California Cap-and-Invest Program
Allowance Price Containment Reserve Sales

2026 Annual Allowance Price Containment Reserve Notice
Issued on December 1, 2025

Reserve Sale Summary

As part of the Cap-and-Invest Program, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) will offer sales of allowances from the Allowance Price Containment Reserve (Reserve) in any quarter that the Current Auction held in the preceding quarter resulted in a settlement price greater than or equal to 60% of the lowest Reserve tier price. In addition, a Quarter 3 Reserve sale will be offered each year in September, prior to the compliance obligation instrument surrender deadline on November 1 or the first business day thereafter. A Reserve sale is conducted only if at least one entity that intends to participate in the Reserve sale informs CARB at least 20 days prior to the scheduled Reserve sale and submits a bid guarantee before the deadline in the Reserve Sale Notice.

CARB will offer allowances for sale from the Reserve in two fixed-price tiers. The number of allowances offered in 2026 may be adjusted based on the results of the 2025 Quarter 4 Reserve sale.

Table 1: 2026 Reserve Tier Prices and Allowances Currently in Reserve

Reserve Tier	Tier Prices	Number of Reserve Allowances
Tier 1	$65.31 per allowance	66,811,000
Tier 2	$83.92 per allowance	89,537,000

Reserve Sale Information

A Reserve Sale Notice will be released at least 30 days prior to each Reserve sale offered in 2026. The Reserve Sale Notice provides information about the number of Reserve allowances to be offered and the Reserve sale schedule for the applicable Reserve sale.

Additional background information, detailed instructions, and examples will be available in two supporting documents, which will include information applicable to 2026 Reserve sales:

1) The Detailed Reserve Sale Requirements and Instructions document will provide background information on the California Cap-and-Invest Program, as well as detailed requirements and instructions for participating in a Reserve sale.

2) The Reserve Sale Examples document will provide information and examples of how to determine the amount of a bid guarantee, bid evaluation procedures for holding limits and bid guarantees, and examples of Reserve sale bid fulfillment and purchase determinations.

The Reserve Sale Notices and supporting documentation will be available on the CARB *Reserve Sale Information* webpage.

Reserve sales are scheduled pursuant to the schedule in Appendix C of the Cap-and-Trade Regulation and offered pursuant to Section 95913(d)(1) of the Cap-and-Trade Regulation. Table 2 provides potential dates for 2026 Reserve sale activities.

Table 2. 2026 Reserve Sale Summary of Potential Dates

Reserve Sale Event	Reserve Sale Notice Posted	Reserve Sale Application Period Closes	All Bid Guarantees Due to Financial Services Administrator	Reserve Sale Conducted (If Offered)
April 2026 Reserve Sale	Mar 2, 2026	Mar 12, 2026	Mar 20, 2026	Apr 1, 2026
June 2026 Reserve Sale	May 29, 2026	Jun 10, 2026	Jun 18, 2026	Jun 30, 2026
September 2026 Reserve Sale	Aug 31, 2026	Sep 10, 2026	Sep 18, 2026	Sep 30, 2026
December 2026 Reserve Sale	Nov 30, 2026	Dec 10, 2026	Dec 18, 2026	Dec 30, 2026

The Quarter 3 Reserve sale scheduled in September will be offered. The other three Reserve sales will be offered only if the settlement price of the Current Auction held in the preceding quarter is greater than or equal to $39.19, which is 60% of the lowest Reserve tier price in 2026.

Contact Information

For further information about the Annual Allowance Price Containment Reserve Notice or participation in the 2026 Reserve sales, please contact:

California Cap-and-Invest Program

California Air Resources Board, CITSS Help Desk
CACITSSHelpDesk@arb.ca.gov
(916) 324-7659