

California Air Resources Board
Community Air Protection Program

South Sacramento-Florin Community Emissions Reduction Program Staff Report

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For More Information

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Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Executive Officer of the California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) approve the *South Sacramento - Florin Community Emissions Reduction Program*¹ (CERP), developed pursuant to *Assembly Bill (AB) 617*.² Staff further recommends that the Executive Officer direct CARB staff to work with the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (AQMD or Air District) and the South Sacramento-Florin Community Steering Committee (CSC) to strengthen implementation, including refinement of strategies, enhanced interagency coordination, and increased transparency as implementation proceeds.

Background

CARB established the *Community Air Protection Program*³ (CAPP or Program) to implement AB 617, which requires community-focused action to reduce air pollution. CARB implements the Program which establishes criteria for developing and implementing *community emissions reduction programs*,⁴ community air monitoring plans, as well as other elements of the Program. The *Blueprint 2.0*⁵ was adopted by the Board in October 2023 and is the first five-year update to Program guidance. Blueprint 2.0 carries over certain elements from the 2018 Blueprint, incorporates clarifications to CERP requirements, and provides new elements to identify ways to support more communities.

The South Sacramento-Florin CERP was developed over a two-year period beginning with early fieldwork and community engagement in mid-2024 and concluding with plan adoption in June 2026. Here is a short timeline of that progress:

- **June – July 2024 – Boundary setting.** The process formally began in June 2024 with an all-electric bus tour to assess possible boundary adjustments, followed by a July 2024 vote to expand the boundary. The boundary the CSC voted on expanded to include the two consistently nominated communities of Oak Park, Fruitridge and Meadowview.
- **July 2024 – CARB Board action.** CARB Board voted to transition the South Sacramento-Florin Community to develop and implement a CERP while continuing to implement their Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP).

¹ South Sacramento-Florin Community Emissions Reduction Program. <https://www.airquality.org/AB617/Documents/Final%20CERP%2005282026.pdf>.

² *Assembly Bill 617*, Garcia, C., Chapter 136, Statutes of 2017.

³ Community Air Protection Program: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/capp>.

⁴ Contained in *Blueprint 2.0* beginning on page 79.

⁵ The Blueprint 2.0 is available at: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/blueprint-20>.

- **August – December 2024 – Foundational activities.** Through the remainder of 2024, the CSC focused on foundational activities including:
 - AB 617 budget discussions in August;
 - Orientation presentations and peer learning in September;
 - Review of air monitoring data and potential portable monitoring lab sites in October and November;
 - Year-end planning and Co-Lead elections in December.
- **January – October 2025 – Plan development.** In January 2025, the CSC reviewed the community emissions inventory and set the CERP development timeline, followed by prioritization of air pollution concerns and initial strategy brainstorming in February. From March through August 2025, the committee refined goals and developed strategies through technical deep dives. Feasibility discussions in September and strategy prioritization in October helped shape the draft plan, which was finalized for CSC review in December 2025.
- **January – June 2026 – Plan review and adoption.** The Draft CERP underwent public review from January through February 2026, after which comments were incorporated, and the CSC approved the Final CERP in March 2026. The Air District then prepared the plan for consideration by the Sacramento Metro AQMD Board in April 2026, with Board adoption on May 28, 2026. The Final CERP was submitted to CARB on June 22, 2026, completing the development process within the required two-year window.

Community Emissions Reduction Program Overview

The South Sacramento-Florin CERP provides a comprehensive, community-led framework for reducing emissions and exposure in the designated community. The plan outlines the environmental, health, and socioeconomic conditions within the expanded community boundary and identifies locations of sensitive receptors such as hospitals, schools, and childcare centers. It details the community's priority air quality concerns and the desired outcomes and goals identified through the CSC process.

The plan presents emissions and exposure reduction targets based on funding currently available for the District. These targets were shaped by CSC prioritization and available funding, and the document notes that targets may be updated as new funding becomes available. The CERP also describes the strategies selected for implementation, including incentive programs, outreach and public engagement, enforcement activities, and

collaborative efforts with partner agencies. These strategies are further explained in [Chapter 6](#)⁶ of the plan and reflect the community-driven development process.

In addition, the CERP evaluates how state, regional, and local initiatives intersect with and support the community-identified strategies. The plan explains that some emission sources and potential solutions fall outside the direct control of the Air District or community, and therefore collaboration with other jurisdictions and agencies is essential.

Finally, the plan includes a discussion of how statewide and federal regulatory conditions may influence future emissions trends. It notes that projected emissions reductions rely on the continued implementation of California's mobile-source regulatory authority, and changes at the federal level could affect these forecasts.

Summary of CARB's Evaluation

CARB staff's evaluation finds that the South Sacramento-Florin CERP meets the requirements set forth in state law and in Blueprint 2.0, reflecting a clear alignment with the community priorities identified through the CSC process and public participation. The plan is supported by a strong technical foundation, including the emissions inventory, air monitoring data, and enforcement findings, and staff concludes that the strategies outlined in the CERP are likely to reduce emissions and exposure within the community when implemented with sustained collaboration and ongoing refinement. Sustained community engagement and support for community involvement will be essential to ensure the CERP delivers the intended air quality and health benefits for South Sacramento-Florin residents.

Key Strengths

Robust and Representative Community Leadership

The South Sacramento-Florin CERP development process was driven by strong, consistent community leadership supported by broad participation from local organizations, institutions, and residents. The CSC brought together a diverse coalition—including groups such as United Latinos, Color the Block, SacEJC, Vietnamese American Community of Sacramento (VACOS), neighborhood associations, and the Southgate Recreation and Park District. CSC members contributed actively through meetings, subcommittees, and outreach. Additional public attendees and community-based groups, including Valley Vision and local neighborhood associations, regularly provided

⁶ South Sacramento-Florin Community Emissions Reduction Program.
<https://www.airquality.org/AB617/Documents/Final%20CERP%2005282026.pdf#page=109>.

comments and insights that shaped air-quality priorities, strategies, and implementation planning.

Community engagement extended through subcommittee work, collaborations with partners, and outreach at events such as the Banana Festival, and Councilmember Mai Vang's community festival. Public comments during the formal review period further strengthened the plan by raising equity considerations and refining strategies. Overall, the extensive involvement documented across meetings, outreach, and public comment demonstrates that the CERP was deeply community-driven, with local leadership and CSC guiding the development of its goals, strategies, and implementation pathways.

Data Driven Technical Foundation

A key strength of the South Sacramento-Florin CERP is its comprehensive, data-driven technical foundation, built on a detailed 2023 baseline emissions inventory with projections for 2031 and 2036 that incorporate activity data, growth trends, and regulatory assumptions to evaluate expected emission reductions. This framework is reinforced by extensive air monitoring data from the CAMP, with the CSC reviewing multi-phase results and evaluating proposed monitoring sites—such as the Sacramento Valley Truck Stop, Sacramento City Corp Yard, Southgate Veterinary Hospital, La Familia Maple Neighborhood Center, and Chacon Elementary School—based on community concerns and technical siting needs. The Air District's responses to public comments further demonstrate technical rigor by clarifying emissions forecast methods, factors influencing future PM trends, and the role of growth-related activities in projecting pollutant levels, ensuring consistency across technical analyses, public-facing materials, and the final plan. Together, the integration of emissions modeling, CAMP data, technical presentations, and responsive analysis establishes a robust scientific foundation that strengthens the credibility, clarity, and effectiveness of the CERP's strategies.

Community Driven Strategy Portfolio

A major strength of the South Sacramento-Florin CERP is its broad and diverse set of strategies developed through the CSC process, integrating incentives, urban-planning measures, residential and commercial-source reductions, enforcement activities, and community outreach to address the community's wide range of emission sources and priorities. The plan's extensive incentive programs—tailored for sectors such as salons, autobody shops, and landscaping businesses—demonstrate customized solutions that reflect community needs, while non-incentive tools such as monitoring, enforcement coordination, clean-transportation collaboration, and indoor-air-quality improvements ensure a balanced approach across regulatory, behavioral, and educational pathways. Public comments emphasized that these strategies align closely with community-identified priorities and represent strong, high-standard solutions for reducing pollution. Collectively, the variety of incentive, regulatory, educational, and

planning approaches provides a flexible, comprehensive framework capable of addressing complex air-quality challenges through complementary actions that reduce emissions and exposure.

Alignment with Environmental Justice and Equity Principles

A defining strength of the South Sacramento-Florin CERP is its strong alignment with environmental justice and equity principles, reflected in a development process centered on collaborative engagement and representation of a community historically overburdened by pollution. The plan incorporates extensive multilingual outreach—participation in more than 35 community events during CERP development and materials in Spanish, Vietnamese, Hmong, and Farsi—to ensure inclusive access and meaningful input that directly shaped its priorities and strategies. This equity focus is reinforced through the Air District’s commitments, documented in public comment responses, to maintain ambitious, measurable, and health-protective implementation while preserving a central role for community voices in future refinements. Together, these elements demonstrate an approach grounded in fairness, cultural responsiveness, and sustained community involvement, resulting in a CERP that embeds equity throughout its development and implementation.

Recommended Actions to Strengthen Implementation

Maintain an Adaptive and Inclusive Budget Framework

Because strategy implementation depends on available funding, the Air District should continue reassessing resource allocation, discuss updates with the CSC, and document funding changes in annual reporting. This adaptive approach will ensure alignment with evolving community priorities and emerging opportunities.

Enhance Documentation and Transparency of Public Input

Maintaining a centralized, publicly accessible record of CSC summary discussions and actions, public comments, and agency responses will strengthen transparency and support accountability during implementation. This includes multilingual materials and regular updates on progress where feasible.

Expand Coordination on Targeted Enforcement

Partnering with CARB to identify enforcement priorities—such as idling hotspots, unpermitted sources, and areas near sensitive receptors—can help ensure that compliance activities are focused where they matter most to community members.

Promote Data-Driven Implementation and Progress Tracking

Integrating ongoing monitoring results, emissions inventory updates, and community-supplied information into implementation decisions will allow strategies to be adjusted for maximum air quality benefit. Clear, publicly reported metrics will support transparency and continuous improvement.

CARB Commitments

The CERP highlights several statewide CARB regulatory efforts expected to benefit air quality in the South Sacramento-Florin community, including upcoming amendments to the Cargo Handling Equipment Regulation to transition yard equipment to zero-emission technology, voluntary programs like California Clean Construction to encourage advanced vehicle adoption, updates to the Composite Wood Products Airborne Toxic Control Measure to strengthen formaldehyde limits, and the forthcoming Zero-Emission Standard for Space and Water Heaters targeting building-related emissions. These statewide actions are complemented by community-level strategies such as UM-3, which promotes urban greening through coordinated tree-planting, priority-area identification, and outreach supported by the South Sacramento Tree Alliance Project, and UM-9, which ensures that the CSC participates in all truck-route planning decisions to reduce exposure from heavy-duty vehicles. Strategy C-6 further strengthens local air-quality protections by expanding compliance and enforcement transparency, including consistent facility evaluations, violation documentation, and public reporting. Together, these statewide and community-driven measures form a coordinated framework to reduce pollution and improve public health within the CERP boundary.

Conclusion

CARB staff finds that the South Sacramento-Florin CERP is community-driven, technically robust, and aligned with Blueprint 2.0. The strategies and actions are highly likely to reduce emissions and exposures in one of California's most overburdened communities.

Staff recommends approval of the Final Draft CERP, with direction to prioritize the recommended implementation improvements outlined above.