

State of California Air Resources Board

Board Item Summary

Item # 24-2-3: Public Meeting to Consider a Proposed New Member for the California Air Resources Board's Research Screening Committee

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) approve resolution 24-6, to appoint a new member to CARB's Research Screening Committee (RSC).

Discussion:

As required by State law (Health and Safety Code Section 39700), CARB sponsors a research program that is guided by the mission to provide sound and timely scientific results to support CARB's policies and programs. State law also requires that CARB establish the RSC to review proposed and completed research projects. Since 1971, CARB has maintained an eleven-member committee that provides robust scientific peer-review for CARB's research projects. The RSC currently has multiple vacancies that have resulted from retirements and other transitions.

The RSC must be comprised of "... physicians, scientists, biologists, chemists, engineers, meteorologists, and other persons who are knowledgeable, technically qualified, and experienced in air pollution problems for which projects are being reviewed." (Health & Saf. Code § 39705 subd. (b).) Accordingly, in April 2023, CARB released a public call for nominations and applications to fill vacant positions on the RSC. The nomination period closed in May 2023 and applications were due later that month. CARB received applications from multiple qualified applicants with public health expertise. Dr. Michael Schmeltz, Assistant Professor at California State University, East Bay, has demonstrated experience in public health research and has met the criteria set forth in the selection process.

Summary and Impacts:

The report includes the biography of the proposed new RSC member, Dr. Michael Schmeltz. Dr. Schmeltz will fill a current vacancy on the RSC and provide insight and expertise to support the review of new and completed research projects. Board approval of resolution 24-6 will authorize the appointment of the proposed member to the RSC.