Questions and Answers for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022

AB 617 Community Air Grants

Updated April 18, 2023

As a part of the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Community Air Protection Program efforts, and pursuant to AB 617, CARB created the Community Air Grants Program. The Community Air Grants Program provides opportunities for community-based organizations to participate in the AB 617 process and to build the capacity to become active partners with government.

CARB hosted two Community Air Grants virtual workshops on Tuesday, December 14, 2022, from 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM PST and on Wednesday, January 10, 2023, from 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM PST to answer questions regarding the July 2022 Community Air Grants Request for Applications (RFA), eligibility, application completion, and other requirements. The questions answered in this document include questions asked during the workshops and questions received via email by 11:59 PM PST on Tuesday, January 10, 2023. CARB hosted an additional Community Air Grants virtual workshop on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, from 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM PST to answer additional questions regarding the extended deadline for the RFA, which was extended to April 24, 2023. Staff encourages applicants to read through this document as CARB has provided more written detail in their responses to stakeholder questions than what was discussed at the workshops.

In the event of any differences, the following written responses take precedence over any verbal responses prior to the date of this document.

Please note that CARB will not respond to additional questions regarding the Solicitation now that the public workshops have completed.

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Workshop December 14, 2022

Eligibility

1. Regarding eligibility, is a charter school that is a 501(c)(3) associated with a public school system eligible to apply for this grant?
   Answer: No, only organizations that meet our eligibility requirements are eligible to apply. Please review page 4 of the *Request for Applications* on Eligible Applicants. If a non-eligible organization wishes to apply for a Community Air Grant, they must do so in partnership with one of the three types of eligible organizations.

2. How are disadvantaged/low-income communities defined?
   Answer: Please review Page 7 of the *Request for Applications*. To maximize benefits to disadvantaged communities, and to provide direct, meaningful and assured benefits to priority populations, projects **must** be wholly located in, and benefit disadvantaged and/or low-income communities, as identified pursuant to California Health and Safety Code sections 39711 and 39713 (added and amended by Senate Bill 535 and AB 1550), or on Tribal lands. Specific project census tract location(s) must be included in Section 1 of the application narrative (see **Table 1**). CARB's *priority population investments mapping tool* may be utilized for location identification purposes. Disadvantaged communities are identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency[1] as the top 25% most impacted census tracts in *CalEnviroScreen 4.0* – a screening tool used to help identify communities disproportionally burdened by multiple sources of pollution and with population characteristics that make them more sensitive to pollution. Low-income communities and households are defined as the census tracts and households, respectively, that are at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income, or at or below the threshold designated as low-income by the California Department of Housing and Community Development's (HCD) *2016 State Income Limits*.[2]

3. Our offices are not in a low income or disadvantaged community; would that disqualify us as an applicant?
   Answer: No, although projects *must* be wholly located in and benefit disadvantaged and/or low-income communities, office facilities do not have to be in disadvantaged or low-income communities. See question 2, under the Eligibility section under the December 14, 2022 Workshop.

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[1] Disadvantaged community designations per Senate Bill *(SB) 535* (De León, Chapter 830, Statutes of 2012)
[2] Low-income definitions per Assembly Bill *(AB) 1550* (Gomez, Chapter 369, Statutes of 2016)

4. If we have a project located in two or three communities within five miles of each other, but, people from other adjacent communities attend a community meeting, would that be considered in the definition of "wholly located?"
Answer: Please refer to the responses to question 2 above. Refer also to Pages 4, 5 and 7 of the *Request for Applications* (RFA). There is no prohibition if people from other adjacent communities attend a community meeting held in a disadvantaged or low-income community or on tribal lands.

Application Requirements

1. Can a project be "Technical" category if it doesn't include monitoring but does include modeling?
Answer: Yes, there is not a requirement to conduct air monitoring to be a Technical Project type. Applicants may have other technical elements to project types to be in that category. CARB has previously awarded Technical Projects that included technical elements such as the analysis of data and did not specifically have community air monitoring as an element. See page 5 of the *Request for Applications* on the Concept Overview.

2. When you say, "community-led strategies", do you mean through groups & orgs in the community? Or local government? Or businesses? Or individuals?
Answer: AB 617 recognizes the range of stakeholders in a community, particularly affected residents, and including but not limited to the local air district, local governments, and affected sources. Please also review page 4 of the *Request for Applications* on Eligible Applicants.

Budget

1. There are very distinct categories, and is there an option for "Other" anywhere?
Answer: In the *2022 Community Air Grants Budget Template*, the budget categories are specific to whether the item either "Personnel," "Supplies and Services," "Equipment," or "Subcontractors."

Conceptual Categories

1. Can 501(c)(3)s include businesses as partners in the proposed project?
Answer: See page 11 of the *Request for Applications* on the Application Narrative – Collaboration and Leveraging. Applicants must briefly describe any existing or planned partnerships with any of the following groups, detailing what they are providing to the proposed project. Partnerships can include business entities.

Other

1. Can you give examples of community air protection?
   Answer: This funding is for the Assembly Bill 617. Since 2017, the California Legislature has supported the implementation AB 617. To implement AB 617, CARB and Local Air Districts across the state have been implementing strategies to reduce emissions in specific communities through developing community emission reduction programs (CERPs). There's also enhanced community air monitoring, the development of community air monitoring plans (CAMPs). And in addition to that, CARB offers these community air grants to eligible applicants in disadvantaged or low-income communities, or on tribal lands, throughout the state. Applicants can design projects to reduce emissions in their communities. There are several ways this can be achieved, including but not limited to very specific efforts, such as urban greening and tree planting that can help communities reduce local emissions. CARB also offers incentives through the local air districts to help bolster and achieve community emission reductions. Please see Community Air Grant Project Concept Overview, page 5 of the *Request for Applications*, for examples of elements and activities for the different project categories.

2. If a Targeted project is being considered, what level of commitment is required from the Local Air District Would a Local Community Emission Reduction Plan (L-CERP) still be actionable without the local air district?
   Answer: Air Districts need not implement the strategies in an L-CERP developed by a grantee. CARB strongly encourages applicants to contact their Air District well before application submittal, to secure the participation of the Air District, and any other state or local agencies or other potential partners whose jurisdictions overlap with issues expected to be surfaced during developing the L-CERP. As part of CARB's administration of FY 23-24 implementation funds to Air Districts, CARB will advise Districts that these funds can support staff costs associated with participating in the L-CERP process. The applicant should not sub award Community Air Grant funds to Air Districts. CARB acknowledges that implementation funds to Air Districts have not increased, despite an increase in the number of AB 617 communities and that Districts must prioritize their limited resources. Early and meaningful involvement of all parties will increase the likelihood that Air Districts can plan for and implement any priorities that fall within their jurisdiction; however, they are not required to.

3. Is the Application Process & awarding of funds an ongoing process (each year)?
   Answer: The Cap-and-Trade expenditure plans are passed by the Legislature. This means there are funds anticipated for fiscal years to be appropriated. While some California Climate Investments programs receive funding earlier in the fiscal year (for example, many Low Carbon Transportation programs), many other programs (including Community Air Grants) must wait to learn what the final budget decisions will bring. Ultimately, expenditure decisions must be made by Legislature and

program staff cannot be sure of when this will occur. For more information on this, please refer to the Fourth Solicitation *Expenditure Record.*

2. Can you share information on the AB 617 conference planned for late September?
   Answer: The convening is hosted by UC Davis and has been guided by a Community Planning Committee. The convening is intended for all participants in AB 617, including Community Steering Committee members, Air District staff, CARB Board and staff, other state agencies, members of the state legislature, and the *AB 617 Consultation Group.*

Workshop January 10, 2023

Eligibility

1. If a project near me is receiving funds doing the same or similar work as my group. Will my group still be able to apply for a grant?
   Answer: Yes. Awards are based on scoring criteria in *Request for Applications*.

2. My organization is not in a low-income community, could we partner with an organization from a low-income community and then apply for a grant?
   Answer: See answer to question 1 the Eligibility section above. The projects must be wholly located in and benefit low-income or disadvantaged communities or tribal lands. As long as you meet the criteria in the RFA, you are welcome to apply.

3. May I apply for grants in more than one category?
   Answer: Yes, you can apply for all three categories (educational, targeted, or technical). There is no limit to the number of applications that an entity can submit however only one application per applicant will be awarded.

4. May I apply for multiple grants within each category?
   Answer: Yes. There is no limit to the number of applications that an applicant can submit however only one application per applicant will be awarded.

Application Requirements

1. What legal definitions should we use to follow the requirement "Projects must be wholly located in, and benefit disadvantaged and/or low-income communities, or on tribal lands?"
   Answer: See responses to question 2 in the Eligibility section of the December 14, 2022 Workshop section above. To maximize benefits to disadvantaged communities, and to provide direct, meaningful and assured benefits to priority populations, projects **must** be wholly located in, and benefit disadvantaged and/or low-income communities, as identified pursuant to California Health and Safety Code sections

39711 and 39713 (added and amended by Senate Bill 535 and AB 1550), or on tribal lands. See page 7 of the *Request for Applications* for CARB's *priority population* investments mapping tool may be used for location identification purposes.

Budget

1. Does the money have to be spent in 3 years?
   Answer: Yes, funds must be liquidated by June 30, 2026.

Conceptual Categories

1. We want to cover the cost of getting our faith facilities on the EPA's Energy Star site. Would that be something this technical grant money can be used for?
   Answer: Please review our samples in the solicitation and determine what category you would fall into (technical/educational). Please see page 26 of the *Request for Applications* which states: Grantees may use or authorize the use of CARB funds only in any manner that is consistent with applicable laws, including California Constitution, article XVI, section 5, article IX, section 8, and federal law. CARB reserves the right to obtain additional information from applicants and Grantees to determine compliance with California Constitution, article XVI, section 5 and article IX, section 8. Failure to provide any requested information may result in denial of grant funding or termination of an existing grant agreement.

2. Our program specifically targets Black students and the Black church, is that going to be a problem?
   Answer: Please see page 26 of the *Request for Applications* which states: Grantees may use or authorize the use of CARB funds only that follows applicable laws, including California Constitution, article XVI, section 5, article IX, section 8, and federal law. CARB reserves the right to obtain additional information from applicants and Grantees to determine compliance with California Constitution, article XVI, section 5 and article IX, section 8. Failure to provide any requested information may result in denial of grant funding or termination of an existing grant agreement.

3. We have been working with community members on the technical parts of an emission reduction plan. How much of our project needs to be completed before submitting our application?
   Answer: The intent of the program provides capacity building opportunities for community-based organizations. There is no requirement to complete any portion of your project before submitting your application.

Other

1. Regarding AQview, do you have to be a grant recipient to get access to the Data?

Answer: *AQview* is accessible online at *https://aqview.arb.ca.gov/*.

2. I have been working on a project with the US EPA in monitoring hexavalent chromium, we have data collected. I'm not sure how much data on AQview is current or what years the data is from the air districts. I want to see if that can be sourced into future applications. What date did AQview start collecting data and is the US EPA data in those numbers?
Answer: AQview includes AB 617 community air monitoring data collected by the air districts, community organizations under Community Air Grants, and other independent community monitoring efforts. The data in the AQview system date to February 2019. AQview does not currently hold US EPA hexavalent chromium monitoring data.

Look elsewhere such as the SCAQMD website. In SCAQMD's latest update (April 2021) a graph is included showing the concentration trends across the three sites tracked.

SCAQMD also led the MATES V (Multiple Air Toxics Exposure Study V) which includes measurements of hexavalent chromium at multiple site locations. You can find this report on the AQview reports page under the *South Coast section*.

In addition, CARB's *ADAM system* has monitoring data for hexavalent chromium as part of the statewide air toxics monitoring network, but no routine monitoring sites specifically in Paramount. For more information about data in ADAM, please reach out to *Craig Anderson*.

3. How far back does the monitoring data go with refineries (AQview) is it 30 years or 60 years?
Answer: AQview includes AB 617 community air monitoring data collected by the air districts, community organizations under Community Air Grants, and other independent community monitoring efforts. The data in the AQview system dates to February 2019. AQview doesn't have monitoring data for refineries.

4. How far back does CARB's data go? How will this data benefit us and how do we use it if you are only starting with data as far back as 2019? How do we show we have reduced pollution long term?
Answer: In terms of ambient monitoring data;
   - CARB's *AQMIS system* provides real-time air quality monitoring data from all regulatory sites across California dating back to 1980.
   - CARB's *ADAM* system provides air quality data statistics dating back to the 1960s (depending on pollutant and site).
   - Toxics monitoring data in ADAM date back to 1985.
For more information about data in AQMIS and ADAM, please reach out to *Craig Anderson*.

In terms of refinery related air monitoring data, the websites below provide information about air pollutant levels at the refinery fence-line (and sometimes in the community) and long-term variations and trends of refinery related emissions.

Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD)
Refinery Fence-line Monitoring Systems
- *Chevron Richmond Refinery*
- *Phillips 66 Rodeo Refinery*
- *Valero Benicia Refinery*
- *Martinez Refinery*
- *Marathon Martinez Refinery*

South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD):
- *SCAQMD Rule 1180 Community Air Monitoring*

Refinery Fence-line Monitoring Systems
- *Chevron El Segundo Refinery*
- *Torrance Refining Company*
- *Marathon Los Angeles Refinery (Carson and Wilmington Operations)*
- *Phillips 66 (Carson and Wilmington Refineries)*
- *Valero Wilmington Refinery*

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD):
- *SJVAPCD Petroleum Refinery Air Monitoring*
- *Kern Oil & Refining Company Community Air Monitor*
- *Kern Oil & Refining Company Community Fenceline Monitoring*
- *San Joaquin Refinery Company Community Monitor*

San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District
- *Phillips 66 Santa Maria Refinery*

The USEPA also has the *Benzene Fenceline Monitoring Dashboard*.

5. Will funds be collected from Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) Program or is it going to be funds to continue the project from the grantee collecting the data and then the funds come from that?
Answer: SEP Program funding has limitations. Please see the *Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) Program FAQ* for more information.

6. Does the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) have funding separate from CARB for technical grants? How do I apply and what is the deadline?

Answer: Yes, please visit the *BAAQMD* website for details.

7. I'm in southern California, would we be able to use the Bay Air Center? If so, is there a South Coast resource?
Answer: The Bay Air Center is only available to provide application support to community organizations within the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) jurisdiction. See page 30 of the *Request for Applications* for a list or resources. Note: this is not an endorsement by CARB.

Additional Questions (Pre-Extension)

Eligibility

1. Can Air Districts and AQMDs apply? In other words, do Air Districts and AQMDs fall under the definition of a California Community Based Organization?
Answer: Only organizations the meet our eligibility requirements are eligible to apply. Please review page 4 of the *Request for Applications* on Eligible Applicants. If a non-eligible organization wishes to apply for a Community Air Grant, they must do so in partnership with one of the three types of eligible organizations.

2. Would the University of California (UC is considered a 501(c)3 agency) campuses be eligible for funding for this program?
Answer: See the response to question 1 in the Eligibility section of the December 14, 2022 Workshop section above. Please review page 4 of the *Request for Applications* on Eligible Applicants.

3. Are small businesses eligible to apply for the next round of grants?
Answer: See the response to question 1 in the Eligibility section of the December 14, 2022 Workshop section above. Please review page 4 of the *Request for Applications* on Eligible Applicants.

4. We are a non-profit charter school with tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. We intend to qualify under this prong of the stated eligible organizations portion: A California organization, not affiliated with a local, municipal, city, county, or state governmental agency or entity, and holding a tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as the Grantee in partnership with a California community-based organization without Section 501(c)(3) status designated as a sub-grantee.
Answer: Please review page 4 of the *Request for Applications* on Eligible Applicants. Please see page 26 of the *Request for Applications* which states: Grantees may use or authorize the use of CARB funds only in any manner that is consistent with applicable laws, including California Constitution, article XVI, section 5, article IX, section 8, and federal law. CARB reserves the right to obtain additional information from applicants

and Grantees to determine compliance with California Constitution, article XVI, section 5 and article IX, section 8. Failure to provide any requested information may result in denial of grant funding or termination of an existing grant agreement.

5. Can several grants be submitted or are applicants limited to just one?
   Answer: There is no limit to the number of applications that an entity can submit however only one application per applicant will be awarded.

Application Requirements

1. Are the new approved guidelines only for the awardees? Does it extend application for Air Grants?
   Answer: The guidelines of the *Request for Applications* have been updated for this solicitation. It is not an extension for any previous Request for Applications. Old applications submitted under prior solicitations are not carried forward. Since this is a new solicitation, a new application would have to be submitted within the application timeframe.

2. We are looking for the grant in the 2022/23 season when should we file? When is the next Deadline for the Air Grant Application?
   Answer: Please see page 14 of the *Request for Applications* for more information. Grant Applications are due March 3, 2023. Hard copy applications must be received by 5PM while electronic applications are due by 11:59 PM on March 3, 2023. Applications will not be accepted after this date.

3. Does it favor a re-applicant to submit support letters from the same organizations as it did for the first application?
   Answer: Please review Section 8, Letters of Commitment and/or Support, in Table 1, Application Narrative on page 14 of the *Request for Applications* . Also, page 14 of the RFA states: Do not assume the review panel knows anything about your organization or previous project experience.

4. Does it favor an applicant to apply more than once for the same application period?
   Answer: There is no limit to the number of applications that an entity can submit but only one application per applicant will be awarded. See the response to question 4 of the Application section of the January 10, 2023, Workshop section above.

5. Is it an option for an organization to apply with a partner organization?
   Answer: Yes. Community Air Grant project priorities include Projects that propose/ will achieve equitable public participation and demonstrate local partnership building and coordination, resource leveraging, in-kind support, or other forms of collaboration and projects that bring together partners to develop and implement local community emission reduction plans. See the response to question 1 in the Eligibility section of

the December 14, 2022, Workshop section above. Please review page 4 of the *Request for Applications*.

Budget

1. Is the Application process & awarding of funds an ongoing process (each year), or is it only for 2022-23? In other words, is there a limited amount of funds or is this going to be consistently funded in the future?
Answer: Please refer to the response to question 3 of the Other section of the December 14, 2022 Workshop section above.

Conceptual Categories

1. Is it feasible to request a grant to develop a research project that studies the carbon and methane emissions in wood landfills? The study would have implications for long-term wood storage, wildfire resilience, forest health projects, and biomass removal.
Answer: CARB has no specific recommendation for this, as this depends on your proposal. Please review the Community Air Grant Project Concept Overview on page 6 of the *Request for Applications*.

2. We are interested in applying for the Community Air Grant to support our Go SGV E-Bike share program and continue to educate SGV residents about the importance of reducing gas emissions that pollute our atmosphere. We wanted to know if this type of program would qualify under the "Transferability of emissions reduction strategies."
Answer: This depends on your proposal. Please review the Community Air Grant Project Concept Overview on page 6 of the *Request for Applications*.

Extended Deadline Workshop April 11, 2023

Eligibility

1. Is CARB using a specific definition for a "community-based" organization?
Answer: No, CARB is not using a specific definition for a "community-based" organization. Please review page 4 of the *Request for Applications* on Eligible Applicants.

2. Would a 501(c)(3) organization headquartered in CA but with offices elsewhere qualify as an applicant?
Answer: Yes, having an office outside of the state does not preclude you. Please see question 3 in the December 14, 2022 Workshop section under Eligibility for additional information regarding office locations. In addition, review question 2 in the same section for more information on disadvantaged/low-income communities.

3. Can a university be the lead organization and the community-based organization (CBO) be listed as a sub-awardee?
Answer: In the FY 2021/22 Air Grant Request for Applications, it states, A California organization, not affiliated with a local, municipal, city, county, or state governmental agency or entity, and holding a tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as the Grantee, in partnership with a California community-based organization without Section 501(c)(3) status designated as a sub-grantee.

4. Is an organization associated with a fiscal sponsor designated as a 501(c)(3) acceptable?

   Answer: Yes, this is a subgrantee relationship. Based on the definition we have for the 501(c)(3), the Grant Agreement will be with the fiscal sponsor, and the grantee will be the project manager. Please review page 4 of the *Request for Applications* on Eligible Applicants.

5. Are existing projects eligible for funding, or do the projects have to be new?
Answer: They do not have to be new projects; they may be continued projects that were previously awarded.

Application Requirements

1. If we determine our first application submission was acceptable, do we need to attest that we stand by our first submission?
Answer: No, that is not obligatory or required.

2. If we submitted an application by the March 3rd deadline, should we resubmit?
Answer: There is no obligation to resubmit an application. However, CARB encourages applicants to take the extended deadline opportunity to re-evaluate submittals. If you choose to resubmit, your latest application will be considered.

3. Are digital signatures acceptable on the application?
Answer: Yes, digital signatures will be accepted.

4. If we want to resubmit only the checklist, can we resubmit that section, or do we have to resubmit the entire application?
Answer: Portions of the application, such as the checklist, or the entire application may be resubmitted. See checklist on page 3 of the *Community Air Grants Application Materials*.

5. For a letter of support, should we send a copy with our application?
Answer: Please review Section 8, Letters of Commitment and/or Support, in Table 1, Application Narrative on page 14 of the Request for Applications. This section is worth

3 points. If you can provide letters of commitment and/or letters of support, include them.

6. For personnel resumes, is that an attachment of their professional resume or is that a summary in paragraph form?
   Answer: We accept both. Please review Section 2, Applicant Background, in Table 1, Application Narrative on page 11 of the Request for Applications.

7. Pages 9-10 of the Request for Applications looks like a form that should be submitted. Do these pages need to be submitted alongside the application?
   Answer: No, pages 9-10 of the RFA do not need to be submitted. Pages 9-10 of the Request for Applications are a visual representation of the checklist found on page 3 of the application. The checklist on page 3 of the *Community Air Grants Application Materials* must be submitted.

8. Can you provide insight as to what should be submitted for CEQA documentation?
   Answer: Please see pages 4-5 of *Community Air Grants Application Materials* for instructions regarding CEQA requirements. You may utilize and modify the template provided.

9. Are photos of documents acceptable vs. a scanned document?
   Answer: Yes. Please ensure the clarity of your photos. Reviewers must be able to clearly read them.

10. Whom should letters of support/commitment be addressed to?
    Answer: Letters of support/commitment may be addressed to CARB or CARB Community Air Grants staff.

11. Is the limit for the application 30 pages? The RFA says the limit is 30 pages doubled-sided (printed on back and front of paper pages) – this doesn't make sense for electronic submittals. Also – does the 30-page limit include Letters of Recommendation and CEQA Documentation? Can these be appendices?
    Answer: Attachments, appendices, or addendums that include required or supporting documentation will also be accepted *in addition* to the 30-page application. Examples include, but are not limited to: Letters of Recommendation, supporting documentation, etc. Please review Section 8, Letters of Commitment and/or Support, in Table 1, Application Narrative on page 14 of the Request for Applications.

12. Can we attach outside reports that support a Community Air Grant workplan or application?
    Answer: Outside reports or projects are not a requirement for the application; however, if reports or projects help with your narrative, they may be included.

13. Does the board approval letter require language included in the provided template?
    Answer: You do not have to use the specific language provided in the template, but you do need to demonstrate board approval. Please refer to the template on page 6 of the Community Air Grants Application Materials.

14. Is board approval required as part of the application? Or is it required once a grant is awarded?
    Answer: Board approval is required after the project is awarded.

Budget

1. Is a budget narrative/justification required?
   Answer: Yes, see section 5: Budget on Table 1, Application Narrative on page 11 of the Request for Applications. A total of ten points will be awarded which includes the description/narrative of the budget by task.

2. Is rent included in administrative costs, or can it be included elsewhere?
   Answer: Yes, administrative costs include indirect costs such as rent. Please refer to the template agreement Grant Provisions on page 17-18 of the Community Air Grants Application Materials.

3. Should only direct wages/salaries be listed under Personnel in each Task budget?
   Answer: The template agreement Grant Provisions on Page 18 of the Community Air Grants Application Materials, reads: "Project costs will be fully reimbursable with Air Grant funds. Project costs are defined as costs directly tied to the implementation of the grant, consistent with the scope of work and budget submitted in response to the solicitation Guidelines. This includes: all components of project implementation, personnel costs and fringe benefits…" These project costs are not administrative costs and should be detailed such that they include all necessary staff and tasks to implement the project in the budget.

4. The RFA says that all funds must be liquidated by June 30, 2026. Is it possible to liquidate all the funds in a shorter timeframe?
   Answer: Yes. Disbursement requests can be made at any time before the Grant Agreement end/liquidation deadline.

5. Can you provide guidance on whether food during meetings and/or stipends, will be covered by the grant?
   Answer: Pursuant to SB170, funds can support and further specific project actions and activities as described in the grant that support community participation including meeting attendance. The use of grant funds is subject to CARB guidelines,

agreements, and other legal limitations and may be denied where, for example, the expenditure constitutes an impermissible gift of public funds.

6. Is competitive bidding required for grantees to procure contracts for the project work?
   Answer: No, competitive bidding is not required.

7. The budget template seems locked in terms of adding rows. How do we edit it?
   Answer: The number of rows are limited in the 2022 Community Air Grants Budget budget template. An Expanded Budget Template with more rows is now available. If you need more rows than available in either template, please contact us at AirGrants@arb.ca.gov.

   Please refer to the Instructions tab on the Budget Template and as described on page 13 of the Request for Applications for more information. To populate the template, start by downloading and saving the 2022 Community Air Grants Budget Template or the *Expanded Budget Template*. Using the dropdown boxes, select the Budget Category from left to right.

Conceptual Categories

1. Much of our work is in priority communities (AB 617), but not all. If we provide metrics/methods to keep priority vs non-priority community work separate, would we be able to submit a grant application for that portion of the project, even though the project itself is a bigger project?
   Answer: Yes. Please see question 2, under Eligibility on December 14, 2022 Workshop section for additional information on disadvantaged communities. You may include the project as a whole and provide a clear distinction between the proposed communities for your application. Please review Page 7 of the Request for Applications.

2. Are Tribes eligible for the Targeted project category?
   Answer: Yes, Tribes are eligible for all project types. See page 4, Eligible Applicants of the Request for Applications.

Other

1. When will the newest Q&A document be posted?
   Answer: The newest Q/A document will be posted the week of April 17, 2023. Please see page 8 of the Request for Applications.

2. Will this recording be made available?
   Answer: Yes, you can find the Video recording of workshop on the Community Air Grants Extended Deadline Workshop April 11, 2023 webpage.

3. Is this a competitive process?

Answer: Yes, this is a competitive process. Please review Table 1, Application Narrative which begins on page 11 of the Request for Applications.

4. We provide air monitoring systems with the ability to store data and generate custom reports. How can we make people aware of our products? Is there a list of organizations that we can contact?
Answer: The purpose of the Community Air Protection Program is to center community-based organizations to participate in the AB 617 process. Although grantees may include technology in their projects, we do not maintain lists of contractors. More information about the Community Air Grants can be found on the webpage.

5. Has the extended deadline for the solicitation resulted in significant changes to the timeline, from the initial posting?
Answer: Yes – the deadline has been extended to April 24, 2023. Updated dates are in underlined and red on page 8-9 of the Request for Applications.

6. Am I able to receive individualized feedback on my application if I submitted by March 3, 2023?
Answer: Due to the competitive nature of the Community Air Grants (CAG) selection process, we cannot provide individualized feedback prior to awarding grants. This means we cannot provide feedback for applications before reviews are finalized and awards are granted. However, after awards have been granted, applicants can receive individualized feedback.

7. Regarding Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP), is it on the same timeline as the RFA?
Answer: SEP Program timeline is independent of the Community Air Grant (CAG) program. Please see the Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) Program FAQ for more information.