Proposed

State of California
Air Resources Board

Assembly Bill 617 Community Air Protection Program

Recommendation to Approve the Appointment of New Member and Co-Chair to the Community Air Protection Consultation Group

Resolution 25-10

October 23, 2025

Agenda Item No.: 25-7-1

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, section 39603 of the Health and Safety Code authorizes CARB to appoint advisory groups and committees;

Whereas, the Legislature enacted the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Assembly Bill [AB] 32, Nuñez, Stats. 2006, Ch. 488; Health and Safety Code §§ 38500 et seq.), which declares global warming poses a serious threat to the economic well-being, public health, natural resources, and environment of California;

Whereas, California's air quality programs have led to significant public health improvements; however, in part as a result of historically racist land use and housing practices, certain communities that are more likely to be people of color and low-income continue to experience environmental and health inequities from air pollution;

Whereas, many of these communities are affected by multiple stationary, area, and mobile sources of air pollution, and are more likely to live near major roadways and suffer disproportionate health impacts;

Whereas, the high cumulative exposure burdens in these communities are a public health concern, contributing to health conditions, such as cardiorespiratory disease, increased cancer risk, and an increased risk of premature death;

Whereas, state law declares that it is necessary that the State ambient air quality standards be attained by the earliest practicable date to protect public health, particularly the health of children, older people, and those with respiratory diseases (California Clean Air Act of 1988, AB 2595, Stats. 1988, Ch. 1568);

Whereas, state law establishes legislative intent that CARB shall coordinate, encourage, and review the efforts of all levels of government as they affect air quality (Health & Saf. Code § 39500);

Whereas, state and federal law requires CARB in its programs and activities to not discriminate or cause disparate impacts based on protected characteristics, which include race, color, national origin, sex, and age, among others (e.g., Title VI, U.S. Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d-2000d-7; Gov. Code §§ 11135 et seq.);

Whereas, state law known as AB 617 (C. Garcia, Stats. 2017, Ch. 136) and as amended, requires CARB and the air districts to act at the community level to address criteria air pollutants and toxic air contaminants in communities affected by cumulative emissions exposure burdens, including to develop a statewide strategy to reduce these pollutant emissions in these communities (Health & Saf. Code §§ 39607.1, 40920.6, 40920.8, 42400, 42402, 42411, 42705.5, 44391.2, and 44391.5);

Whereas, AB 617 established the Community Air Protection Program (CAPP or Program);

Whereas, AB 617 is a significant step in transforming California's air quality programs to address air pollution disparities at the community level;

Whereas, AB 617 requires an air district containing a community selected for the development of a community emissions reduction program to adopt, in consultation with CARB, individuals, community-based organizations, affected sources, and local governmental bodies, a community emission reduction program (Health & Saf. Code § 44391.2);

Whereas, AB 617 requires CARB to consult with environmental justice organizations, air districts, affected industry, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, the Scientific Review Panel on Toxic Air Contaminants, and other interested stakeholders in the development of its statewide strategy, known as the Blueprint, to reduce air quality toxic emissions and exposures in communities highly impacted by air pollution (Health & Saf. Code § 44391.2);

Whereas, in January 2018, CARB first convened a Consultation Group to advise CARB on the development and implementation of the first statewide strategy, the Program Blueprint, for the CAPP;

Whereas, CARB approved the first Blueprint in September 2018, which guided Program implementation from then until October 2023;

Whereas, a writer's subgroup of environmental justice leaders on the Consultation Group, with CARB providing facilitation and writing support via a consultant, wrote the People's Blueprint that highlights equity, environmental justice, benefits of the co-leadership model, and recommendations to strengthen transparency and accountability for the Program;

Whereas, CARB engaged the Consultation Group about the People's Blueprint and gained feedback that significantly informed the development of Blueprint 2.0, which was approved by the Board in October 2023;

Whereas, Blueprint 2.0 calls for the reinvigoration of the Consultation Group to expand the representation of its membership to include consistently nominated communities and local government representation;

Whereas, in March of 2024, in response to increased member attrition, CARB dissolved the Consultation Group in order to expand and reinvigorate the group, per its commitment in Blueprint 2.0;

Whereas, in June of 2025, CARB approved the appointment of 26 applicants and 14 alternates to the Community Air Protection Consultation Group (CAPCG);

Whereas, the CAPCG plays a vital role in advising on the implementation of community-focused air quality strategies under California's CAPP;

Whereas, to allow Consultation Group members who cannot join a Consultation Group meeting to continue to have representation on the Consultation Group in their absence, the CARB Executive Officer, in consultation with the Chair and the Group Members, may appoint an alternate member;

Whereas, CARB's regulatory program that involves the adoption, approval, amendment, or repeal of standards, rules, regulations, or plans has been certified by the Secretary for Natural Resources under Public Resources Code section 21080.5 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 14, § 15251, subd.(d)), and CARB conducts its CEQA review according to this certified program (Cal. Code of Regs, tit. 17, §§ 60000-60007);

Whereas, CARB staff has determined that the proposed recommendation to approve the Consultation Group members and their alternates is not a "project" subject to CEQA under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15378, subdivision (a), because this is an organizational activity of the government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes on the environment (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15387, subd. (b)(5); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 17, § 60004, subd. (c)(4).) and it would be exempt 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 significant adverse impacts on the environment;

Whereas, Board member Diane Takvorian has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to environmental justice, public health, and community empowerment, and brings extensive experience in advocating for clean air and environmental equity for environmental justice communities; and

Whereas, staff recommends the Board approve the appointment of Diane Takvorian as a member and Co-Chair of the CAPCG.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that Board hereby approves and appoints Diane Takvorian as a member and Co-Chair of the CAPCG.

Be it further resolved that the Board also directs the Executive Officer to provide staff support as appropriate and consistent with State and federal law, and available resources for the operation of the Committee.

Be it further resolved that the Board shall reimburse reasonable per diem and travel expenses, consistent with Section 39603, subdivision (a)(2) of the Health & Safety Code and State travel policy, for member's attendance at Committee meetings hosted by CARB that are subject to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Gov. Code § 11120 et seq.) or attendance at meetings pursuant to a CARB request.