

Appendix C

Community Selection Process

Next Phase of the Community Air Protection Program

As described in Blueprint 2.0, statute requires CARB to annually consider communities for selection, as appropriate. Over the past five years, community members, environmental justice organizations, and local air districts have consistently recommended dozens of communities for exposure and emissions reduction efforts resulting in a *Consistently Nominated Communities list*. CARB anticipates that few, if any, additional communities will be selected over the next five years of the Program. There are several reasons for this: air districts have a key and resource intensive role in supporting selected communities and resources for air districts for this work have largely remained flat; existing air district capacity is committed to completion of CERPs for the communities selected to date and additional time is needed to implement existing CERPs. Thus, the goal of Blueprint 2.0, in part, is to direct our focus on new pathways to support Consistently Nominated Communities and bring attention and resources to these communities from other local, state, and federal agencies.

Legal Foundation

Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617) directs California Air Resources Board (CARB) to assess and identify communities around the state with high cumulative air pollution exposure burdens, and to focus additional efforts in those communities, to better address and improve air quality in those communities. AB 617 instructs CARB to prioritize disadvantaged communities and sensitive receptor locations in the selection process based on air quality monitoring information, public health data, and other relevant information. The statute requires CARB to annually consider, as appropriate, the selection of communities based on this assessment and identification for the development and implementation of community air monitoring plans (CAMPs) and/or community emissions reduction programs (CERPs).

Annual Consideration as Appropriate

CARB staff will annually consider whether it is appropriate to recommend selection of new communities to the CARB Board for which the local air district will develop a CERP and/or CAMP. If there is an appropriate basis for selection, air districts or communities may propose, or nominate, a community for selection and CARB will consider such nominations. See sections below for information that CARB will consider, including information CARB needs from air districts who are proposing a new community to select.

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CARB may consider the following criteria as to whether a recommendation for selection may be appropriate:

- **Funding Capacity:** Availability of sufficient program resources to support the air district and stakeholder engagement process required for the development and implementation of a CAMP or a CERP.
- **Air District Support:** The local district supports recommendation of a community for selection including sufficient resources for implementation of its AB 617 Program.
- **Community Support:** The local community supports recommending a community for selection and has existing capacity, or the available resources to build capacity, to participate in the process.

Air District Community Nominations

Air districts can support a nomination for selection of a community in their jurisdiction by submitting relevant information described below in Community Description. CARB will consider the information the air district provides, develop a community profile for any nominated community, including a preliminary community boundary which will be finalized by the Community Steering Committee, when convened by the Air District and whether the community is recommended for a CAMP or a CERP or both. CARB will hold a public meeting on all proposed recommendations. CARB staff will then develop and consider staff's final recommendations. CARB will select, as appropriate, communities for the deployment of CAMPs and/or CERPs.

Community Description

1. Describe the criteria the air district will use to nominate the community. Specify the nominated action for a CAMP, CERP, or both. Provide a description of the community, including history, demographic information, neighborhood description if appropriate, unique factors, proposed preliminary geographic boundaries, and identification of census tracts contained within in or intersecting the preliminary boundary.
2. Provide a detailed air district assessment of the factors for the community under consideration. Assessment should include CalEnviroScreen 4.0, brief description of criteria air pollutants and toxic air contaminants exposure burdens, and any additional tools or data sources (if used) to identify community characteristics.
3. Describe the public process used to identify, prioritize, and select the nominated community. Specify how the air district will provide opportunities for outreach and engagement in each community under consideration so that affected community members can easily participate.
4. Describe the community's capacity and interest to participate and engage in air quality activities, including a summary of the air district's relationships with members

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of the recommended community, or community-based organizations, key business leaders and other relevant stakeholders, located in the community.

5. If the community is recommended for a CAMP, provide a description of known air quality data needs. For more information, please visit the comprehensive [Community Air Monitoring website](#) that provides information on existing community monitoring systems, outlines measurement technologies, and provides community science resources.
6. If the community is nominated for a CERP, provide the following information:
 - i. Describe air quality challenges affecting the community, and potential sources.
 - ii. Confirm emissions sources are well-characterized in the community.
 - iii. Confirm that air monitoring results are available that characterize the high air pollution exposure burden experienced by the community well enough to inform community emissions reduction program development.
 - iv. Confirm that sufficient data and resources are available to produce source attribution results for use in strategy development within the necessary time frames prescribed by AB 617.
7. Provide any additional information the air district would like CARB to consider, including any community recommendation for future year implementation.

Cumulative Air Pollution Exposure Burden Assessment

CARB will examine six factors to assess the cumulative air pollution burden in each community on the broad list of communities to inform annual community selection:

Exposure to air pollution:

1. Concentrations of smog, particle pollution, and toxic air pollutants from measurements, air quality modeling, or other information quantifying air pollution exposure burden.
2. Density of air pollution sources and the amount of emissions within the community from mobile, area-wide, and stationary pollution sources.
3. Cancer risk estimates are based on existing or new air quality modeling that characterizes the burden faced by the community.

Sensitive populations:

4. Sensitive populations including children and the elderly at schools, hospitals, and day care centers near mobile and stationary emissions sources of concern, including roadways.

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Other measures of vulnerability to air pollution:

5. Public health indicators that are representative of the incidence or worsening of disease related to air quality.
6. Socio-economic factors, such as poverty levels and unemployment rates.

Community Nomination Submittal

The Community Air Protection Program relies on partnerships between the air district, CARB, and the community. Community members or community-based organization should reach out to their local air district if they are interested in being selected for a CAMP or a CERP. For more information on the 35 air districts, please visit the webpage: [California Map for Local Air District Websites](#). Community submittals can also be emailed to CARB at communityair@arb.ca.gov. In the email, please place "Community Nomination" in the subject line.