State of California Air Resources Board

Board Item Summary

Item # 25-6-7: Public Meeting to Consider the Proposed Five-Year Strategic Research Plan for 2025-2030

Staff Recommendation:

The California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) staff recommends that the Board approve the Proposed Five-Year Strategic Research Plan for 2025-2030.

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 broad-based statewide effort to combat air pollution in California. CARB sponsors a comprehensive Research Program that covers air quality, climate, health, mobile sources, and sustainable communities. Economics and closing historical health gaps across communities are integrated into these topics. Research supports regulatory actions by informing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions inventories, models, and measurement methods, evaluating the health benefits of actions, and developing other innovative solutions to mitigate air quality, health, and climate change impacts. The research findings also provide valuable insights for shaping air quality and climate change mitigation policies in the state. Future research will also consider how inaction on pollution and climate will impact public health, the environment, and the economy. In addition to supporting California policy, CARB's research can inform other states and jurisdictions.

In response to this mandate, staff develops a list of research projects every year to support the Board's mission. Research projects chosen in a given year will be guided by the research initiatives outlined in the Proposed Five-Year Strategic Research Plan for 2025-2030 (Five-Year Plan). The proposed research initiatives in the Five-Year Plan were developed in an open public process, in consultation with community-based organizations and research partners, through a series of public workshops, individual meetings, and other outreach efforts.

CARB's research program will continue to focus on issues that are unique to California, including at the community level, and to leverage and complement research supported by other funding organizations.

Summary and Impacts:

The Five-Year Plan describes proposed research priorities that will guide the selection of funded research projects over the next five years. These research projects will advance CARB's fundamental air quality, climate, health, mobile sources, and sustainable communities 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.

Board approval of the Proposed Five-Year Strategic Research Plan will authorize staff to proceed with developing the research priorities outlined in the report into research projects over the next five years. Approval by the Board will also delegate authority to the Executive Officer to approve the contracts for Fiscal Years 2025-2026, 2026-2027, 2027-2028, 2028-2029, 2029-2030, and 2030-2031.