Assembly Bill 32 Environmental Justice Advisory Committee
August 31, 2026, Public Meeting Summary[1]

Meeting Attendance

Committee Member Attendees:

1. Martha Dina Argüello
2. Catherine Baltazar
3. Edidiong Mendie (Dr. Didi)
4. Jennifer Elkins
5. Thomas Helme
6. Alex Mantanona
7. Río Oxas
8. Franco Pacheco
9. Lenny Powell
10. Jeff Sanchez

Committee Members not in Attendance:

11. Kamillah Ealom

CARB Staff Attendees:

12. Rajinder Sahota, Deputy Executive Officer, Climate Change and Research
13. Matt Botill, Division Chief, Industrial Strategies Division
14. Nora Kennedy, Manager, Carbon Management Branch, Industrial Strategies Division
15. Dana Grubbaugh, Assistant Chief Counsel, Legal Office
16. Radhika Majhail, Environmental Justice Director
17. Ashley Georgiou, Air Resources Supervisor I, Office of Environmental Justice, Tribal Affairs, and Border Relations
18. Christabel Ukomadu, Equity Analyst, OEJTB

Other Attendees:

[1]This document serves as a high-level summary of the meeting, including key topics and insights from the discussion. The meeting materials and presentation are available at *AB 32 Environmental Justice Advisory Committee Meeting | California Air Resources Board*.

1. Wilfredo Cruz Jr., CEO, Community Resources Project, Inc. (meeting host)
2. Herman Barahona, Executive Director, Sacramento Environmental Justice Coalition (meeting co-host)
3. Jane Harrington, Leading Resources (Facilitator)

Meeting Summary

Agenda Item #1: Welcome and Roll Call

- This was the first public meeting of the newly appointed 2026 - 2029 Committee cohort.
- The meeting was held in person at the Community Resources Project, Inc. headquarters building in South Sacramento, in partnership with the California Environmental Justice Coalition. The meeting was preceded by a community tour of South Sacramento that morning. The morning tour allowed members to see the concerns of South Sacramento firsthand, alongside the air monitoring work being done under Assembly Bill 617.
- The facilitator, Jane Harrington of Leading Resources, Inc., called the public meeting to order at 1:30 pm, reviewed the agenda, and made housekeeping announcements.
- The facilitator conducted Committee member roll call. Ten Committee members were present, and a quorum (six members) was established.

Agenda Item #2: Introductions and Opening Remarks

Welcome from CARB.

- CARB welcomed the new committee members and thanked the Sacramento Environmental Justice Coalition and Herman Barahona for co-hosting the meeting, leading the morning community tour, and providing food and refreshments. She noted that the committee plays a vital role in advising the CARB Board pursuant to AB 32 and ensuring that the perspectives and lived experiences of communities inform CARB's decisions.
- CARB summarized the two major items for the meeting: a CARB briefing on Senate Bill (SB) 905 (carbon capture, removal, utilization, and storage), and committee onboarding covering the requirements, laws, and rules that apply to committee members.

Agenda Item #3: Committee Meeting Agreements

- The facilitator presented the meeting agreements used by the 2023–2026 Committee cohort as a starting point and invited the new Committee to clarify, add to, or refine them.

- Committee members requested that "be inclusive" be added to the agreements, and that the Committee be mindful that its meetings are typically broadcast, and to keep the public nature of the discussion in mind.
- The meeting agreements will be updated based on Committee comments and included in the CARB public meeting presentation.

Agenda Item #4: CARB Presentation on Senate Bill 905: Carbon Capture, Removal, Utilization, and Storage

- CARB provided background and an overview on SB 905 and Carbon Capture, Removal, Utilization, and Storage efforts and next steps.
- CARB noted that multiple state agencies, federal agencies, and local air districts have roles in implementing SB 905, and that CARB brought this item to the Committee's first meeting because CARB intends to release a draft regulation this fall and wanted committee input before the regulation goes out for public comment.
- CARB presented an overview of CARB's SB 905 work. They mentioned that CARB's preliminary areas of focus for the rulemaking include environmental and seismic monitoring, public disclosure, financial responsibility, and alignment with other climate programs. Some next steps for SB 905 include continued community listening sessions, release of the proposed rulemaking in fall 2026, and Board consideration at the end of 2026.
- The facilitator opened up the Questions and Answers segment for the Committee. During this time, CARB provided and clarified information on the SB 905 program, including addressing questions about pipeline safety concerns, equity guidelines, air district coordination, enforcement, and meaningful engagement.

Agenda Item #5: Public Comment

- Public comment was held on agenda item 4. Five members of the public provided comments. The facilitator explained that, to comply with open meeting requirements and Bagley-Keene, neither staff nor the Committee could respond to questions raised during public comment.
- Public comments included a question about the carbon capture facility distance to a residential community, a request to slow down the regulatory development process to allow for more community participation, criticisms of the Cap-and-Invest program, and concern for local land use authorities' capacity.

The Committee took a brief break.

Agenda Item #6: Committee Onboarding and Orientation

- CARB staff provided a presentation on onboarding information.

- CARB staff provided background on AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, the Committee's Charter, and required trainings for Committee members.
- CARB's legal team presented information about transparency requirements that apply to the committee, noting that the presentation is not legal advice and that CARB's Legal Office represents CARB and cannot advise individual members or their organizations. CARB presentation included information on Conflict of Interest (Government Code section 87104), Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, and California Public Records Act.
- CARB staff reviewed California Department of Human Resources (CalHR) travel policies and travel expense claims (TECs).
- The facilitator opened the Questions and Answers segment for the Committee. During this time, Committee members asked questions about the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, onboarding training information, Government Code section 87104, possibility for alternate Committee members, and Zoom broadcasting for future Committee meetings. CARB also addressed a question regarding the Committee's role in the SB 905 regulation process, which was raised earlier but reserved for discussion during this section.

Agenda Item #7: CARB Announcements

- CARB provided reminders of upcoming meetings and events as they relate to AB 32 program implementation.
- CARB staff presented information about the upcoming SB 905 listening sessions: Long Beach (Tuesday, September 1, 2026, 5:30–8:00 pm, Long Beach Senior Center), Bakersfield (Wednesday, September 2, 2026, 5:30–8:00 pm, Four Points by Sheraton Bakersfield), and a virtual session (Tuesday, September 8, 2026, 5:30–8:00 pm).

Agenda Item #8: Next Steps and Closing Remarks

The facilitator noted Committee members may follow up with CARB staff after the meeting on the items presented. Follow-up items identified during the meeting include:

- Committee members to complete the required Ethics and Sexual Harassment Prevention trainings and submit certificates.
- Committee members with questions about grants or contracts under Government Code section 87104 to submit them to CARB for review.
- CARB to forward the previous committee's SB 905 resolution and related communications, the May 2026 draft regulatory concepts and text, the multi-agency listening session presentation deck (including the Office of the State Fire Marshal and State Geologist presentations), and links to the Global CCS Institute and *CARB's California project list*.

- CARB to initiate the Co-Chair selection process and issue a request for alternates at an upcoming meeting.
- CARB to amend the Committee meeting agreements to include “be inclusive.”
- CARB to consider meeting format, including virtual public access, on a case-by-case basis for future Committee public meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:07 pm.