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MEETING SUMMARY PURPOSE

This document provides a summary of the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Community Engagement Model-Community Expert Meeting held on March 11, 2024. This summary is an accompaniment to the presentation slide deck and meeting recording, both available for review on the <u>CARB Community Engagement Model website</u>.

ATTENDANCE

This meeting was attended by all 19 Community Experts (Experts) in addition to CARB Community Engagement Capacity Building (CECB) Workgroup Staff and facilitation staff from Sacramento State:

- Community Experts*
 - Gustavo Aguirre Jr.
 - Jasmine Elisa Beltran
 - Leonora Camner
 - Ambrose Carroll
 - Alec Castellano
 - Carolina Correa
 - Lisa Flores
 - Richard Falcon
 - o Lillian Garcia
 - Catalina Gonzalez
 - Elena Hernandez
 - Anetha Lue, P.E.
 - Emily McCague
 - o Maria Ridoutt Orozco
 - Violeta Sandoval
 - Vanessa Suarez
 - o Ciara Thrower
 - Esperanza Vielma
 - o Heather Zappia

*More information about each of the Experts is available on CARB's Community Engagement Model website here.

- CARB Community Engagement Capacity Building (CECB) Staff
 - Antonio Amaro
 - Karina Aguilera
 - Amanda Anderson
 - Jonathan Blufer
 - o Pablo Cicero-Fernandez
 - Aldo Chaney
 - Lisa Chiladakis
 - La'Shaye Cobley, Ph.D.
 - Jose Lopez
 - Gretchen Ratliff
 - Victoria Villa
 - Joyce Wong
 - o Deidre Zoll
- Facilitation Staff
 - o Julia Csernansky, Lead Facilitator, California State University Sacramento (CSUS)

MEETING PROCEDURES

The meeting procedures were designed by CARB in advance and in response to Expert feedback from the first meeting to encourage active participation and engagement among Experts through various interactive platforms, including hand raising, chat interactions, Jamboard, group discussion, and small breakout group discussions. The overarching aim is to establish a collaborative and inclusive environment that allows Experts to make meaningful contributions

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to the development of the Community Engagement Model (Model). These sessions are conducted via Zoom in the evening to accommodate diverse schedules, prioritize inclusivity, and ensure that all voices can be heard. Ahead of each Zoom meeting, Experts were provided with comprehensive materials, offering them the opportunity to review and provide written feedback.

During the Zoom meeting, the feedback process focused on large group discussions to provide everyone the opportunity to hear from all Experts. The discussions used Jamboard, an interactive digital whiteboard designed to facilitate collaboration among users, allowing them to brainstorm, share ideas, and work together in real-time via a virtual canvas where they can add digital sticky notes.

It is crucial to emphasize that CARB is committed not only to considering Expert's comments but also meticulously recording, responding to, and indicating whether every comment received has been incorporated into the revised Model. In cases where a comment is not integrated into the Model, CARB will provide transparent explanations for their decisions.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting began with introductory and welcoming comments by the Facilitator.

Instructions for using the Zoom language interpretation function were explained, and participants were guided on choosing between English and Spanish channels to accommodate all Experts' preferred languages.

The Facilitator reviewed the meeting agenda, which covered various topics, including a review of Expert's recommendations thus far, Community Dialogue Session recommendations, discussion questions for Experts, contract updates, and next steps. She then reviewed the meeting principles and highlighted that these core principles will be integral to all future Expert meetings, reflecting a shared commitment to fostering an inclusive and constructive environment. As a final item, the Facilitator recognized CARB staff's willingness to extend support beyond the meeting and stay online after the meeting to address any additional questions or concerns.

EXPERT RECOMMENDATIONS

La'Shaye Cobley, PhD, Transportation & Toxics Division, CARB, welcomed the Experts and emphasized her preference for an interactive session; encouraging all to ask questions to maintain an engaging and dynamic discussion.

Dr. Cobley outlined the primary goals for the presentation: First, how feedback on the Model was solicited, reviewing the process thus far, and emphasizing the significant volume of feedback received. Second, to explain the methodology to address these comments, offering a preliminary overview of the feedback. Finally, to update participants on the current status of the process, including the number of comments reviewed and the remaining steps.

Dr. Cobley explained that feedback on the Model was gathered from various sources over the past few months. Experts provided detailed line-by-line edits and responses to specific questions posed regarding the Model. Additionally, feedback was collected through public Community Dialogue Sessions, where general comments on community engagement were collected. A public docket was also open for written feedback, and individual comments were gathered through one-on-one calls and emails with community members.

Dr. Cobley highlighted the volume of feedback received, with over 2,000 individual comments submitted. She acknowledged the extensive time and effort invested by the community, expressing gratitude, and underscoring the importance for CARB to address these comments

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thoroughly. Due to the high volume of feedback, CARB staff has requested an extension to ensure that all comments are adequately reviewed and incorporated into the Model.

Dr. Cobley noted that transparency is a key guiding principle for responding to comments received and assured Experts that all comments will be publicly shared, with clear explanations provided for how each was addressed. Feedback comments were categorized into three response types: incorporated into the Model, recommended to CARB upper management, or not incorporated with detailed reasoning. Straightforward comments, such as those requesting clear terminology, will be directly adopted. Comments outside the Model's scope will be referred to upper management. Suggestions that are not adopted will be accompanied by explanations as to why not.

In considering conflicting feedback comments, Dr. Cobley stressed the importance of transparency. She shared an example regarding the decision to avoid using the term "stakeholder" due to its colonial connotations. Instead, the term "affected parties" was chosen to continuously remind staff of the impact of their work on people's lives. This decision will be explained in the Model to ensure clarity and understanding among community members and CARB staff.

Dr. Cobley shared a list of considerations that "Must Be in the Model," as informed by the feedback collected to date:

Staff Skills

- Cultural competence
- Addressing abuse and harassment
- Training and preparation
- Conflict resolution

• <u>Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)</u>

- o Inclusivity and diversity
- o Undocumented resident inclusion
- o Recognition of community differences
- Faith community engagement

• Engagement Approaches

- o Sufficient elaboration in action summaries
- Transportation access consideration
- Use of community stories
- Continuous follow-up
- Clear charter for coordination

Power Sharing

- o Equitable listening
- o Community empowerment
- o Community self determination

EXPERT RECOMMENDATIONS - DISCUSSION

Dr. Cobley asked Experts for their feedback regarding CARB's "Must Be in the Model" items and to prioritize topics for Community Expert Meeting #4 to ensure critical areas such as community empowerment are adequately addressed. The following is a summary of Expert's comments and questions, main themes, and CARB's responses where applicable.

• Inclusion of Undocumented Residents

 An Expert asked why undocumented people are included and expressed their opinion that they are not likely to come out to meetings and may not selfidentify as undocumented. They inquired into how CARB would: know if participants were undocumented, learn more about that community, and what that would mean for the Model.

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- Dr. Cobley reiterated the importance of creating a safe space for these individuals to participate. She pointed to strategies to ensure safe participation such as no police presence and not requesting social security numbers.
 - An Expert inquired if a lack of police presence would ensure that undocumented participants feel safe?
 - An Expert noted that when an effort is made to include undocumented community members in conversations on issues regarding air quality or housing, people will participate because they have concerns. The Expert also noted that undocumented community members often feel invisible and a lack of belonging. They highlighted that they go to where people are and jointly define how to help people feel safe.
 - In the chat, Experts engaged in a discussion regarding the presence of police at community meetings, with an Expert stating an enhanced feeling of safety with police presence, and other Experts sharing their hesitation to recommend police presence due to awareness surrounding some communities' negative interactions with police.
- An Expert emphasized the importance to include undocumented residents in discussions, ensuring they feel safe and face no retribution related to their documentation status.
- An Expert responded that undocumented individuals are members of the community, and creating a safe space for them to participate is crucial. They mentioned the importance of ensuring that there is no police presence and to not require social security numbers.
- There was significant agreement in the Zoom chat on this topic, with multiple Experts supporting the inclusion of undocumented residents.

• <u>Tribal Inclusion</u>

- An Expert pointed out the need for greater efforts (beyond mere outreach) to tie in rural and urban tribal representatives into the Model. They stressed the importance of not just reaching out to tribal communities but ensuring meaningful inclusion.
 - Dr. Cobley confirmed that this issue would be addressed in the meeting.

• Follow-up

- An Expert highlighted the importance of follow-up communication with residents to ensure ongoing engagement and feedback, whether in an email or social media communication.
 - Dr. Cobley agreed, stressing the need for follow-up through emails or social media to maintain continuous engagement.
- Experts requested more information regarding equitable listening and community selfdetermination, transportation access consideration, conflict resolution, and childcare assistance and compensation.

EXPERT RECOMMENDATIONS – CONTINUED

Following a period of discussion, Dr. Cobley continued by delving into more detail regarding the "Must Haves" for the Model, a summary of feedback, and CARB's plan for incorporation into the Model.

Dr. Cobley shared that CARB plans to address equitable listening by acknowledging that equitable listening entails comprehensive training to equip CARB staff with the skills necessary for effective engagement across diverse communities. This involves respecting cultural nuances, prioritizing active listening, and creating training modules that will accompany the Model.

Addressing abuse and harassment in the Model will involve establishing meeting agreements collaboratively with communities, incorporating nonviolent communication practices, and

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ensuring safe and respectful spaces for meaningful engagement. Dr. Cobley outlined strategies to handle intense opposition, including role-playing scenarios and guidelines for de-escalation techniques. An Expert voiced concern regarding the indispensable need to understand community backgrounds comprehensively to effectively respect cultural differences. Dr. Cobley acknowledged the significance of this concern and highlighted the planned implementation of strategies to comprehensively capture community interactions, ensuring no insight was overlooked.

With respect to Tribal engagement, Dr. Cobley acknowledged the need for more information on this topic and shared that while CARB is working on developing Tribal engagement guidance and training, the Model will not provide additional guidance at this time. An Expert inquired if the Tribal guidance will have Tribal members as representatives and Dr. Cobley emphasized that the guidance must include such representation.

On the issue of compensation, CARB heard that payment for community member's expertise is important and providing food and childcare are critical. Dr. Cobley shared that this issue is being addressed by elevating it to upper management for consideration.

Dr. Cobley emphasized the importance of making sure that all materials are easy to understand and readily available to ensure the accessibility of information to all participants. She highlighted CARB's commitment to adhering to plain language standards and outlined plans to provide principles for effective communication within the Model. This comprehensive approach aims to ensure that information is clear, concise, and accessible to everyone.

Dr. Cobley addressed the pressing issue of capacity needs and an Expert underscored the necessity of having adequate resources and personnel to engage effectively with communities. Dr. Cobley elaborated on CARB's ongoing efforts to develop a proposal outlining the organization's capacity requirements. This proposal will encompass the necessary positions, time commitments, and resources needed to support community engagement initiatives effectively. By addressing capacity needs, CARB aims to ensure that staff have the support and resources required to engage meaningfully with communities.

Furthermore, Dr. Cobley acknowledged the responsibility to provide detailed responses to individual comments from Experts. Dr. Cobley emphasized the importance of transparency and accountability to address community feedback. She discussed the process of categorizing and addressing comments received from Experts, ensuring that each comment is carefully considered and responded to appropriately.

Dr. Cobley shared that approximately 40% of the received comments have been processed, with plans underway to finalize the revised Model by late summer or fall. The fourth community expert meeting will be scheduled for the fall, and training initiatives based on the new Model will be implemented in the future.

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE SESSIONS - RECOMMENDATIONS

Amanda Anderson, Transportation & Toxics Division, CARB, provided an overview of the feedback gathered from the public dialogue sessions that took place since the last Community Expert meeting. She mentioned that there were eight meetings in total, with approximately 200 attendees. Due to budget constraints, there was a shift from originally planned in-person meetings to virtual ones. Despite this change, efforts were made to ensure outreach to areas that had not been visited yet, such as Brawley, Bakersfield, Fresno, and East Los Angeles (LA). Additional research was conducted to identify local advocates and community-based organizations (CBOs) in these regions to facilitate outreach efforts.

Ms. Anderson highlighted the benefits of virtual and in-person meetings, noting that virtual meetings allowed for increased participation, while in-person meetings facilitated more

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personalized and organic conversations. She emphasized the importance of a balanced approach, suggesting that a combination of virtual and in-person meetings would be ideal moving forward. An Expert expressed appreciation for the personal connection and interaction facilitated by in-person meetings, which she felt was important to create a sense of community.

Ms. Anderson then discussed lessons learned from the dialogue sessions and adjustments made based on feedback. These included the importance of increasing outreach efforts, partnering with local groups, and enhancing communication clarity. Changes were made to outreach materials and communication strategies to better convey CARB's purpose and engage communities effectively.

Furthermore, Ms. Anderson emphasized the need for broader, more open-ended questions during engagements, rather than seeking specific responses to presentations or models. She also stressed the importance of considering local concerns, needs, and events, as well as maintaining thorough and consistent follow-through with community feedback.

The Experts shared their perspectives and feedback on the lessons learned, highlighting the significance of community-centered engagement. Experts engaged in a discussion on framing community engagement as a public service rather than customer service, with an emphasis on understanding and addressing community needs and perspectives.

An Expert emphasized the importance of community input being framed within a broader community perspective rather than individual preferences. They highlighted the need for facilitators to ensure that participants understand the purpose and role of community input in decision-making processes.

Another Expert suggested shifting the focus from a customer service-based approach to a public servant-based approach, acknowledging that CARB staff members may not always belong to the communities they serve. This perspective resonated with other Experts, who agreed that community engagement should prioritize serving the public's interests.

In response to these comments, Ms. Anderson acknowledged the need to frame community engagement efforts as a public service and reiterated CARB's commitment to understanding and addressing community needs and perspectives. She emphasized the importance of maintaining transparency, openness, and consistency in CARB's interactions with communities, ensuring that feedback is valued and integrated into decision-making processes effectively.

QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

The Facilitator began the discussion of questions for the Experts and introduced the mechanics of using Jamboard, which allowed Experts to contribute their thoughts visually, and guided them through the Jamboard platform to ensure ease of use.

To guide discussion, the Facilitator shared CARB's four discussion questions:

- 1. How do you define youth? Recommendations for reaching K 12?
- 2. How do you suggest finding/collecting qualitative data without being extractive?
- 3. Do you have resources or guiding principles for how to address abuse and harassment?
- 4. Ideas for supporting transportation? If we can't pay for it, can we point folks to local programs or resources?

The Experts were then asked to share their responses to four questions verbally or on the Jamboard. The following is a summary of Experts' responses and questions.

HOW DO YOU DEFINE YOUTH? WHAT ARE YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REACHING K-12?

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Regarding the definition of youth, opinions varied widely. Some Experts defined youth strictly as K-12 students, while others extended the age range to include young adults up to age 35. Specific definitions included individuals below 18 years old still in the secondary education system, those between ages 17-24, and others up to age 25 or even 30.

Experts' recommendations for reaching K-12 students proposed numerous strategies, reflecting a multifaceted approach to engagement. Suggestions included targeted outreach through various channels such as community college students, faith-based organizations, and youth groups. Leveraging media involvement and ads, especially on social media platforms, emerged as a key strategy. Additionally, there were suggestions for CARB staff to attend career fairs, host youth-specific workshops, and participate in school rallies, field trips, and classroom presentations.

Experts emphasized the importance of partnerships with schools, youth-serving organizations, and local agencies to expand outreach efforts effectively. They highlighted providing opportunities for youth to share their ideas and get involved in various ways, such as volunteering, internships, or leadership roles. Experts shared the importance of creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for youth involvement.

Expert recommendations included offering career training and internship opportunities with no Grade Point Average (GPA) requirement, partnering with student groups and clubs, and connecting with trades apprenticeship programs to reach individuals aged 18-25. Ideas such as hosting school field trips and tours, holding youth assemblies, and engaging in trades apprenticeship programs were also suggested as effective methods for reaching K-12 students.

HOW DO YOU SUGGEST FINDING/COLLECTING QUALITATIVE DATA WITHOUT BEING EXTRACTIVE?

Experts shared a diverse array of suggestions for finding and collecting qualitative data while avoiding extractive practices, emphasizing the importance of building trust and genuine partnerships with communities.

A common theme within Experts' comments was collaboration with existing and trusted community organizations. Suggestions included meeting with community organizations that have already conducted surveying or qualitative research. Additionally, partnerships with universities and researchers who understand the environmental justice perspective were recommended. Examples included Environmental Health Sciences Center University of California (UC) Davis, Latinx & the Environment, UC Berkeley, UC Riverside, and scholars such as Dr. David Hayes-Bautista at UCLA and Dr. Michael Mendez at UC Irvine.

Experts highlighted engaging directly with communities at events or gathering places as an effective approach to invite storytelling and build relationships. Suggestions included tabling at events, conducting workshops, and surveys without requesting personal data. Experts stressed the importance of active listening, one-on-one conversations, and proper follow-up to ensure that community voices are valued and heard.

Experts suggested attributing and crediting stories and information to individuals, as well as providing resources or incentives for participation, to acknowledge the expertise and lived experiences of community members. Clear communication about how qualitative data will be used and ensuring that communities have a sense of ownership over the research process were also emphasized.

Moreover, Experts emphasized the need for research to be action-oriented and driven by community needs and priorities rather than purely academic or institutional agendas. They advocated for a platform for community-led research and stressed that research should be conducted not just for the sake of it but for actionable outcomes.

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DO YOU HAVE RESOURCES OR GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR HOW TO ADDRESS ABUSE AND HARASSMENT?

Experts offered comprehensive suggestions and resources to effectively address abuse and harassment during community engagement. Trained moderators and facilitators were highlighted as essential to oversee discussions and ensuring respectful dialogue. Experts recommended seeking assistance from consultants or organizations with experience in community dynamics, such as the Institute for Local Government.

Moreover, training for CARB Staff in conflict mediation and resolution was emphasized to enable them to address negative interactions promptly. Experts highlighted the importance of having unbiased facilitators present during meetings to set clear discussion rules and enforce them. Additionally, Experts noted that proactive preparation and responsiveness are crucial, including training CARB staff to anticipate and manage negative responses and developing response plans.

Experts suggested collaboration with CBOs to leverage their expertise and relationships in fostering respectful dialogue. They also recommended deploying regional outreach specialists or third-party facilitators to address specific community needs.

Experts suggested establishing clear processes for reporting complaints to CARB and ensuring prompt responses and follow-up. Finally, Experts shared resources such as examples of citizen assemblies and best practices in community engagement to support effective strategies.

WHAT ARE YOUR IDEAS FOR SUPPORTING TRANSPORTATION? IF WE CAN'T PAY FOR IT, CAN WE POINT FOLKS TO LOCAL PROGRAMS OR RESOURCES?

Experts offered various ideas for supporting transportation, especially for those who may face barriers to access meetings or events. Suggestions included providing information about Mobility Grant recipients for the region before meetings which would enable attendees to tap into available transportation options. They highlighted public transportation options such as Metrolink and buses as essential resources relied upon by many community members.

Experts proposed coordinating with local regional public transportation agencies to provide free rides for specific cases and partnering with CBOs to arrange transportation or offer travel stipends to constituents. Collaboration with third-party sites like car share and vanpool programs/agencies was suggested to expand transportation options.

Experts also recommended partnering with local governments to utilize services like dial-a-ride and other expansive forms of public transportation that operate during later hours and can be carpooled. Suggestions for promoting biking, ridesharing, and other alternative transportation methods were also shared.

Additionally, Experts offered creative approaches such as scheduling meetings with public transportation options and schedules in mind and meeting attendees at rendezvous points to travel together via public transit.

CONTRACT UPDATES AND NEXT STEPS

Jonathan Blufer, Industrial Strategies Division, CARB, acknowledged the robust discussion and shared contract updates and next steps. He highlighted that Experts have completed the first three tasks of their contracts, including attending virtual meetings, reviewing the draft model, and participating in discussions.

Mr. Blufer informed Experts about the no-cost contract extensions proposed by contract managers due to the extensive feedback received on the draft model, totaling over 2,000 comments. As a result, the timeline to revise the Model and subsequent tasks, including

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attending the fourth community expert meeting, will be extended beyond the original contract end date of April 30th. However, he reassured that no additional tasks will be added to the contracts, only the timeline will be adjusted to ensure thorough review and response to all comments.

Mr. Blufer shared the updated timeline, explaining that Task 5 (reviewing the revised model) and Task 6 (the final virtual meeting) will be completed in the Summer or Fall, depending on the time required for Model revisions.

Mr. Blufer concluded by sharing that CARB plans to release the revised Model this Summer and a detailed spreadsheet that covers all 2,000 plus comments received and incorporate storytelling. About a month after CARB sends out the revised model, Experts will have their final meeting to discuss additional recommendations.

The Facilitator concluded the meeting by sharing the Meeting Evaluation link and thanking Experts for their time and engagement.

The next Community Expert Meeting will be held in the Summer/Fall of 2024.

CARB ACTION ITEMS AND NEXT STEPS

During this meeting, CARB Staff committed to speaking with an Expert offline regarding the topic of police inclusion in meetings.

Prior to the fourth Expert Meeting, CARB will:

- Finish its review of public comments on the draft Model (over 2,000 comments were received).
- Revise the draft model.
- Share with the Experts: the draft model, a comment log spreadsheet that will detail how each comment was addressed, storytelling, and the list of recommendations to CARB's Executive Office.
- Prepare for the fourth Expert Meeting to be held this Fall, after the Experts review the revised model.

CSUS RECOMMENDATIONS

The following section contains Facilitator recommendations for improvements to the process of Expert Meetings based on debrief conversations with CARB staff and review of the meeting evaluation results.

- Recommendation that CARB and Sacramento State facilitator review and potentially revise how the chat function is used to maximize the opportunity it provides for interaction, Expert participation, and feedback, while also allowing Experts, CARB, and the facilitator to stay focused on the verbal discussion and agenda.
- Recommendation that CARB staff provide real-time Spanish translation in the chat to improve participation equity for mono linguistic Spanish-speaking Experts.

POST-MEETING SURVEY RESULTS

CARB staff provided a short survey to the Experts in English and Spanish to assess the meeting. Responses were provided by 13 of the 19 Experts who participated in the meeting. Findings are provided below:

Question 1: Choose the option that best describes your experience communicating with CARB staff leading up to this meeting.

13 Experts responded to this question.

- 92% said communication leading up to the meeting has been clear and effective.
- 78% said communication could be improved.

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No suggestions for improvement were offered.

Question 2: What can CARB staff do to make the meeting space more welcoming and collaborative?

13 Experts responded to this question.

- Five Experts stated that the meetings were going well to great. One also noted that the Jamboard was good.
- Four Experts suggested having smaller group discussions in breakout rooms. One suggested these would provide for more informal conversations to share feedback and lessons learned from their experience. They suggested having one facilitator and notetaker from CARB in each room to capture qualitative and quantitative data.
- Two Experts made suggestions related to disruptive or aggressive behavior. They
 suggested that the facilitator or CARB address anyone who exhibits such behavior. One
 Expert suggested that potential methods for addressing aggressive behavior include
 providing warnings, muting their participation in the chat, and repeating reminders
 about meeting agreements.
- One Expert suggested that the facilitator continue to read chat comments out loud.
- One Expert suggested playing music at the beginning of the meeting to set the mood and help participants relax and get ready for the meeting. CARB may want to ask attendees for playlist suggestions.
- One Expert did not respond to this question.

Question 3: Are there topics you want us to discuss in meeting 4?

11 experts responded to this question.

- Three experts did not have suggestions at this time.
- One Expert requested creating a list of issues that Experts have seen with community meetings.
- One Expert requested a deeper dive into community engagement.
- Four Experts would like more information about next steps and requested a discussion of major themes being incorporated into the revised model based on community expert comments.
 - One requested that the focus be on how CARB will implement conflict resolution and how transportation will be made more accessible.
 - One asked for information about how the community's suggestions will result in real change beyond documentation, especially for Latinx communities.
 - One requested discussion surrounding how we can expect our communities to react to the model and how long it will take for these changes to be enacted.