

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

**Item # 23-1-5: Public Meeting to Consider Proposed Research Projects for Fiscal Year 2023-2024**

**Staff Recommendation:**

The California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) staff recommends that the Board approve the Proposed Research Projects for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and to delegate the approval of individual contracts for Fiscal Years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 to the Executive Officer.

**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 statewide effort to combat air pollution in California. The legislature therefore 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 (RSC). The RSC is composed of outside experts to provide advice and recommendations with respect to air pollution research projects funded by CARB's research program.

On March 25, 2021, the Board approved the Fiscal Years 2021-2024 Triennial Strategic Research Plan (Plan). The Plan provides details on past and current research activities, as well as remaining research needs that serve as a guide for the development of future research projects that will support the Board's mission. Staff will present updates and progress on fulfilling the initiatives presented in the Plan, including CARB's goal to operationalize racial equity in CARB research.

For Fiscal Year 2023-2024, CARB is proposing eleven research projects that each address multiple research initiatives identified in the Triennial Strategic Research Plan. By investing in these projects, CARB can address long-term goals and challenges holistically.

The research program continues to focus on issues that are unique to California and its priority populations and communities, and to leverage resources and complement research supported by other funding organizations. The projects proposed for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 will identify and prioritize strategies that have health, environmental, and economic co-benefits, create additional health endpoints to assess our programs, leverage new tools and methods to identify and refine mitigation strategies to support air quality goals.

The proposed research projects will support the Board's decision-making and effective program implementation. A research budget of approximately \$6 million is anticipated to fund eleven new projects in fiscal year 2023-2024. Staff will also outline proposed changes to

future Board updates on the Research Program, and request that the Board delegate approval of research contracts to the Executive Officer.

Board approval of the Proposed 2023-2024 Research Projects will authorize staff to proceed with developing these research projects.

**Summary and Impacts:**

The proposed research projects will advance CARB’s fundamental health, environmental justice, atmospheric science, and climate 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 \$6 million is anticipated to fund eleven projects in fiscal year 2023-2024.

Board approval of the Proposed Research Projects for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 will authorize staff to proceed with developing these research projects into contracts. The Board will vote to delegate authority to the Executive Officer to approve the contracts for Fiscal Years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.