

September 21, 2021 Consultation Group Meeting Notes, DRAFT

Dr. Balmes - Intro

- Need input from Consultation Group (CG) to implement AB617
- Introduced the People's Blueprint (PBP) and outlined PBP history and process
 - Way to move forward and focusing revisions on environmental justice
 - Not final Program Blueprint, but very important and welcomed input
- There will be public workshops regarding Program Blueprint and expressed appreciation for the Writers' Group

Deldi Reyes

- Thanks Writers' Group
- 8/12/21 Meeting Recap (see slide 10 of [presentation](#))
- Are there high-level ideas from last meeting that are not captured? Post in chat.

Ms. Margaret Gordon

- Budget item was about participatory budgeting, not just budget transparency
 - Deldi Reyes - agrees, and is in the notes
 - Liliana Nunez - posted the [notes](#) to the chat

Deldi Reyes

- Recap of agenda-setting meeting (see [notes](#))

Ariel Ambruster

- Introduced breakout rooms to have CG members choose 1-2 representatives from each caucus for agenda setting meetings.
 - CG - EJ/Communities
 - CG - Air Districts
 - CG - Business/Industry/Ag
 - CG - Academic/Science
 - Public Plenary
- No CARB staff present in breakout rooms, but can help

DISCUSSION AFTER BREAKOUT ROOMS

Deldi Reyes:

- Went over Bagley-Keene rules. Explained idea of caucus and then the limitations of Zoom, and the issues of Bagley-Keene.
- Acknowledge frustration. Trying to create space for CG members interact with each other, by having them figure out how they'd like to be represented in setting an agenda with us.

Samir Sheikh

- AD group will need to have flexibility will coordinate among themselves.

Christine Wolfe

- Can coordinate amongst themselves to make sure they are represented.

Ms. Margaret Gordon

- Confusing setup, unsure of purpose of breaking out into groups

Luis Olmedo:

- Agrees that it wasn't very clear. Misunderstanding about the co-lead model. "Caucus" may not have been the correct format, or the intent of the last meeting.
- Dilutes influence of the EJ members. Go back to the drawing Board and find way to achieve equity and meet Bagley-Keene.

Jessie Marquez

- Confused about the word "Caucus" being used, supports Ms. Margaret Gordon and Luis Olmedo's comments.

Deldi Reyes:

- Reminded that the term "caucus" was raised in the 8/31 agenda setting meeting.
- Purpose of CG is to provide range a of views to CARB.
- Asked Ms. Margaret Gordon if it was okay to drop the caucus idea.

Ms. Margaret Gordon

- Intended to suggest a more "co-lead" type body, is fine with dropping the caucus idea.

Abigail May

- A meeting that is separate from a noticed meeting is compliant with Bagley-Keene if less than a majority of members are discussing agenda and the only focus on logistics and non-substantive discussions

Deldi Reyes

- On 8/31 we had an agenda setting meeting. The invitation was sent to every CG member well in advance and not everyone showed. If we would have reached a quorum, we would have had to ask people to leave the meeting to meet Bagley-Keene. We are trying to avoid that by having you all select members to attend the agenda setting meetings going forward.
- How would the EJ community like to be represented? Luis Olmedo and Ms. Margaret Gordon will you all deliberate amongst yourselves?

Ms. Margaret Gordon

- Doesn't speak for everyone but has no problem to discuss among themselves.

Luis Olmedo

- Lots of terminology, concerns about removing us from coordination or facilitation where CARB plays key role in the dialogue.
- Concern about CARB distancing themselves from the PBP.
- Believes a co-lead model could replace the "caucus" model.

Martha Dina Arguello

- [South LA] uses a co-lead model, but she passes on commenting on the "caucus" idea

Luis Olmedo

- No consensus from EJ and will take it offline to discuss to bring it back.

Michael Jerrett

- Heard concerns that caucus model could diminish EJ vote.
- In the future would be good to explore how to have smaller group discussion for agenda setting.

PEOPLE'S BLUEPRINT INTRODUCTION AND DISCUSSION

Ariel Ambruster

- Time check, we're a bit behind. Should we discuss the process or the Blueprint?

Deidre Sanders

- If we skip process, then when will we talk about it?

Liliana Nunez went over the [Community Air Protection Blueprint update process](#) quickly.

- PBP kicks off CARB staff's work to update the Community Air Protection Blueprint.
- Will leverage Consultation Group space to discuss contents of the PBP. CARB is looking to have consensus recommendations from the Consultation Group on
 - what we keep,
 - what we revise and
 - what we do not include in the Community Air Protection Blueprint.
- In Spring of 2022, CARB staff will release a draft outline that will identify which elements of the PBP and the existing Blueprint we intend to include in the Community Air Protection Program Blueprint update.
- Will go through a public process and public comment period before going to CARB Board in Fall/Winter of 2022.

John Balmes

- Introduced the PBP Writer's Group. Lots of hard work by the group.
- Will not have time for much discussion for detailed discussion on PBP. This will not be the only meeting.
- Will a member of the Writer's group introduce the PBP?

Luis Olmedo introduced the PBP to CG

- Reflects learning from last 4 years.
- Many issues being faced today are from lack of legislative guidance. Both CARB and AD have statutory requirements.
- PBP should be viewed as a document that helps address inequities. EJ groups and advocates are trying to help government have better representation for the people that haven't had equitable voice.
- PBP is a good start but did not like the disclaimer on the front of the PBP.

Deldi Reyes

- Give thumbs up if you have read the PBP (only a few were raised).

Michael Jerrett

- Can priority emails be sent separately if it is about a task that needs to be completed?

Deldi Reyes

- Will do 2 things. 1) add in the subject line "Request". 2) have all requests listed in meeting invitations.

Ms. Margaret Gordon

- Did an email get sent out about the poll EV?

Michelle Byars

- yes, it did

Ms. Margaret Gordon

- Need tutorial on PolLEV. Feels uncomfortable that new technology is being sprung on members that are not tech savvy.

Liliana Nunez

- Will reach out before adding new technology and will offer training for CG members.

Deldi Reyes tried to address the issue.

Chanell Fletcher

- We can follow up with Ms. Margaret Gordon after the meeting
- Taking space and making space for less vocal members are of the CG
- PolLEV is one way for more people to be engaged anonymously

Jessie Marquez

- Appreciates quick legal response today. Wanted a legal opinion from CARB in past but has not received it.

Deldi Reyes

- We can answer legal questions—they should go to OCAP, not legal. Asked Jessie to send an email.

Chanell Fletcher

- We will follow up with Jessie on this offline to get to PBP discussion

Ariel Ambruster

- Moving forward with PBP discussion

POLLEV ACTIVITY (see [PE report](#))

DISCUSSION

Gustavo Aguirre Jr.

- Does CARB have any high-level impressions?

Deldi Reyes

- This place is for CG to discuss but will give high-level preliminary impressions.
- Likes chapter about equity, participatory government
- Training section is needed.

- Some elements that need to be addressed because they are outside of existing authority. We need to bring people to the same place of understanding around what we can do given existing statute.

John Balmes

- Looking for major themes and concerns
- He liked chapter one. The way it sets the tone of the document, likes equity focus from the start

Will Barrett

- Gives perspective from community on early implementation of the program.
- Sections on community readiness and advice for future communities are helpful.
- Offering examples of success also helpful.

Martha Dina Arguello

- Missing a conversation about equitable transitions. Focus on BARCT but not on innovative and alternatives. It's a false choice between jobs and environment.

Michael Jerrett

- Good start but seems backwards looking about legislation and problems with implementation.
- Looking to the future we need to confront climate change should be addressed, especially the impacts in DACs and those not in AB 617.
- Lack of State resources. What kind of funding will be needed for real success in the future needs to be discussed.

Deidre Sanders

- Combine last two comments: innovation and investment in EJ communities. Businesses and communities are both risk adverse need to work to embrace new and unvetted ideas.
- Market-based incentives; where do you go if you don't want to be a pilot and don't want public funding?

Jessie Marquez

- The section on governance focuses on problems with CSCs. That's not the biggest problem, it was holding the ADs accountable for violating the law and the Blueprint guidance.
- Arbitration and mediation would be valuable, but what about legal violations?
- Participatory budgeting and funding. Make sure funds are not diverted to other AD functions. And make sure ADs listen to communities' requests for projects and monitoring.
- CARB needs to request more money from legislation in collaboration with EJ groups.

Jack Broadbent

- Comprehensive doc
- AD looking at how the document is laid out and characterizes what could and should be done with community-led efforts. Have some tone and tenor comments as well.
- Look forward to discussing when and how comments can be made.

Kevin Hamilton

- PBP is meant to be Writers Group's statement based on learning from last years
- Didn't expect this PBP would be adopted by CARB Board right away. Realize document has to go through process of review by the CG. Was hoping to get written comments and work those in and bring back another draft.
- Tone of document is positive, considering the issues that have arisen.
- Comment on businesses and communities, there seems to be business investment in DACs, just not the right kind of investments (warehouses and IT hubs)
- Ex: [Bitwise in Fresno](#)
- Supports market-based investments and leveraging regulatory agency investments to support innovation. California is a driver of innovation through regulations ex) electric car industry.

Deidre Sanders

- Does not disagree with Martha Dina and Kevin. Believes communities have the right to decide what investments come into their communities.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Matt Holmes

- There are ways to be forceful, there are health components to the law, even if it isn't explicitly expressed as an outcome in AB617.
- Need to drop the dime on economic innovation and exposure reduction.
- Worried about caucusing; agenda-setting is important.
- Not co-equal bullet points on agenda. Every bullet point is an EJ bullet point.
- Do not silo with caucuses

Shayda Azamian:

- Will be taking a closer look at CARB's Blueprint Update Process.
- Uplift Gustavo's question if CARB staff have reviewed the document
- Importance of Blueprint to inform CERPs being developed now and in future.
- Can updates be applied to current communities and those just starting the process?

Deldi Reyes:

- We have been reviewing the PBP drafts, CARB hasn't been involved in discussing with writer's group because CARB staff need to have open and deliberative conversations in public setting.
- We will follow current Blueprint until the next one is in place, a third format would be difficult
- Some things under CARB's control, like training can happen now. Things that don't need legislative authority or Board approval
- CARB committed to work with every community, including implementation, working with Department of Pesticide Regulations on Eastern Coachella Valley CERP strategies

John Balmes:

- OCAP has learned lessons. One is to be more involved early on to assist ADs and CSCs to set up AB 617 efforts.
- Cannot change official Blueprint, but can communicate what we've learned and be of greater assistance

Lily Wu:

- Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment is helping support OCAP and committed in the Eastern Coachella Valley CERP.
- Exposure and emission reductions are both needed to protect public health. Strategies like vegetative barriers help reduce exposure while longer emissions reduction strategies are in place. They go hand in hand to protect public health.

WRAP UP

Deldi Reyes

- Not meeting in October. Poll for availability in November.

Luis Olmedo

- Feels apprehension from CARB to own the PBP.

Ariel Ambruster

- Would be helpful to get clear on review process. Saw a comment in chat "Christine Wolfe: It would be helpful if you would provide the consultation group a specific date by which we should provide written comments"

John Balmes

- Didn't think it would be appropriate to go through chapters if most people haven't read it. Have to distance ourselves legally but do embrace PBP.

Deldi Reyes

- Some folks might appreciate more in-depth conversation with the whole group before they put comments on paper.
- CARB supports the PBP found resources for the contractor and are invested in the process.
- Not been involved in day to day with writer's group. CARB made suggestions to include other voices, that didn't happen so had to step back. Now trying to create constructive space for all parties to have deliberation.

Ariel Ambruster

- Clarifying question: The PBP will not go to back to the subcommittee, right?

Deldi Reyes

- No, brought it to full CG since most of CG was participating in the Blueprint subcommittee.

Luis Olmedo

- No interest in pushing this PBP on anyone.
- Would have liked to see focus on document itself (instead of generalities) but agrees everyone should have a fair amount of time to discuss.