

Proposed
State of California
Air Resources Board

Appointment of Members to the Assembly Bill 32 Environmental Justice Advisory Committee

Resolution 26-10

July 23, 2026

Agenda Item No.: 26-5-1

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, the Legislature enacted the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32, Nuñez, Chapter 488, Statutes of 2006; 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, AB 32 charges CARB with monitoring and regulating sources of emissions of greenhouse gases (Health and Safety Code § 38510);

Whereas, AB 32 directs CARB to create a comprehensive multi-year program to reduce California's greenhouse gas emissions to no greater than 1990 levels by 2020, maintain and continue reductions in emission of greenhouse gases beyond 2020, and initiate the actions required to achieve AB 32's long-range climate objectives;

Whereas, AB 32 requires CARB, in adopting greenhouse gas regulations, to the extent feasible and in furtherance of achieving the statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit, to design the regulations in a manner that is equitable and seeks to minimize costs and maximize the total benefits to California; ensure that activities taken to comply with the regulations do not disproportionately impact low-income communities; ensure that activities undertaken pursuant to the regulations complement efforts to achieve and maintain ambient air quality standards and to reduce toxic air contaminant emissions; consider the cost-effectiveness of the regulations; consider overall societal benefits; minimize administrative burden; and minimize leakage (Health and Safety Code § 38652, subd. (b));

Whereas, AB 32 further directs the Board to adopt rules and regulations in an open public process to achieve the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective greenhouse gas

emission reductions;

Whereas, AB 32 directs the Board, on or before January 1, 2009, to prepare and approve a Scoping Plan for achieving the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020, and to update the Scoping Plan at least once every five years (Health and Safety Code § 38561);

Whereas, CARB developed California's 2022 Climate Change Scoping Plan (2022 Update) and approved that 2022 Update in Resolution 22-21;

Whereas, AB 32 directed the Board to convene an Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (Committee or EJAC) of at least three members by July 1, 2007, to advise the Board in developing the Scoping Plan of emission reduction measures and any other pertinent matter in implementing the division (Health and Safety Code § 38591, subd. (a));

Whereas, AB 32 further directs that the Committee shall be comprised of representatives from communities in the state with the most significant exposure to air pollution, including, but not limited to, communities with minority populations or low-income populations, or both, and directs the Board to appoint the Committee members from nominations received from environmental organizations and community groups (Health and Safety Code § 38591, subd. (a));

Whereas, on March 10, 2022, in a joint meeting of the Board and the Committee, Committee members called for a transition to an ongoing Environmental Justice Advisory Committee to continue after the 2022 Scoping Plan Update was passed;

Whereas, on December 15 and 16, 2022, during the Board meeting consideration of the 2022 Scoping Plan Update, then Chair Liane Randolph expressed her commitment to an ongoing Committee as a means of developing partnership, engagement, and relationships with communities;

Whereas, from February 2023 to March 2023, an Ad Hoc sub quorum of Committee members worked with CARB staff to draft a proposed EJAC Charter for an ongoing Committee pursuant to AB 32 requirements;

Whereas, at the February 27, 2023, meeting of the Committee, the Committee provided feedback on the proposed EJAC Charter to CARB staff;

Whereas, CARB staff incorporated this feedback into the proposed EJAC Charter in advance of the March 15, 2023, Committee meeting;

Whereas, at the March 15, 2023, Committee meeting, the Committee voted to approve the proposed EJAC Charter;

Whereas, on March 23, 2023, the Board adopted Resolution 23-10 approving the proposed Charter and appointment of 13 members of the Committee who were nominated by environmental justice organizations and community groups, including appointing an alternate for each member to serve a 36-month term from 2023-2026;

Whereas, CARB proposes the appointment of 11 members to serve on the Committee who were nominated by environmental justice organizations and community groups;

Whereas, to allow Committee members who cannot join a Committee meeting to continue to have representation in their absence, CARB staff propose to appoint an alternate for each Committee member who requested one that was approved through the solicitation process;

Whereas, the proposed members of the Committee will advise the Board on the next update to the Scoping Plan;

Whereas, staff has determined that the proposed recommendation to approve of the Committee members and their alternates is not a “project” subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15378, subdivision (a); furthermore, staff has determined that even if the proposed recommendation were a “project” subject to CEQA, 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, the Board finds that:

The proposed recommendation is not a “project” subject to CEQA, and even if it were such a “project,” it would be exempt from CEQA under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061, subdivision (b)(3) because substantial evidence in the record shows with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposal may result in a significant adverse impact on the environment;

The proposed members of the Committee were nominated by environmental justice organizations and community groups;

The proposed members of the Committee are representatives from communities in the State with significant exposure to air pollution or a community with a minority population or low-income population, or both, consistent with the statutory requirements of the Committee under AB 32;

The proposed recommendation meets the statutory requirements; and

The proposed recommendation is consistent with CARB’s environmental justice and equity policies and practices, including those required by AB 32.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Board hereby appoints the following individuals to serve on the Committee and their alternates:

- Alex Mantanona, Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE)
- Catherine Baltazar, Climate Resolve
- Edidiong Mendie, Ezrach Brain Trust Association
- Franco Pacheco, Inland Valley Alliance for Environmental Justice

- Alternate: Karla Cervantes
- Jeffrey Sanchez, Sequoia Foundation (Bay Area Public Health Non-Profit)
- Jennifer Elkins, Grassroots Organizers for Accountable Landfills (GOAL)
- Kamillah Ealom, Bayview Community Concerned Citizens
- Leonard Powell, Sonoma Clean Power (SCP)
- Alternate: Lawrence Brooks
- Martha Dina Argüello, Physicians for Social Responsibility- Los Angeles (PSR-LA)
- Rio Oxas, RAHOK
- Thomas Helme, Valley Improvement Projects (VIP)

Be it further resolved that the Board 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 the law and State travel policy, for Committee members from nonprofit organizations, for attendance at Committee meetings hosted by CARB that are subject to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Gov. Code §§ 11120 et seq.) and other public meetings where Committee members are invited by CARB to speak.