

State of California Air Resources Board

Board Item Summary

Item # 24-4-3: Public Meeting to Consider Proposed Recommendation to Select the South Sacramento-Florin Community to Transition to Develop a Community Emissions Reduction Program

Staff Recommendation:

The California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) will consider staff's recommendation that the Board approve the selection of the South Sacramento-Florin Community to transition to develop a Community Emissions Reduction Program.

Discussion:

California's air quality programs continue to significantly improve public health statewide through various measures such as regional air quality planning, advancements in technology-based solutions, and risk reduction efforts near industrial facilities. However, despite these efforts, certain communities, particularly low-income and communities of color, still experience environmental and health inequities from air and other forms of pollution. Assembly Bill (AB) 617 (C. Garcia, Stats. 2017, Ch. 136) was signed into law in July 2017. AB 617 requires new community-focused action to reduce health-harming emissions of toxic air contaminants and criteria air pollutants in communities affected by a high cumulative exposure burden.

Since 2018, the Board has selected 19 communities in the Community Air Protection Program (Program) to implement a community air monitoring plan (CAMP) or a Community Emissions Reduction Program (CERP) or both. The community was selected by the Board as one of the first communities in 2018 to develop and implement a CAMP. CARB staff's recommendation is based on the Board's prior direction that communities previously selected for a CAMP be prioritized for development of a CERP. The South Sacramento-Florin Community Steering Committee (CSC) overwhelmingly supports this transition, and the Sacramento Metro Air Quality Management District (air district) nominated the community for CERP development.

The air district and the CSC have built a strong relationship over the last five years. The South Sacramento-Florin CSC has identified emissions from Highway 99 as a priority air quality concern. Emissions from commercial corridors and small businesses, increasing rates of asthma and respiratory problems within the community, and the desire for enhanced education and community outreach around air quality have been raised by the community. The CSC has been particularly concerned about emissions impact on sensitive receptors, for example, children walking to school and crossing intersections located in high-traffic areas or along the Highway 99 corridor.

Summary and Impacts:

Board approval of the South Sacramento-Florin community to transition to develop a CERP will see development of focused actions to address community issues and concerns through the development and implementation of a CERP. If selected to transition to develop a CERP by the Board, the air district convened CSC will refine the community boundary and develop a community-specific plan. In addition, broader Program implementation will result in new strategies and resources to help reduce the cumulative air pollution exposure burden in communities throughout the State. Future Board items will focus on implementation progress updates across 19 communities, and progress in expanding program benefits to support consistently nominated communities.