

**AB 32 Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (EJAC)
August 16, 2024, EJAC Public Meeting
Minutes**

Attendance

EJAC Member Attendees:

In-Person:

1. Kevin Hamilton
2. Dr. Catherine Garoupa
3. Thomas Helme
4. Rey Leon
5. Luis Olmedo

Virtual:

6. Martha Dina Arguello
7. Kevin Jefferson III
8. Jill Sherman-Warne
9. Matt Holmes

EJAC Members not in Attendance:

- Juan Flores
- John Harriel Jr.

CARB Attendees:

- Chanell Fletcher
- Ashley Georgiou
- Karina Jhaj
- Bobbi Ruch
- JT Eden
- Steven Weiss

Other Attendees:

- Jane Harrington, Leading Resources Inc. (Facilitator)
- Eric Douglas, Leading Resources Inc. (Co-Facilitator)

Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item #1: Housekeeping and Logistics

Quorum was reached at 2:07 pm and the public meeting began. The facilitator provided general housekeeping and logistics information and conducted EJAC member roll call. 9 EJAC members were present; 2 were absent.

Agenda Item #2: Introductions and Opening Remarks

Deputy Director Chanell Fletcher provided opening remarks.

Committee Co-Chairs Dr. Catherine Garoupa provided opening remarks including the recent award by the Leadership Council for Justice and Accountability. Co-Chair Martha Dina Arguello commented about preparing the Committee for the joint meeting with CARB in September. Kevin Jefferson III acknowledged the work of Martha Dina Arguello and Dr. Catherine Garoupa and thanked them. The Co-Chairs also reviewed the agenda, ground rules and meeting agreements.

Agenda Item #3: CARB Informational Update on the EJAC Charter

Karina Jhaj, CARB staff, provided an update on the background, parameters, and plan for the pending one-time EJAC Charter revision. A member asked about the parameters of what can be revised. CARB staff shared that AB 32 statutory references were parameters. Another member asked about the formal process for charter revisions and a timeline. Staff shared the next step was to meet again with the subgroup on the charter revision and that staff would work with the subgroup on the timeline.

Agenda Item #4: Public Comment

Public comment was held on agenda item #3 and 1 member of the public provided comments. *Please see the video [recording](#) for the comment.*

Agenda Item #5: EJAC Discussion to Prepare for the September 12, 2024, Joint EJAC/CARB Board Meeting

Co-Chair Garoupa framed the discussion and provided updates. She shared that CARB was holding a workshop on dairy emissions in Fresno on September 22, 2024. She also shared that the 15-day changes for the Low Carbon Fuel Standards ("LCFS") were recently released.

Regarding the Cap-and-Trade Resolution, Co-Chair Garoupa shared that the workgroup continues to make progress on a resolution but would not be bringing a draft resolution to the committee in this meeting and will not be presenting it at the joint meeting.

Co-Chair Garoupa also shared she and Katie Valenzuela, a Senior Policy Advocate at the Central Valley Air Quality Coalition, attended a meeting of the Independent Emissions Advisory Committee (“IEMAC”) and would be preparing a memo to report back to the Committee about the discussion.

Co-Chairs Garoupa and Arguello opened a discussion with the committee about preparing for the joint EJAC/CARB meeting in September, asking about topics and the most productive use of that meeting. Members discussed limiting the discussion on charter revisions at that meeting. Co-Chair Garoupa emphasized that there is limited time and noted that a draft agenda had been prepared for the meeting that outlined two main topics: (1) Carbon Markets, with two subitems, LCFS and Cap-and-Trade, and (2) Carbon Capture, Sequestration, and Storage (“CCUS”) and Direct Air Capture (“DAC”). She invited the committee to participate in preparation for that meeting and expressed that a distribution of the workload would be nice. She suggested that, because there is a CCUS and DAC resolution, more time in the meeting would be devoted to that topic. Co-Chair Garoupa invited Co-Chair Arguello to coordinate the presentation of that topic and Co-Chair Arguello to do so. Member Holmes volunteered to be involved in the CCUS conversation and to help carry that item. Member Holmes also expressed an interest that a member of the Committee be participating in the IEMAC meetings. Co-Chair Garoupa clarified that she had been present at the meeting on behalf of the Committee.

Co-Chair Garoupa invited discussion about the draft CCUS and DAC resolution. She noted that proposed changes were highlighted in yellow and described those changes. Member Holmes offered an idea about language regarding the impact on civil rights. He shared in the zoom chat the following: “recognizing that a business as usual development is to invest in the continuance, perpetuation and expansion of pollution in overburdened communities is a direct violation of California Statutory Authority and should determine that any engineered solutions must critically necessary and should be considered a last resort strategy”.

Member Olmedo suggested expanding the language about water at the bottom of page 2 of the resolution beyond just groundwater and drinking water. He stated he had agricultural water in mind, and the importance of protecting that water also. He also noted that he did not want to diminish the importance of protections for ground and drinking water. Possible revisions were discussed, including adding “surface”. Regarding the same item, Member Hamilton suggested striking the words “designated community radii”, expressing that the item did not need to be limited. Member Arguello shared some background about the inclusion of that language. There was additional discussion about the impact of including that language.

Member Olmedo also noted the historical inclusion of language about habitat and wildlife. He suggested the addition of language about specifying doing no harm to humans along with habitat and wildlife.

Co-Chair Garoupa shared that the workgroup responsible for drafting the resolution had worked to strike a balance in drafting a resolution on a complex topic.

Note: At this moment in the meeting, a power failure affecting multiple blocks of downtown Sacramento impacted the Cal EPA building and power was lost in the meeting room. The meeting was paused for a break. After it was determined that power would not be restored within a reasonable amount of time, the meeting was adjourned around 3:25 pm. A continuation meeting was held on September 3, 2024.