

There are no comments posted to Informational Update on the California Air Resources Board's Racial Equity and Diversity Efforts (racialequityupdate) at this time.

Comment 1 for Informational Update on the California Air Resources Board's Racial Equity and Diversity Efforts (racialequityupdate). (At Hearing)

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Subject: Public Meeting to Hear an Informational Update on the California Air Resources Board's Rac

Comment:

<p>Dear CARB Board,</p>

<p class="MsoNormal">Thank you for this time. </p>

<p class="MsoNormal">My understanding of the resolution is that the end goal is for CARB to better serve the public by creating a workforce that is representative of all Californians, framed through an equity lens. </p>

<p class="MsoNormal">Let me state the obvious. Not all black or brown or Asians or white folks are the same. In fact, each of these demographics have names for folks they believe have betrayed their community. Hanoi Jane during Vietnam for example, or Malinche or vendido in Mexico. </p><p>For some black folks, it's the, "brother with the whip." </p>

<p class="MsoNormal">My community is an AB 617 community, in a district led by a latino, whose key staff are latino, and whose board includes well positioned latinos. However, the AB 617 boundaries sit directly across the street from a dense community of monolingual Spanish speakers, a Title 5 facility, Macy's distribution center. </p><p>The initial proposal didn't include a secondary industrial park surrounded by low-income high-density housing, also mostly monolingual latinos as well.</p>

<p class="MsoNormal">I've seen air districts bring black & brown folks into the AB 617 process, who many would say spent most of their time with their foot on the neck of other black & brown folks. </p><p>The inequities continue there, despite the CARBs POC leadership. </p>

<p class="MsoNormal">I heard a song recently about slavery. </p><p>A black man was singing about the brother with the whip, who sold him onto the slave ship. </p><p>It was not done out poverty or need according to the song, for they were already wealthy. </p><p> </p>

<p class="MsoNormal">So take note, a person of any ethnicity who is more driven by ambition, than kindness and honesty, is likely to expand any divide between CARB and the most marginalized communities. </p><p>I once

told a room full of angry Latinos that I'd prefer a kindhearted white person up on that dais, that a POC driven by self-interests. As you can imagine, they wanted to kill me, but the Latinos advocates were real ones, and they defended me telling the crowd, "He's being honest with you!" Ironically, I was defending a Board's make-up.

One could argue that your response to the resolution has already cost you some CARB staff well capacitated to achieving your end goal of better serving all Californians. The same folks you bring in to improve equity, could also stifle the voices of people of color, or those advocating for them. Regardless of how many people of color you hire, even the kind ones can be indoctrinated to the oppressive Top-Down approach that still reigns within government agencies. Many well-respected staff of all ethnicities have shared these concerns with me about their agency.

I'm not saying any of this in a vacuum; I'm just the only one who will say it publicly. History will bear witness to the complicity it takes to enable systemic racism.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my truth to power.

Sincerely,

Mauro Libre (Free Brother)

Attachment:

Original File Name:

Date and Time Comment Was Submitted: 2022-05-19 12:21:35

No Duplicates.