

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

**Item # 22-10-2: Public Meeting to Consider Assembly Bill 617
Community Air Protection Program – Community
Emissions Reduction Program for the South
Los Angeles Community**

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) approve the South Los Angeles community emissions reduction plan and direct CARB staff to work with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD or District) to take additional actions to strengthen implementation.

Discussion:

The SCAQMD, with the co-leadership of Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles, Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education, and Watts Clean Air and Energy, worked with the community steering committee to develop the Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) for the South Los Angeles Community (Plan) to reduce emissions and exposure to air pollution in the community.

The steering committee is made up of 41 primary members, 26 of whom are residents. The steering committee held 18 meetings (steering committee, subcommittee, and workshop) between January 2021 and May 2022. Additionally, the District hosted a public meeting on March 3, 2022, to discuss the Plan with the broader public. The District also held virtual office hours to allow community members to discuss the CERP. On June 3, 2022, the SCAQMD Governing Board adopted the Plan, which contains strategies to provide benefits to the South Los Angeles community. Examples of these strategies include enhanced enforcement, collaboration, rule development, incentives, and targeted air monitoring.

CARB staff reviewed the Plan and summarized key findings in the South Los Angeles CERP Staff Report (Staff Report) released on August 4, 2022. CARB staff also had one-on-one conversations with a subset of community steering committee members to solicit community perspectives to inform the development of the CARB Staff Report. After evaluation of the Plan, staff determined it meets the criteria established in Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617) (C. Garcia, Stats. 2017, ch. 136) and the Community Air Protection Program Blueprint, reflects community priorities, and is likely to reduce emissions and exposure to air pollution in the community. Staff based their recommendation in the Staff Report to approve the Plan on this review and in consideration of the progress made in developing the Plan and interviews with the community steering committee members.

The Plan as proposed would benefit from the implementation of recommendations as detailed in the Staff Report. The Staff Report identified specific actions for SCAQMD and CARB staff to take, in collaboration with the community steering committee, to strengthen implementation in two key areas: refining details and ensuring continued collaboration. CARB staff commit to further clarifying its role and responsibilities in the AB 617 process, in response to feedback from the focused interviews.

Summary and Impacts:

Approving the Community Emissions Reduction Plan for the South Los Angeles Community and directing CARB staff and SCAQMD to take the recommended actions will result in these agencies continuing to work with the community steering committee to define and implement strategies to reduce exposure to air pollution in the South Los Angeles Community. SCAQMD will provide annual reports with progress updates on the recommended actions as defined in the Staff Report. CARB will continue to develop and implement our mobile source regulations, provide technical assistance to the South Los Angeles Community, and facilitate and support interagency collaboration to address priorities in the Plan.