

California Environmental Protection Agency Tribal Advisory Committee Quarterly Report

California Air Resources Board
Quarter One, 2026 Report



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Report Overview

This Quarter One, 2026, report from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) provides an overview of key updates that occurred from January through March. Background information is maintained on CARB's Tribal Affairs [webpage](#) for continued reference across reporting cycles.

Closed Action Items

CARB met with CalEPA and the TAC in February 2026 for the annual Boards, Departments and Office (BDO) Heads meeting. CARB identified several action items from the meeting, including:

1. Schedule a meeting between the TAC Chair and Vice Chair and CARB leadership, including Executive Officer Dr. Steven Cliff and Deputy Executive Officer Chanell Fletcher.
2. Schedule a meeting with TAC member Jill Sherman-Warne to discuss implementation of CARB's Planning and Capacity Building Grant following the completion of the grant cycle.
3. Incorporating additional metrics and tracking information on tribal outreach and engagement into CARB's TAC reporting process.

CARB closed two action items from the BDO Heads meeting, including:

- CARB leadership met with TAC Chair and Vice Chair on March 12, 2026.
- Metrics and tracking information were integrated into this Quarter One 2026 report and will continue to be refined in future reporting cycles.

The Planning and Capacity Building Grant funding cycle is still in progress. Once it is complete, CARB will proceed with scheduling a follow-up meeting with program staff and TAC member Jill Sherman-Warne.

CARB anticipates addressing additional action items related to preparations for the May 2026 CalEPA TAC meeting in Quarter two.

Action items from past CalEPA TAC meetings and previous quarterly reporting can be found on CARB's Tribal Affairs webpage: [Tribal Affairs / Quarterly TAC Reports \(ca.gov\)](#).

Consultations

CARB works closely with tribes and holds consultations when requested, carefully following requirements from [statutes and executive orders](#). During this reporting period CARB participated in one consultation as a follow-up from activities in 2025.

CARB also worked with tribes on various projects, grants, regulations, and inquiries, which are captured in the Engagement Outcomes and Program Updates portions of this TAC Report.

California Air Resources 2026 Priorities

On January 28, 2026, Executive Officer Dr. Steven Cliff announced *CARB's priorities for 2026*. These priorities are bolstered by the *Governor's Proposed 2026-27 Budget*, which proposes investments to protect public health and the environment by reducing air pollution while considering economic impacts. Much of the key work we are advancing in 2026 is focused on implementing new laws that advance California's clean air and climate goals. Priorities that involve and impact tribes are outlined below.

Driving Clean Transportation Forward

Drive Forward

CARB's Drive Forward Initiative represents the next phase of California's clean transportation strategy. This effort combines incentives, outreach, partnerships, and regulations to ensure every Californian benefits from cleaner air and affordable clean vehicle options. Tribes have provided feedback on this effort and the importance of meaningful, timely engagement. More information on Drive Forward activities that occurred during this reporting period are included on page eight of the report.

Off-Road and Freight Sector Priorities

Freight activities remain significant sources of pollution. CARB will continue implementing existing regulations, including the Ocean-Going Vessels (OGV) At-Berth Regulation, which has been of interest to the TAC in the past. More information OGV activities that occurred during this reporting period are included on page seven of the report.

Implementing Climate Legislation

Cap-and-Invest

California's Cap-and-Invest program (formerly Cap-and-Trade) is central to the state's climate strategy. Under Assembly Bill (AB) 1207 and Senate Bill (SB) 840, the Governor and the Legislature extended the program through 2045, strengthening long-term market signals and funding for communities and climate investments. CARB is updating the Cap-and-Invest Regulation consistent with this legislative direction. On January 20, 2026, CARB released a Notice of Public Hearing and opened the public comment period for the regulatory amendments, which closed March 9, 2026.

Cap-and-Invest is of interest to the tribes, including California Climate Investments that are the product of auction proceeds. CARB will keep the TAC informed on critical updates through the regulatory process.

More information on Cap-and-Invest program activities that occurred during this reporting period are included on pages six and eight of the report.

California Climate Investments

California has invested more than \$20 billion in climate projects over the past decade, with more than 70% benefiting disadvantaged and low-income communities. In 2026, CARB will launch three tools to support equitable investment consistent with AB 1550.

- Supplemental Guidance for Avoiding Burdens: A framework to help agencies prevent burdens on priority populations during program design and project selection.
- Tribal Engagement Guidebook: A resource to help State agencies administering California Climate Investments (CCI) programs strengthen tribal partnerships, improve outreach, and design programs that enhance access and participation.
- Equity Metrics Dashboard: A geospatial tool to identify opportunities to improve equitable outcomes.

More CCI activities that occurred during this reporting period is included on page eight of the report.

Advancing Clean Air for Communities

Supporting Community-Led Clean Air Solutions

AB 617, the Community Air Protection Program, has implemented community-scale air monitoring and accelerated emissions reductions in overburdened neighborhoods. The Legislature's establishment of continuous annual appropriation supports continued implementation under SB 840.

Addressing Environmental Justice

In February 2026, CARB released a public solicitation for new members for the Assembly Bill 32 Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (EJAC). CARB is seeking 11 individuals to serve a 36-month term which will begin on the date the EJAC member is first appointed by the Board. More information on EJAC activities that occurred during this reporting period are included on page eight of the report.

As part of CARB's commitment to upholding transparent compliance with non-discrimination laws, CARB is updating the [2016 Civil Rights Policy and Discrimination Complaint Process](#) (Civil Rights Policy). CARB staff will lead a meaningful and robust external engagement process across the state to gather community input and support the successful update of the Civil Rights Policy by the end of 2026.

CARB will continue engagement with California Native American tribes and through this engagement, develop steps to create an agencywide Tribal Engagement Model.

Strategy to Reduce Air Toxics

This year, CARB will develop a unified, forward-looking strategy to guide CARB's air toxics work over the next 20 years and beyond. This Roadmap will build upon the existing foundational work carried out by CARB and air districts, to identify a path forward for more effectively addressing toxic air pollutants statewide. The TAC has previously expressed interest in non-diesel emissions, so CARB will keep the TAC informed as this work progresses. More information is included on page 10 of the report.

Statewide Mobile Monitoring Initiative

In 2026, CARB is implementing the Statewide Mobile Monitoring Initiative (SMMI), a program supported through funding from the Legislature that enhances the Community Air Protection Program by providing block-level air quality data for criteria pollutants, greenhouse gases (GHGs), and toxics for over 60 AB 617 consistently nominated communities. SMMI provides public data access and supports community engagement. Aclima Inc., has been contracted as CARB's partner in this effort. More information on SMMI activities that occurred during this reporting period are included on page 10 of the report.

Tribal Engagement Outcomes

CARB remains committed to engaging with tribes, building relationships, and providing opportunities for them to stay informed on key issues, including grant funding opportunities, Board and meeting agendas, and updates on air quality and climate policies.

During Quarter One, CARB focused on engaging with tribes on five programs. The summary table below provides key activities and outcomes from CARB's specific work with tribes, including outreach, engagement, and program changes.

Tribal Engagement Outcomes Summary Table

CARB Program or Activity	Number of Tribes Reached	Outreach Mechanism (i.e. email, phone call, etc.)	Number of Tribes Engaged	Virtual and/or In-Person Participation	Link to Program Webpage (if applicable)
Cap-and-Invest Compliance	27	Email, mailed letters, phone calls	1	Virtual	Compliance Offset Program / California Air

Offsets Program					<i>Resources Board</i>
Access Clean California	31	Phone calls, website updates	<i>Data not reported until mid-April; will be included in Quarter Two reporting</i>	<i>Data not reported until mid-April; will be included in Quarter Two reporting</i>	<i>Clean Vehicles for Tribal Communities - NAEPC; About Access Clean California / Access Clean California</i>
Drive Forward Initiative	158	Emails, website updates, listserv notices	34	Virtual	<i>Programs Overview / CARB; Drive Forward / CARB</i>
Environmental Justice Advisory Committee Solicitation	158	Emails, website updates, listserv notices, phone calls	<i>Data not reported until late-April</i>	<i>Data not reported until late-April</i>	<i>Release of Public Solicitation for Assembly Bill 32 Environmental Justice Advisory Committee Members / California Air Resources Board</i>
Clean Transportation Evening Community Meetings	17	Emails, listserv notices, social media updates, website updates	17	Virtual	<i>March 17 Evening Community Meeting</i>
Community Engagement Model Request for Proposal	24 Tribal Serving Organizations	Emails, website updates	<i>Data not reported until late-April</i>	<i>Data not reported until late-April</i>	<i>Community Engagement Model / California Air Resources Board</i>

Programmatic Updates

This section highlights recent efforts to involve tribes in the development and implementation of CARB programs:

Regulatory Updates

CARB currently has two active rulemakings in various stages of development. Activities for the first quarter related to these regulations are as follows:

Cap-and-Invest Compliance Offsets Program

On January 13, 2026, CARB staff published [proposed updates to the Cap-and-Invest Regulation](#) consistent with legislative direction, and the 45-day comment period closed on March 9, 2026. CARB staff are reviewing public comments received to support proposing further modifications to the Cap-and-Invest Regulation for a 15-day comment period. CARB staff will present a final rulemaking package to the Board in May 2026, with the changes proposed to be effective September 1, 2026.

The week of January 13, 2026, CARB staff sent 20 email notices to representatives from each tribe and Alaska Native Corporation that is registered in the Cap-and-Invest Program to ensure they were aware of the publication of the proposed regulatory updates. Additionally, physical letters were mailed to six California Native American tribes that requested to be updated on this rulemaking. No tribes requested further consultation with CARB.

For more information, visit CARB's Compliance Offset Program website: [Compliance Offset Program / California Air Resources Board](#)

Ocean-Going Vessel In-Transit Regulation

CARB is in the early days of developing a new rulemaking to reduce harmful air pollution from large ships sailing in California waters. This rule is referred to as the OGV In-Transit Regulation. CARB hosted a [public workshop](#) on February 4, 2026, to share updates on the OGV In-Transit rulemaking and community engagement efforts. We were especially interested in hearing from community members about how they would like to be involved in shaping this regulation. The workshop included a survey with questions focused on community engagement to help guide our future engagement strategies. The workshop also featured a presentation by the University of California, Irvine, highlighting the findings from the OGV emission control technology assessment they are conducting on behalf of CARB. Once finished later this year, the OGV emission control technology assessment will be tentatively uploaded onto CARB's webpage and will be accessible by the public.

More information on the OGV In-Transit rulemaking can be found on CARB's webpage here: [Potential Ocean-Going Vessel \(OGV\) In-Transit Regulation](#).

Outreach and Engagement Updates

In this Quarter One reporting period, CARB's outreach was focused on the seven efforts below. Statistics including how many tribes we engaged with, and feedback/outcomes from this engagement, are included.

Access Clean California

An Access Clean California outreach partner, the Native American Environmental Protection Coalition (NAEPC), conducted ongoing tribal outreach, attended partner outreach meetings, and attended public workgroups on CARB funded programs to provide feedback on the program operations. Prosper Sustainably, a firm that serves tribes and is deeply engaged in the Tribal Chairmen's Association of Southern California, drafted a contract to engage in outreach work, as well as technical assistance and capacity building. Though not yet fully executed, this contract is the final step in onboarding Prosper Sustainably as an official outreach partner for Access Clean California.

For more information, visit Access Clean California's website: [About Access Clean California / Access Clean California](#)

California Climate Investments Funding Workbook

CCI staff are partnering with the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians (Viejas) to update the Funding Workbook for All Tribes (Funding Workbook) and identify priorities for the next revision. Together, they have developed an approach to solicit feedback from tribes statewide. Staff and Viejas are also planning to co-host a tribal cohort to walk through the Funding Workbook with participating tribes and those drafting updates. In addition to revising program information, Viejas and staff will co-develop further additional updates.

Cap-and-Invest Compliance Offsets Program

CARB staff exchanged emails with representatives of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and met virtually with those representatives on January 13, 2026, to discuss project-related questions.

Drive Forward Initiative Tribal Listening Session

CARB's Drive Forward Initiative builds on the Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Forward initiative to advance vehicle regulations, incentives, and programs that support clean air, climate goals, and public health. CARB hosted a Drive Forward Tribal Listening Session on February 17, 2026 for tribal members, tribal representatives, and affiliated groups to

discuss the program. Staff conducted outreach to 158 tribes and affiliated groups, with 34 tribes attending the event.

For more information, visit CARB's Drive Forward website: [Drive Forward / California Air Resources Board](#)

Assembly Bill 32 Environmental Justice Advisory Committee Solicitation

CARB is seeking 11 individuals with experience in environmental justice, equity, and/or community engagement related to AB 32 programs. Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on April 21, 2026. Tribal members and representatives are eligible and encouraged to apply, and staff conducted outreach to all federally and non-federally recognized tribes in California.

During this reporting period, CARB [released](#) the 2026 public solicitation for the [AB 32](#) EJAC. Members serve 36-month terms. EJAC advises CARB's Board on environmental justice considerations, with a focus on racial equity, including input on the Scoping Plan and other AB 32 implementation matters. CARB also conducted targeted outreach to tribes to encourage participation in the solicitation and ensure that tribal voices are represented.

For more information, visit CARB's EJAC website: [Environmental Justice Advisory Committee / California Air Resources Board](#)

Evening Community Meetings for Clean Transportation Incentives

CARB hosts monthly evening community meetings to provide updates on Clean Transportation Incentives. During these meetings, CARB staff will discuss updates about incentive project funding and implementation for zero-emission transportation and mobility projects. These projects help improve air quality and reduce the impacts of climate change. We encourage community members to ask questions, provide suggestions, and give input on their clean transportation needs. A brief recap of the Drive Forward Tribal Listening Session was presented at the March 17 meeting.

For more information, visit CARB's website: [Evening Community Meeting: Clean Transportation Incentives - March 2026 / California Air Resources Board](#)

CARB's Five-Year Strategic Research Plan and Projects

CARB's Board approved CARB's [Five-Year Strategic Research Plan](#), which will inform the annual research planning processes from 2025 to 2030. Several of the future research priorities proposed in the Five-Year Plan may be relevant to tribal needs. Each fiscal year, the Research Program will engage the public on research priorities being proposed for funding. Tribes can submit comments on proposed priorities and attend the annual public meeting where they are discussed.

Tribes can email the Research Division at research@arb.ca.gov, to discuss research priorities sign up for notifications about research at the [Research Activities listserv](#), or visit [CARB's Research Planning webpage](#).

Tribal Cultural Burning

CARB helped coordinate tribal participation in the Prescribed Fire and Smoke Management Trainings in collaboration with the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), which were held in-person in Diamond Bar and San Rafael in January and April 2026. These trainings were designed to be accessible to all federal, state, local, and tribal partners involved in fire, smoke management, and air quality. The sessions aimed to provide comprehensive coverage on the latest research, program updates, challenges, and successes in the field, while also offering valuable overviews for new staff and stakeholders. The training sessions addressed a range of critical topics, including the science of fire smoke, health impacts, regulatory frameworks, and the roles various agencies play in managing prescribed smoke. They focused on emerging trends, tools, and technologies for monitoring air quality during wildfire events and prescribed fires. Presenters include experts from the CAPCOA, CalFire, U.S. EPA, United States Forest Service (USFS), State Parks, Tribal Groups, and CARB's Public Outreach, Meteorology, and Monitoring Divisions. These collaborations provided a diverse array of perspectives and expertise to support the development of more effective, collaborative approaches to managing wildfire smoke and protection of public health.

Roadmap to Reducing Air Toxins

CARB has initiated the "Roadmap to Reducing Air Toxins" (Toxics Roadmap), a forward-looking strategy to guide its air toxics program. The roadmap will outline current capabilities, future goals, and the steps needed to achieve them, while identifying actions to deliver measurable public health benefits and strengthen accountability to communities. Its overarching aim is to reestablish a proactive, transparent, and community-focused toxics program.

The effort is in its early stages, with plans to present the roadmap and a related resolution to the Board by the end of the year. An informational flyer is expected ahead of the May 2026 TAC meeting. CARB will continue updating the TAC, particularly on non-diesel emissions, and welcomes input at airtoxics@arb.ca.gov.

Community Engagement Model

In March 2026, CARB staff released a [Request for Proposals \(RFP\) for an Agencywide Training Program](#) on [CARB's Community Engagement Model \(Model\)](#). The RFP solicits qualified applicants to co-develop and deliver an interactive training and train-the-trainer program that will support agencywide implementation of CARB's Model, while also working with community collaborators to ensure that the training reflects community perspectives. Proposals are due April 23, 2026, at 2:00 PM.

For more information, visit CARB's website: [Community Engagement Model / California Air Resources Board](#)

Air Monitoring Updates

Air Monitoring Support for Tribal Entities

The Monitoring and Laboratory Division Standards Laboratory Section provided ozone verification of a Teledyne T700 Dilution Calibrator for the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, including implementation of the new EPA ozone cross-section value. Ozone verification services were provided for a Teledyne T400 Ozone analyzer for the Gila River Indian Community, and the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community. Ozone verification services were provided for a Thermo 49iQ-PS for the Morongo Band of Mission Indians. The ozone verification for Swinomish Indian Tribal Community was completed on January 30th, 2026. On February 13, CARB completed ozone verification for the Gila River Indian Community. On February 20, CARB completed ozone verification for the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community. On March 10, the ozone verification for the Morongo Band of Mission Indians was completed. CARB has been providing ongoing ozone verification services for a Thermo 49C of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians and that worked completed on March 20, 2026.

Statewide Mobile Monitoring Initiative

Since June 2025, Aclima has been conducting mobile air monitoring near the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation and Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, including along State Route 86 through Torres Martinez land and Marshall Blvd near Yuhaaviatam land. This monitoring effort concluded in March 2026.

For more information, visit CARB's SMMI website: [Statewide Mobile Monitoring Initiative / California Air Resources Board](#)

Joint State Agency Efforts

CARB works closely with our state agency partners to ensure a streamlined approach to tribal outreach and engagement. Below are ongoing joint agency efforts CARB has been engaging in specific to tribes. These efforts are ongoing in this and future reporting periods.

CARB remains committed to engaging with tribes, building relationships, and providing opportunities for them to stay informed on key issues, including grant funding opportunities, Board and meeting agendas, and updates on air quality and climate policies.

During Quarter One, CARB focused on engaging with tribes on the following two programs:

Senate Bill 100 Updates

Pursuant to SB 100 (SB 100, De Leon, Stats. 2018, ch. 312, Public Utilities Code § 454.53), the California Energy Commission (CEC), California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), and CARB continue to develop the 2025-edition of the joint agency report for the Legislature (2025 SB 100 Report) assessing various pathways to achieve the SB 100 policy. SB 100 requires that 100 percent of electricity retail sales and state loads come from renewable and zero-carbon resources by 2045.

The CEC is leading the assessment work for the SB 100 Report, with CARB program staff providing technical and policy guidance. CARB's Tribal Liaison is advising on coordination activities for the report. SB 100 report development and the public process continued in this quarter. On February 19, a public workshop was held to present and discuss the draft electricity resource modeling results and implementation challenges for the 2025 SB 100 report. On March 3, a tribal working group meeting was held after the public workshop to obtain tribal perspectives related to the modeling results and implementation challenges. CEC, CPUC, and CARB collaborated to review the tribal chapter of a report on the clean energy transition. CARB has kept the TAC informed due to prior interest in solar and other statewide efforts.

For more information, visit the CEC's SB 100 website: [*SB 100 Joint Agency Report*](#)

Community Science Guide Workgroup

CARB's Research Division, in collaboration with CalEPA and external experts, co-created two community science guides available for staff, tribes, community-based organizations, or others interested in designing and implementing a community science project. The workgroup consisted of three tribes – Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley, Cahto Tribe, and Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation – along with seven community-based organizations. Guides and training materials were finalized in Fall 2025 and are currently undergoing final CalEPA review. The workgroup anticipated releasing the guides and trainings by Summer 2026. This is an effort CARB has reported previously to the TAC.

Upcoming Tribal Affairs Priorities

CARB will continue to bolster the activities listed in the 2026 Priorities Memo and determine potential impacts to tribes through our work.

Additional priorities include:

1. Continuing to tailor CARB's reporting to better meet the needs of the TAC and California Native American tribes, making it more meaningful and useful, including the addition of enhanced metrics and tracking of tribal engagement across CARB programs.

2. Continuing development of CARB's Tribal Engagement Model, which is intended to guide staff in their approaches to tribal outreach, consultation, and engagement.
3. Initiating early planning for a Tribal Tour in California's Central Valley region, providing an opportunity for CARB staff and program partners to meet with tribes and hear firsthand experiences to help inform future programs. This will build off of lessons from the June 2025 San Diego tribal tour.
4. Continuing coordination with CalEPA and its BDOs to share lessons learned and promote a more aligned and effective approach to tribal outreach and engagement.
5. Maintaining and updating accurate tribal contact information, beginning with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) contact list and incorporating future updates, while also building CARB's internal contact list through ongoing engagement and our work with other BDO tribal liaisons. CARB will coordinate closely with CalEPA, BDOs, and Tribal Liaisons to ensure consistency and strengthen relationships.
6. Ensuring tribal participation on EJAC so that tribal perspectives can be part of informing the Board on AB 32-related programs.
7. Regularly updating the Tribal Affairs webpage to ensure clear, accessible information for tribes and maintain a centralized repository of CARB program efforts.