

Framing of People’s Blueprint Chapter 9

Key Topics and Content

DRAFT – Chapter 9 – Participatory Budgeting and Funding
July 22, 2022 AB 617 Consultation Group (CG) Meeting

This document presents a list of key topics and content included in The People’s Blueprint (PBP) Chapter 9. This draft summary was developed by CARB to support the discussion on July 22.

Chapter 9 Participatory Budgeting and Funding

“Participatory budgets for spending AB 617 funds are built by the CSC in partnership with air district staff prior to final approval by the air district board.” (pg. 47)

- The PBP recommends participatory budgeting for AB 617 fund allocation.
- The PBP defines participatory budgeting within the AB 617 program as being *“built by the CSC in partnership with air district staff prior to final approval by the air district board”* and as *“return[ing] power back to residents”* (pg. 47)
 - The PBP recommends that CSCs have *“the power to design the budget that works best for the needs of the community.”* (pg. 47)

“The budget process needs to be built from the ground-up, not the top down!” (pg. 47)

- The PBP recommends the following guiding principles for participatory budgeting in the AB 617 Program:
 - *“Budget development and expenses are transparent and conversations around budget development and expenses must occur before funding is disseminated to the air districts.”* (pg. 47)
 - *“Cost estimates are backed up by credible sources.”* (pg. 47)
 - *“The budget should include explicit allocations that support community involvement such as:*
 - *CSC stipends*
 - *Translation of materials and live interpretation during CSC meetings and subcommittee meetings*
 - *Childcare and food for evening meetings*
 - *Adequate funds for facilitation*
 - *Adequate funds for community outreach”*
 - PBP recommends that the CSC develop and manage budgets in collaboration and with support from air district and CARB. (pg. 47)
 - PBP recommends that CSC *“members should have adequate time to review the monthly or quarterly expenses before the relevant CSC meeting (at least 7 days)”* (pg. 47)
 - Each CSC may add other governing principles to inform their participatory budgeting process. (pg. 47)

Framing – Key Topics and Content from the People’s Blueprint

- PBP recommends that the *“Blueprint needs to highlight incentive pay for residents.”* (pg. 47)
- The PBP recommends that *“each CSC must have the autonomy to determine the structure of their budgeting process and should consider the following questions as a group:*
 - *What has worked well in other budgeting processes that CSC members have been a part of?*
 - *How much of air district staff salary should be funded through AB 617?*
 - *How should the CSC work to develop the budget?*
 - *What are the benefits of developing a budget collectively with other communities in the air quality district, if relevant? What are the drawbacks?”* (pg. 48)
- The PBP recommends the *“air district to work with the CSC to develop a timeframe for budgeting activities to ensure decisions are made in time for air district governing board approvals.”* (pg 48)

The PBP shares two illustrative examples of participatory budgeting models, “Community-level budgeting” and “Region-level participatory budgeting”

“Option 1: Community-level participatory budgeting” (pg. 48)

- The PBP recommends that *“each individual CSC forms its own budget subcommittee to work with air district staff to develop a budget annually for its own CERP or CAMP.”* (pg. 48)
 - The selection of the process for the budget subcommittee is determined by the CSC’s charter.
- *“Exhibit 1 details the steps for each phase of the participatory budgeting process”* from planning, to proposal, revisions, approval, and final vote by the CSC. (pgs. 48-49)
- The PBP highlights that, *“a CSC may also delegate the task of developing the implementation budget to air district staff. However, a final budget would be approved by vote by the CSC before being sent to the air district board for approval.”* (pg. 49)

“Option 2: Region-level participatory budgeting” (pgs. 49-50)

- The PBP highlight that a *“regional model is not mandatory for any community”,* but communities *“may opt for a collective, regional approach to budgeting.”* (pg. 49)
 - For communities in an air district where there are multiple AB 617 selected communities which may *“alleviate the burden of designing individualized budgets for each community”* (pg. 49)
 - Community CERPs and CAMPs outline similar implementation steps
 - CSCs *“may have the opportunity to collectively leverage their resources.”* (pg. 49)
- PBP recommends that *“at least 51% of the Regional Budget Committee should be comprised of CSC members. This committee would follow requirements of AB 617 steering committee.”* (pg. 49)
- Exhibit 2 details the steps for each phase of the process from planning, to proposal, revisions, approval, and final vote by the CSC. (pgs. 49-50)