

State of California Air Resources Board

Board Item Summary

Item # 26-6-1: Public Meeting to Consider Two Proposed New Members for the California Air Resources Board's Research Screening Committee

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Board approve Resolution 26-11, to appoint two new members for the California Air Resources Board's (CARB or Board) Research Screening Committee (RSC).

Discussion:

As required by State law (Health and Safety Code § 39700), CARB sponsors a research program that is guided by the mission to provide sound and timely scientific results to support CARB's policies and programs. State law also requires that CARB establish the RSC to review proposed and completed research projects. Since 1971, CARB has maintained an eleven-member committee that provides robust scientific peer review for CARB's research projects. The RSC currently has multiple vacancies that have resulted from retirements and other transitions.

In August 2025, CARB released a public call for nominations and applications to fill positions on the RSC. The nomination period closed in October 2025, and applications were due the next month. CARB received and reviewed applications for several areas of expertise. Dr. Antonio Bento, Professor of Public Policy and Economics at the University of Southern California, has demonstrated experience in economics; and Dr. Jonathan Wang, Assistant Professor at the University of Utah, has demonstrated experience in fire science, remote sensing, data science, and forestry. Both have met the criteria set forth in the selection process.

Summary and Impacts:

The report includes the biographies of the two proposed new RSC members, Dr. Antonio Bento, and Dr. Jonathan Wang, to fill current vacancies on the RSC and provide insight and expertise to support the review of new and completed research projects. Board approval of resolution 26-11 will authorize the appointment of the two proposed members to the RSC.