

**Assembly Bill 617 Community Air Protection Program
Guidance to California Air Districts on Stipends for Community Steering Committee
Members**

Assembly Bill (AB) 617 (C. Garcia, Chapter 136, Statutes of 2017) established a new statewide program to improve community air quality. As part of this program, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) selects communities to develop community air monitoring plans and/or community emissions reduction programs. Air districts partner with communities to form community steering committees to develop and implement these local plans.

Community steering committees meet regularly, requiring ongoing participation and a significant time commitment from community residents, business owners, and other stakeholders. In most cases, steering committee meetings occur in the evenings and may draw attendees away from their families and other obligations. Community-resident steering committee members are not paid or do not have expenses reimbursed to participate in the process or attend these meetings. Providing stipends to help cover some time and expenses associated with attending meetings is an important way to support this critical participation and encourage meaningful community engagement throughout these processes. CARB is therefore providing guidance on minimum requirements for issuing stipends to support consistency for communities statewide. CARB encourages air districts and steering committees to work together to implement stipend systems that build on these minimum requirements.

Stipend Amount

Air districts will provide stipends of no less than \$75 per steering committee meeting for up to 12 meetings per year.¹

Member Eligibility

Community steering committee members that are community residents or their alternates are eligible to request a stipend for a given in-person or virtual meeting if they are listed on the steering committee roster and attend the meeting at the physical or virtual location listed on the agenda. Committee members who receive compensation to attend or participate in the meetings as part of their job responsibilities are not eligible for stipends.

¹ As of May 2020, AB 617 community steering committees that currently receive stipends from their local air district receive a stipend of at least \$75.

Meeting Applicability

Steering committee members can request stipends for attending publicly-noticed in-person or virtual steering committees meetings. Air districts and steering committee should work together to determine when stipends are appropriate in the event CSC members participate in other meetings including subcommittees, technical advisory groups formed in response to the selection of the community by the CARB Board to develop a community emissions reduction program and/or community air monitoring plan.

Transparency

The steering committee charter should define stipend procedures, amounts, and other issues. Air districts and steering committee members should work together to determine a mechanism to determine eligibility and document meeting attendance, including remote attendance.

Effective Date and Funding Mechanisms

This guidance is for all communities participating in the Program during 2020 and in the future. To provide support for ongoing activities, air districts should provide stipends as requested for eligible meetings using AB 617 implementation funding or other resources. CARB recognizes, however, that future implementation (post-2020) is predicated on sufficient funding. CARB will issue updated guidance as this process develops.