

State of California Air Resources Board

Board Item Summary

Item # 26-6-2: Public Meeting to Hear an Informational Update on California's Carbon Capture, Removal, Utilization, and Storage Program (Senate Bill 905)

Staff Recommendation:

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

Discussion:

Staff will present an informational update on the status of California's Carbon Capture, Removal, Utilization, and Storage Program. This update is intended to provide the Board and the public with an overview of the authorizing statute, the role of several implementing state agencies, a summary of public engagement conducted to date, and the status of the regulatory development.

In 2022, Governor Newsom signed into law Senate Bill 905 (SB 905) (Caballero, Statutes of 2022, Ch. 359), which directs the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to establish a consistent statewide regulatory program to ensure that carbon management technologies are deployed safely and in alignment with California's climate and public health objectives. The informational Board item is prompted by statutory direction in SB 905 and informed by CARB's public engagement efforts, including three public pre-rulemaking workshops—the first of which took place August 15, 2023—four community listening sessions, a discussion with the Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32) Environmental Justice Advisory Committee, a solicitation for information, feedback on potential regulatory concepts, and a CARB study session on carbon capture and storage (CCS) and carbon dioxide removal (CDR), where experts, community leaders, labor representatives, and project developers described the rapidly expanding carbon management landscape.

As highlighted during the study session and public engagement, CCS and CDR deployment is increasing globally and within California, with more than 40 announced projects spanning industrial carbon capture, direct air capture, and geologic storage. Staff have also emphasized that implementing SB 905 requires coordination across multiple state agencies, such as the California Natural Resources Agency, California Geological Survey, and the Office of the State Fire Marshal, alongside federal and local permitting entities. The public workshop and direct stakeholder input has informed staff's development of regulatory

concepts including long-term monitoring, financial responsibility, emergency response, and public disclosure.

The information presented in this item reflects staff's evaluation of statutory obligations for CARB and relationships with implementing direction to other state agencies, technical analyses of geologic storage and carbon management practices, and practical considerations raised by stakeholders regarding deployment challenges, and community input. The CARB regulatory program will be designed to complement existing federal, state, and local permitting processes; avoid duplicative requirements; ensure long-term operator responsibility; and support safe, effective, and viable deployment of CCS and CDR technologies. Together, these regulatory concepts aim to align carbon management activities with California's climate and public health objectives and will inform the Board's consideration of a rulemaking under SB 905 later this year.

Summary and Impacts:

Not applicable