

**Proposed**  
State of California  
Air Resources Board

# **Proposed New Member for the California Air Resources Board's Research Screening Committee**

## **Resolution 24-6**

**May 23, 2024**

Agenda Item No.: 24-2-3

Whereas, sections 39600 and 39601 of the Health and Safety Code authorize the California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) to adopt standards, rules and regulations and to do such acts as may be necessary for the proper execution of the powers and duties granted to and imposed upon the Board by law;

Whereas, pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 39705, subdivision (a), CARB has been authorized to appoint a Research Screening Committee (RSC) of eleven members;

Whereas, section 39516 of the Health and Safety Code conclusively presumes any power, duty, purpose, function or jurisdiction is delegated to the Executive Officer, unless the Board affirmatively votes to reserve the same for its own action;

Whereas, pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 39705, subdivision (b), the RSC shall be composed of qualified experts (e.g., physicians, scientists, engineers, and others that are informed by their academic background, occupation, and lived experience) and tasked with providing robust scientific peer review for CARB's research projects to effectively advise on CARB's health, environmental justice, air quality, and climate research;

Whereas, the RSC currently has multiple vacancies due to member retirements and transitions to other duties. In addition, the expansion of CARB's legislatively mandated responsibilities and programs over the past few decades requires new areas of expertise to be represented in the RSC to support the emerging needs of CARB's research program;

Whereas, CARB initiated a public process to seek nominations and applications to fill priority knowledge gaps. The solicited areas of expertise included: Agriculture; Community-based research; Public health; Transportation services and vehicle technology; and Urban planning.

Whereas, the incorporation of the new RSC member, Dr. Michael Schmeltz, who contributes to the diverse expertise, experiences, and geographic locations of the RSC, also helps to advance the objectives of the October 22, 2020, 20-33 Board Resolution and September 13, 2022, Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-16-22, to embed equity in CARB's practices;

Whereas, staff has proposed the recommendation to approve the new RSC member, as set forth in the report released to the public on May 13, 2024;

Whereas, staff has determined that the proposed recommendation to approve the new RSC member is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061, subdivision (b)(3) ("common sense" exemption)

because the record evidence shows with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed activity may result in a significant adverse impact on the environment;

Whereas, the Board finds that:

The proposed recommendation was the result of an open and publicized solicitation process to seek applicants to fill the areas of expertise required by section 39705 of the Health and Safety Code;

The recommendation is consistent with CARB's environmental justice and equity policies and practices and exempt from CEQA for reasons stated above;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Board hereby approves the recommendation to ratify the new RSC member, Dr. Micheal Schmeltz.