

# California Air Resources Board

## Community Air Protection Program



Reporting Period – 06/01/21 through 04/30/22  
Community Air Protection Program – Year 4

The Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (District) received a grant in fiscal year 2020-2021 from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for \$93,959.00. The grant is to support the District’s implementation efforts of California Assembly Bill 617 goals and objectives. This report describes the District’s efforts in accomplishing those goals. In accordance with Grant Agreement G20-CAPP-28-1, 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

- a. Report number: Final Report
- b. Title: Community Air Protection Implementation Year 4
- c. Grantee: Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District
- d. Date of submission: 09/27/2022
- e. Grant number: G20-CAPP-28-1

### 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
<b>Community Programs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bilingual outreach materials</li> <li>• Outreach &amp; community group meetings</li> <li>• Public meetings to discuss goals and implementation efforts</li> <li>• Clean Air Rooms (Air Purifier Program)</li> </ul>	\$131,267
<b>Air Quality Planning</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toxic emissions inventory</li> <li>• Partnering in AB617 CTR regulation development</li> </ul>	\$736
<b>Rules (BARCT)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional research on facilities subject to BARCT schedule</li> <li>• Outreach to sources related to BARCT</li> <li>• Engineering support on BARCT</li> <li>• Continued development of rules on the BARCT schedule</li> </ul>	\$39,208
<b>Community Air Monitoring</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portable Monitor deployment</li> <li>• State and Local Air Monitoring</li> </ul>	\$3,864
<b>Other Community Air Protection Implementation Efforts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grant program parameters and preparation</li> <li>• Update standard grant agreement and APCO authority</li> </ul>	\$13,327
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$188,402</b>

**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 Disadvantage Communities as identified in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 and AB 1550 Low-Income Communities, since they experience a higher pollution burden.

The District has used a variety of strategies to meet the goals of AB 617 since its inception. During this reporting period, we participated in several outreach events throughout Santa Barbara County, provided information in both English and Spanish, continued development of rules on our BARCT rule development schedule, operated and expanded PurpleAir 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. In the Disadvantaged Community of Guadalupe, we focused our outreach during this reporting period on a new program to provide air purifiers to local residents. The air purifiers were made available at one per household with proof of address. This community responded enthusiastically, and we were able to distribute all of the 656 air purifiers to local residents. The demand was so high, that we had to place 137 residents on a waitlist. We reallocated some local expenditures to purchase air purifiers for the waitlist and are currently working to disperse to the local community. The Air Purifier Program was advertised through several outlets, including but not limited to Twitter, Instagram, NextDoor, and advertising with local businesses. Spanish speakers represent a significant portion of this community’s population, so we utilized bilingual District staff to provide outreach materials as much as possible. Some of the bilingual materials we provided included outreach advertisements and flyers, air quality news and alerts, and Spanish resources on our website.

The District maintains a bilingual web page, [www.ourair.org/community-air](http://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 performs regular updates on the website to ensure visitors receive 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:***

During part of this reporting period, which coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic, most traditional in-person outreach events were cancelled. Therefore, the District planned ways to virtually connect with community groups, in order to build and strengthen relationships using digital platforms until public health guidelines allow for in-person outreach opportunities to

resume. During this reporting period, the District coordinated its participation at two 2022 community Earth Day events. 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 was provided on grant program activity that included the emission-reduction grant agreements approved by the Air Pollution Control Officer since the previous meeting. In June 2021, the District Board received a presentation on Clean Air Grants and all of the other incentive 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 provides 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](http://www.ourair.org/community-air-protection-projects).

During this reporting period, the District promoted a bilingual air quality survey to Santa Barbara County residents, and secured media coverage regarding the agency's air quality programs, Old Car Buy Back program, and grants for the installation of electric vehicle charging stations. The District also provided a letter of support to the Community Environmental Council (CEC) for their successful application for a CARB Community Air Grant to conduct air quality monitoring and outreach in Guadalupe and kept in touch with CEC about ways to work together on the project moving forward.

***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. During the reporting period, additional data fields were added to the District's database to prepare for the 2021 Inventory submittal to CARB.

***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, were adopted in 2019. For the reporting period, District staff actively worked on and completed the BARCT assessment for Particulate Matter (PM) control devices such as baghouses, cyclones, and wet scrubbers. This assessment required large baghouses to be equipped with a bag leak detection system (BLDS) and smaller units to have increased weekly monitoring per EPA Method 22. District staff worked with industry to incorporate all BARCT requirements directly into the affected facility's operating permit. Hence, a rule proceeding was no longer necessary since BARCT-level controls will be required through the permit process. The District presented the analysis to its Community Advisory Council in April 2022 and to the Board of Directors in June 2022. The remaining three BARCT assessments are anticipated to be completed and implemented by December 2023.

***Community Air Monitoring:***

To help address community-level air monitoring concerns in impacted communities, the District has purchased and installed low-cost PurpleAir sensors throughout the county. We currently operate 43 low-cost sensors that are currently deployed throughout the District; 15 of those 43 low-cost sensors were given to the District from CARB. PurpleAir sensor locations are available here: [www.purpleair.com/map#9.68/34.7356/-120.2016](http://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 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<sub>2.5</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>, and meteorological information simultaneously, and has the ability to store and report that data to the web in 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 (BTEX). 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 Barbara station is located in a low-income community, 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 and recently began operating a new combined SLAMS and refinery-related community air monitoring station behind Lakeview Junior High School in Orcutt. During the reporting period, the District equipped and installed the station; it became fully operational on August 01, 2022 and started reporting PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and Ozone data to EPA AirNow and the EPA Fire and Smoke Map.

***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 ensure that 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 develops and expands 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: \$ 93,959
  - i. Expended funds: \$ 188,402
  - ii. Remaining funds: \$ 0

From June 01, 2021 through April 30, 2022 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.