

Community Air Protection Program Blueprint 2.0

Draft Expanded Concepts Outline

CARB staff will strive to ensure the next version of the Program Blueprint, Blueprint 2.0, is concise and structured in a way that helps users easily find, understand, and use information about protecting air quality in their community through implementation of [Assembly Bill 617 \(AB 617\)](#).

This expanded draft outline is intended to provide a high-level guide of topics and associated questions a community member may ask that each section aims to answer. This draft outline is significantly informed by [the People's Blueprint](#), discussions of the People's Blueprint with the [AB 617 Consultation Group](#), and public comment and input received to date. It does not reflect all content that will be included in Blueprint 2.0 and is intended to serve as an iterative tool for ongoing discussion and public engagement.

1. Vision for the Program – Equity and EJ in Practice

- a) What is equity and environmental justice in the context of air quality?
- b) What are the root causes of environmental injustice in air quality?
- c) How is the AB 617 Community Air Protection Program (Program) rooted in equity and environmental justice?
- d) How does the U.S. Civil Rights Act of 1964 and California Government Code section 11135 apply to the Program?
- e) How does AB 617 aim to address communities disproportionately impacted by air quality?
- f) How is the Program structured to pursue more equitable outcomes?
- g) How is the People's Blueprint being used to advance equity?
- h) What are the roles of CARB and air districts in addressing environmental injustice?
 - i. What is CARB doing to operationalize equity and EJ throughout the agency?
 - ii. How are air districts uplifting principles of equity and EJ through AB 617?

2. AB 617 Background and Summary

- a) What is the history and purpose of AB 617?
 - i. Need for focus on local scale/community air protection
- b) What are the primary elements of AB 617?
 - i. Community emissions reduction programs
 - ii. Community-level air quality monitoring
 - iii. Accelerated retrofit of pollution controls on industrial facilities
 - iv. Enhanced emissions reporting
 - v. Increased penalty provisions
 - vi. Grants to local community groups

- c) What does AB 617 require of CARB?
 - i. How do CARB regulations and tools help reduce air pollution in communities?
 - Include Criteria and Toxics Reporting (CTR) Regulation, enhanced penalties, expedited Best Available Retrofit Control Technologies (BARCT), Technology Clearinghouse
 - ii. What is CARB doing to reduce air pollution across California through the Program?
 - iii. What are the current and future regulatory efforts taking place?
 - iv. How can you engage in other CARB program processes?
- d) What does AB 617 require of Air Districts?
 - i. How do Air District regulations, enforcement programs, grants and incentives, outreach tools help reduce emissions and exposure to air pollution in communities?
 - ii. How have Air District programs changed since the adoption of AB 617?
 - Highlight Air District best practices
 - iii. What tools are available to enhance public transparency related to Air District implementation of AB 617 requirements?
 - iv. How can concerns be addressed through measures that rely on collaboration with partners who have relevant authorities?

3. Reimagining the Program to Benefit More Communities

- a) Why is CARB reimagining the Program?
- b) What did we learn from the first few years of the program?
- c) How will new and updated Program strategies address the needs of more communities disproportionately impacted by poor air quality?
- d) How can Community Air Grants support communities in writing their own Community Emissions Reduction Program (CERP), or other community-identified air quality plans/projects?
- e) What have we learned from the seven types of strategies contained in the current Blueprint; how have they helped address air quality priorities in a community?
- f) How can other CERP strategies such as community-focused enforcement, help address air quality priorities in a community?
- g) How can Community Air Protection Program incentives be further leveraged to address community priorities?

4. AB 617 Funding and Opportunities for Participatory Budgeting

- a) What is the legal authority for funding for the Program?
- b) How is AB 617 funded?
- c) What are the funding categories?
 - i. Implementation, Incentives, Community Air Grants
 - ii. How can each funding category be spent?
- d) What is participatory budgeting and what opportunities are there to use it in this Program?

5. Working with CARB and Your Air District

- a) What is the role of the community in AB 617?
- b) What sources is CARB responsible for regulating?
- c) What is CARB's oversight authority?
- d) What is CARB's role in AB 617?
 - i. How can you contact your CARB community liaison and other CARB representatives?
- e) What is the Air District's role in AB 617?
 - i. How can you contact the Air District?
- f) What sources are Air Districts responsible for regulating?
- g) How can community members raise air quality issues and how do Air Districts and CARB process and respond?
 - i. Environmental complaint systems
 - ii. Civil rights complaint systems

6. Building Capacity

- a) What does it mean to build capacity in the context of this Program for community members, businesses, CARB, and Air Districts?
- b) What does AB 617 require CARB and/or Air Districts do to help build capacity in the community for participating in the program?
- c) How do Air Districts and CARB support community capacity building?
- d) How are Community Air Grants used to support community priorities and build capacity to participate in the Program?
- e) What skills/knowledge can support communities to be active partners in the Program and where can you access those resources?
- f) What skills/knowledge do agencies need to be active partners in the Program and where can you learn what agencies are doing to build their capacity?

7. Engaging with Partners in the Community Air Protection Program

- a) What is meaningful engagement?
- b) Why is partnership and collaboration essential for the Program?
- c) Who can be partners and for what concerns/interests?
- d) What is a partnership agreement and what are the advantages of entering into one?
- e) What does AB 617 require with respect to engagement in the development of a CERP? Of a CAMP?
- f) To what degree does AB 617 support community-led action, including providing authority or funding?
- g) What are the best practices for meaningful engagement in the development of CERPs and CAMPs?
 - i. How have CARB and Air Districts provided resources to help fund engagement activities?
 - ii. What are best practices to avoid engagement-fatigue?

- iii. Who should you reach out to if engagement is not meeting community needs?
- iv. When should engagement begin?
- v. What are best practices to engage with partners, build transparency and accountability, and maintain partner engagement over time?

8. Understanding the Community Nomination and Selection Process for an Air-District Convened Community Steering Committee and CERP/CAMP

- a) What does AB 617 require in terms of community selection?
- b) How does AB 617 define a community and what is it getting nominated for?
- c) What are the minimum criteria for being nominated that are required by law to be met? What other criteria does CARB recommend?
- d) Who can nominate a community and what is the nomination process?
- e) How do Air Districts nominate communities?
- f) Is there a list of communities that have been nominated in the past and, if so, how is it used?
- g) What are some tips for nominating a community for an Air-District-convened Community Steering Committee and CERP/CAMP?
- h) Can a CAMP and CERP be developed at the same time?
- i) What is CARB's role in selecting communities for an Air-District-convened CSC and CERP/CAMP?
- j) What is the role of the CARB Board?
- k) How long does this process take?
- l) What are the benefits of being selected for an Air-District convened CSC?
- m) What other strategies or opportunities are available to improve air quality in your community if your community is not selected for an Air-District-convened CSC and CERP/CAMP?

9. Forming a Community Steering Committee (CSC) in an Air-District Convened Process

- a) What does AB 617 require of an Air District in terms of developing a CERP?
- b) What is a CSC and what is its role in the Program?
- c) Who should be represented in the membership of a CSC?
- d) How does outreach to potential CSC members happen?
- e) What is an appropriate size for the CSC?

10. CSC Governance

- a) What is meant by governance and why is it important?
- b) How is the governing structure decided, and who decides it?
 - i. Determining governing structure
 - ii. CSCs and the Brown Act
- c) What should be included in a CSC Charter?
 - i. Include a leadership structure that puts community at the forefront of decision making, at a minimum, in identifying community concerns and priority actions to respond to and resolve concerns

- ii. Documents how decisions will be made
- iii. Define voting procedures
- iv. Specify key moments when CSC declares approval or disapproval
- v. Define what constitutes a quorum
- vi. Define onboarding process for new members
- vii. Addresses group membership, alternative members and length of service
- viii. Define how new members may be added, removed for cause – define cause, need for community majority to be maintained
- ix. How disputes / conflicts will be addressed
- x. Address role of third-party facilitator
- xi. Define how items will be added to meeting agendas, and how and when outside presenters will be brought in
- xii. Define expectations for when and how information is distributed and by what deadlines for meeting announcement, agendas, materials
- xiii. Strong conflict-of-interest policy
- xiv. Distinguishes voting from non-voting members
- xv. Describes function of work teams or subcommittees and relationship to full CSC
- xvi. Describes roles and function of CSC Host and CSC Co-Leads, CSC members, local Air District, CARB and third-party or Agency facilitator

11. Understanding Your Community's Air Quality

- a) What pollutants/sources exist in your community?
- b) How can you learn more about the air pollution emitted by various sources that impact your community?
- c) How can you understand the relative impact of air pollution from mobile sources and stationary sources?
- d) How can you understand the relative impact of emissions of toxic air contaminants and criteria pollutants such as particulate matter?
- e) How are pesticides regulated?
- f) How does air pollution affect you?
- g) What information and resources are available on local air quality?
- h) Where can I find information about the impacts of air pollutants on public health?
 - i. Who is responsible for determining what and how air pollutants affect public health?
- i) What other datasets, including crowdsourced community information, can help in understanding local air quality concerns?

12. Prioritizing Your Community's Air Quality Concerns

- a) What are some ways to identify, document, and communicate community air quality-related concerns?
- b) How can the concerns of the steering committee be prioritized?
- c) How can the concerns of the steering committee be reflected in a Community Air Monitoring Plan and a Community Emissions Reduction Plan?

13. Developing a Community Air Monitoring Plan

- a) What is a community air monitoring plan and what does AB 617 require be included in it?
- b) How is the CAMP developed? Who reviews it? Who implements it?
- c) What elements should be addressed in the CAMP?
- d) Can a CAMP change during implementation? Is there a process for changing the goals and objectives of a CAMP?
- e) How can the monitoring data be used?
- f) What is the difference between sensor data and regulatory data? Mobile monitoring platforms and stationary platforms?
- g) What tools exist to support community members in accessing and understanding the data?
 - i. District-maintained air quality data portals
 - ii. How to use AQView, Emission Story Maps
 - iii. Community-developed monitoring networks
- h) How have community members monitored the air using their own local equipment or set-up?
- i) How can this data be incorporated into the Statewide database?
- j) How is the progress of the CAMP monitored?

14. Developing Strategies to Reduce Emissions and Exposure to Emissions

- a) What types of strategies are required by AB 617 to be included in CERPs?
- b) What types of strategies in CERPs are effective to reduce emissions and exposure to emissions?
 - i. How can regulations be used to address air quality priorities?
 - ii. What are incentives and how can they be used to address air quality priorities?
 - How can you learn how incentives have been used in other AB 617 communities and across the state?
 - How can you use incentives to address a Community Identified Priority?
 - iii. What is enforcement and how can it be used to address air quality priorities?
 - How can you find information related to violations in your community?
 - How do you report violators in your community?
 - What is community-focused enforcement?
 - How can you get more enforcement for activities you're concerned about in your community?
 - How are the penalty funds from violators used to improve your community?
 - How can your community apply for a Supplemental Environmental Project?

- iv. How can land use strategies be used to address air quality priorities?
- c) How do the CSC's air quality priorities drive the development of strategies to reduce emissions or exposures?
- d) How should strategies be developed to support tracking and accountability?
- e) What criteria should communities consider when identifying and prioritizing strategies?
 - i. Emissions reductions, impacts of exposure reduction, cost-effectiveness, feasibility, enforceability, etc.
- f) How can Air Districts and CARB support communities in developing strategies?
- g) How can communities learn about and apply strategies used in other similar communities?
- h) How can Air Districts and CARB help communities tackle emissions and exposure reductions that are outside of their jurisdictions?

15. Writing a Community Emissions Reduction Plan

- a) What is a community emissions reduction plan (CERP) and how is it developed?
- b) Who is required to write the CERP?
- c) What does AB 617 require to be included in a CERP?
 - i. CERP must be consistent with the state strategy and include emissions reduction targets, specific reduction measures, a schedule for the implementation of measures, and an enforcement plan
 - ii. CERP must achieve emissions reductions for the location selected using cost-effective measures identified in the statewide strategy
- d) How much time do the Air District and the CSC have to develop the CERP before submitting the CERP to CARB for approval?
- e) What is the role of the CSC in writing the CERP?
- f) What are best practices for co-design or co-drafting of a CERP between Air Districts and the CSC?
- g) How long should a CERP be?
- h) Are there templates for effective CERPs?
- i) How does a CSC demonstrate support for its CERP?

16. Air District and CARB Board Action on a CERP

- a) What does AB 617 require of CARB and Air Districts in taking action on a CERP?
- b) What is the role of the CSC?
 - i. What happens if the CSC disagrees with the CERP? What actions can the CSC take?
- c) What is the typical process for getting a CERP approved?
- d) Who approves a CERP?
- e) What does AB 617 require if a CERP is not approved?
- f) How long does it take to get a CERP approved by the Air District and CARB?

17. Implementing a CERP

- a) What does AB 617 say about implementing a CERP?

- b) What does it mean to “implement” a CERP?
- c) Who implements the CERP?
- d) What are best practices for supporting meaningful involvement of the CSC in CERP implementation?
- e) How can we ensure that a CERP continues to align with the community’s priorities throughout implementation?
- f) How long does it take to implement a CERP?
- g) Can implementation begin before CARB approves the CERP?
- h) Can a CERP be revised during implementation?
- i) Can an Air District add more funding to an already approved CERP?
- j) Do CERPs need to be revised due to changes in the statewide strategy?

18. Transparency and Accountability: Tracking Results and Progress

- a) What is the monitoring period for a CERP post implementation?
- b) What in the CERP should be tracked and who is responsible for tracking?
- c) How should results and progress be tracked and reported?
- d) Where can you find information about results and progress?
 - i. What type of reporting is required of CARB and the Air Districts?
- e) How do you know the CERP is being implemented appropriately?
- f) What happens if a CERP is not meeting its targets?

19. Transitioning after Five Years of CERP Implementation

- a) What does the five-year timeline mean for CERP implementation?
- b) What does the ten-year timeline mean for monitoring CERP progress and outcomes?
- c) How can a community prepare for the end of CERP implementation?
- d) What community engagement is required of the Air District after the five year CERP implementation is complete?
- e) What is CARB’s role in transitioning the community into the next phase?