

**State of California  
Air Resources Board  
Board Item Summary**

**Item # 21-2-2: Proposed 2021-2024 Triennial Strategic Research Plan and the Proposed Research for Fiscal Year 2021-2022**

**Staff Recommendation:**

The California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) staff recommends that the Board approve the Proposed 2021-2024 Triennial Strategic Research Plan (Plan) and the Proposed Research for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 and adopt Resolution 21-5.

**Discussion:**

In establishing the State's approach to achieving clean air, the Legislature declared that an effective research program is an integral part of the broad based statewide effort to combat air pollution in California and directed CARB to administer and coordinate all air pollution research funded, in whole or in part, with State funds. CARB established objectives for air pollution research, and in accordance with Legislative direction, appointed a Research Screening Committee of outside experts to give advice and recommendations with respect to air pollution research projects funded by the State.

In response to these mandates, staff develops a list of research projects every year to support the Board's mission. Research projects chosen in a given year will be guided by the research initiatives outlined in the Proposed Triennial Strategic Research Plan. The proposed research initiatives in the Plan were developed in an open public process, in consultation with stakeholders and research partners, through a public workshop on September 16, 2020, individual meetings, and other outreach efforts.

CARB's research program will continue to focus on issues that are unique to California or specific to its priority populations and communities and to leverage and complement research supported by other funding organizations. The Proposed Research for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 contained in Appendix A of the Plan are designed to support attainment of air quality and greenhouse gas targets, track implementation of existing programs, maximize the benefits of longer-term strategies, and will advance the state of the science in the areas of health and exposure, environmental justice, economics, air quality, mobile sources, climate, and sustainable transportation. In addition, the Plan initiates a call to action to operationalize racial equity in CARB research in order to help CARB fulfill its racial equity and social justice goals, as set forth in Board Resolution 20-33 (October 22, 2020).

**Summary and Impacts:**

The Plan describes proposed new air pollution research projects that will advance CARB's fundamental health, environmental justice, atmospheric science, and sustainable

transportation research, support new and improved strategies to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, and monitor program implementation and effectiveness. These research projects will support the Board's decision making and effective program implementation. A research budget of approximately \$4.2 million is anticipated to fund eight new projects and three white papers in fiscal year 2021-2022.

Board approval of the Proposed 2021-2024 Triennial Strategic Research Plan and the Proposed Research for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 will authorize staff to proceed with developing the research projects outlined in the report. The Executive Officer will then consider the full proposals for approval and funding with consultation from interested Board members.