

# State of California Air Resources Board

## Board Item Summary

### Item # 25-7-4: Public Meeting to Hear an Update on the California Satellite Methane Project (CalSMP)

#### Staff Recommendation:

This is an informational item only; no Board action is necessary.

#### Discussion:

Building on years of CARB-supported research demonstration projects, the State Legislature appropriated \$100 million to provide the public with a stream of California satellite methane data. This project, called the California Satellite Methane Project (CalSMP), began providing CARB with methane plume images in mid-2025, pinpointing the locations of potential methane leaks from space.

Reducing methane—a climate pollutant more than 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide over a 20-year timeframe—is critical to reaching the State’s climate goals. Methane comes from various sources, including oil and gas operations, landfills, and agriculture. The CARB-commissioned satellite is capable of detecting large emission sources from these sectors. CARB has built a rapid-response framework, including regulation amendments for the oil and gas sector and proposed amendments for landfills. This framework has already produced many examples of successful greenhouse gas reductions in just a few short months by quickly alerting owners and operators, as well as air districts, of potential leaks. As federal agencies have withdrawn from their climate goals, California’s methane detection framework can be used as a foundation for other jurisdictions to do the same.

#### Summary and Impacts:

Not Applicable.