

California Air Resources Board Community Air Protection Program



Reporting Period - 04/06/20 through 04/06/21
Community Air Protection Program – Year 3

The Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (District) received a grant in fiscal year 2019-2020 from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for \$94,191.00. The grant is to support the District’s implementation efforts in support of California Assembly Bill 617 goals and objectives. This report describes the District’s efforts in accomplishing those goals. In accordance with Grant Agreement G19-CAPP-28, the below report includes the following sections: I. Grant Information, II. Associated Costs, III. Grant Utilization, IV. Summary of Work, V. Funds Remaining and Expended, and VI. Expenditure Summary.

- I. **Grant Information** (Report number, title, name of Grantee, date of submission, and grant number)
 - a. CAP Year 3, Report 1
 - b. Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District
 - c. 08/06/2021
 - d. G19-CAPP-28
 - e. 04/06/20 through 04/06/21

II. **Associated Costs** (Costs associated with specific tasks)

Below is a table showing all District costs associated with the AB 617 implementation grant during the Fiscal Grant Term.

Description	Cost
Community Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilingual outreach materials • Outreach & community group meetings • Bilingual surveys and data tracking • Public meetings to discuss goals and implementation efforts 	\$16,276
Air Quality Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toxic emissions inventory • Partnering in AB617 CTR regulation development • Inventory reporting regulation workgroup 	\$4,809
Rules (BARCT) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional research on facilities subject to BARCT schedule • Outreach to sources related to BARCT • Engineering support on BARCT • Continued development of rules on the BARCT schedule 	\$63,158
Community Air Monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase and deploy low-cost sensors • Portable Monitor deployment • State and Local Air Monitoring 	\$44,443
Other Community Air Protection Implementation Efforts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant program parameters and preparation • Website development • Update standard grant agreement and APCO authority 	\$42,839
TOTAL	\$171,525

III. Grant Utilization (Report how grant is being utilized to meet the goals of Assembly Bill 617. If applicable, include emission reductions being achieved)

AB 617 directs CARB to establish the Community Air Protection Program to reduce exposure in communities most affected by air pollution. The goal is to prioritize air quality improvements in California's most polluted communities through enhanced monitoring and targeted deployment of cleaner technologies, with expanded community participation. We focused our efforts on AB 1550 Low-Income Communities, since they experience a higher pollution burden.

The District used a variety of strategies to meet the goals of AB 617. We participated in several outreach events throughout Santa Barbara County during the reporting period, provided information in both English and Spanish, continued development of rules on our BARCT rule development schedule, operated Purple Air sensors throughout the District, and through our Clean Air Grants and other incentive programs, we advertised and promoted the use of cleaner technology to support community health. In addition, the District focused a large amount of AB 617 efforts on our most populated low-income areas. These areas, according to the priority population maps provided by CARB, include the following regions: Guadalupe and a large portion of western Santa Maria; Cuyama; and portions of the cities of Lompoc, Goleta, Santa Barbara, and Carpinteria. Spanish speakers represent a significant portion of the population in these areas, so we utilized a contractor and District staff to provide bilingual outreach materials as much as possible. Some of the bilingual materials we provided included Clean Air Grant applications, outreach advertisements and flyers, surveys, air quality news and alerts, and Spanish resources on our website.

The District maintained a bilingual web page, www.ourair.org/community-air, for stakeholders and the public. It contains background information, key elements of AB 617, the District's efforts within our county, proposed grant projects and approved projects, details of our BARCT schedule, links to a bilingual survey and survey results. The District performed regular updates on the website to ensure visitors received up-to-date information.

Specific tasks and work products for the current reporting period are discussed in more detail in Section IV of this report.

IV. Summary of Work (Work completed and in progress since the last progress report)

Community Programs, Events, Outreach:

In September of 2020, the District launched our 2021 Clean Air Grants program. We received 79 applications over the course of the 45-day application window and we were able to execute grants on 10 of those applications with Community Air Protection Incentive dollars. The project applications were a combination of Off-Road (6), Infrastructure (2), and School Bus (1).

During part of this reporting period, coinciding with the COVID-19 pandemic, traditional in-person outreach events were cancelled. Therefore, the District planned ways to virtually connect with community groups, to build and strengthen relationships using digital platforms while awaiting in-person opportunities once public health guidelines allow. During this reporting period the District met with the Chumash tribe and scheduled meetings with two other community groups. The District also coordinated its participation at an upcoming virtual-only community Earth Day event.

In addition, the District gave virtual presentations on air quality to two University of California, Santa Barbara Environmental Studies classes in the winter of 2021.

The District held public meetings, including District Board meetings, to discuss AB 617-related activities. At each District Board meeting, a summary update is provided on grant program activity that includes the emission-reduction grant agreements approved by the Air Pollution Control Officer since the last meeting. In June 2020 (www.ourair.org/wp-content/uploads/2020-06bd-agenda-1.pdf), the District Board received presentations on all clean air grant and incentives programs administered by District staff for the prior fiscal year. These reports included a focus on the Community Air Protection Program and specified the project type and location for grant funds awarded. Each of these Board meetings provided an opportunity for community members to follow Board deliberations, present public comments, and observe through livestreaming. District staff also tracks and posts potential CAP projects, as well as the projects that are funded, to our website for each funding year: www.ourair.org/community-air-protection-projects.

During this period the District launched a new website (including expanded bilingual resources), promoted a bilingual air quality survey to Santa Barbara County residents, and secured media coverage regarding the agency's air quality incentive programs focused on electric-powered landscaping equipment, Old Car Buy Back program, and grants for the installation of electric vehicle charging stations.

Air Quality Planning:

The District actively reviewed and tracked updates to CARB's Criteria and Toxics Reporting (CTR) Regulation. The CTR Regulation, and proposed amendments, will require modifications to the District's custom database tools and will also result in a significant amount of additional work for District staff and for affected sources. District staff actively participated in a CTR Regulation working group and provided comments on proposed amendments to the regulation.

Rules and BARCT:

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 617, in December 2018 the District Board adopted an expedited rule development schedule for the implementation of BARCT (Best Available Retrofit Control Technology) at locations in our District that are subject to the California GHG Cap-and Trade program. There are six facilities in Santa Barbara County that are affected by the BARCT rule schedule. The first two rules on the schedule, both of which affect new and existing boilers and process heaters, have been adopted. For the reporting period, District staff was actively working on the third rule on the schedule. Draft Rule 363 proposes to regulate particulate matter (PM) control devices such as baghouses, cyclones, and wet scrubbers, and includes enhanced leak detection and monitoring. District staff developed draft rule language and a staff report, routed them to industry for comment, and prepared to present these materials to the District's Community Advisory Council. In addition to Rule 363, three other BARCT rule development activities are planned for 2021 and 2022.

Rule 364, Refinery Fenceline and Community Air Monitoring was adopted on May 21, 2020 and requires fenceline monitoring as well as community air monitoring for an asphalt refinery operated in the unincorporated Santa Maria area.

Community Air Monitoring:

To help address community-level air monitoring concerns in impacted communities, the District purchased additional low-cost Purple Air Sensors, and installed and operated Purple Air Sensors throughout the county. 43 low-cost sensors are currently deployed throughout the District; 15 of those 43 low-cost sensors were given to the District from CARB. Purple Air sensor locations are available here: www.purpleair.com/map#9.68/34.7356/-120.2016. In addition, the District deployed two solar-powered Clarity Node S sensors that were operated at the Goleta and Santa Maria monitoring stations and were co-located with a reference method monitor to assess their accuracy. We observed some operational issues with these sensors and after a discussion with the manufacturer, both sensors were replaced and two new sensors were installed at our Goleta station for further testing and evaluation. These low-cost sensors can help characterize air quality trends in impacted communities. The Clarity sensors, although more costly, are equipped with solar power and internet connectivity.

The District owns and operates an Airpointer portable air monitoring system that was co-funded with AB 617 Year 1 Implementation Grant funds. The system is compact and sophisticated and is capable of being deployed quickly at secure locations that have a power source. The Airpointer is capable of measuring hydrogen sulfide, PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, and meteorological information simultaneously, and to store and report that data to the web in near-real-time. In the spring of 2020, the District purchased and installed additional instrumentation for the Airpointer, including an ozone analyzer and a BTEX mini-gas chromatograph capable of measuring Benzene, Ethylbenzene, Toluene, and Xylene. The system was deployed in Santa Maria in December 2020 and again in March 2021.

The District has five State and Local Air Monitoring Stations (SLAMS) throughout the County that measure the typical concentrations in areas of high population density and/or to monitor the impacts of regional pollution. One SLAMS station was operated by the California Air Resources Board (Santa Maria) while the other four were operated by the District (Lompoc, Santa Ynez, Santa Barbara, and Goleta). The Santa Maria and Santa Barbara stations are located in low-income communities as designated by AB 1550. CARB stopped operating the Santa Maria station located off Broadway at the end of February 2021 and shut down the station. In December 2020, the District secured a location for a new combined SLAMS and refinery-related community air monitoring station behind Lakeview Junior High School in Orcutt. During the reporting period, the District worked to equip and install the station; it is expected to be operational by September 2021.

Other Community Air Protection Implementation Efforts:

The District continues to develop and refine the Clean Air Grants program while remaining transparent on our project ranking and selection process. The District updated all grant program applications to incorporate ideas from prior year applicants as well as staff members, while also receiving Board approval to update our standard grant agreement language to be sure our language remained compliant with CARB requirements. We also added a streamlined digital signature element for grant applications and standard grant agreements to better assist our applicants. The District continued to work with members of the public on outreach of our CAP program and continually develop and expand upon our digital outreach list, which has grown to over 1,000 contacts.

V. **Funds Remaining and Expended** (Grant funds remaining and expended)

- a. Total Implementation Funds: \$ 94,191
 - i. Expended funds: \$ 171,525
 - ii. Remaining funds: \$ 0

From April 06, 2020 through April 06, 2021 the District expended 100% of the Implementation Grant amount.

VI. **Expenditure Summary** (showing all Community Air Protection Program Implementation Fund expenditures)

Section II provides a breakdown of District expenditures.