



Proposed Amendments to the California Reformulated Gasoline Regulations

Board Hearing
September 24, 2026

Objectives of the Proposed Amendments

- In alignment with Assembly Bill (AB) 30, update existing California Reformulated Gasoline (CaRFG) regulations to adopt specifications for voluntary sales of E15
- To remove obsolete regulatory text

CA Reformulated Gasoline Regulations

Gasoline standards are set and maintained by CARB to minimize tailpipe emissions for the benefit of public health and the environment

- 1992 (CaRFG1): Eliminated lead in the gasoline
- 1996 (CaRFG2): Adopted specification on components that cause smog and toxic pollution (Reid Vapor Pressure standard, set strict limits on sulfur, benzene, total aromatics, and olefins and required oxygenate for cleaner burning)
- 1999 (CaRFG3): Further tightened limits for refinery production properties and also banned methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE)
- **Ethanol** replaced MTBE as an oxygenate in gasoline

Partnering State and Local Agencies



Local Air Districts



Air Quality
Modeling & Planning



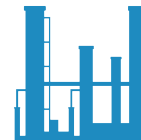
Dispensers



Storage Tanks



California
Reformulated Gasoline



Alternative Fuels



Vapor Recovery



Ongoing Public Process



- E15 Public workshop (Oct 2025)
- California Environmental Policy Council Hearing (Aug 2026)



- Consulted with academia, fuel producers, ethanol industry, fuel retailers, State and local agencies



- 50+ comments received from workshop, multimedia evaluation process and during 45-day comment period

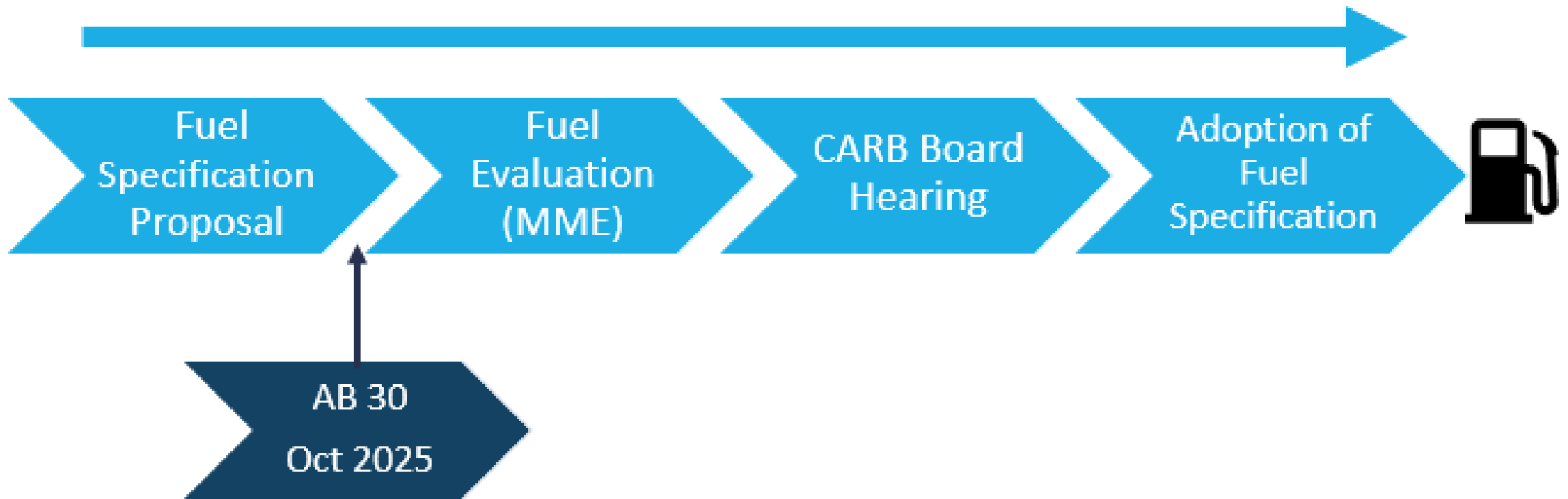


- Continue working with all interested parties

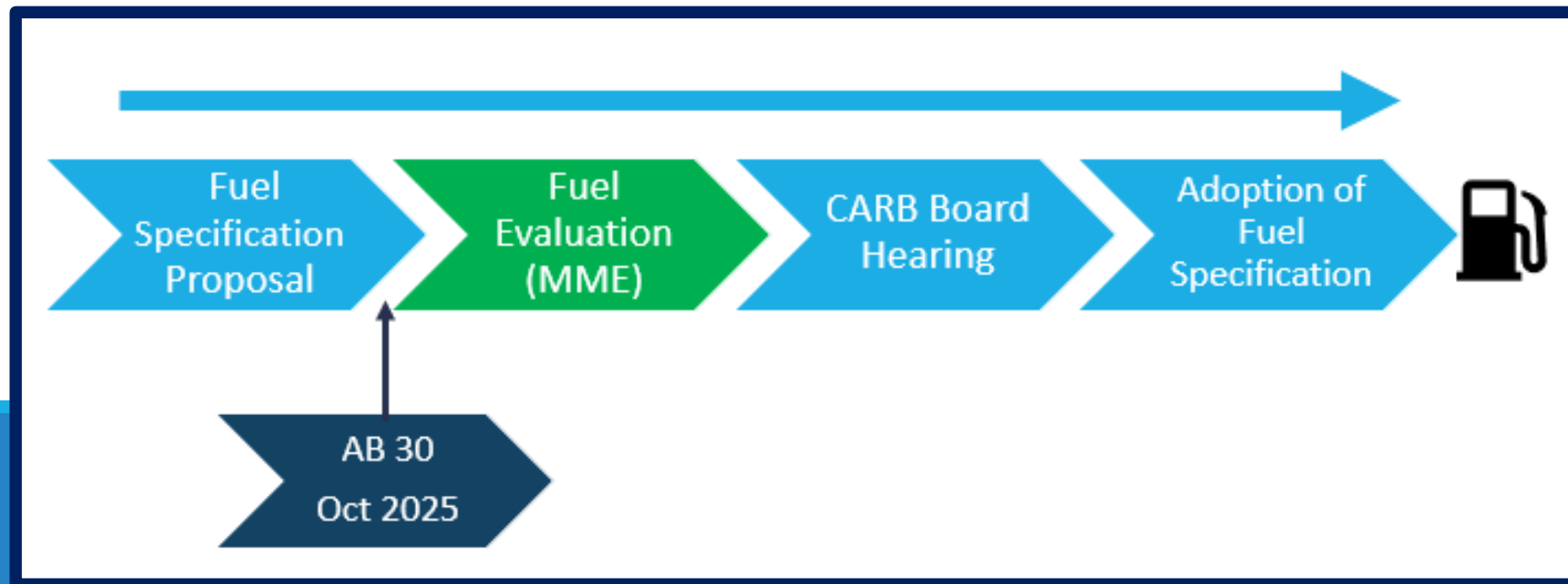
AB 30 and Current E15 Status

- Nationally, E15 adoption has proceeded gradually
- Available at over 4,800 retail stations across 36 states
- In California, the adoption rate for E15 will depend on the consumer preference for the fuel
- E15 is a **voluntary** fuel to be offered alongside E10
- E15 is not currently being dispensed in California
- Vapor control systems approved for E10 may be used for E15 (SB 795)

Fuel Specification Adoption Process



Fuel Specifications and Multimedia Evaluation (MME) Requirements



Health and Safety Code 43830.8

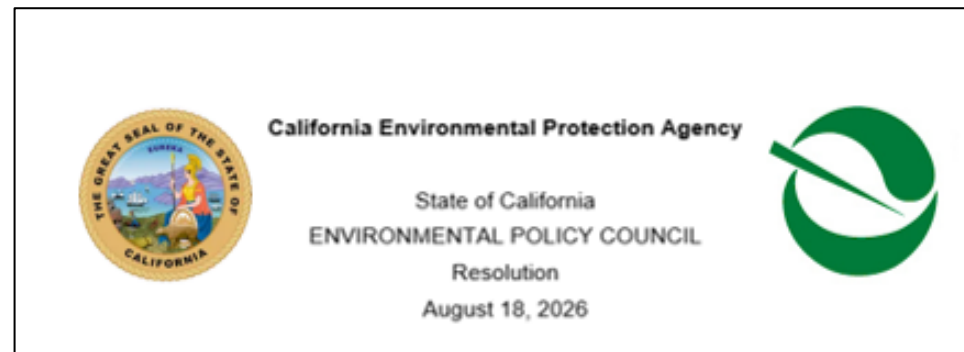
Required before CARB adopts motor vehicle fuel specifications

- Must address: emissions of air pollutants, contamination of surface water, groundwater, and soil, disposal of byproducts and waste materials
- Years of rigorous testing and scientific process
- External scientific peer review
- Written Summary of Multimedia Evaluation
- CA Environmental Policy Council (CEPC) Review

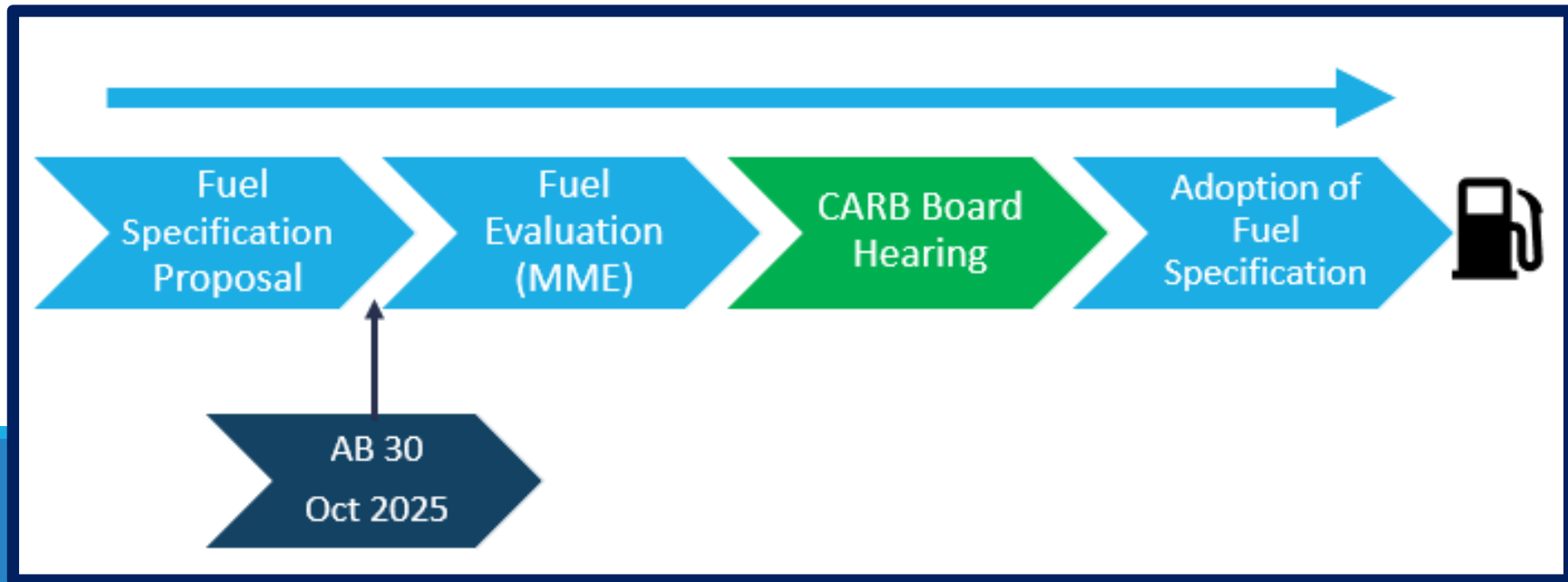


California Environmental Policy Council Determination - August 18, 2026

"The Council determines that the use of E15 in California consistent with the proposed E15 regulation will not pose a significant adverse impact on public health or the environment compared to California reformulated gasoline"



2026 Proposed Amendments to CaRFG Regulations



Proposed E15 Related Amendments

§2262

- Add oxygen content limits for E15

§2262.5

- Repeal restrictions on adding oxygenates to gasoline after it has left the facility
- Revise ethanol content limit to 15 percent

§2265

- Add a provision to produce E15 from gasoline meeting E10 predictive model

§2266.5

- Allow downstream blending of E85 with E10 to produce E15

Non-E15 Related Proposed Amendments

- Removing Obsolete Regulatory Text:
 - Pre-1996 Requirements
 - Superseded CaRFG Phase 2 Requirements
 - Completion of Phased-In Requirements
 - Completion of Early Compliance Dates
 - No Longer Practical (Section 2266)
 - Align Terminology (Section 2282)
- Editorial Changes

E15 Use in CA Will Be Voluntary

US EPA sets federal requirements for E15 labeling/misfuelling prevention

Who can use E15?

- 2001 and later model year vehicles
- Flex-fuel vehicles

Who can't use E15?

- 2000 and earlier model year vehicles
- Boats
- Motorcycles
- Small engines like lawnmowers, weed eaters, etc.



Potential 15-Day Changes

Based on feedback received, CARB staff anticipate developing modifications to the proposal to be released for 15-day public comment.

Potential changes include:

- Better aligning E10 and E15 with Code of Federal Regulations Title 40
- Updating Oxygen Content Flat Limits for E10 and E15
- Updating ASTM standards
- Updating and clarifying definitions

Staff Recommendation

Approve resolution 26-12

