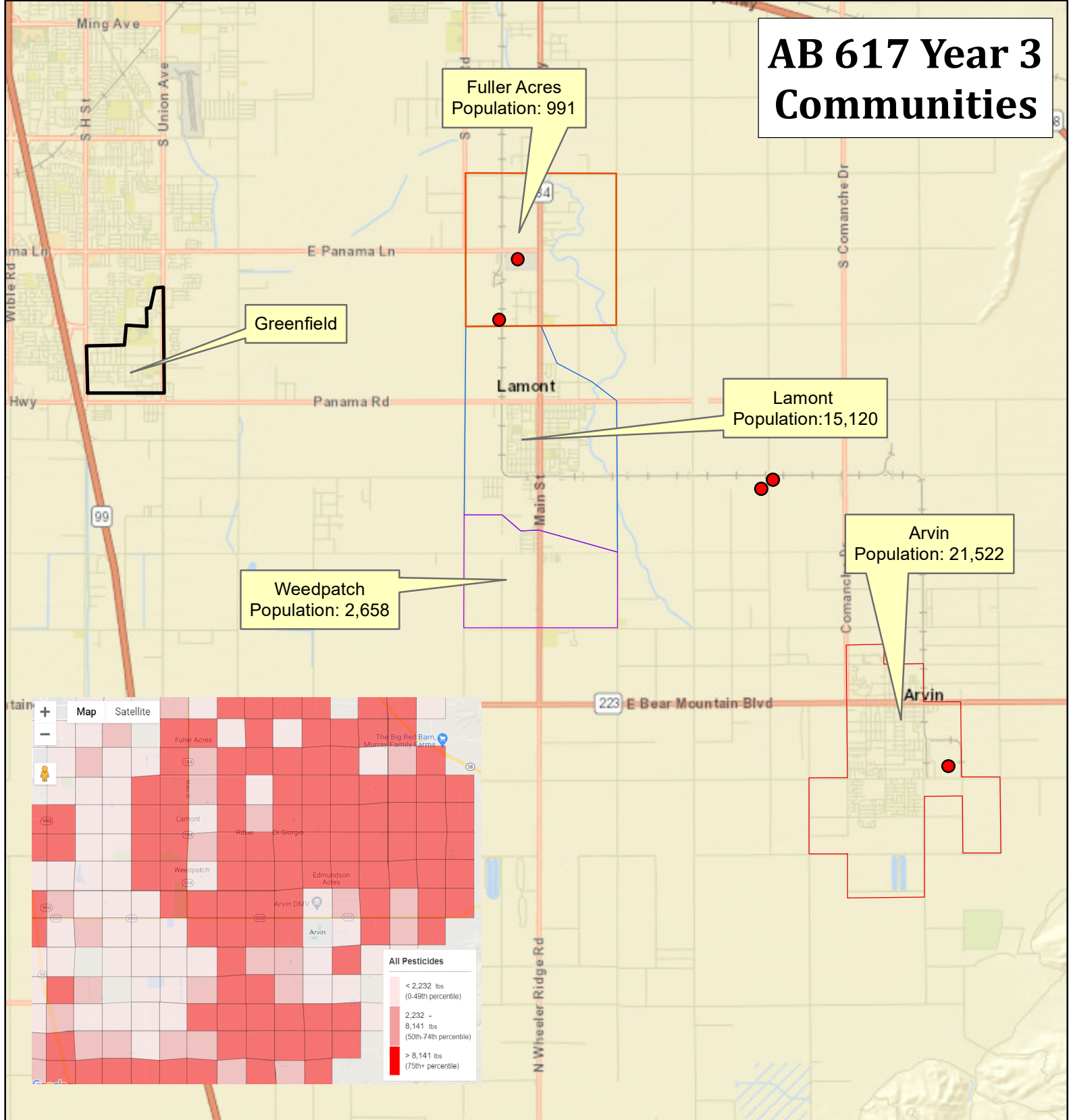
CCEJN is excited for the opportunity to progress our partnerships with the Air District and community to strategize effective reductions in fugitive dust that will improve air quality in our Valley and move toward attainment of state and federal air quality standards.

Sincerely,

Nayamin Martinez

Director of CCEJN

AB 617 Year 3 Communities



Created by:
 Central California Environmental Justice Network
 8/19/19

Data obtained:
 Kern County
 Tracking California
 Census: American Fact Finder

- Sources of Air Pollution
- ▭ Greenfield
- ▭ City of Arvin
- ▭ Fuller Acres
- ▭ Weedpatch
- ▭ Lamont

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CITY OF ARVIN

MAYOR

Jose Gurrrola

MAYOR PRO TEM

Jazmin Robles

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Gabriela Martinez

Olivia Trujillo

Mark Franetovich

CITY MANAGER

Jerry Breckinridge

June 30, 2020

California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA. 95814
Attn: AB 617
(vial email to: communityair@arb.ca.gov)

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue
Fresno, CA. 93726
Attn: AB 617
(via email to: AB617@valleyair.org)

Dear AB 617 Representatives,

The City of Arvin is a small rural disadvantaged community in Kern County located in the southern-most portion of California's Central Valley. Arvin's urbanized footprint is a compact one mile east to west and two miles north to south.

Despite its small footprint, Arvin is home to 21,328 people. Agriculture is the primary source of income for over half of its residents. U.S. Census data indicates that 91.3 percent of the residents of Arvin are Latino. Arvin is a particularly disadvantaged community that has more than its share of challenges. The area's household median income in 2014 was \$35,359, significantly lower than the state's average of \$61,489 (CensusReporter.org). 36% of children live below the poverty level and the vast majority (over 91%) of the student population qualifies for the federal Free and Reduced-Price Meal Program (CA Dept. of Education online FRPM data 2015-16). **Significantly, the median age of Arvin's residents is 24.2, significantly lower than the state average of 35.6.**

The town has a CalEnviroScreen 3.0 score in the high ranges from 81 to 95 percent. Particularly onerous are factors like poverty (99th percentile), low educational achievement (97th to 99th), linguistic isolation (89th to 93rd), exposure to ozone (96th to 99%), exposure to PM 2.5 (98th to 99%), exposure to pesticides (98%) and low drinking water quality (91st to 99th%). This project is focused on the entire urbanized portion of the City from Arvin High School on the north (south of Sunset Boulevard) to El Camino Real Elementary School in the south and from Comanche Drive in the west to Tejon Highway on the east.

Phone (661) 854-3134

Fax (661) 854-0817

200 Campus Drive

P.O. Box 548

Arvin, California 93203

The City of Arvin is making strides on multiple fronts in our area to reduce greenhouse gases, ozone, particulate matter, and energy. The community needs more funding to build upon that momentum to have a significant air quality impact. AB617 will be a major game changer for the South Kern non-attainment area. Particulate matter and ozone continue to be a significant challenge in the South Kern area, yet Arvin is often overlooked because we are a small rural disadvantaged community.

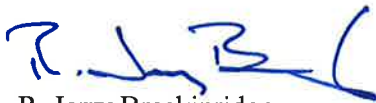
Arvin has an established baseline GHG inventory for 2016 and can produce measurable outcomes with AB 617 funding. The city also has the capacity and experience in implementing programs such as Urban greening, Urban Forestry, fleet electrification, and electric charging stations.

In 2019, the city received 3 Beacon Awards from the Institute for Local Government(ILG) for its achievements in energy reduction, climate change/sustainability, and best practices. Arvin is a recipient of ILG's Boost Program in collaboration with the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) and has been working closely with ILG gaining technical assistance and capacity building to further its work in air quality improvements and energy reduction. The City will be submitting for the 2020 Beacon awards program in the fall.

The City of Arvin has been hard hit by the recent impact of Covid-19. Covid-19 has been shown to negatively affect communities who are already plagued by poor air quality due to higher levels of asthma and respiratory conditions in residents in non-attainment areas.

Our community is prepared for the AB 617 Program and will be a shining example of best practices for the San Joaquin Valley Air District and the California Air Resources Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Jerry Breckinridge".

R. Jerry Breckinridge
City Manager

Jessica Olsen

From: Hannah Schanzer <hschanzer@civicspark.lgc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 5:50 PM
To: AB 617
Subject: City of Arvin Nomination AB 617

Hello, my name is Hannah Schanzer and I have served as an Americorps CivicSpark Fellow with the City of Arvin for the last year. I would like to support the City of Arvin in being selected for Year Three of AB617. Despite experiencing some of the worst air quality in California, the City of Arvin has positioned itself as Clean Energy Leader in the San Joaquin Valley.

Over the last year, I have worked with Christine Viterelli at the City of Arvin to plan a Clean Energy Fair (postponed due to COVID-19), conduct a community transportation needs assessment, and secure funding for three fully funded solar installations from Grid Alternatives through the DAC-SASH program. These projects are only a fraction of the clean energy and climate work being done in Arvin, as mentioned by Mayor Jose Gurrola and others who have sp.

The City of Arvin has close relationships with community based organizations, an engaged population, and an incredible asset in Christine Viterelli, who is the most component, passionate person I have ever worked with. Please consider the City of Arvin!

--

Hannah Schanzer

CivicSpark Fellow

California Energy Commission

hschanzer@civicspark.lgc.org

Hannah.Schanzer@energy.ca.gov



**Local
Government
Commission**



Leaders for Livable Communities

CivicSpark™



June 29, 2020

Division Chief Office of Community Air Protection
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
1990 E. Gettysburg Ave.
Fresno, CA 93716
Attn: AB617

Dear AB 617 Community Selection Committee,

Clean Water Action is pleased to support the nomination of the community of Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region as an AB 617 community for year 3. Clean Water Action has been working diligently with the local leadership to address environmental justice concerns, particularly through transportation modes that affect disadvantaged communities in Kern County.

The Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region is at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley at the base of the Tehachapi mountain range, which effectively traps air pollution causing serious local air quality problems. Clean Water Action is committed to improving public health and safety by constructing infrastructure improvements that reduce air pollution to help the region meet clean air mandates. Clean Water Action is willing to partner with the community to identify opportunities to tackle and find localized solutions to develop and deploy strategies that work to reduce toxic air contaminants, fugitive dust, industrial pollution and many other issues caused by regional and localized sources of pollution.

We write this letter to express our full support for the communities of Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region to be selected for the Third-year implementation of the AB617 Community Air Protection Program. We are not alone in this recommendation. The San Joaquin Valley AB617 Environmental Justice Steering Committee (SJV-AB617-EJ-SC) ranked Arvin-Lamont as the number one area in the rural category in the nomination document they submitted to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD). This nomination was the result of a thorough analysis of indicators that included Population Characteristics, Regional and local air pollution; health data as well as the capacity from community-based organizations that is necessary to successfully engage with residents, the Air District and CARB in the AB617 CAPP process.

There is already vetted and reproducible data suggesting that the South Kern Region is highly affected by the regional air pollution as well as significant factors that contribute to the pollution such as local large scale agricultural practices, concentrated warehouse distribution centers, neighborhood oil and gas development as well as other factors.

Clean Water Action is excited for the opportunity to progress our partnerships with the Air District and community to strategize effective reductions in fugitive dust that will improve air quality in our Valley and move toward attainment of state and federal air quality standards.

Sincerely,



Jesus Alonso, Employee

Jesus Alonso
Kern Organizer
Clean Water Action



6/29/2020

Division Chief Office of Community Air Protection
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
1990 E. Gettysburg Ave.
Fresno, CA 93716
Attn: AB617

Re: Support for Ab 617 Community Selection for year 3

Dear CARB

On behalf of Comite Lost Hills en Accion- CLH-A, I am writing to express our strong support for the Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region for year 3 community selection.

We write this letter to express our full support for the communities of Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region to be selected for the Third-year implementation of the AB617 Community Air Protection Program. We are not alone in this recommendation. The San Joaquin Valley AB617 Environmental Justice Steering Committee (SJV-AB617-EJ-SC) ranked Arvin-Lamont as the number one area in the Rural category in the nomination document they submitted to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD). This nomination was the result of a thorough analysis of indicators that included Population Characteristics, Regional and local air pollution; health data as well as the capacity from community-based organizations that is necessary to successfully engage with residents, the Air District and CARB in the AB617 CAPP process.

CLH-A is excited for the opportunity to progress our partnerships with the Air District and community to strategize effective reductions in fugitive dust that will improve air quality in our Valley and move toward attainment of state and federal air quality standards.

Sincerely,

Saul Ruiz
Presidents
Comite Lost Hills En Accion
661-209-6097



6/29/2020

Division Chief Office of Community Air Protection
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
1990 E. Gettysburg Ave.
Fresno, CA 93716
Attn: AB617

Re: Support for Ab 617 Community Selection for year 3

Dear CARB

On behalf of Comite Progreso De Lamont-CPL, I am writing to express our strong support for the Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region for year 3 community selection.

The Comite Progreso de Lamont mission is to achieve a healthy environment in Lamont, & to improve community infrastructure and the quality of the lives of residents, by involving the community and creating a voice to be able to advocate to deal with issues that our community is facing.

The Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region is at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley at the base of the Tehachapi mountain range, which effectively traps air pollution causing serious local air quality problems. CPL is committed to improving public health and safety by constructing infrastructure improvements that reduce air pollution to help the region meet clean air mandates. CPL is and has been willing to partner with the community to identify opportunities to tackle and find localized solutions to develop and deploy strategies that work to reduce toxic air contaminants, fugitive dust, industrial pollution and many other issues caused by regional and localized sources of pollution.

We write this letter to express our full support for the communities of Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region to be selected for the Third-year implementation of the AB617 Community Air Protection Program. We are not alone in this recommendation. The San Joaquin Valley AB617 Environmental Justice Steering Committee (SJV-AB617-EJ-SC) ranked Arvin-Lamont as the number one area in the Rural category in the nomination document they submitted to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

(SJVAPCD). This nomination was the result of a thorough analysis of indicators that included Population Characteristics, Regional and local air pollution; health data as well as the capacity from community-based organizations that is necessary to successfully engage with residents, the Air District and CARB in the AB617 CAPP process.

There is already vetted and reproducible data suggesting that the South Kern Region is highly affected by the regional air pollution as well as significant factors that contribute to the pollution such as local large scale agricultural practices, concentrated warehouse distribution centers, neighborhood oil and gas development as well as other factors.

CPL is excited for the opportunity to progress our partnerships with the Air District and community to strategize effective reductions in fugitive dust that will improve air quality in our Valley and move toward attainment of state and federal air quality standards.

Sincerely,

Jose Mireles
President,
Comite Progreso De Lamont
Cheto-mireles62@hotmail.com



6/29/2020

Division Chief Office of Community Air Protection
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
1990 E. Gettysburg Ave.
Fresno, CA 93716
Attn: AB617

Re: Support for Ab 617 Community Selection for year 3

Dear CARB

On behalf of Committee for a Better Arvin-CBA, I am writing to express our strong support for the Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region for year 3 community selection.

The Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region is at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley at the base of the Tehachapi mountain range, which effectively traps air pollution causing serious local air quality problems. CBA is committed to improving public health and safety by constructing infrastructure improvements that reduce air pollution to help the region meet clean air mandates. CBA is and has been willing to partner with the community to identify opportunities to tackle and find localized solutions to develop and deploy strategies that work to reduce toxic air contaminants, fugitive dust, industrial pollution and many other issues caused by regional and localized sources of pollution.

We write this letter to express our full support for the communities of Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region to be selected for the Third-year implementation of the AB617 Community Air Protection Program. We are not alone in this recommendation. The San Joaquin Valley AB617 Environmental Justice Steering Committee (SJV-AB617-EJ-SC) ranked Arvin-Lamont as the number one area in the Rural category in the nomination document they submitted to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD). This nomination was the result of a thorough analysis of indicators that included Population Characteristics, Regional and local air pollution; health data as well as the capacity

from community-based organizations that is necessary to successfully engage with residents, the Air District and CARB in the AB617 CAPP process.

There is already vetted and reproducible data suggesting that the South Kern Region is highly affected by the regional air pollution as well as significant factors that contribute to the pollution such as local large scale agricultural practices, concentrated warehouse distribution centers, neighborhood oil and gas development as well as other factors.

CBA is excited for the opportunity to progress our partnerships with the Air District and community to strategize effective reductions in fugitive dust that will improve air quality in our Valley and move toward attainment of state and federal air quality standards.

Sincerely,

Estella Escoto
President,
CBA
Estellaescoto@hotmail.com



President

Jose Gonzalez

Vice President

Emanuel Espinoza

Secretary

Jennifer Wood-Slayton

Treasurer

Fredi Castrejon

Board of Directors

Year One

Jamie Swetalla • Lucila Gonzalez

Year Two

Viviana Ramirez • Miguel Guerrero

Year Three

Vacant • Cassandra Martinez

MISSION STATEMENT

*Working and growing
together through
cultural and business
developments in our
community.*

P.O. Box 593

Lamont, CA 93241

(661) 845-1992 or

(661)378-7774

**lamontchamber@outlook.com
www.lamontchamber.com**

Division Chief Office of Community Air Protection
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
1990 E. Gettysburg Ave.
Fresno, CA 93716
Attn: AB617

Dear AB 617 Community Selection Committee,

The Greater Lamont Chamber of Commerce is pleased to support the nomination of the community of Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region as an AB 617 community for year 3. We have been working diligently with the local leadership to address environmental concerns, particularly through transportation modes that affect disadvantaged communities in Kern County.

The Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region is at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley at the base of the Tehachapi mountain range, which effectively traps air pollution causing serious local air quality problems. We are committed to help improve public health and safety by constructing infrastructure improvements that would reduce air pollution to help the region meet clean air mandates. We are willing to partner with the community to identify opportunities to tackle and find localized solutions to develop and deploy strategies that work to reduce toxic air contaminants, fugitive dust, industrial pollution and many other issues caused by regional and localized sources of pollution.

We write this letter to express our full support for the communities of Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region to be selected for the Third-year implementation of the AB617 Community Air Protection Program. We are not alone in this recommendation. The San Joaquin Valley AB617 Environmental Justice Steering Committee (SJV-AB617-EJ-SC) ranked Arvin-Lamont as the number one area in the Rural category in the nomination document they submitted to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD). This nomination was the result of a thorough analysis of indicators that included Population Characteristics, Regional and local air pollution; health data as well as the capacity from community-based organizations that is necessary to successfully engage with residents, the Air District and CARB in the AB617 CAPP process.

There is already vetted and reproducible data suggesting that the South Kern Region is highly affected by the regional air pollution as well as significant factors that contribute to the pollution such as local large scale agricultural practices, concentrated warehouse distribution centers, neighborhood oil and gas development as well as other factors.

The Greater Lamont Chamber of Commerce is excited for the opportunity to grow our partnerships with the Air District and community to strategize effective reductions in fugitive dust that will improve air quality in our Valley and move toward attainment of state and federal air quality standards.

Sincerely,

Jose Gonzalez
President



August 31, 2020

California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA. 95814
Attn: AB 617
(vial email to: communityair@arb.ca.gov)

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue
Fresno, CA. 93726
Attn: AB 617
(via email to: AB617@valleyair.org)

Dear AB 617 Representatives,

The City of Arvin is a small rural disadvantaged community in Kern County located in the southern-most portion of California's Central Valley. Arvin's urbanized footprint is a compact one mile east to west and two miles north to south.

Despite its small footprint, Arvin is home to 21,328 people. Agriculture is the primary source of income for over half of its residents. U.S. Census data indicates that 91.3 percent of the residents of Arvin are Latino. Arvin is a particularly disadvantaged community that has more than its share of challenges. The area's household median income in 2014 was \$35,359, significantly lower than the state's average of \$61,489 (CensusReporter.org). 36% of children live below the poverty level and the vast majority (over 91%) of the student population qualifies for the federal Free and Reduced-Price Meal Program (CA Dept. of Education online FRPM data 2015-16). **Significantly, the median age of Arvin's residents is 24.2, significantly lower than the state average of 35.6.**

The town has a CalEnviroScreen 3.0 score in the high ranges from 81 to 95 percent. Particularly onerous are factors like poverty (99th percentile), low educational achievement (97th to 99th), linguistic isolation (89th to 93rd), exposure to ozone (96th to 99%), exposure to PM 2.5 (98th to 99%), exposure to pesticides (98%) and low drinking water quality (91st to 99th%). This proposal for AB 617 is focused on the entire urbanized portion of the City from Arvin High School on the north (south of Sunset Boulevard) to El Camino Real Elementary School in the south and from Comanche Drive in the west to Tejon Highway on the east.

The City of Arvin is making strides on multiple fronts to reduce greenhouse gases, ozone, particulate matter, and energy usage. The community needs more funding to build upon that momentum to have a significant air quality impact. AB617 funding will be a major game changer for this South Kern non-attainment area. Particulate matter and ozone continue to be a significant challenge in the South Kern area, yet Arvin is often overlooked.

Arvin has an established baseline GHG inventory for 2016 and can produce measurable outcomes with AB 617 funding. The city also has the capacity and experience in implementing programs such as Urban greening, Urban Forestry, fleet electrification, and electric charging stations.

Since 2009 Central Valley office of GRID Alternatives has looked into how we could work together and collaborate in providing solar to the community. To date we have solarized 12 homes, providing much needed savings on family's energy expenses so that they can reprioritize for other purposes.

The City of Arvin has been hard hit by the recent impact of Covid-19. Covid-19 has been shown to negatively affect communities who are already plagued by poor air quality due to higher levels of asthma and respiratory conditions in its area residents.

Arvin has spent years building capacity and collaborating with non-profit and equity organizations. Arvin is ripe for the AB 617 Program and will be a shining example of best practices for the San Joaquin Valley Air District and the California Air Resources Board.

Sincerely,



Tom M. Esqueda
Executive Director
GRID ALTERNATIVES
4140 N. Brawley Ave., #108, Fresno, CA 93722



August 20, 2020

Samir Sheikh, Air Pollution Control Officer
Craig Pederson, Board Chairperson
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue
Fresno, CA 93720

RE: Support for selecting the City of Arvin as a Year 3 AB 617 Community

Honorable APCO Sheikh, Board Chair Pederson, and Governing Board Members:

Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG) supports the nomination and selection of the City of Arvin as the Year 3 AB 617 Community in the San Joaquin Valley.

Kern COG is an association of city and county governments created to address regional transportation issues. Its member agencies include the County of Kern and the 11 incorporated cities within Kern County, including the City of Arvin. The Board of Directors includes the member agencies, and ex-officio members representing Caltrans and Golden Empire Transit District. As the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization and the state-designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency for Kern County, Kern COG is responsible for developing and updating a variety of transportation plans and for allocating the federal and state funds to implement them. The Board and staff understand the connection between transportation and air quality. Efforts to reduce emissions in the transportation sector are identified in regional transportation plans and carried out through the Overall Work Program, including supporting our member agencies' efforts for reducing road congestion, supporting road improvements and active transportation measures and promoting the integration of zero emission vehicle technologies into existing and new markets for the movement of goods and people.

The AB 617 program was created for communities like the City of Arvin – severely impacted by poor air quality and meeting economic and CalEnviroScreen 3.0 measures. But more importantly, the City of Arvin continually demonstrates a desire and ability to take control of their destiny through local government leadership and citizen engagement. Kern COG applauds efforts to introduce zero emission transportation through the installation of charging stations, using PEVs in the light-duty fleet, and securing a Federal Low-No grant to purchase a Proterra Catalyst bus. Kern COG worked with partners to deploy MioCar, an electric carshare program in Arvin, Lamont and Wasco. The City of Arvin works not only to reduce transportation emissions, but also secured funding for an urban greening program – the only solution that cleans the air.

Kern COG has participated in community meetings in the AB 617 community of another member agency, the City of Shafter from the Kick-off meeting, to the development of a Community Emission Reduction Plan, to implementation of that CERP. Kern COG plans to devote staff time to AB 617 efforts in the City of Arvin. Thank you for your consideration. We urge you to move forward with the City of Arvin as the Year 3 AB 617 Community in the San Joaquin Valley.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ahron Hakimi'.

Ahron Hakimi, Executive Director



[Sent via email]

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
AB617@valleyair.org

Samir Sheikh, Executive Director
samir.sheikh@valleyair.org

Jaime Holt, Communications Officer
jaime.holt@valleyair.org

California Air Resources Board
Trish Johnson
Trish.Johnson@arb.ca.gov

**Re: Nomination for the Community of La Viña to be Selected as an AB617 Community
This Year**

August 20, 2020

Good afternoon,

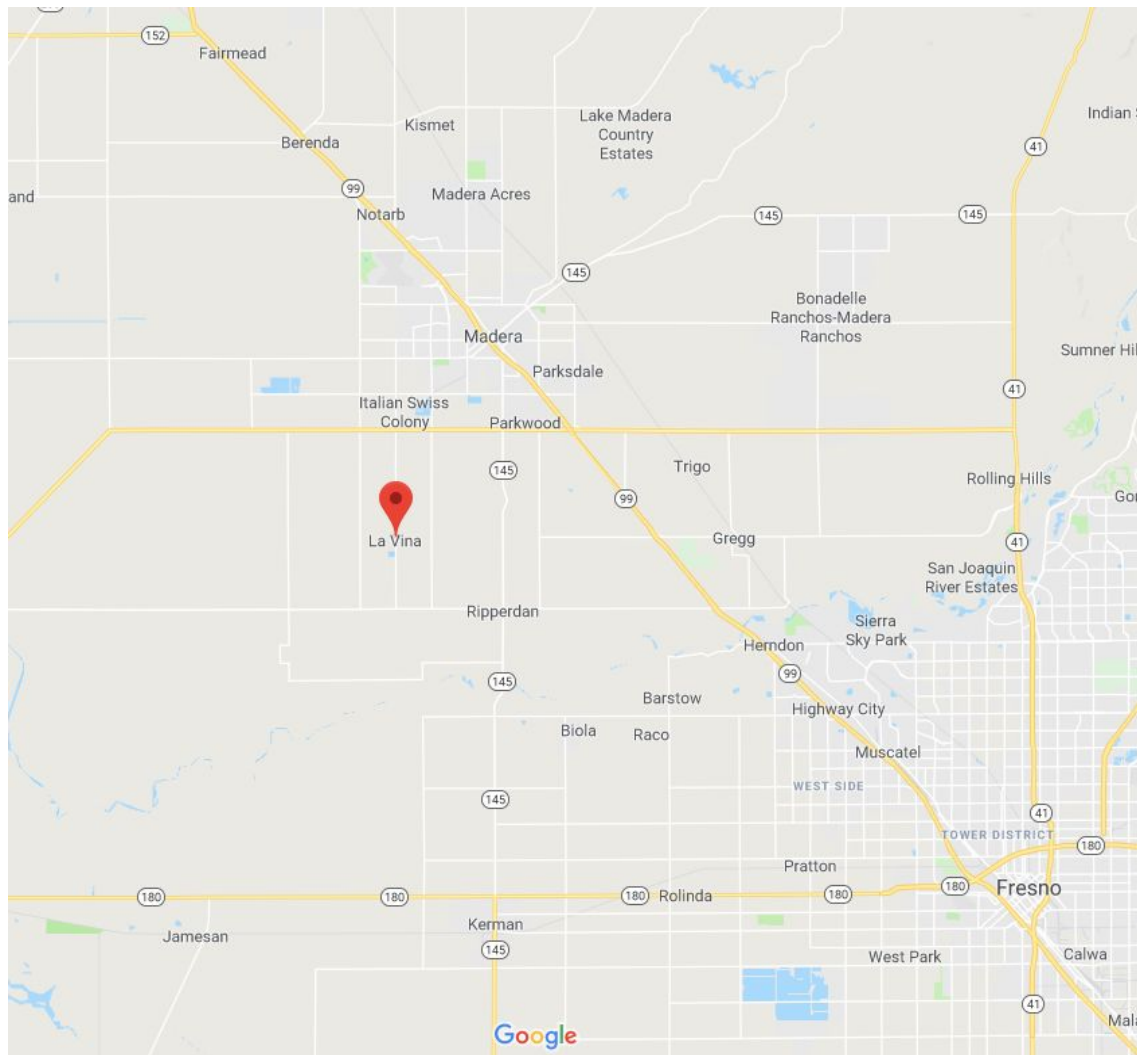
We are once again writing to nominate the community of La Viña for the AB617 program for the second consecutive year, and to update you on the current air quality concerns of the community. We are grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and the California Air Resources Board on ensuring that communities in need of air monitoring and pollution reduction plans are able to access these resources without needlessly competing with one another for access to breathable air during an unprecedented wildfire season and respiratory pandemic.

Some of the context provided below regarding the community's disproportionate pollution burden is information that we have provided to the SJVAPCD, Madera County, and to CARB through last year's AB617 nomination process, comment letters, public comments, and in-person and telephonic meetings with staff and elected officials over the course of the past year, much of which continues to go unaddressed. That said, we will also provide updated information regarding current conditions on the ground and recent data obtained from the Madera County Agricultural Commissioner.

I. Introduction to La Viña



As you may recall from our 2019 nomination, La Viña is a small Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community in Madera County in census tract 6039001000 between Road 24 and Road 23 ½ along Avenue 9. The vast majority of the population in this small community is Latinx, predominantly with familial roots in Mexico. The community was initially settled by farmworkers, and many residents still work in agriculture today. The most current American Community Survey data from 2017 reports that the community has a population of 288 people, 95.1% of whom have incomes below the poverty line¹. That said, La Viña is most likely a severely undercounted community, since Madera County reports 178.6 connections to the small community water system they operate². (Nearly all of these connections are single family homes or apartments with multiple residents.)



La Viña's location on Google Maps in relation to other communities and cities in the Central Valley.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey 5-year estimates*. Retrieved from *Census Reporter Profile page for La Vina, CA* <<http://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US0640872-la-vina-ca/>>

² Madera County MD-37 Water and Sewer Rate Study. Bartle Wells Associates. May 3, 2019.



II. Known Need for Air Quality Monitoring/Air Quality Concerns

The community is surrounded by almond and walnut orchards and vineyards, with no buffer whatsoever between sensitive land uses such as residences, play structures for children, and La Viña Elementary School. On the edges of the community, residents' homes line up to rows of almond and walnut trees which create air quality concerns for residents who are directly exposed to pesticides for much of the year in addition to the thick clouds of dust which cover the community during the nut harvesting season.

Residents report that crop-duster planes regularly spray pesticides directly over their homes en route to the fields without notice. Even when the planes are not spraying directly overhead, or when pesticides are applied from tractors, the proximity of the fields makes it impossible for the community to not be impacted by wind drift, which carries the pesticides into people's homes through their heating and cooling systems, and directly onto those outside. Residents share that the almond harvest wreaks additional havoc on the respiratory health and overall wellness of their community. Dust kicked up by the almond harvesting equipment plummeting through the fields clouds the community and enters homes, leaving residents no escape from breathing in dangerous particles.

According to their local elected official, La Viña is also one of the communities most impacted by COVID-19 in Madera County, and our organization works with residents who have tested positive, been hospitalized, and spent time in the ICU due to COVID-19. As the community battles the novel coronavirus, we've received reports of pesticide spraying in the fields lining up to people's homes causing nausea, achy bones, and headaches. Additionally, the almond harvest kicks into full swing this month, the community will be once again covered in a heavy cloud of dust, and folks with COVID-19, asthma, and other respiratory conditions struggle even more to breathe.

A. Data from CalEnviroScreen

Anecdotal reports from residents are consistent with CalEnviroScreen data at the census tract level. Census tract 6039001000 stands at the 95 percentile for PM2.5 with a concentration of 13.730 micrograms per meter cubed, and at the 91 percentile for pesticide application, with an estimated 1,606.395 pounds of active ingredients-- the most common of which are the toxic



1,3-Dichloropropene³, Potassium N Methylthiocarbamate⁴, Chlorothalonil⁵, Hydrogen Cyanamide⁶, and Chlorpyrifos⁷-- used per square mile⁸.

B. Department of Pesticide Regulation Data: Geographically Specific Information

However, while the CalEnviroScreen data listed above is certainly helpful and reflective of the air quality concerns that residents regularly report in La Viña, it most likely does not accurately reflect the disparate impacts that the community faces *within* the census tract they share with differently situated communities. For example, across Highway 99 from La Viña in the same census tract lies Madera Ranchos, a predominantly white and upper-middle class community that is also surrounded by agricultural land uses, yet faces significantly less pesticide exposure.

According to DPR data,⁹ which presents a more localized picture of pesticide exposure by utilizing data from pesticide use reports, residents in La Viña are consistently exposed to more pesticides than their neighbors in Madera Ranchos. DPR's data regarding the poundage of pesticides applied each year to the La Viña township consistently hovers around 1 million pounds per year (ranging from 888,088 lbs to 1,098,307 lbs in recent years)¹⁰ while the data corresponding to their neighbors in Madera Ranchos' tends to hover around 300,000 pounds per year (ranging from 245,936 lbs to 370,672 in recent years)¹¹. As a result, depending on the year, La Viña as a township is applied with anywhere between 2.5 and 4.3 times more pesticides than

³ 1,3 Dichloropropene. <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-09/documents/1-3-dichloropropene.pdf>

⁴ RED Fact Sheet: Methylthiocarbamate Salts - Metam Sodium/Potassium and MITC, US Environmental Protection Agency Office of Pesticide Programs. July 10, 2008.

https://www3.epa.gov/pesticides/chem_search/reg_actions/reregistration/fs_G-56_10-Jul-08.pdf

⁵ Chlorothalonil-- toxicity, side effects, diseases, and environmental impacts, Pesticides.News. December 7, 2017.

<https://www.pesticides.news/2017-12-07-chlorothalonil-toxicity-side-effects-diseases-and-environmental-impacts.html>

⁶ "Hydrogen cyanamide* is used in agriculture as a plant growth regulator and is applied to many deciduous plants to stimulate uniform budbreak after dormancy, resulting in uniform flowering and maturity. Hydrogen cyanamide is highly toxic, and adverse health effects from contact include severe irritation and ulceration of the eyes, skin, and respiratory tract (1,2). The substance also inhibits aldehyde dehydrogenase and can produce acetaldehyde syndrome (e.g., vomiting, parasympathetic hyperactivity, dyspnea, hypotension, and confusion) when exposure coincides with alcohol use." Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report: April 29, 2005. Update: Hydrogen Cyanamide-- Related Illnesses-- Italy 2002-2004. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5416a3.htm>

⁷ "California Acts to Prohibit Chlorpyrifos Pesticide," Barnum, Alex and Fadipe, Charlotte. California Environmental Protection Agency. May 8, 2019. Accessed via:

<https://calepa.ca.gov/2019/05/08/california-acts-to-prohibit-chlorpyrifos-pesticide/>

⁸ CalEnviroScreen 3.0, California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. Accessed September 2019 at <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30>

⁹ Tracking California, Public Health Institute. Agricultural Pesticide Mapping Tool. Accessed September 2019 from www.trackingcalifornia.org/pesticides/pesticide-mapping-tool.

¹⁰ DPR time series for Township #20M12S17E

¹¹ DPR time series for Township #20M11S19E



Madera Ranchos, an alarming racial and economic disparity not represented by the census tract data.

DPR data also includes a list of the 10 most heavily applied pesticides in each township section. In La Viña, toxic chemicals such as 1,3 Dichloropropene, Chlorpyrifos, Glyphosate, and Hydrogen Cyanamide appear on these lists among other harmful pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides.

As a result, it is no wonder that, at our community meetings with La Viña residents each month, community leaders share with us stories about community health concerns that they believe stem from environmental impacts including air quality. They reinforce that these issues are of utmost concern and a primary priority for their community, and have repeatedly brought up how nearly each household in the community is plagued by asthma, cancer, and other potentially lethal health concerns. These underlying, chronic health conditions which appear to be caused by industry's pollution of the environment make it even harder for the community to battle the COVID-19 pandemic. For instance, one resident shared, "this issue [of air quality] is a top priority for us. Because if you look around our community, just about every family is directly affected by asthma. If it's not the kids that have asthma, then it's the parents, or the grandparents. Everyone here has or knows someone who has asthma or some other condition."

C. Updated Pesticide Data from the Madera County Agricultural Commissioner

Following submission of a Public Records Act request in June, our organization received Notice of Intent reports from the Madera County Agricultural Commissioner on July 17th, 2020 between the months of February and June 2020. The information gleaned from these approved Notices of Intent confirm what CalEnviroScreen, the DPR data tool, and the community's residents tell us: dangerous, toxic chemicals such as Paraquat and 1,3 Dichloropropene are utilized in significant quantities nearby the community on a regular basis. For example, the Madera County Agricultural Commissioner approved a Notice of Intent to fumigate 1,072 gallons of 1,3 Dichloropropene on parcels adjacent to and bordering La Viña Elementary School on Wednesday, March 25th at 1:29pm. (The 2017 data available to us through DPR's data tool reported that over 21,000 pounds of the fumigant 1,3 Dichloropropene were applied to the parcels directly surrounding the homes and elementary school in the community during that year alone.)

III. Community Capacity and Commitment for Involvement in AB617

Despite the challenges, disparate air quality concerns, and health hazards that this community faces, it is a vibrant and cohesive community of hard-working families who are committed to protecting and improving the place they call home.



Our organization partners with a dedicated community group of about 40 La Viña residents, with whom we have been working for several years. This group has succeeded in pushing Madera County to apply for several grants to implement clean mobility infrastructure in the community, accomplish long-needed road repairs, and establish a resident sub-committee that holds working meetings with the County each month to discuss the path forward on community priorities. Beyond pursuing clean mobility infrastructure at the County level (which has remained a top priority for the community over the years), the community was also selected to benefit from the CPUC San Joaquin Valley Solar Energy Pilot, which will ensure that households reliant on propane or wood-burning for energy convert to electric, and will bring solar energy infrastructure to the community.

In addition to these successes and ongoing efforts, residents we work with in La Viña also established a list of policy changes they would like to see at the local level to achieve emissions reductions.¹² Furthermore, our organization and CCEJN are partnering with the community to potentially install air monitors.

Self Help Enterprises (SHE) also has a long-standing partnership with and presence in the community. SHE developed a multi-family housing apartment complex and a subdivision of single family homes in the community decades ago, and continues to regularly partner with the community on an ongoing basis for the operation and maintenance of a community center as well as for local, regional, and statewide advocacy work.

Given the unique needs for air monitoring and the capacity and commitment of residents to be involved in the creation of a pollution reduction plan, our organization urges the SJVAPCD and CARB to take this community into consideration as a recipient of the resources and programming AB617 has to offer. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions. Once again, we thank you for the opportunity to collaborate in developing localized solutions to air quality concerns in frontline communities, and we look forward to further discussing solutions with you and with La Viña residents.

Gratefully,

Madeline Harris
Policy Advocate

¹² We have attached this list to this nomination letter for your reference. The community initially shared this list of priorities with the SJVAPCD, CARB, DPR, and Madera County in February 2020.



[Sent via email]

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
Samir Sheikh, Executive Director
samir.sheikh@valleyair.org

Jaime Holt, Communications Officer
jaime.holt@valleyair.org

California Air Resources Board
Veronica Eady, Assistant Executive Officer
veronica.eady@arb.ca.gov

September 18, 2019

Good afternoon,

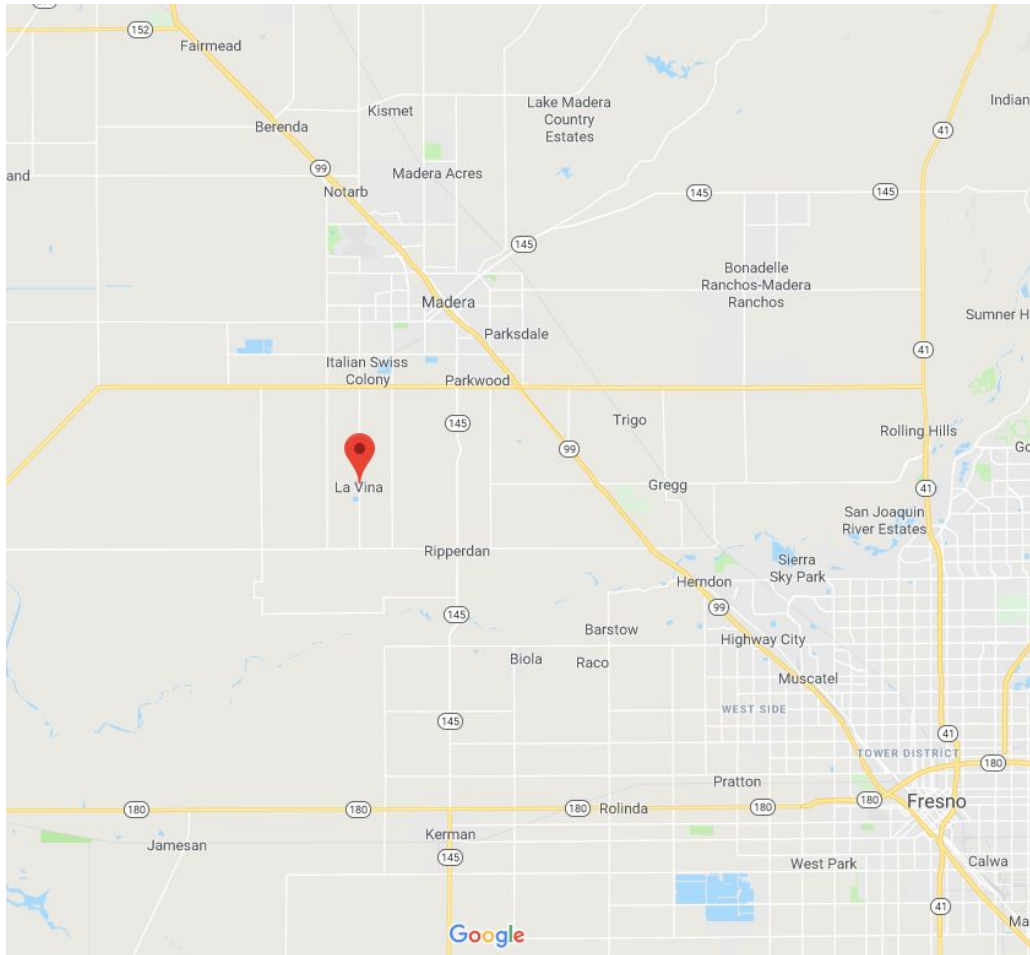
We are writing regarding the AB617 program nomination process and to bring to your attention the distinct air quality concerns of the community of La Viña, CA, which was included in our organization's AB617 nominations for this year. We are grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and the California Air Resources Board on ensuring that communities in need of air monitoring and pollution reduction plans are able to access these resources.

I. Introduction to La Viña

La Viña is a small Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community in Madera County in census tract 6039001000 between Road 24 and Road 23 ½ along Avenue 9. The vast majority of the population in this small community is “Hispanic”/Latinx, predominantly with familial roots in Mexico. The community was initially settled by farmworkers, and many residents still work in agriculture today. The most current American Community Survey data from 2017 reports that the community has a population of 288 people, 95.1% of whom have incomes below the poverty line¹. That said, La Viña is most likely a severely undercounted community, since Madera County reports 178.6 connections to the small community water system they operate². (Nearly all of these connections are single family homes or apartments with multiple residents.)

¹ U.S. Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey 5-year estimates*. Retrieved from *Census Reporter Profile page for La Vina, CA* <<http://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US0640872-la-vina-ca/>>

² Madera County MD-37 Water and Sewer Rate Study. Bartle Wells Associates. May 3, 2019.



La Viña's location on Google Maps in relation to other communities and cities in the Central Valley.

II. Known Need for Air Quality Monitoring/Air Quality Concerns

As indicated by the community's name, it has been historically surrounded by vineyards. More recently, as grape fields were converted to more popular, yet water intensive, cash crops, the community became enclosed by almond and walnut orchards in addition to the remaining vineyards. On the edges of the community, residents' homes line up to rows of almond and walnut trees which create air quality concerns for residents who are directly exposed to pesticides for much of the year in addition to the thick clouds of dust which cover the community during the nut harvesting season.

Residents report that crop-duster planes regularly spray pesticides directly over their homes en route to the fields without notice. Even when the planes are not spraying directly overhead, the proximity of the fields makes it impossible for the community to not be impacted by wind drift, which carries the pesticides into people's homes through their heating and cooling systems, and directly onto those outside. Residents also shared that almond growers, in an effort to expand the



production season, have begun growing two varieties of almond trees around the community-- one that is harvested beginning in the late summer, and another that is harvested in the early fall. As a result of the extended harvest season, the pesticide application season has been expanded as well, exposing La Viña residents to harmful dust particles and to pesticides for months on end each year and further exacerbating the air quality problems plaguing the community.

Residents share that the almond harvest wreaks additional havoc on the respiratory health and overall wellness of their community. Dust kicked up by the almond harvesting equipment plummeting through the fields clouds the community and enters homes, leaving residents no escape from breathing in dangerous particles. Since growers have extended the harvest season, residents inhale the dust for double the time that they used to each year.

A. Data from CalEnviroScreen

These anecdotal reports from residents are consistent with CalEnviroScreen data at the census tract level. Census tract 6039001000 stands at the 95 percentile for PM_{2.5} with a concentration of 13.730 micrograms per meter cubed, and at the 91 percentile for pesticide application, with an estimated 1,606.395 pounds of active ingredients-- the most common of which are the toxic 1,3-Dichloropropene³, Potassium N Methylthiocarbamate⁴, Chlorothalonil⁵, Hydrogen Cyanamide⁶, and Chlorpyrifos⁷-- used per square mile⁸.

B. Department of Pesticide Regulation Data: Geographically Specific Information

However, while the CalEnviroScreen data listed above is certainly helpful and reflective of the air quality concerns that residents regularly report in La Viña, it most likely does not accurately

³ 1,3 Dichloropropene. <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-09/documents/1-3-dichloropropene.pdf>

⁴ RED Fact Sheet: Methylthiocarbamate Salts - Metam Sodium/Potassium and MITC, US Environmental Protection Agency Office of Pesticide Programs. July 10, 2008.

https://www3.epa.gov/pesticides/chem_search/reg_actions/reregistration/fs_G-56_10-Jul-08.pdf

⁵ Chlorothalonil-- toxicity, side effects, diseases, and environmental impacts, Pesticides.News. December 7, 2017.

<https://www.pesticides.news/2017-12-07-chlorothalonil-toxicity-side-effects-diseases-and-environmental-impacts.html>

⁶ "Hydrogen cyanamide* is used in agriculture as a plant growth regulator and is applied to many deciduous plants to stimulate uniform budbreak after dormancy, resulting in uniform flowering and maturity. Hydrogen cyanamide is highly toxic, and adverse health effects from contact include severe irritation and ulceration of the eyes, skin, and respiratory tract (1,2). The substance also inhibits aldehyde dehydrogenase and can produce acetaldehyde syndrome (e.g., vomiting, parasympathetic hyperactivity, dyspnea, hypotension, and confusion) when exposure coincides with alcohol use." Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report: April 29, 2005. Update: Hydrogen Cyanamide-- Related Illnesses-- Italy 2002-2004. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5416a3.htm>

⁷ "California Acts to Prohibit Chlorpyrifos Pesticide," Barnum, Alex and Fadipe, Charlotte. California Environmental Protection Agency. May 8, 2019. Accessed via:

<https://calepa.ca.gov/2019/05/08/california-acts-to-prohibit-chlorpyrifos-pesticide/>

⁸ CalEnviroScreen 3.0, California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. Accessed September 2019 at <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30>



reflect the unique challenges that the community faces *within* a census tract that they share with differently situated communities. For example, across Highway 99 from La Viña in the same census tract lies Madera Ranchos, a predominantly white and upper-middle class community that is also surrounded by agricultural land uses, yet faces significantly less pesticide exposure.

According to DPR data,⁹ which presents a more localized picture of pesticide exposure by utilizing data from pesticide use reports, residents in La Vina are consistently exposed to more pesticides than their neighbors in Madera Ranchos. DPR's data regarding the poundage of pesticides applied each year to the La Viña township consistently hovers around 1 million pounds per year (ranging from 888,088 lbs to 1,098,307 lbs in recent years)¹⁰ while the data corresponding to their neighbors in Madera Ranchos' tends to hover around 300,000 pounds per year (ranging from 245,936 lbs to 370,672 in recent years)¹¹. As a result, depending on the year, La Viña as a township is applied with anywhere between 2.5 and 4.3 times more pesticides than Madera Ranchos, an alarming racial and economic disparity not represented by the census tract data.

DPR data also includes a list of the 10 most heavily applied pesticides in each township section. In La Viña, toxic chemicals such as 1,3 Dichloropropene, Chloripyrifos, Glyphosate, and Hydrogen Cyanamide appear on these lists among other harmful pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides.

As a result, it is no wonder that, at our community meetings with La Viña residents each month, community leaders share with us stories about community health concerns that they believe stem from environmental impacts including air quality. They reinforce that these issues are of utmost concern and a primary priority for their community, and have repeatedly brought up how nearly each household in the community is plagued by asthma, cancer, and other potentially lethal health concerns. For instance, one resident shared, "this issue [of air quality] is a top priority for us. Because if you look around our community, just about every family is directly affected by asthma. If it's not the kids that have asthma, then it's the parents, or the grandparents. Everyone here has or knows someone who has asthma or some other condition."

III. Community Capacity and Commitment for Involvement in AB617

⁹ Tracking California, Public Health Institute. Agricultural Pesticide Mapping Tool. Accessed September 2019 from www.trackingcalifornia.org/pesticides/pesticide-mapping-tool.

¹⁰ DPR time series for Township #20M12S17E

¹¹ DPR time series for Township #20M11S19E



Despite the challenges, disparate air quality concerns, and health hazards that this community faces, it is a vibrant and cohesive community of hard-working families who are committed to improving the place they call home.

A dedicated community group of about 40 La Viña residents who have been working with our organization for several years recently succeeded in pushing Madera County to invest in their community for the first time in decades, achieving long-needed road repairs and the establishment of a four-person resident committee that holds working meetings with the County each month to discuss the path forward on community priorities.

In addition to our organization, Self Help Enterprises has a long-standing partnership with and presence in the community. Self Help Enterprises developed a multi-family housing apartment complex and a subdivision of single family homes in the community decades ago, and continues to regularly partner with the community on an ongoing basis for the operation and maintenance of a community center as well as for local, regional, and statewide advocacy work.

Given the unique needs for air monitoring and the capacity and commitment of residents to be involved in the creation of a pollution reduction plan, our organization hopes that the SJVAPCD and CARB will take this community into consideration as a recipient of the resources and programming AB617 has to offer. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions. Once again, we thank you for the opportunity to collaborate in developing localized solutions to air quality concerns in the most affected communities, and we look forward to discussing solutions for La Viña further.

Sincerely,

Madeline Harris
Policy Advocate

Community List of Demands to Improve Air Quality in La Viña

1. Immediately institute a 1 mile buffer zone around the community to provide distance between the fields and the community. Leverage the Madera County land fallowing program (a local component of SGMA implementation) to incentivize or require growers surrounding the community to fallow the land adjacent to the community.
2. Urgently implement pesticide reduction strategies. 1 million pounds per year (in the township surrounding La Viña) is just too much! Regulate shifts to a more sustainable and agroecological way of growing that requires fewer pesticides. It doesn't have to be this way.
3. CARB and the San Joaquin Valley Regional Pollution Control District must select La Viña as an AB617 community next year.
4. The Madera County Ag Commissioner must come into compliance with CA Code section 6432(a) and not approve Notices of Intent near sensitive land uses where substantial adverse environmental impacts may occur.
 - a. Compliance with these requirements should then, in effect, prohibit the use of all restricted materials in the area surrounding La Vina (DPR township # 20M12S17E).
5. The Madera County Ag Commissioner must also affirmatively and proactively investigate possible pesticide drift, rather than depending solely on a complaint-driven process. Other agencies (including CARB) should mandate, support, and fund this proactive enforcement. (CARB can fund pesticide-drift catching technology and staff time for ag commissioners to routinely check for pesticide drift in ag-adjacent communities, especially during timeframes relevant to NOIs). Investigation results and NOIs must also be immediately, publicly posted in English and Spanish (and/or any other relevant languages where other communities in the County are concerned).
6. Prohibit the use of crop dusters/aerial application in the township surrounding La Viña (and require growers surrounding La Viña to instead apply pesticides from tractors or using other emissions-mitigating methods) to prevent drift when it is windy. (The agricultural commissioner should also inspect the tractors used for pesticide application, because residents report that many tractors used for pesticide application have open cabins, exposing workers to toxins while applying.)
7. The Air District must immediately and permanently ban agricultural burning and domestic garbage burning, and enforce that ban through proactive inspection/investigation (*not* just complaint-driven). (For example, the air district should install and regularly check monitors in La Viña, and investigate proactively and contemporaneously, according to incoming monitor data. They should also go to the site in question *immediately* upon receiving a call to find the source of the burn in order to enforce this ban on burning.) Additionally, the air district should conduct robust outreach in the community to make complaint numbers/hotlines widely known and available for when burning incidents occur.

8. Better monitor and track bus, truck vehicle, and ag equipment emissions, and work with the community to identify and implement solutions as soon as possible.
9. CARB and the air district must commit to collaborating with Madera County and La Viña residents to prioritize this community for clean mobility funding (ie STEP, ATP, and Bikeway Incentives Grant funds).
10. CARB, OCAP, DPR, SJVAPCD, Madera County Ag Commissioner, and Madera County staff must agree to convene in the community in three months to bring updates on their work to meet follow through on these community demands and discuss additional next steps.



Tuesday August 11, 2020

Division Chief Office of Community Air Protection
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
1990 E. Gettysburg Ave.
Fresno, CA 93716
Attn: AB617

Dear AB 617 Community Selection Committee,

Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability is pleased to support the nomination of the community of Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region as an AB 617 community for year 3. Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability has been working diligently with the local leadership to address environmental justice concerns, particularly through transportation modes that affect disadvantaged communities in Kern County.

The Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region is at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley at the base of the Tehachapi mountain range, which effectively traps air pollution causing serious local air quality problems. Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability is committed to improving public health and safety by constructing infrastructure improvements that reduce air pollution to help the region meet clean air mandates. Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability is willing to partner with the community to identify opportunities to tackle and find localized solutions to develop and deploy strategies that work to reduce toxic air contaminants, fugitive dust, industrial pollution and many other issues caused by regional and localized sources of pollution.

We write this letter to express our full support for the communities of Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region to be selected for the Third-year implementation of the AB617 Community Air Protection Program. We are not alone in this recommendation. The San Joaquin Valley AB617 Environmental Justice Steering Committee (SJV-AB617-EJ-SC) ranked Arvin-Lamont as the number one area in the Rural category in the nomination document they submitted to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD). This nomination was the result of a thorough analysis of indicators that included Population Characteristics, Regional and local air pollution; health data as well as the capacity from community-based organizations that is necessary to successfully engage with residents, the Air District and CARB in the AB617 CAPP process.



There is already vetted and reproducible data suggesting that the South Kern Region is highly affected by the regional air pollution as well as significant factors that contribute to the pollution such as local large scale agricultural practices, concentrated warehouse distribution centers, neighborhood oil and gas development as well as other factors.

Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability is excited for the opportunity to progress our partnerships with the Air District and community to strategize effective reductions in fugitive dust that will improve air quality in our Valley and move toward attainment of state and federal air quality standards.

Sincerely,

Jasmene del Aguila
Policy Advocate
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

Monday, July 28, 2020

Division Chief Office of Community Air Protection
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814

San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization
4747 North First Street, Suite 140
Fresno, CA 93726

RE: Support for City of Arvin for AB 617 Community Selection for year 3

Dear AB 617 Community Selection Committee:

The San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization (SJVCEO) is pleased to offer our enthusiastic support for the nomination of the City of Arvin as a third year AB 617 community. As an organization, we are a strong advocate for rural and hard-to-reach communities and the City of Arvin is no exception. This region is working tirelessly to make strides in the areas of energy efficiency, renewable energy, mitigating the negative effects of climate change, and improving air quality for their residents. We believe that public agencies are uniquely positioned to influence the communities around them, and Arvin has filled this leadership role among similarly positioned local agencies in this region. A selection for the third year implementation of the AB 617 Community Air Protection Program would bolster Arvin's positive influence.

The SJVCEO is a regionally based nonprofit committed to improving the quality of life for rural Californians. We do this through partnerships with local public agencies, utility companies, other community-based organizations, and leaders in education and business. In recent years, we have had the honor of working with City of Arvin to provide technical assistance in the form of energy benchmarking, project management support as well as expanding community access to utility programs. Together, the SJVCEO and City of Arvin worked to benchmark all 33 of Arvin's utility accounts within the Energy Star Portfolio Manager (ESPM) tool. ESPM is an online database used to track energy usage, energy use intensity of Arvin's facilities, as well as Green House Gas Emissions. Recently, we have worked with the City of Arvin on energy efficiency projects such as, the completion of LED retrofits in all of Arvin's city-owned buildings. This project alone saved nearly 80,000 kWh per year which is the equivalent to taking 12 passenger vehicles off the road. The SJVCEO and City of Arvin continue our work together to identify and execute opportunities such as this.

The San Joaquin Valley has had a decades-long struggle with improving air quality due to the geographical features of the region. Furthermore, the City of Arvin is at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley at the base of the Tehachapi mountain range, which effectively traps air pollution causing serious local air quality problems. City of Arvin is committed to improving public health and safety by constructing infrastructure improvements that reduce air pollution to help the region meet clean air mandates.

We write this letter to express our full support for City of Arvin to be selected for the third year implementation of the AB 617 Community Air Protection Program. We are not alone in this recommendation. The San Joaquin Valley AB 617 Environmental Justice Steering Committee (SVJ-AB617-EJ-SC) ranked Arvin-Lamont as the number one area in the Rural category in the nomination document they submitted to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SVJAPCD). This nomination was the result of a thorough analysis of indicators that included population characteristics, regional and local air pollution; health data as well as the capacity from community-based organizations that is necessary to successfully engage with residents, the Air District and CARB in the AB 617 CAPP process.

Given the vast benefits from this project, the SJVCEO is honored to continue our partnership with the City of Arvin to support this meaningful and much needed work. Thank you for your consideration, and please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Courtney Kalashian".

Courtney Kalashian
Executive Director