

**State of California  
Air Resources Board  
Board Item Summary**

**Item # 22-3-4: Public Meeting to Hear an Overview of  
Community Air Grants Program and 2021  
Awardees**

**Staff Recommendation:**

This is an information item only. No action is required.

**Discussion:**

Pursuant to Assembly Bill (AB) 617 (C. Garcia, Stats. of 2017) and California Health and Safety Code Section 44391.2 (d), and in support of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Community Air Protection Program, staff has selected final awardees for the Community Air Grants Program for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

AB 617 provides a new framework to improve air quality and reduce exposure to criteria air pollutants and toxic air contaminants in California communities most impacted by air pollution. Successful implementation requires a strong collaboration between CARB, the air districts, and local communities.

The Legislature appropriated funding to provide grants to community-based organizations for technical assistance and to support community participation in implementation of AB 617 through the Community Air Grants Program. The Community Air Grants Program funds community driven efforts to reduce exposure in communities most impacted by air pollution. Through AB 617, communities around the State are working together to develop and implement new strategies to measure air pollution and reduce health impacts. The Community Air Grant program builds on these efforts by funding efforts to support these new strategies. The Program funds California community-based organizations and California tribes. These grants can help awardees deepen their participation in the AB 617 process, as well as to build capacity to become active partners with government and other stakeholders to identify, evaluate, and ultimately reduce air pollution and exposure to harmful emissions in their communities.

Over the course of this grant program, a total of \$15 million has been awarded to almost 50 community-based organizations and tribal governments. For Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2020, the Legislature appropriated \$10 million for these grants. CARB released the Request for Applications for FY 2019-2020 funds and application materials on July 1, 2021. The application window for this competitive solicitation closed on October 1, 2021. CARB received 60 applications, with requested funding of just under \$15 million, indicating a clear demand for assistance beyond what is currently appropriated.

Projects funded through the grant program include community-driven air monitoring, dissemination of information on local emission sources, and development of actions to reduce air pollution in their community.

To meet the legislative directives to support community-based technical assistance and participation in AB 617 implementation, CARB intends to fund as many eligible projects as possible with the funds available to the Community Air Grants Program. Utilizing an evaluation team approach and the scoring criteria included in the published Request for Applications, staff selected 39 projects for FYI 2019-2020 grant funding. At the February 24 Board meeting, staff will present an informational update on the Community Air Grants Program and the 2021 Awardees.

**Summary and Impacts:**

Not applicable.