Community Air Protection Program Framework
Expanded Outline for Draft Concept Paper

I. PREFACE

Development of the AB 617 planning framework is still in the early stages. The draft Concept Paper provides an additional mechanism to seek continued advice and feedback to guide CARB's efforts going forward. Staff will discuss this concept paper in detail at three public summits to be held throughout California in late February. Staff will reflect comments received on this draft Concept Paper into a draft version of the required planning documents (statewide strategy and monitoring plan) to be released in May.

II. PUBLIC HEALTH IMPERATIVE FOR AB 617

While California has seen tremendous improvement in air quality, some communities still suffer greater impacts than others. It is these communities that require special attention and accelerated action. AB 617 builds on the foundation of existing air quality legislation and programs by providing additional tools to target actions in communities that bear the greatest burdens.

III. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Our outreach to-date has informed the development of the proposals in the draft Concept Paper. Based on this initial feedback, we have developed the following principles to guide overall program development and the preliminary proposals outlined in the draft Concept Paper:

- Implement community-focused actions to reduce emissions of criteria air pollutants and toxic air contaminants to improve public health in disadvantaged communities most impacted by air pollution.

- Develop a strong collaborative relationship between local community groups, air districts, CARB, and other stakeholders.

- Ensure community members have a voice and are partners in the development and implementation of all aspects of the Program.

- Ensure a robust and transparent public process, providing accountability and clear metrics for tracking progress and measuring the success of Program elements.

- Provide a strong science-based foundation to support identification of communities with the greatest cumulative exposure burdens and development of effective strategies for reducing exposure.

- Enhance the accessibility and usability of data and tools to assess air quality impacts, and develop and track localized emissions reduction programs.

- Accelerate the development and deployment of advanced air monitoring methods to support collection of enhanced community-level air monitoring data.

- Support investments to advance the deployment of the cleanest mobile and stationary source technologies within impacted communities, including a focus on zero emission technologies where feasible.

- Integrate the priorities and objectives of AB 617 with other CARB clean air and climate programs to facilitate integrated planning, leverage opportunities, and expedite action.

IV. PROGRAM ELEMENTS

AB 617 includes a suite of core elements designed to work together to achieve additional reductions and cleaner air in disadvantaged communities. CARB and local air districts each have specific roles and responsibilities and are committed to working closely together to implement the program. The draft Concept Paper outlines the proposed process for identifying impacted communities, statewide strategies to reduce emissions of criteria air pollutants and toxic air contaminants, as well as proposed criteria for development of community-specific Action Plans and community air monitoring campaigns. These elements are designed to meet AB 617's requirements to develop a statewide strategy and statewide air monitoring plan for CARB Board consideration by October 1, 2018.

V. IDENTIFICATION AND SELECTION OF COMMUNITIES

We are proposing a strong science-based foundation to help assess and identify disadvantaged communities that experience the highest cumulative exposure. This will include bringing in the knowledge and expertise of both air districts and communities. Assessment and identification of the most heavily burdened communities will be based on a weight of evidence approach using a compilation of data sources and factors characterizing cumulative exposure to criteria air pollutants and toxic air contaminants within disadvantaged communities. These include:
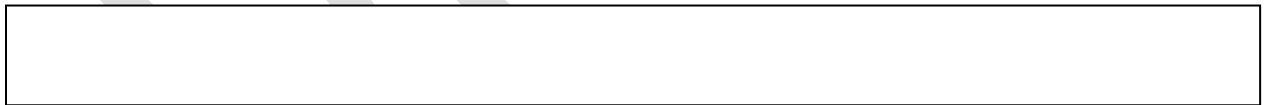
- Measured concentrations of criteria air pollutants and toxic air contaminants.

- Sensitive receptors (e.g., schools, day care), exposed population, and proximity to mobile and stationary emissions sources of concern, including freeways.

- Density of contributing emissions sources and magnitude of emissions within the community.

- Public health indicators such as asthma rates and cardiovascular disease.

- Socio-economic factors such as poverty levels, unemployment rates, and linguistic isolation.

> *CARB staff is seeking specific input and recommendations on factors and data sources that should be considered in identifying priority communities for deployment of air monitoring and/or development of action plans.*

VI. STRATEGIES TO REDUCE EMISSIONS AND EXPOSURE

As part of AB 617, CARB must identify available strategies for reducing emissions. Existing air quality planning efforts such as the California State Implementation Plan Strategy, Mobile Source Strategy, California Sustainable Freight Action Plan, Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy, and Scoping Plan, along with local air district programs will be the foundation for further reducing emissions and exposure within communities. The community Action Plans required under AB 617 will then identify additional community-level emissions reduction strategies. When overlaid with targeted local actions, AB 617 provides a comprehensive and coordinated approach by leveraging existing authorities and control mechanisms with innovative new strategies tailored to individual community needs. A multi-layered strategy to reduce mobile and stationary sources at the local level should include:

- Regulatory actions along with focused enforcement to ensure effective implementation of both new and existing regulations within specific communities.

- Coordinated incentive funding to provide investments in cleaner technologies, along with needed infrastructure and other complementary elements to support complete and sustainable technology solutions.

- Approaches to alter or mitigate the impacts of activities that are often concentrated within the most burdened communities such as requirements for alternate trucks routes or green zones.

- Tools and resources to support education and advocacy with local government agencies on land use planning.

VII. CRITERIA FOR COMMUNITY ACTION PLANS

The community emission reduction programs (Action Plans) required by AB 617 are designed to map out new strategies to reduce emissions and are therefore key drivers for reducing elevated exposure burdens experienced by residents of impacted communities. Setting emission reduction targets based on health-protective air quality goals and establishing timelines to meet those goals will be central to the success of these plans, along with clear metrics for tracking progress to provide accountability and transparency and ensure Action Plans are on the right path. Action Plans must also be developed through a robust public process involving all stakeholders and include meaningful engagement and partnerships with community members. These community partnerships will be essential for providing the strong community engagement

envisioned by AB 617. Finally, successful plans must include a public process for ongoing review and updates involving both air districts and CARB.

VII.A.   Health-based Air Quality Goals

Cumulative health impacts are driven by multiple pollutants within a community, and our understanding of the interactions between pollutants and the potential for synergistic health impacts is still an emerging field of research. We are therefore considering a combination of individual criteria air pollutant and air toxics air quality goals to provide the foundation for effective and meaningful Action Plan development.

CARB staff is seeking specific input and recommendations on air quality goals that should be considered.

VII.B.   Action Plan Elements

- Emission reduction targets including identification of contributing sources
- Specific reduction strategies
- Implementation schedule
- Enforcement plan

CARB staff will work with air districts during development of Action Plans to identify appropriate CARB actions to complement air district strategies. We also plan to establish a minimum set of metrics to be included in the Action Plans and subsequent annual progress reports. These metrics will assess and track emissions reductions, program implementation, and additional benefits or costs of Action Plan implementation.

CARB staff is seeking specific input and recommendations for the types of metrics that should be included in the Action Plans.

VII.C.   Community Engagement

Air districts should work with selected communities to form a community steering committee made up of local residents, business, government, and other stakeholders. This community steering committee will focus on: understanding community issues; developing the Action Plans, including incentive funding investments; and tracking progress.

CARB staff is seeking specific input and recommendations on the structure, makeup, and roles and responsibilities of the community steering committee for Action Plans.

VIII. CRITERIA FOR COMMUNITY AIR MONITORING

Community-level air monitoring plays an important role in supporting effective action by providing data to characterize air quality impacts, support actions to reduce emissions, and track progress. Under AB 617, CARB must prepare an air monitoring plan by October 1, 2018 that evaluates the availability and effectiveness of air monitoring methodologies and existing community monitoring networks. In addition to these core requirements, a number of other activities are essential to support the continued evolution of community air monitoring and successful implementation of AB 617. CARB staff will develop criteria and best practices for conducting community air monitoring; evaluate and advance air monitoring technologies; provide resources to support air districts and communities; and make air monitoring data broadly accessible, transparent, and relevant.

VIII.A.   Community Air Monitoring Objectives and Methods

Community air monitoring campaigns can support a variety of objectives. These objectives will vary depending upon the needs of each community, but can include:

- Identifying emissions sources and detecting the importance of individual sources.
- Observing trends and characterizing changes in emissions over time.
- Providing real-time air quality information at the community level.
- Establishing mechanisms to alert communities of air quality impacts from unintended releases.
- Assessing the representativeness of the regulatory air monitoring network.
- Supporting enforcement activities.
- Tracking progress towards meeting health-based goals.

Organizations designing and implementing community air monitoring campaigns should select methods that provide sufficient quality, quantity, specificity, and sensitivity to meet their specific air monitoring objectives.

VIII.B.   Community Air Monitoring Plan Elements

We are proposing 13 elements of community air monitoring plans to guide the process of planning air monitoring campaigns. The elements are intended to establish practices that are flexible enough to apply to a wide variety of air monitoring methods, yet robust enough to ensure that the data collected by each individual community air monitoring campaigns are appropriate to support sound decision-making.

- Engage community members
- Develop community-specific problem statements
- Define air monitoring objectives

- Define data quality objectives
- Establish roles and responsiblities
- Select equipment and monitoring methods
- Determine monitoring locations and sampling frequencies
- Develop quality control procedures
- Develop work plans for conducting field measurements
- Manage and validate data
- Specify process for evaluating effectiveness
- Analyze and interpret data
- Communicate results

VIII.C.   Community Engagement

Air districts should work with selected communities to form a community steering committee made up of local residents, business, government, and other stakeholders, along with academic researchers as appropriate. This community steering committee will focus on: understanding community issues; developing community air monitoring plans, and determining data display and interpretation needs.

> *CARB staff is seeking specific input and recommendations on the structure, makeup, and roles and responsibilities of the community steering committee for air monitoring.*

VIII.D.   Data Communication and Accessibility

Improving communication and information sharing with communities is a vital component of AB 617. A fundamental principle is that community air monitoring data must be publicly stored and accessible, and not stored or accessed solely on proprietary systems. To increase transparency and help make results more meaningful for the public, we plan to leverage existing community and air district data systems and websites and create new systems as needed to collect, store, and analyze community-level air quality data.

> *CARB staff is seeking specific input and recommendations on the various uses that the statewide data portal should support.*

VIII.E.   Annual Reporting for Community Air Monitoring Campaigns

IX. ADDITIONAL IMPLEMENTATION ELEMENTS

A number of additional elements are designed to complement requirements for community monitoring and emission reduction efforts to support effective implementation of AB 617. Robust public outreach and collaboration with local community groups, air districts, CARB, and other stakeholders will help develop partnerships to ensure actions are community-focused. These efforts, in addition to other implementation steps, are already underway. These include funding to support

community assistance grants and early emission reductions, developing best practices documents and other community resources, as well as enhanced emissions reporting and development of a clearinghouse for advanced control technologies.

IX.A.   Further Public Engagement

IX.B.   Community Funding

- Incentive Funding to Support Early Community Action

- Community Assistance Grants

IX.C.   Statewide System of Annual Emissions Reporting

IX.D.   Technology Clearinghouse

IX.E.   Resources for Best Practices on Outreach, Land Use, and Transportation Strategies

IX.F.   Resources for Community Air Monitoring

CARB staff is committed to providing technical support and consultation to communities to ensure that community air monitoring campaigns produce meaningful results. We will make technical resources such as best management practices, guidance, and sensor evaluation reports available through the community air monitoring resource center.

- Review Air Monitoring Technology and Existing Networks
- Evaluate Air Sensors
- Leverage Advanced Air Monitoring Technology
- Improve Existing Technologies and Help Bring New Technologies to Market
- Support Community Science
- Provide Air Sensors to Air Districts

> *CARB staff is seeking specific input and recommendations for the types of information and resources that are needed to support community science.*