

MEETING
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

CALEPA HEADQUARTERS
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SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

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Ms. Veronica Eady, Assistant Executive Officer

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STAFF:

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Mr. Alvaro Alvarado, Manager, Health and Ecosystems
Assessment Section, Research Division (RD)

Ms. Heather Arias, Division Chief, Transportation and
Toxics Division

Mr. Michael Benjamin, Division Chief, Air Quality Planning
and Science Division (AQPSD)

Ms. May Bhetraratana, Air Pollution Specialist, Health
Ecosystems Assessment Section, RD

Mr. Wesley Dyer, Attorney, Legal Office

Mr. David Edwards, Assistant Division Chief, AQPSD

Mr. Jorn Herner, Branch Chief, Research Planning and
Emission Mitigation Branch, RD

Mr. Austin Hicks, Air Pollution Specialist, South Coast
Air Quality Planning Section, AQPSD

Mr. Vernon Hughes, Branch Chief, Community Assessment
Branch, Office of Community Air Protection (OCAP)

Mr. Karen Magliano, Division Chief, OCAP

Ms. Liliana Nunez, Air Pollution Specialist, State
Strategy Section, OCAP

Ms. Sarah Pittiglio, Staff Air Pollution Specialist,
Climate Action and Research Planning Section, RD

Ms. Elizabeth Scheehle, Division Chief, RD

Mr. Craig Segall, Assistant Chief Counsel, Legal Office

Ms. Carol Sutkus, Air Resources Supervisor, South Coast
Air Quality Planning Section, AQPSD

Ms. Sylvia Vanderspek, Branch Chief, Air Quality Planning
Branch, AQPSD

A P P E A R A N C E S C O N T I N U E D

STAFF:

Mr. Daniel Whitney, Senior Attorney Legal Office

Ms. Laura Zaremba-Schmidt, Air Resources Engineer, State
Strategy Section, OCAP

ALSO PRESENT:

Ms. Eduwiges Aguayo

Mr. Cesar Aguirre, Central California Environmental
Justice Network

Ms. Sarah Aird

Mr. Herman Barahona, United Latinos

Ms. Elaine Barut, Little Manila Rising

Mr. Anthony Bibiano, New Voices Are Rising

Ms. Brittany Blanco, Comite Civico del Valle

Ms. Edith Cebreros, Communities for a New California

Ms. Noelle Cremers, California Farm Bureau Federation

Mr. Manuel Cunha, Nisei Farmers League

Ms. Nancy Del Castillo, Salton Sea Basin and Eastern
Coachella Valley

Ms. Pat Dodson, All Positives Possible

Ms. Melanie Dzib, New Voices Are Rising

Mr. Nelson Elizander Ayala, SCOPE

Ms. Annette Emery, Gardenland Northgate Neighborhood
Association

Ms. Alma Felipe, Community

Ms. Lesly Figueroa, Leadership Counsel for Justice and
Accountability

A P P E A R A N C E S C O N T I N U E D

ALSO PRESENT:

Ms. Anna Garcia, Salton Sea Basin, Eastern Coachella Valley

Ms. Brenda Garcia Guzman, Comunidad Salton City, Eastern Coachella

Ms. Lilian Garcia, Salton Sea Basin, Eastern Coachella Valley

Ms. Jo Kay Ghosh, South Coast Air Quality Management District

Mr. Ignacio Gutierrez Morales, SCOPE

Mr. Rudy Gutierrez, Coachella Resident

Mr. Kevin Hamilton, Central California Asthma Collaborative

Mr. Adam Harper, CAL CIMA

Ms. Madeline Harris, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

Mr. John Hernandez, Our Roots Multicultural

Mr. Miguel Hernandez, Environmental Justice Task Force

Mr. Larry Hofreiter, Port of San Diego

Mr. Roger Isom, California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association

Ms. Patricia Jones, SCOPE

Mr. Randy Joseph, Richmond-San Pablo Steering Committee

Ms. Maro Kakoussian, on behalf of Martha Dina Arguello

Mr. Robert Kard, San Diego County Air Pollution Control District

Ms. Cynthia Lau, Environmental Justice Coalition for Water

Ms. Patricia Leal, Alianza Coachella Valley

A P P E A R A N C E S C O N T I N U E D

ALSO PRESENT:

Ms. Jasmine Leek, Third City Coalition

Dr. Cassaundra Leier, Health Assessment and Research for Communities

Mr. Jaime Lemus, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District

Ms. Elba Lilian Pleitez, SCOPE

Mr. Brent Maland, Environmental Coalition for Water Justices

Mr. Tim Martinez, Community Resource Project

Mr. Chris McGlothlin, Western Agricultural Processors Association

Ms. Rosa Mendez, Alianza Coachella Valley

Mr. Bryan Minor, SCOPE

Mr. Edward Moreno, California Environmental Justice Alliance

Ms. Janniece Murray, Community Health Consolidated

Ms. Gloria Mushonga Roberts, SCOPE

Mr. Tyrone Netters, Green Tech

Mr. Greg Nudd, Bay Area Air Quality Management District

Ms. Evelyn Nuno, Assemblymember Cristina Garcia, AD 58

Mr. Maximiliano Ochoa, Comite Civico del Valle

Mr. Luis Olmedo, Comite Civico del Valle

Mr. Ruben Olmedo, Jr., Comite Civico del Valle

Ms. Alma Palacio, SCOPE

Ms. Teresa Padilla Mendoza

A P P E A R A N C E S C O N T I N U E D

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Ezekiel Park, Student of Reese Elementary

Mr. Yolanda Park, Environmental Justice 58

Ms. Mykela Patton, New Voices Are Rising

Mr. Jonathan Pruitt, Catholic Charities Diocese of Stockton

Ms. Isabel Ramos, Eastern Coachella Valley

Mr. Willie Robinson, Richmond-San Pablo Team

Ms. Olivia Rodriguez, Eastern Coachella Valley

Ms. Ann Rogan, Mayor's Office, City of Stockton

Ms. Marbella Sala, Gardenland Northgate Neighborhood Association

Ms. Isamay Sandoval, Comite Civico del Valle

Ms. Byanka Santoyo, Center for Race, Poverty and the Environment

Ms. Jane Sellen, Californians for Pesticide Reform

Mr. Samir Sheikh, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

Dr. Ryan Sinclair, Alianza Coachella Valley

Ms. Joelle Toney, South Sacramento Steering Committee

Mr. Sergio Valenzuela, Comite Civico del Valle

Ms. Anna Vargas, Communities for a New California

Ms. Mayra Vega, SCOPE

Mr. Jose Velez, Sr., Founder Comite Civico del Valle

Ms. Esperanza Vielma, Environmental Justice Coalition for Water, Cafe Coop

A P P E A R A N C E S C O N T I N U E D

ALSO PRESENT:

Ms. Iretha Warmsley, SCOPE

Ms. LaDonna Williams, All Positives Possible

Ms. Rebecca Zaragoza, Leadership Counsel for Justice and
Accountability

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 CHAIR NICHOLS: Good morning, ladies and
3 gentlemen. If I could have you briefly take your seats
4 and come to order. This is the December 13th, 2019 public
5 meeting of the California Air Resources Board. And it's
6 day two of actually a two-day meeting. We will begin
7 again this morning with the Pledge of Allegiance, so
8 please stand.

9 (Thereupon the Pledge of Allegiance was
10 recited in unison.)

11 CHAIR NICHOLS: All right. The clerk will please
12 call the roll.

13 BOARD CLERK CARLOS: Dr. Balmes?

14 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Here.

15 BOARD CLERK CARLOS: Mr. De La Torre?
16 Mr. Eisenhut?

17 BOARD MEMBER EISENHUT: Here.

18 BOARD CLERK CARLOS: Supervisor Fletcher?
19 Senator Florez?

20 BOARD MEMBER FLOREZ: Here.

21 BOARD CLERK CARLOS: Assembly Member Garcia?
22 Supervisor Gioia?

23 BOARD MEMBER GIOIA: Here.

24 BOARD CLERK CARLOS: Ms. Mitchell?

25 BOARD MEMBER MITCHELL: Here.

1 BOARD CLERK CARLOS: Senator Monning?

2 Mrs. Riordan?

3 BOARD MEMBER RIORDAN: Here.

4 BOARD CLERK CARLOS: Supervisor Serna?

5 Dr. Sherriffs?

6 BOARD MEMBER SHERRIFFS: Back.

7 (Laughter.)

8 BOARD CLERK CARLOS: Professor Sperling?

9 BOARD MEMBER SPERLING: Here.

10 BOARD CLERK CARLOS: Ms. Takvorian?

11 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: She never left.

12 (Laughter.)

13 BOARD CLERK CARLOS: Vice Chair Berg?

14 VICE CHAIR BERG: Here.

15 BOARD CLERK CARLOS: And Chair Nichols?

16 CHAIR NICHOLS: Here.

17 BOARD CLERK CARLOS: Madam Chair, we have a
18 quorum.

19 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

20 It's a rowdy bunch this morning.

21 (Laughter.)

22 CHAIR NICHOLS: It must be the rain or perhaps
23 the Holiday Season. I think the Holiday Season has
24 suppressed our attendance a little bit, which is unusual.

25 Outside this room on the -- in the lobby on the

1 second floor here at the CalEPA building, we have a little
2 resources fair going on hosted by a variety of
3 community-based organizations, CARB, ourselves and the
4 sister agency. It's intended to help propose 2019 AB 617
5 communities, as well as other communities around the
6 state, with tools and connections to pursue emissions
7 reductions, as well as green jobs and health benefits for
8 their communities. So I hope that those of you who are
9 able to do so in person will take a moment to visit the
10 booths that are here.

11 Interpretation services will be provided today in
12 Spanish for Item number 19-12-7, Informational Update on
13 the Environmental Justice Research and for Item 19-12-8,
14 AB 617 Community Air Protection Program, the Selection of
15 2019 Communities. Headsets are available outside the
16 hearing room at the attendant sign-up table and can be
17 picked up at any time.

18 (Thereupon the interpreter translated.)

19 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

20 For safety reasons, I ask everyone to note that
21 there are emergency exits at the rear of the room. In the
22 event of a fire alarm, we're required to evacuate this
23 room immediately and go down the stairs and out of the
24 building. When the all-clear signal is given, we will
25 return to the hearing room and resume the hearing.

1 Any one who wishes to testify should fill out a
2 request-to-speak card. These also are available in the
3 lobby outside this room. Please turn it into the Board
4 assistant in the front here or the Clerk of the Board
5 prior to the commencement of the item.

6 And I want to stress here that we will be
7 imposing a three-minute time limit on speakers. We'd
8 appreciate it if people will give us their first and last
9 name when they come up to the podium. And otherwise, if
10 they will summarize their testimony in their own words.
11 It's usually easiest to follow if you don't read your
12 prepared remarks and we can -- we will except them into
13 the record in writing, if you submit them.

14 I also want to make sure that people know
15 especially those who may be coming with a larger group
16 later that we allow a ceding of time that is up to three,
17 I think, people can give their time to another person, so
18 that one speaker can speak on behalf of the whole group.
19 But if you're doing that, you need to let us know in
20 advance. And the people who are ceding the time need to
21 actually come up and stand with the person who's doing the
22 speaking, so we can see that you're there for that whole
23 group of people.

24 I think that's it for the preliminary
25 announcements for this morning.

1 So let's jump right into the informational update
2 on our environmental justice research. I think everyone
3 knows that, at this point, environmental justice is a
4 major focus of our activities. It's also a major focus of
5 our research. As such, we expect to hear regular
6 informational updates from the staff. And today's is
7 going to summarize some of the ongoing and upcoming
8 research that analyzes the impacts of air pollution on
9 environmental justice communities.

10 Mr. Corey.

11 EXECUTIVE OFFICER COREY: Yes, thanks, Chair.

12 From previous Board updates, we know that
13 disparities in the siting of emission sources can result
14 in increased risk for adverse health outcomes in those
15 communities. And CARB's efforts in environmental justice
16 continue to help identify areas in which these disparities
17 remain high. In recognizing these areas where people are
18 most vulnerable, this research identifies emissions
19 sources and emissions -- or rather measures progress made
20 in disadvantaged communities.

21 Today, staff will provide a brief summary of the
22 latest research in characterizing pollution sources in
23 environmental justice communities.

24 I'll now ask May Bhetraratana of the Research
25 Division to begin the staff presentation.

1 May.

2 (Thereupon an overhead presentation was
3 presented as follows.)

4 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST BHETRARATANA: Thank
5 you, Mr. Corey.

6 Good morning, Chair Nichols and members of the
7 Board. I'm pleased to present an update on CARB's
8 Environmental Justice Research. I will first have a
9 couple slides on some background information and then I
10 will dive into the heart of our presentation.

11 --o0o--

12 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST BHETRARATANA: As laid
13 out in our Triennial Strategic Research Plan, CARB is
14 focused on conducting holistic projects within several
15 research areas. And in the next presentation that will
16 follow mine, you will hear more about the proposed work in
17 these multiple research categories.

18 For this current presentation, we would like to
19 highlight the relevant research area of environmental
20 justice. Within this area, there are several key research
21 initiatives, which focus on characterizing sources in and
22 impacts on disadvantaged communities.

23 --o0o--

24 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST BHETRARATANA:

25 Disadvantaged communities are designated by the

1 California Environmental Protection Agency as the highest
2 scoring 25 percent or the 75th percentile of census tracts
3 from CalEnviroScreen 3.0 scores. We will be using this
4 definition of disadvantaged communities in this
5 presentation, unless indicated otherwise.

6 CalEnviroScreen scores are calculated from
7 various pollution and population indicators, such as air
8 quality and poverty level. I would encourage anyone who
9 would like more information on CalEnviroScreen to visit
10 the website below.

11 --o0o--

12 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST BHETRARATANA: For
13 today's presentation, we will first highlight some of the
14 encouraging progress that CARB has made, while also noting
15 that we still have a lot of work to do, since exposure and
16 health disparities still do exist.

17 And finally, because of this, CARB staff remains
18 focused on learning more about the sources of these
19 disparities in working towards environmental justice.

20 --o0o--

21 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST BHETRARATANA: To start
22 off, CARB has made progress in cleaning up our state's
23 air. For instance, vehicular emission rates have been
24 reduced over the years. Here, you can see that the fleet
25 average emission rates of hydrocarbon in the top graph,

1 and nitric oxide in the bottom graph, have decreased from
2 1999 to 2018.

3 And with that, the disparity gap in both graphs
4 between low and high socioeconomic status groups has also
5 been narrowed as well over time.

6 --o0o--

7 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST BHETRARATANA: Now, in
8 addition to the progress CARB has made in emissions
9 reductions, there have also been improvements in health
10 outcomes. For instance, it is known that diesel
11 particulate matter is carcinogenic.

12 In fact, for people in communities like South
13 Gate and Cudahy in South East Los Angeles, who live near
14 major highways like the I-710, they have an elevated risk
15 for developing cancer. Not only that, these communities
16 are also already disadvantaged to begin with.

17 This second figure shows the same area with the
18 I-710 highway represented by this black line. The blue,
19 green, yellow, and red colors represent the
20 CalEnviroScreen scores of the surrounding census tracts.
21 On the color scale, red represents the most disadvantaged
22 census tracts based on the highest CalEnviroScreen scores.

23 And, indeed, you can see that many of the census
24 tracts in this map are red and therefore disadvantaged.
25 In fact, as you will hear in a presentation on AB 617

1 communities later today, southeast Los Angeles is one of
2 the areas being proposed for selection for the 2019
3 Community Air Protection Program.

4 --o0o--

5 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST BHETRARATANA: As
6 mentioned earlier, these neighborhoods around the I-710
7 have an elevated risk for developing cancer. But
8 fortunately, over the years, the cancer risk from
9 vehicular diesel particulate matter in these communities
10 has been reduced. This map shows this area around the
11 I-710 again with the highway represented by this black
12 line. The colors this time illustrate the risk for cancer
13 development in these neighborhoods with the yellow,
14 orange, and red areas having the highest risk for
15 developing cancer.

16 In 2009, you can see that these yellow, orange,
17 and red areas are estimated to extend even as much as more
18 than a kilometer away from the I-710.

19 Now, in the 2016 map, you can see by the
20 reduction in the color intensity, that the estimated risk
21 has been diminished. In fact, thanks to the Diesel Risk
22 Reduction Plan, the estimated cancer risk due to diesel
23 particulate matter from the I-710 has been reduced by 83
24 percent over this time period.

25 --o0o--

1 CHAIR NICHOLS: And could you remind us again
2 just quickly what you mean by the term "cancer risk"?

3 RD HEALTH AND EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT SECTION MANAGER

4 ALVARADO: So cancer risk is -- it's a theoretical cancer
5 risk, so you have -- so we -- staff have modeled diesel PM
6 along the 710 freeway, both modeled and there have been
7 mobile monitoring on the freeway to verify the reductions
8 in diesel PM. And so there is a cancer risk associated
9 with breathing in diesel emissions. And so this cancer
10 risk reduction reflects the -- that decrease in the
11 exposure to diesel PM.

12 CHAIR NICHOLS: And does it also reflect anything
13 about the population or only the amount of pollution that
14 is being generated in that area?

15 RD HEALTH AND EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT SECTION MANAGER

16 ALVARADO: Yeah. No, this is a -- this is a risk rather
17 than -- rather than an actual account of cancers.

18 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: I just would jump in and
19 say that it is based on a number of epidemiologic studies.

20 CHAIR NICHOLS: Um-hmm.

21 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Mostly of occupational
22 exposures, which are much higher.

23 CHAIR NICHOLS: Right.

24 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: And there's an exposure
25 response relationship that's been developed.

1 CHAIR NICHOLS: Um-hmm.

2 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: And then it's back
3 extrapolated down to ambient levels.

4 CHAIR NICHOLS: Well, I think it's important,
5 because it's -- it can be confusing --

6 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Yes.

7 CHAIR NICHOLS: -- as to what exactly we're
8 talking about.

9 Thank you.

10 --o0o--

11 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST BHETRARATANA: However,
12 while encouraging progress has been made in air quality,
13 disparities still exist. This inequity can be seen
14 geographically across the state. For instance, this map
15 shows PM2.5 concentrations based on 2016 satellite data.
16 You can see that much of the worst PM2.5 pollution, the
17 darkest areas on the map, occurs in the San Joaquin Valley
18 and the South Coast Air Basins.

19 --o0o--

20 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST BHETRARATANA: The
21 disparity also occurs demographically. These last three
22 maps show in red the census tracts that are in the 75th
23 percentile for each of these demographic measures. By
24 comparing these three maps with the PM2.5 map, you can see
25 that there is a lot of overlap between these areas that

1 are polluted with those areas that are highly
2 disadvantaged, those areas with a high population of
3 people of color, and those areas with a high population of
4 people living two times below the federal poverty level.

5 --o0o--

6 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST BHETRARATANA: As we
7 have seen, there is still more work needed to reduce these
8 disparities. For CARB to continue to strive for
9 environmental justice, we have to look for the sources of
10 pollution that are more prevalent and harmful in these
11 disadvantaged communities. This aligns with the Triennial
12 Strategic Research Plan's environmental justice initiative
13 of identifying sources. The studies on the following
14 slides include in-house and CARB contract work, both
15 important pieces of our research portfolio on
16 environmental justice.

17 For each study that follows, you will see the
18 nature of the study noted at the top of the slide.

19 --o0o--

20 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST BHETRARATANA: So what
21 sources are contributing to this disparity between our
22 state's communities? Well, there are multiple. We will
23 first highlight mobile sources, then discuss stationary
24 sources, and finally highlight some sources that are
25 emerging issues.

1 --o0o--

2 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST BHETRARATANA: First, we
3 will discuss mobile sources. On this slide we are looking
4 at the annual average daily highway traffic count in
5 disadvantaged versus non-disadvantaged communities. As
6 mentioned earlier, disadvantaged communities are
7 considered as a 75th percentile of CalEnviroScreen scores,
8 while non-disadvantaged are the 25th percentile.

9 Here, our in-house research shows that there are
10 higher traffic counts in disadvantaged communities. For
11 the passenger vehicle traffic count, there are less than
12 18,000 in non-disadvantaged communities, while there are
13 over 43,000 in disadvantaged, which is two and a half
14 times greater. Similar for the truck traffic, with
15 disadvantaged communities seeing 3.3 times greater truck
16 traffic than non-disadvantaged areas.

17 --o0o--

18 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST BHETRARATANA: Now, if
19 we also look at the exposure across different race and
20 ethnic groups, there are also disparities. The graphs on
21 this slide and on the next slide come from CARB contract
22 research work from UT Austin. Here, PM2.5 exposure from
23 on-road mobile sources, which include vehicles, as well as
24 brake and tire wear, is lower than average in white
25 populations, but higher than average in black, Hispanic,

1 1.8 times higher. The number of auto body shops is five
2 times higher. And the number of other sources is about
3 three times higher in disadvantaged communities compared
4 with non-disadvantaged.

5 --o0o--

6 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST BHETRARATANA: The CARB
7 contract work from UT Austin on this and on the next slide
8 also show that people of color have higher PM2.5 exposures
9 from some stationary sites. For instance, for industrial
10 facilities, black, Hispanic, and Asian residents all have
11 higher than average exposures, with Hispanic residents
12 having a PM2.5 exposure level 23 percent above average.

13 --o0o--

14 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST BHETRARATANA: For
15 natural gas and petroleum facilities, the PM2.5 exposure
16 level is also higher for people of color. In fact, black
17 communities are exposed at a level 42 percent higher than
18 average, which is 1.8 times more or nearly double than the
19 exposure level of white residents.

20 --o0o--

21 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST BHETRARATANA: The
22 sources discussed thus far have been the subject of
23 multiple studies. For these last slides, I will highlight
24 some sources that are so-called emerging issues, which are
25 relatively less studied, but are starting to gain more

1 attention in our research work.

2 This includes methane hotspots. Methane itself
3 is considered to be non-toxic, but it typically is
4 co-emitted with toxic pollutants and odors, depending on
5 the source, for instance, benzene from oil and gas
6 facilities.

7 In this map, which shows the results of our joint
8 in-house and CARB contract work, we have seen that methane
9 sources, like those in the energy, oil and gas, dairies,
10 and waste sectors are highly prevalent in those
11 disadvantaged communities with high CalEnviroScreen
12 scores. Follow-up work on these methane hotspots is
13 planned, as they can produce odors and other emissions
14 that can impact public health.

15 --o0o--

16 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST BHETRARATANA: And
17 lastly, Californians living around the southern border can
18 be exposed to pollution from Mexico. The populations in
19 this area of California are concentrated around the coast
20 and the Imperial valley areas. Several of the census
21 tracts in these locations are considered disadvantaged, as
22 indicated by the red areas on the map.

23 --o0o--

24 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST BHETRARATANA: Recently,
25 a CARB contract study by a San Diego State University-led

1 team looked at sources of pollution in Mexico near the
2 border. For instance, let's focus on emissions impacts on
3 this area of the Imperial Valley. Within this region is
4 the City of Calexico, which was selected last year for the
5 2018 Community Air Protection Program.

6 --o0o--

7 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST BHETRARATANA: Here, on
8 this map, the red dots are emissions sources in and around
9 the City of Mexicali, Mexico. The multicolored plume
10 represents emissions from Mexicali sources, with the
11 yellower color indicating a larger impact on local
12 concentrations.

13 You can see that emissions from Mexicali can
14 reach California, especially impacting Calexico and the
15 surrounding area. These emission sources include
16 industries, urban burning, and the port of entry. The
17 results from this work can be used to inform the air
18 quality layer of the next version of CalEnviroScreen.

19 --o0o--

20 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST BHETRARATANA: In
21 conclusion, disadvantaged communities often have more
22 sources of air pollution, including mobile and stationary
23 sources. Because of this, CARB staff continues to analyze
24 the emissions and health impacts from these sources. For
25 instance, in progress, is the air monitoring going on in

1 AB 617 communities.

2 And lastly, identifying sources of air quality
3 disparities can inform the selection of AB 617
4 communities, opportunities for targeting incentive
5 programs, and how to focus rules and regulations to
6 improve air quality.

7 This concludes our presentation. We wanted to --
8 we want to thank you for listening and we are open to any
9 comments and questions.

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIR NICHOLS: Did anybody sign up to speak on
12 this item?

13 BOARD CLERK CARLOS: No.

14 CHAIR NICHOLS: No. Okay. Thank you.

15 Go ahead.

16 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Well, I want to thank staff
17 for giving the Board this report. This is an area of
18 obvious public health concern, but it's also an area of
19 active research, including my own, including in Supervisor
20 Gioia's District. I have projects in Richmond that are
21 directly addressing health disparities in that community.

22 And I don't have any problem with anything that
23 staff said, but it's only part of the story. And, of
24 course, staff is focusing on air pollution, because that's
25 what we're all about. But the health disparities in the

1 CalEnviroScreen disadvantaged communities are not just due
2 to air pollution. I've said this from this dais before.
3 I have to say it again. Not only are these communities
4 disproportionately exposed to air pollution, certainly in
5 the Central Valley they may have bad water quality, and
6 there's pesticide exposures, and those are all taken into
7 account in CalEnviroScreen, but these are also communities
8 that don't have the amenities of higher income communities
9 often.

10 You know, there are food deserts. I think West
11 Oakland is getting its first supermarket that's going to
12 have fresh produce, you know, in decades actually. And
13 there's often less green space for exercise and spiritual
14 renewal, both of which are important.

15 There's often more crime. There's more noise.
16 There's a lot going on in these communities. And as I
17 said before, if I had to fix one thing, I'd redistribute
18 income, so that these communities aren't poor. We can't
19 do that from this board.

20 But I just want people to realize that this is
21 only part of the problem. My research in Richmond is
22 specifically looking at the interaction between
23 psychosocial stressors and air pollution exposure, because
24 there's actually increasing evidence that the two
25 interact.

1 Anyway, that's -- I want to thank staff for this
2 presentation. It sets the stage for our AB 617
3 discussion.

4 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you. We could -- yeah, I'm
5 sure we can engage in a long discussion about interaction
6 between poverty and many other evils, and probably should.
7 But I think it's not germane to the work of the Board. I
8 will talk to -- I'm sorry, I'll call -- I think, Mr.
9 Gioia, you had your hand up first?

10 BOARD MEMBER GIOIA: Yeah.

11 CHAIR NICHOLS: And then Mr. Sperling, and then
12 Mr. Serna.

13 BOARD MEMBER GIOIA: So this is -- there's really
14 nothing -- nothing surprising about this information. We
15 know this. That's why we work on the strategy that we
16 have. So, for me, what's most important is how we think
17 about using any additional information and data from our
18 AB 617 process going forward to try to also link
19 strategies with these conditions, as we -- as we improve
20 and measure -- continue to measure improvement, because we
21 always continue to have pushback from some, that some of
22 the strategies we're pursuing or regulations that we're
23 pursuing aren't -- really aren't necessary. I think it's
24 important for us to continue to show that these steps,
25 these new regulations, these new strategies all are

1 associated with improving health outcomes.

2 So explain a bit about how this research is going
3 to tie into the ongoing work with the ten communities
4 around the state, with AB 617, and, of course, the ones
5 we're adding, and other communities as well.

6 RESEARCH DIVISION CHIEF SCHEEHLE: Hi. This is
7 Elizabeth Scheehle.

8 We have a lot of ongoing studies, as well as the
9 studies that we're looking at, that can feed into that.
10 And I think it -- it is really important to have this back
11 and forth between what's going on in the 617 communities
12 and the research that we're pursuing. And one of the
13 things you'll hear in the next presentation on the
14 research plan, it addresses actually something Dr. Balmes
15 brought up, as well as you, we have white papers looking
16 at how can we look at all of the monitoring data that's
17 coming in, both from the low-cost sensors and from sort of
18 big data satellites and how all that can fit together --

19 BOARD MEMBER GIOIA: Right.

20 RESEARCH DIVISION CHIEF SCHEEHLE: -- into
21 research to kind of figure out what some of the sources
22 may be and then that will feed into the 617 process. As
23 staff mentioned, some of this data can also help inform
24 what strategies are working, what aren't, where some of
25 the disparities are. And then working with the 617 group

1 can inform what -- what work -- what goes, you know, on in
2 that process as well.

3 And one of the other projects in responding to
4 Dr. Balmes is we are looking at exposure differences in
5 one of the projects that will be discussed later as well,
6 and how -- and other environmental stressors come into
7 that process and impact how people are impacted by air
8 pollution.

9 So does that answer your question?

10 BOARD MEMBER GIOIA: Right. Sort of. I mean,
11 even one of the issues that came up -- I was at the
12 Richmond Community Steering Committee meeting Wednesday
13 night this week, and there was a question about trying to
14 correlate asthma data with the pollution data. And the
15 pollution data was actually being collected on a pretty
16 granular basis. It's through a mobile -- mobile
17 collection of -- a vehicle that's driving around
18 collecting data on every street in the city multiple
19 times. The asthma data we have is more by zip code from
20 our health department.

21 So the question is how to get the health data
22 even in a more granular basis to correlate and then look
23 at the improvements in air quality or reduced reduction in
24 pollution, and then associated benefits with -- on asthma.
25 So part of it's also how we work with the local health

1 agencies on how they -- they've collected and displayed
2 their data.

3 RESEARCH DIVISION CHIEF SCHEEHLE: And that's
4 really important. And Alvaro will talk about one of the
5 studies we actually have that was approved last year that
6 will start out, but I also wanted to mention that it is --
7 sometimes it is really hard to make those connections as
8 well.

9 BOARD MEMBER GIOIA: Yeah.

10 RD HEALTH AND EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT SECTION MANAGER
11 ALVARADO: Yeah. So the -- so we have a study that
12 looked -- that's looking at asthma as well. You had
13 mentioned about asthma at like the zip code level or --

14 BOARD MEMBER GIOIA: Yeah.

15 RD HEALTH AND EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT SECTION MANAGER
16 ALVARADO: So that's almost impossible to tie to local
17 sources of air pollution. So we have a contract that was
18 approved last year that's -- that has sort of -- the
19 asthma inhalers that are -- have a -- kind of a bluetooth
20 connection, so that -- so that when somebody uses the
21 asthma inhaler, it records --

22 BOARD MEMBER GIOIA: Right.

23 RD HEALTH AND EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT SECTION MANAGER
24 ALVARADO: -- when they were used and where they were
25 used, so that we have a correlation -- we can correlate

1 the -- you know, the asthma episode --

2 BOARD MEMBER GIOIA: Um-hmm.

3 RD HEALTH AND EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT SECTION MANAGER

4 ALVARADO: -- with that time and location that gives us --

5 BOARD MEMBER GIOIA: So here's a thought --
6 here's a thought I have, because I'm thinking at the
7 ground practical level. For those of us, you know, who
8 are sort of voting on policy at the local level, we know
9 there are a number of good studies that link various types
10 of air pollution with various types of health out --
11 health impacts. Yet, what happens is when we're pursuing
12 a policy in, let's say, a particular city, the business or
13 industry in that city will say, well, prove to us that our
14 emissions are affecting people's health. And, of course,
15 everyone knows the health -- especially, the health
16 professionals, that it takes years to show that
17 connection.

18 But there are plenty of other studies out showing
19 that connection in some other community. So how do we --
20 and I know there was a major study at the South Coast --
21 of showing the health benefits of regulations at the South
22 Coast Air District --

23 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: The Childrens Health Study.

24 (Ayes.)

25 BOARD MEMBER GIOIA: -- Right, done by UCLA,

1 right. And I thought that was a really good study.

2 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: USC.

3 BOARD MEMBER GIOIA: USC. Oh.

4 (Laughter.)

5 BOARD MEMBER GIOIA: Us Cal people -- us Cal
6 people want to believe all the good studies are from a UC
7 school.

8 (Laughter.)

9 BOARD MEMBER GIOIA: Anyway.

10 (Laughter.)

11 BOARD MEMBER GIOIA: So it seem -- it would be
12 really helpful to collect studies that can be used as a
13 clearinghouse that show the connections and health
14 benefits of various types of regulations, which have led
15 to pollution reduction, and therefore health benefits.
16 And these may be ten-year studies, which give us
17 ammunition when we're working on things in our own
18 community to say, well, here's the study. We know these
19 are your emissions and your emissions happen to be the
20 same as the emissions over here, and those were proven to
21 have good health outcomes -- you had good health outcomes
22 when you reduced those pollutant -- those pollutants.

23 So then we don't have to get into this argument
24 of saying we have to wait ten years to do a study in our
25 community before we determine, you know, that we want to

1 reduce pollution.

2 I can't tell you how important that is, because I
3 hear this discussion in many meetings I go to in my own
4 community in Contra Costa County in Richmond, because it's
5 like, oh, of course, we want data. We want good data, but
6 we want data showing the connection of our facility to
7 people's health. So let's take the data we already have
8 and use -- and be able to express it in a way that we can
9 extrapolate on policies in another community.

10 So, to me, that's a really important task, if you
11 could work on collecting that -- those kinds of studies
12 and have -- so that they're readily available for
13 communities to draw on, as well as for anyone to draw on
14 that, especially local community advocates who can use
15 that as ammunition.

16 RESEARCH DIVISION CHIEF SCHEEHLE: Yeah, I think
17 that is -- that's a good idea and we can work on that.
18 We'll do that.

19 Thank you.

20 RD HEALTH AND EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT SECTION MANAGER
21 ALVARADO: And there -- there have been a couple of
22 studies. And I can see John Balmes is probably ready to
23 jump in but --

24 (Laughter.)

25 BOARD MEMBER GIOIA: Help us out, John. Help us

1 out. Help us out.

2 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Well, I was -- I've been
3 having several conversations recently about trying to get
4 the health metric data that the environmental justice
5 groups have always wanted, and my understanding that
6 Assemblywoman Garcia wanted when she actually authored AB
7 617. We are collecting community air monitoring data.
8 We're going on to use those data to have emission
9 reductions plans. But the -- there's not been the
10 connection made towards the health metrics that we could
11 use to try to link our efforts at the AB 617 community
12 level to health changes.

13 And it's not easy, I totally agree, but it's --
14 it's doable. And I actually had conversations with
15 Senator Lara about getting legislative support, budgetary
16 support, to try to at least pilot that in disadvantaged
17 communities. And, yeah, I have ideas about this. I
18 don't -- don't want to go on and on about it here.

19 BOARD MEMBER GIOIA: We'll talk about it on the
20 train ride home this afternoon.

21 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Yeah. But I do think --
22 but it's an important point, in general, that I think our
23 environmental justice communities want is a linkage to
24 health. It's not easily done, but we should be thinking
25 about it. And I'd like to -- I spoke to Senator Monning

1 yesterday about trying to rekindle that effort. He told
2 me to go to the Governor's office rather than the
3 Legislature.

4 BOARD MEMBER GIOIA: Are there other -- are there
5 other studies, in addition to the USC Childrens study,
6 that you think are also good to utilize in Cal -- a
7 California study?

8 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Yes, I agree with you that
9 what's usually done when people do health impact
10 assessments, at any level, is to use existing data --

11 BOARD MEMBER GIOIA: Right.

12 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: -- to -- on exposure
13 response relationships and apply it to the local exposure
14 data.

15 BOARD MEMBER GIOIA: Yeah.

16 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: But that doesn't answer
17 your question about whether the Levin Terminal coal dust
18 is actually contributing to --

19 BOARD MEMBER GIOIA: Right. Right.

20 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: -- health impacts in your
21 community.

22 CHAIR NICHOLS: Well, and most of the time --
23 excuse me. Most of the time you don't really want to wait
24 until after it's already happened and then figure out what
25 it did. You want to be able to make some predictions, so

1 you can do something protective. And somewhere between
2 building nothing and just saying, okay, go ahead do it,
3 there's got to be some better way to do it.

4 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: So I actually think the --
5 and Paul English from the Health Department and I made a
6 presentation to the AB 617 Consultation Group about that.
7 I think the place to start is asthma exacerbations. You
8 don't have to wait years for asthma exacerbations. You
9 just have to have an appropriate data collection system,
10 which, for example, you could envision Kaiser facilities
11 or Sutter facilities, Dignity facilities with the
12 electronic medical record having real-time asthma
13 exacerbation data available that we could link with our
14 real-time pollution data. That's just --

15 CHAIR NICHOLS: Right. Well, okay, so we should
16 be talking further about this though. It sounds like not
17 just -- again, not waiting until the next research plan.

18 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: And just one other thing,
19 the GPS enabled bronchodilator concept. It's a very good
20 concept. I have a paper coming out this month, where we
21 linked ozone levels in Woodland and Sacramento to
22 bronchodilator use of people with asthma.

23 CHAIR NICHOLS: Okay. I think we should hear
24 from the other Board members who have their lights on and
25 then maybe give a little additional direction.

1 So I think the order I put you in, unfairly
2 perhaps, was Sperling, Serna, Takvorian, so let's go to
3 it, and then it will be Fletcher.

4 BOARD MEMBER SPERLING: So following up on these
5 discussions, can we go back to slide 7 where -- the one
6 that Chair Nichols called out earlier. And, you know, I
7 do want to say this research is tremendously useful and
8 valuable as we try to come up with solutions, and
9 policies, and programs. And so this is a -- I mean, this
10 is a really eye-opening graph to be looking at the
11 tremendous improvement.

12 Now, just so that I understand it better, this is
13 only the exposure due to diesel PM.

14 RESEARCH DIVISION CHIEF SCHEEHLE: (Nods head.)

15 BOARD MEMBER SPERLING: So like what part of the
16 cancer risk in this case, you know, say in 2016, just
17 relatively, is this diesel PM? Can you --

18 RD HEALTH AND EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT SECTION MANAGER
19 ALVARADO: So --

20 BOARD MEMBER SPERLING: I'm a transportation guy.
21 I want to know --

22 (Laughter.)

23 BOARD MEMBER SPERLING: -- how bad -- what's --
24 how much do we blame transportation.

25 RD HEALTH AND EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT SECTION MANAGER

1 ALVARADO: So cancer risk is -- cancer is a fairly common
2 disease. So I think estimates are anywhere between one in
3 three or one in four of us will get cancer in our
4 lifetime. So it's a -- it's a fairly high risk. So this
5 is a -- so this -- this is a small additional risk for
6 people that live in that area. So I think where we're
7 looking at around an additional I'd say 200 cancers per
8 million exposed in that -- in the people living right next
9 to the -- that 710 freeway.

10 BOARD MEMBER SPERLING: What percent -- I mean --
11 RD HEALTH AND EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT SECTION MANAGER

12 ALVARADO: So it's a -- that's a fraction, 200 divided by
13 a million, so it's a --

14 BOARD MEMBER SPERLING: That much --

15 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: So, Dan, this is mostly
16 lung cancer risk. That's what's associated with diesel.
17 And, you know, smoking, by far and away, is more important
18 than diesel, but diesel makes a contribution.

19 BOARD MEMBER SPERLING: Okay. Okay. And just so
20 I know even more how much to blame trucks here, what about
21 if you -- this was projected forward, you know, to, you
22 know, 2021, another five years. I mean, if there was that
23 much improvement in those years, is it going to get even
24 that much dramatically better because of the turnover of
25 trucks, you know, as we move to cleaner trucks and

1 eventually electric, of course?

2 RESEARCH DIVISION CHIEF SCHEEHLE: I would say, I
3 mean, we would expect as you get more electric vehicles,
4 as you get cleaner trucks, you would see a reduction. I
5 can't speculate on what that would look like and we
6 haven't done -- at least this group has not done that. I
7 don't know if anyone else could speak to that, but...

8 BOARD MEMBER SPERLING: So I'm just thinking, you
9 know, as we --

10 RESEARCH DIVISION CHIEF SCHEEHLE: We can -- we
11 can look at it and get back to you.

12 BOARD MEMBER SPERLING: Yeah. I'm just thinking
13 as we get into the 617 discussion as we try to come up
14 with solutions and where are we going to focus our
15 efforts, we really need to have a good sense of where the
16 problems are and where there's -- you know, where we
17 have -- where we can help with solutions. So this is very
18 useful.

19 CHAIR NICHOLS: I guess. Although, this argument
20 bleeds very quickly into what I've heard for, I don't know
21 how many decades now, that we should stop worrying so much
22 about air pollution, because if we could just get these
23 people to stop smoking, then they wouldn't be getting lung
24 cancer. I know that's not what you're saying, but that
25 is -- it's very difficult to sort out exactly what

1 percentage of anything caused a person's illness on an
2 individual level.

3 And even if we can get there statistically,
4 suppose we proved that it was only ten percent versus 50
5 percent, would that mean we should stop regulating
6 emissions from trucks? No.

7 So there's a kind of a so-what question that
8 needs to be applied to all this research. We keep hoping
9 that research is going to answer all of our questions for
10 us and it's just not.

11 Sorry.

12 All right.

13 BOARD MEMBER SERNA: Thank you, Chair Nichols.

14 First, I want to thank staff for the report. And
15 I agree with my colleagues who have already stated the
16 obvious that it's hugely important work. One of the
17 advantages -- many advantages I think of having the
18 complexion of this board be partially comprised of locally
19 elected people, whether we be supervisors or city council
20 people, is that we really have the benefit of seeing the
21 merit of the work that's done here that can be applied
22 locally.

23 And I know that a number of jurisdictions up and
24 down the state of California, municipalities and counties,
25 are now considering environmental justice elements in

1 their respective general plans. This is the kind of work
2 and the conclusions from this kind of work, which I think
3 will really be helpful at the local level to inform our
4 decision making when it comes to land use -- comprehensive
5 land-use planning and certainly environmental review.
6 There's been plenty of discussion already about the --
7 about health risk assessment and how this adds value to a
8 better understanding about the connection between, in this
9 case, diesel particulate matter and cancer risk.

10 But I think we -- if we're not already doing it,
11 I think we should make a very concerted effort to reach
12 out and perhaps work with the likes of OPR to get this
13 information -- these conclusions, this research
14 disseminated through OPR, because it tends to be a
15 clearinghouse for local government in terms of looking at
16 models of how best to update their general plans and other
17 comprehensive aspects of land-use planning.

18 I think it can be very helpful. I'd also
19 encourage our staff to consider working with CSAC,
20 county -- the California State Association of Counties, to
21 give this -- provide this information to them, so that
22 they could offer it to their membership, which are
23 obviously the 58 counties of the state.

24 And just as a reminder, it is the -- it is county
25 governance and county government that is responsible, in

1 large part, for, at the local level, protecting public
2 health. We each have public health officers. I think
3 they'd be tremendously interested in the results of
4 research like that.

5 So I'd like to see us not lose the momentum just
6 by declaring research is over. We have these conclusions.
7 But let's really think carefully about the practical
8 application of what we learned by way of this research.

9 Thank you.

10 CHAIR NICHOLS: We had Ms. Takvorian, Mr.
11 Fletcher, and then I'll turn to the other end of the table
12 here.

13 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Okay. Supervisor
14 Fletcher and I are fighting. He's been very gracious, so
15 I'll go first.

16 (Laughter.)

17 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: No, we're not fighting.
18 Kidding.

19 So I just wanted to agree with Dr. Balmes and say
20 there are multiple other factors and indoor air pollution,
21 which we talked about yesterday a lot. And lead exposure
22 is pretty dominant in the homes in our communities. So
23 I'm really pleased -- actually, I think this presentation
24 should have been yesterday, as it totally supports the
25 actions that we're prepared to take on heavy-duty trucks.

1 So that's -- that's very helpful.

2 I want to say that I really agree with our
3 Chair's thoughts about what the role of cancer --
4 cancer -- what the role of research is. And we know that
5 PM causes cancer, whether it's next to the 710, or next to
6 the I-5, or next to the 905, which is the southernmost
7 freeway in San Diego, Tijuana.

8 So it doesn't really matter to many of us from
9 environmental justice communities whether you've had a
10 research study that demonstrates that it causes it in our
11 community. I don't think it's any different. So that's
12 what I think Supervisor Serna is saying is let's use this
13 data and move forward. And if you look at the slide that
14 shows the border, I know that at least for San Diego,
15 Tijuana, we are -- our city, in their non-wisdom, have
16 authorized the construction of 4,000 housing units on the
17 905.

18 So was that a 617 community five years ago? No,
19 but it's becoming one. And so why aren't we paying
20 attention to the data that we have and why are we putting
21 people in harm's way. Well, because we need more housing
22 and we need more affordable housing. So I know it's not a
23 simple answer, but it's really troubling, because I
24 think -- because we're causing more problems, health
25 problems especially for folks.

1 The other thing I want to say, and I'm assuming
2 that Supervisor Fletcher will talk about this is this
3 really supports the need for more transit and meeting our
4 SB 375 goals in terms of getting folks -- getting more
5 vehicles off the road.

6 And then the last thing, which I do think we
7 really could weigh in on in terms of research, is asthma
8 data, incidence data is not what we're using. We're using
9 hospitalization data, is that correct?

10 RD HEALTH AND EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT SECTION MANAGER
11 ALVARADO: Yeah. For our regulations, we use asthma
12 emergency room visits.

13 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Right.

14 RD HEALTH AND EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT SECTION MANAGER
15 ALVARADO: That's one of the things that we quantify.

16 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Because we're not
17 routinely capturing the incidence data, is that correct?

18 RD HEALTH AND EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT SECTION MANAGER
19 ALVARADO: It's difficult to capture that data. Yeah,
20 some of that -- some of those studies are very old 25, 30
21 years old.

22 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Right. So it just seems
23 like with cancer, you know, perhaps if incidence data were
24 required to be reported, we would have a much better idea.
25 And Dr. Balmes may have a view on this. But I just think

1 that we are really underestimating or underknowing what
2 we -- what the incidence of asthma is as a result of only
3 looking at hospitalizations. So your thoughts on that
4 would be great.

5 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Just very quickly. There's
6 been an effort for years to try to get a better asthma
7 surveillance program in California. There was actually a
8 bill that I think was passed by the Legislature, and then
9 the Governor didn't fund it. That was like a decade ago.

10 We need better asthma surveillance data. Waiting
11 for the OSHPD data, which is what Alvaro referred to,
12 it's, A, only at the zip code level, and B, it's -- you
13 have to wait two years to get the data. So for that
14 what -- that idea I had about AB 617 linking it with
15 asthma exacerbations, we'd need a more active surveillance
16 program.

17 CHAIR NICHOLS: Okay.

18 BOARD MEMBER FLETCHER: Thank you. It just
19 struck me when we were talking about the ER visits versus
20 the incidence, that it's probably disproportionately
21 reported as well when you have communities that have not
22 had historic access to health care, or have documentation
23 statuses, or other things that might make them fearful of
24 going to these places. And so I think, you know, basing
25 it solely along ER visits, I would imagine some

1 communities take their kids to the doctor every time
2 anything could possibly go wrong and other communities
3 just don't have that historic access. And so I would --
4 anything we can do to get the incidence data.

5 If we could look at slide 12 for a second just
6 because I think the -- the conversation surrounding the
7 data and the impact is really important and one that we
8 want. And I really support what Supervisor Gioia said
9 about informing our ability to make the case that these
10 efforts we know have a positive health impact.

11 But when you look at -- when you look at slide 12
12 in particular, because of where we build freeways and the
13 communities who get freeways built through them, and
14 because of where we site industries, and the communities
15 who get industries sited next to them, we know for a
16 fact -- like, it's not a shock to me that the AB 617
17 community just a few miles from where I live has an asthma
18 rate of eight times higher than a community just a couple
19 miles away from them.

20 So they're both in the City of San Diego.
21 They're not that far apart. But one community has asthma
22 rates that are eight times higher in the children than the
23 other one.

24 And that is because we build freeways through
25 those communities and we site the industries, which was on

1 slide 15, in those communities. And I think that -- while
2 we want the longer data, we want to see the direct
3 impacts, I think that we -- we all agree there's a clear
4 impact in what's going on here, which is why so many of us
5 are pushing so hard on those Clean Truck Rules, because
6 those heavy-duty trucks that are driving through these
7 communities hundreds, and hundreds, and hundreds of trips
8 right through the middle of neighborhoods, right by
9 schools, when we have parks that are underneath the
10 freeway. I mean -- I mean, the kids play at a park that
11 is underneath two freeway interchanges and the cars drive
12 over the top of them while they play, it really creates a
13 sense when you look at the asthma data that we know and
14 you look at the siting of these for why the conversation
15 we had yesterday on clean trucks is so important and
16 there's such an impetuous sense of we really need to move
17 aggressively on this.

18 Thank you.

19 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you. Start down on the
20 other end here, if I may. Welcome, Mr. Garcia. You don't
21 have your light on, so I'll turn to Ms. Mitchell.

22 Okay. Go ahead.

23 BOARD MEMBER MITCHELL: Thank you. And I want to
24 emphasize what Chair Nichols said was, even though we
25 cannot draw this causal connection between the health

1 impact and say the vehicular traffic or the stationary
2 source, we know it exists simply by looking at the
3 incidence that do happen in these areas. And I want to
4 say again my concern about how we go about this. I
5 expressed it yesterday. We are working on the Advanced
6 Clean Trucks Regulation. We have a number of other
7 regulations in place.

8 We know from our 617 studies that one of the
9 biggest concerns is diesel particulate matter. And I want
10 our agency to be sure that what we are doing with our
11 Clean Trucks Rules doesn't result in increased diesel
12 trucks on the roads, as we approach the 2023 deadline for
13 our Bus and Truck Rule.

14 So that is a big concern of mine. And I think
15 that's something we need to pay attention to. DPM is a
16 big problem. And that's where we need to focus our
17 attention to move these diesel trucks off the road.
18 Heavy-duty diesel is certainly a concern and certainly a
19 cause of asthma. And we see it's a cause of cancer. So
20 that is something I think we really need to be paying
21 attention to.

22 Thank you.

23 CHAIR NICHOLS: Okay. Any additional comments?

24 We do have a research -- another upcoming
25 research discussion. So maybe we should just turn to that

1 now and hear what the proposed projects are for 2020-21.

2 I think it's the same staff pretty much involved.

3 Mr. Corey, do you want to comment on this?

4 EXECUTIVE OFFICER COREY: I will. I'll open
5 this.

6 Thanks, Chair. So today staff will present the
7 proposed research projects for fiscal 2020-2021. These
8 proposed projects were developed from a public
9 solicitation of research ideas and supplemented by
10 discussions with CARB program staff, stakeholders, other
11 State and federal agencies, and experts in these fields of
12 study.

13 The Research Roundtable was also hosted at CalEPA
14 headquarters on October 9th, which provided an opportunity
15 for the public to provide input on emerging research
16 topics that the Board should consider for funding. The
17 proposed research projects support CARB's regulatory
18 priorities related to health, environmental justice, air
19 pollution, and climate change.

20 I'll now ask Sarah Pittiglio of the Research
21 Division to give the staff presentation.

22 Sarah.

23 (Thereupon an overhead presentation was
24 presented as follows.)

25 STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST PITTIGLIO: Thank

1 you, Mr. Corey. Good morning, Chair Nichols and members
2 of the board.

3 --o0o--

4 STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST PITTIGLIO: In
5 April of 2018, the Board approved the first Triennial
6 Strategic Research Plan. The plan describes priority
7 research initiatives that guide our annual selection of
8 individual projects. The projects may be fulfilled
9 through in-house work or funded through external
10 contracts. We also leverage our in-house expertise to
11 collaborate with contractors to augment their work with
12 additional monitoring, modeling, and analyses.

13 --o0o--

14 STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST PITTIGLIO:
15 Building on the success of the plan, we're continuing to
16 broaden the scope of our projects and fulfill the plan's
17 research initiatives with large multi-disciplinary
18 projects. These holistic projects address anticipated
19 challenges associated with achieving our long-term air
20 quality and climate goals and will ensure that we
21 successfully implement our progress -- programs with
22 benefits for the economy and health in all communities.

23 Most projects are also complemented by in-house
24 research projects that leverage staff expertise.

25 --o0o--

1 STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST PITTIGLIO: When
2 the Legislature created the Research Program at CARB, they
3 also created the Research Screening Committee, known as
4 the RSC, to provide formal peer review and ensure the
5 scientific rigor of both proposed and completed research.

6 The RSC consists of professors, scientists, and
7 engineers from academia, scientific agencies, and
8 industry. They have expertise in air pollution, health,
9 climate, and environmental justice. Proposals for
10 research are reviewed by the committee and approved that
11 the scientific methods for answering the research
12 questions are sound and cost effective.

13 Final research reports are reviewed in a similar
14 manner. The committee is integral -- an integral part of
15 our research program and meets approximately four times a
16 year to review and provide formal approval of the proposed
17 and completed research projects.

18 --o0o--

19 STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST PITTIGLIO: CARB's
20 Research Program continues to play an important role in
21 meeting the challenges of increasingly stringent ambient
22 air quality standards. CARB's research aims to help
23 maintain CARB's scientific foundation, identify new
24 emission reduction strategies, and monitor the progress of
25 regulations that are already in place to ensure that

1 programs are successfully implemented.

2 This is also true for our long-term climate
3 goals, which in addition to mitigating emissions of
4 greenhouse gases also aims to increase carbon
5 sequestration in order to achieve carbon neutrality in
6 2045.

7 --o0o--

8 STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST PITTIGLIO: The
9 annual research planning process begins with an open
10 public solicitation of research concepts. These concepts
11 are considered along with internal input and priority
12 projects that align with the Triennial Plan's research
13 initiatives are identified.

14 In addition to our typical engagement this year,
15 input on research priorities was received in a public
16 research roundtable hosted here at CalEPA headquarters.
17 We intend to host additional workshops in the spring of
18 2020 to receive input on emerging research topics that
19 should be considered for the next Triennial Plan.

20 The next Triennial Plan will be presented to the
21 Board in December of 2020, along with the proposed
22 projects for the next fiscal year.

23 --o0o--

24 STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST PITTIGLIO: CARB's
25 Research Division staff manage external contracts, but are

1 also experts in their field in their own right and often
2 conduct in-house research that complement contracts --
3 contracted projects. Some highlights include near-shore
4 monitoring that verified that ships in the San Francisco
5 Bay complied with rules requiring a switch to low sulfur
6 fuel when they come within 24 miles of the coastline,
7 thereby reducing pollution in coastal communities.

8 Here, staff are collecting mobile and stationary
9 real-time measurements, up in the right-hand corner, of
10 methane emissions and other pollutants to identify and
11 quantify sources. This work helps to verify inventories
12 and quantify the effectiveness of mitigation strategies.

13 Our in-house work results in multiple papers in
14 the peer-reviewed literature each year. Just this month,
15 CARB staff published their work on the benefits of using
16 PM2.5 satellite data for health exposure assessments.

17 Another article released on December 5th in
18 Nature describes work that CARB staff collaborated on with
19 the California Energy Commission, NASA, and others to
20 improve our understanding of California's methane
21 super-emitters.

22 --o0o--

23 STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST PITTIGLIO: This
24 year, we are funding five large projects with the budget
25 allocated to our research program. This projects are

1 leveraging over \$5 million through collaborations with
2 other research entities. In order to expand our limited
3 budget, this year we have sought out additional pots of
4 money and are funding a sixth project using \$1 million
5 from the Low Carbon Transportation Fund that are able to
6 fund research.

7 Today, we are asking the Board to approve these
8 proposed projects. In the next few slides, I will provide
9 more details about each one.

10 --o0o--

11 STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST PITTIGLIO: The
12 Triennial Plan's research initiatives identified the need
13 to continue to focus on long-range transport of ozone and
14 sources of PM2.5 in order to inform our State
15 Implementation Plans, so that long-term air quality goals
16 are met.

17 Emissions of VOCs and NOx from the mobile fleet
18 have declined substantially and will continue to as
19 vehicles electrify. In contrast, VOC emissions from
20 stationary sources are not decreasing as quickly and may
21 be increasing as chemical use continues to diversify and
22 global temperatures increase evaporative loss. How this
23 changing mix of emission impacts air quality, ozone, and
24 PM2.5 for emission is highly uncertain.

25 These lines of research will converge to

1 determine the optimal path toward meeting future SIP
2 targets in a changing climate.

3 --o0o--

4 STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST PITTIGLIO:

5 Current in-house work is employing the use of our
6 mobile monitoring platforms, regional air monitors, and
7 satellite data to gain a better understanding of the
8 geospatial distribution of criteria pollutants in the
9 South Coast and San Joaquin Air Basins.

10 Contracted work will augment these efforts by
11 taking ground and aerial measurements in this South Coast
12 Air Basin in order to identify sources of the VOCs that
13 impact ozone and PM2.5 formation. Aerial measurements
14 will be compared to a similar campaign that was performed
15 a decade earlier. This information could pinpoint the
16 current trajectory for reductions, as well as the optimal
17 mix of reduction strategies for the shore and long term.

18 --o0o--

19 STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST PITTIGLIO: Past
20 research has shown that in-use emissions can vary from
21 that of the standard, either intentionally through fraud
22 or due to real-world use and vehicle conditions.

23 Understanding the magnitude and reasons for the
24 differences can help CARB determine the appropriate
25 policies to address it.

1 As you heard earlier, past work has also shown
2 that mobile sources do not impact communities equitably.
3 A greater understanding of how both light- and heavy-duty
4 vehicles are contributing to this disparity will help
5 inform how to mitigate these sources. These lines of
6 research will converge to determine how and why real-world
7 vehicle emissions are different than expected,
8 particularly in low socioeconomic status communities.

9 --o0o--

10 STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST PITTIGLIO: This
11 project will employ roadside remote sensing measurements
12 for light- and heavy-duty vehicles. For light-duty
13 vehicles, the project will expand 20 years of measurements
14 from one site in West Los Angeles to multiple sites
15 distributed throughout California, including sites in
16 disadvantaged communities.

17 Data collected at this one site has already
18 provided important information on the effectiveness and
19 durability of emission reduction technologies. The most
20 recent analysis of this data was just published by CARB
21 staff in collaboration with external contractors.

22 Expanding the number of measurement sites across
23 the state will help us to evaluate the emission
24 disparities between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged
25 communities, assess the discrepancies between emission

1 standards and in-use emissions, and determine the impact
2 of interstate and international vehicle travel near the
3 border.

4 For heavy-duty, this project will extend a
5 long-term measurement campaign. These measurements will
6 help inform the development of a heavy-duty inspection and
7 maintenance program, provide information for the State
8 Emission Factor Model, and ensure that benefits of rules
9 and awe regulations are realized. Overall, results will
10 verify that the state meets air quality standards at the
11 regional level and reduces adverse heath impacts at the
12 community level.

13 --o0o--

14 STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST PITTIGLIO: One
15 research initiative to support the implementation of SB
16 375 is focused on evaluating GHG reductions associated
17 with vehicle miles traveled, or VMT, land use, and
18 buildings. Current research is also focused on ensuring
19 that there are co-benefits, including health co-benefits
20 in all communities. CARB has funded research on the
21 impacts of Sustainable Community Strategies on the amount
22 of driving individuals do, exposure near roadways,
23 strategies to promote active transportation, and assess
24 the co-benefits of affordable transit-oriented
25 developments to inform the use of incentive funds.

1 However, additional work is needed to understand
2 the potential to reduce vehicle miles traveled through
3 transportation projects.

4 --o0o--

5 STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST PITTIGLIO: In
6 order to determine the impact of transportation projects
7 on VMT, past research surveyed the travel behavior of
8 residents surrounding a light rail station in Los Angeles
9 before it was built.

10 You can advance to the next slide.

11 Thanks.

12 This type of analysis will now expand to a
13 statewide assessment of leveraging big data. This work
14 will provide a more comprehensive picture of changes in
15 travel behavior over time. In areas where change is
16 found, researchers can assess localized impacts of
17 transportation projects, such as bikeways and reduced
18 parking. Results will allow us to assess the scalability
19 of successful implementation and identify remaining
20 barriers. This work will also be used to inform policies
21 to better align transportation funding and land-use
22 planning with climate goals.

23 --o0o--

24 STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST PITTIGLIO: Health
25 research initiatives have found -- have focused on

1 assessing the impacts of exposure to pollutants near
2 roadways, both from tailpipe and brake-wear and tire-wear
3 emissions, and from indoor sources such as formaldehyde.

4 Environmental Justice research has shown that air
5 pollution is not uniform throughout the state, as you
6 heard earlier, despite reductions as a disparity still
7 remains between disadvantaged communities and
8 non-disadvantaged communities. Research also indicates
9 that even with uniform exposure, health risks may vary due
10 to underlying vulnerabilities.

11 These lines of research will converge to
12 determine the indoor and outdoor pollutant exposure and
13 health risks for residents in disadvantaged communities.

14 --o0o--

15 STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST PITTIGLIO: This
16 project will assess the activity patterns of disadvantaged
17 community residents to quantify exposures to criteria
18 pollutants and toxic air contaminants. Both outdoor and
19 indoor sources will be considered. Surveys of consumer
20 products in the home will be performed to determine if
21 these are sources of pollutants.

22 The housing structure itself will also be
23 assessed, since it can impact the concentration of outdoor
24 pollutants that can enter the home. If funding remains,
25 this project will also determine if the residents' risk

1 for adverse health effects is elevated due to
2 environmental stressors, such as those mentioned by Dr.
3 Balmes in his comments in the previous item.

4 Finally, the project will assess if elevated risk
5 necessitates more stringent standards or additional
6 mechanism for equitable protection.

7 --o0o--

8 STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST PITTIGLIO: CARB's
9 economic research initiative on market transformation has
10 yielded insights into what motivates drivers to purchase
11 drive and plug in their cars. But more information is
12 needed to understand what drives consumer choices for
13 low-polluting products in other sectors as well.

14 CARB also continues to fund work to identify and
15 explore the efficacy of mitigation strategies for
16 greenhouse gas emissions. These lines of research will
17 converge to determine how we can couple comprehensive
18 program metrics with a better understanding of decision
19 drives to facilitate low-polluting consumer choices.

20 --o0o--

21 STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST PITTIGLIO: This
22 project will capture more programmatic benefits to
23 supplement the social cost of carbon by developing a
24 social cost of criteria and toxic emissions.

25 Work will also be done to develop a framework for

1 conducting additional research to better understand the
2 decision drives for consumers in key markets to inform
3 regulations, investments, incentives, and other policies
4 that can facilitate lower polluting consumer choices.

5 Researchers will lever -- leverage the fuller
6 understanding of benefit metrics and choice drivers to
7 identify optimal and meaningful ways to convey the
8 benefits of lower polluting consumer choices to facilitate
9 better environmental outcomes.

10 --o0o--

11 STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST PITTIGLIO:

12 Cross-cutting research on transportation and
13 economics has yielded insights into the barriers that
14 prevent low- and moderate-income drivers from purchasing
15 zero-emission cars. But more information is needed to
16 understand what impacts the purchasing decisions of
17 heavy-duty, medium-duty, and off-road vehicle fleet
18 owners.

19 These lines of research will converge to
20 determine how low-carbon transportation incentive
21 strategies can ensure market growth in the on-road and
22 off-road sectors.

23 --o0o--

24 STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST PITTIGLIO: This
25 project will leverage data already collected by CARB to

1 assess low carbon transportation markets and conduct a new
2 market survey to assess incentive strategies and identify
3 barriers to the adoption of new technologies.

4 An incentive program performance evaluation tool
5 will be created and new incentive strategies will be
6 proposed that promote low-carbon transportation that have
7 co-benefits for equity, health, and the economy. Results
8 will help sustain future low-carbon transportation markets
9 in the heavy-duty, medium-duty, and off-road sectors.

10 --o0o--

11 STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST PITTIGLIO: CARB
12 is also proposing to fund five white papers that will
13 analyze the state of the science on emerging priority
14 topics and identify research gaps to inform future funding
15 cycles.

16 These papers will cover the topics of integrating
17 air quality data, leveraging big data to support program
18 implementation, using biomonitoring data to identify toxic
19 hot spots, creating a framework to monitor statewide
20 carbon fluxes, and identify opportunities to align housing
21 and climate policies.

22 --o0o--

23 STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST PITTIGLIO: We
24 have appreciated the input that we've received from the
25 public on research priorities thus far. We look forward

1 additional comments about the plan?

2 Yes.

3 BOARD MEMBER SPERLING: Just a short comment
4 that, you know, I think this is a really nicely balanced
5 portfolio approach. And I guess my only concern or
6 criticism would be it's -- the budget is pathetically
7 small.

8 (Laughter.)

9 BOARD MEMBER SPERLING: You know, it reminds me,
10 I've kind of suggested it vaguely in the past, but I'm
11 going to make it a little more substantive. You know, in
12 the UC system, we have resources that are vastly greater
13 when it -- you know, and so I think I'd like to -- I know,
14 I gently proposed this. I'm going to even more firmly
15 propose it that, you know, we come up with some kind of
16 more formal collaborative, synergistic research
17 initiatives - at least I can say that on the
18 transportation side - because really this budget is meager
19 compared to the challenge confronting us. And frankly,
20 the resources available from elsewhere as well.

21 CHAIR NICHOLS: Yeah. Well, certainly the
22 Children's Health Study that we referred to earlier is a
23 very good example of how, when you can make a longer term
24 commitment and describe it more broadly, you can attract
25 additional resources and you can use the results of the

1 research in ways that have a multiplier effect. And so I
2 think we should be striving to do more of that kind of
3 thing.

4 I have to confess I have not met with our
5 Research Screening Committee in a number of years. I
6 don't know what they're thinking really, I mean, in terms
7 of the planning. I agree with you that I have no quarrel
8 with what's presented here today at all. I certainly will
9 support it. But it would be interesting to perhaps
10 reinitiate a discussion along those lines. I think -- I
11 asked Dr. Balmes and Professor Sperling several years ago,
12 and you did do something along those lines, but then I
13 don't know what happened to that initiative.

14 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Well, I think Professor
15 Sperling saying that this is a balanced portfolio of
16 projects, I think we can take a teeny bit of credit for
17 moving the Research Division to be more balanced.

18 CHAIR NICHOLS: Um-hmm.

19 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: And, you know, researchers
20 always want more money. But, in fact, I agree with my
21 colleague from UC Davis that, you know, we put a pathetic
22 amount of money into research, given the immensity of
23 the -- enormity of the problems.

24 Rashid Shaikh from HEI was placed on the Board in
25 part -- I mean, he comes highly recommended by others.

1 But I suggested that he would be a good person for us to
2 work with in terms of leveraging projects, since Health
3 Effects Institute funds a lot of important air pollution
4 health effects research and they're a well-respected
5 organization.

6 CHAIR NICHOLS: Right.

7 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: I don't know -- I don't
8 think we've done anything with HEI as a result. And maybe
9 there's a -- he perceives a conflict of interest or
10 something. But I think that unless we're going to
11 suddenly have a big pot of money to devote to this
12 important research, that we should be trying to leverage
13 other sources of funding, so that we can do more, because
14 I mean, I agree, the portfolio is good. It's just kind of
15 too little.

16 CHAIR NICHOLS: Mrs. Riordan.

17 BOARD MEMBER RIORDAN: I think we've always tried
18 to leverage, since I came on to the Board, with others.
19 And we've been fairly successful. So we just need to keep
20 sat it and see what can come from -- it takes personal
21 conversations. You have to know the right person. And if
22 you had -- you mentioned something about perceived
23 conflict of interest. I think there are times when that
24 is -- that is a factor and we have to recognize that for
25 the Research Screening Committee.

1 There was a time when we used to get together
2 with them on a periodic basis. And that might be a -- an
3 opportunity to kind of discuss these things. It was, you
4 know, just a lunch and -- working lunch, I guess you'd
5 call it. It might be helpful.

6 CHAIR NICHOLS: Well, on a to-do list for your
7 agenda for 2020. Let's put down a focused session with
8 the Research Screening Committee and some discussion about
9 the research budget. There are perhaps not vast sums of
10 money, but there's going to be new money in the budget
11 that's proposed this year for next year for sure. And a
12 good bit of it is going to be directed towards climate and
13 towards environment. And it would be nice to see some
14 recognition of the research piece of that that needs to be
15 done. So that will be the note.

16 But now, we need a motion for the --

17 BOARD MEMBER RIORDAN: Madam Chairman, I'd move
18 Resolution 19-34.

19 BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: Second.

20 CHAIR NICHOLS: All in favor say aye?

21 (Unanimous aye vote.)

22 Opposed?

23 All right. It is carried. Thank you all very
24 much.

25 And to be -- this discussion to be continued.

1 And now we can move to the next item on our
2 agenda, which is AB 617.

3 For some reason, I'm having -- okay. Sorry.
4 Just trying to find my papers here.

5 All right. Item number 19-12-8, the Assembly
6 Bill 617 Community Air Protection Program, Selection of
7 Communities for 2019.

8 Assembly Bill 617 requires community-focused
9 action to reduce air pollution and improve public health in
10 communities that experience a disproportionate burden from
11 exposure to air pollutants.

12 In September of last year, this Board selected
13 ten communities to launch this program. Just last week,
14 our Board met in West Oakland to take action on the local
15 Community Emissions Reduction Program with additional
16 Board meetings scheduled for the other 2018 communities
17 within the respective air districts from January through
18 March 2020. So we'll be -- we'll be traveling to a place
19 near you.

20 Today, we will be considering selecting
21 additional communities for inclusion into the program. So
22 this is looking ahead.

23 Mr. Corey, please introduce this item.

24 EXECUTIVE OFFICER COREY: Yes. Thanks, Chair.

25 For the past year, air districts and staff have

1 been working with community-based organizations and
2 community members on implementation of the this program.
3 Air districts have convened community steering committees,
4 including members that live, work, or own businesses in
5 the community. And under extremely tight time frames
6 called for in AB 617, the air districts and the community
7 steering committees have begun deploying community air
8 monitoring systems and developed Community emission
9 reduction programs.

10 As the process has unfolded, there have been
11 lessons learned and adjustments made to better facilitate
12 community involvement. Today, staff will highlight some
13 of those lessons learned and provide recommendations on
14 how we can all continue to work together to make this
15 program successful.

16 But the key focus of today's meeting is on
17 selection of communities for this next year of the
18 program. Community members and air districts have
19 nominated communities for consideration. In reviewing
20 this year's nominations, staff relied on direction the
21 Board provided last year for selection of future
22 communities.

23 As a result, staff is recommending a limited
24 number of new communities. I'll now ask Laura
25 Zarembo-Schmidt and Liliana Nunez from the Office of

1 Community Air Protection to give the staff presentation.

2 So Laura and Liliana.

3 (Thereupon an overhead presentation was
4 presented as follows.)

5 AIR RESOURCES ENGINEER ZAREMBA-SCHMIDT: Thank
6 you, Mr. Corey and good morning, Chair Nichols and members
7 of the Board.

8 --o0o--

9 AIR RESOURCES ENGINEER ZAREMBA-SCHMIDT: As part
10 of the Community Air Protection Program, over the last
11 year, air districts, communities, and CARB staff have been
12 working together to meet program goals. A tremendous
13 amount of work has occurred to meet the very tight program
14 deadlines. Today marks another program milestone as you
15 consider the selection of additional communities.

16 Before we discuss staff's community
17 recommendations, we wanted to start with a brief update on
18 the 2018 selected communities, also known as the year one
19 or initial communities.

20 Lessons learned over the past year are informing
21 the 2019 community selection process and our
22 recommendations for the 2019 communities for your
23 consideration.

24 --o0o--

25 AIR RESOURCES ENGINEER ZAREMBA-SCHMIDT: Last

1 year, in September 2018, you selected the initial ten
2 communities for focused action, which included the
3 development of community air monitoring plans and
4 community emission reduction programs. These ten
5 communities serve as models for communities with similar
6 air pollution challenges, so that what we learn in the
7 initial ten communities can be applied to help and benefit
8 other communities.

9 This map shows the selected communities along
10 with the actions being developed in each one.

11 --o0o--

12 AIR RESOURCES ENGINEER ZAREMBA-SCHMIDT: Building
13 on community actions is the foundation of the program to
14 address pollution at the community level. Over the past
15 year, steering committees were formed for each of the ten
16 communities. There are over 220 committee members
17 throughout the state that serve on these committees.
18 These steering committees met over nine -- 90 times during
19 the past year.

20 For the communities selected for the development
21 of the emission reduction programs, the steering
22 committees in partnership with air districts have
23 developed strategies and plans to reduce air pollution
24 exposure and emissions. All seven of those plans have now
25 been adopted by their air districts.

1 Beginning with El Centro, Heber, Calexico communities in
2 January; the Shafter and South Central Fresno communities
3 in February; and the three South Coast communities of East
4 Los Angeles, Boyle Heights, and West Commerce; San
5 Bernardino, Muscoy; and Wilmington, Carson, and West Long
6 Beach communities in March.

7 The Board meetings are being held in each of the
8 local air districts. This provides a better opportunity
9 for community members to engage with you directly.

10 --o0o--

11 AIR RESOURCES ENGINEER ZAREMBA-SCHMIDT: We have
12 learned a lot during this first year of the program. And
13 we will continue to make adjustments and define best
14 practices based on lessons learned. These adjustments
15 will continue to strengthen the program and make sure
16 community priorities are at the forefront of the process.
17 This will also help set a nationwide model for other
18 states to follow the community-focused actions to benefit
19 the health of residents.

20 For example, we have heard from communities that
21 there is a lot of information needed in order to make
22 informed decisions during this process of developing
23 plans. And it's important to provide training and
24 technical information such as emission inventories very
25 early in the process.

1 Partnerships with other agencies who play a role
2 in supporting strategies are critical, whether at the
3 state or local level. The air districts and CARB will
4 need to continue this work developing partnerships with
5 other agencies and inviting them to actively be involved
6 on committees, as well as working together on
7 implementation.

8 Use of a facilitator at steering committee
9 meetings can provide a number of benefits: to keep the
10 meeting on point, make sure all voices are heard, and
11 provide ways to build consensus. Partnerships with
12 community members through community cohosts or other
13 leadership structures can also ensure community-driven
14 process and joint development of meeting agendas.

15 Plan develop needs to be transparent and have
16 information documented, especially community comments, to
17 make sure that community concerns are considered as the
18 plan is developed and implemented.

19 Committees also need a clear decision-making and
20 conflict-resolution process, as well as procedures to make
21 sure members understand everyone's affiliation and where
22 different perspectives are coming from.

23 Finally, the success of these plans will rely on
24 effective implementation. This is a long-term commitment
25 to each community and will require ongoing resources,

1 tracking, and accountability, so that both CARB and the
2 air districts deliver on our commitments.

3 --o0o--

4 AIR RESOURCES ENGINEER ZAREMBA-SCHMIDT: So how
5 can we improve the blueprint, the guidance document for
6 the program and our overall process?

7 There are changes that can be directed through
8 today's resolution for the 2019 selected communities.
9 Staff is recommending, for example, providing training on
10 the community steer -- to the community steering committee
11 at the very beginning of the process.

12 For near-term improvements, the Executive Officer
13 has the authority to make changes to the blueprint through
14 an Executive Order. We expect this to include targeted
15 improvements that I described as part of the lessons
16 learned, such as requirements for documenting comments and
17 other processes relate -- process-related aspects, such as
18 decision making and transparency.

19 The Board's consideration of the community
20 emission reduction programs over the next few months will
21 help inform developing these additional program
22 adjustments. Other potential changes will need more
23 robust discussion and members -- and discussion with
24 members of the community and air districts through the
25 broader public process.

1 The discussions will likely cover additional
2 clarity on specific metrics for tracking progress and the
3 form of emission reduction targets. This is crucial for
4 making sure the programs achieve real emission reductions
5 and we have all the information needed to provide
6 accountability and make any needed updates. We will
7 initiate the broader process next year and bring back
8 these improvements to the Board for consideration.

9 --o0o--

10 AIR RESOURCES ENGINEER ZAREMBA-SCHMIDT: Now,
11 that I've presented a recap on the 2018 communities and
12 suggested program improvements, Ms. Liliana Nunez will be
13 presenting the 2019 community recommendation process and
14 staff recommendations.

15 --o0o--

16 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUNEZ: Thank you,
17 Laura.

18 This slide highlights the timeline for this
19 year's process and identifies the outreach -- thank you.

20 So this slide highlights the timeline for this
21 year's process and identifies the outreach efforts for the
22 2019 community recommendations. In September 2018, in
23 addition to selecting the initial communities, you also
24 provided direction for community selections in future
25 years, which I will describe on the next slide.

1 Beginning in February 2019, CARB and
2 community-based organizations co-hosted community meetings
3 to hear the public's thoughts about the first year's
4 community selection process. In April, staff held a
5 meeting with the multi-stakeholder AB 617 Consultation
6 Group chaired by Dr. Balmes, where staff presented its
7 initial thoughts for the 2019 community selection process.

8 In August, we posted concepts for this year's
9 selection process on the Community Air Protection Program
10 webpage and we followed up in October with a webinar to
11 present preliminary recommendations for the 2019
12 communities.

13 And on November 8th, we released the 2019
14 community recommendations staff report, which details the
15 communities being presented for your consideration today.

16 --o0o--

17 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUNEZ: Now, we'd like
18 to go through the factors considered while developing the
19 2019 community recommendations.

20 As AB 617 requires, the Board must annually
21 consider the selection of communities for additional
22 targeted action. The direction from you at the Board
23 meeting in September 2018 was to prioritize communities
24 conducting air monitoring in the first year to transition
25 to the development of a community emissions reduction

1 program, if supported by data. This consideration is
2 contingent upon a recommendation by the community steering
3 committee.

4 You also directed staff to prioritize new
5 communities that were strongly recommended in 2018 by
6 communities and air districts but not selected.

7 In addition, one of the key lessons learned is
8 that building new community partnerships and developing
9 and implementing effective community emission reduction
10 programs takes significant time and resources. The first
11 communities are setting the foundation of the program and
12 to make sure that we get it right, there needs to be a
13 continued long-term resource commitment made in these
14 communities. And, at the same time, the State budget
15 maintains the same level of implementation funds.

16 Therefore, based on these factors, we recommend
17 adding a limited number of new communities this year.

18 --o0o--

19 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUNEZ: This year's
20 process builds from the hundreds of communities that were
21 nominated for consideration last year. And CARB received
22 a dozen individual or combined community nominations as
23 priorities for specific consideration this year.

24 The 12 recommendations CARB received were relayed
25 to their respective air district for consideration in

1 their own process. Eight of those communities were
2 recommended by air district boards, and these provided the
3 basis for our recommendations today.

4 This includes one community that was selected as
5 an air monitoring community in 2018 to transition to the
6 development of a community emissions reduction program in
7 2019. In the other two monitoring communities, South
8 Sacramento-Florin and Richmond, the steering committees
9 voted to not transition to a community emissions reduction
10 program at this time.

11 This will provide the opportunity for continued
12 discussion and data gathering. We are also recommending
13 three new communities to be selected for both community
14 emissions reduction programs and community monitoring
15 systems.

16 The 2019 community recommendations staff report
17 released last month provides a detailed profile of these
18 communities. And I will give a brief summary of each
19 community profile and staff's reasoning for recommending
20 the community.

21 For the three new communities, the boundaries are
22 preliminary and will later be finalized by the community
23 steering committee and the air district.

24 --o0o--

25 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUNEZ: The first

1 community recommendation is in the San Diego Air Pollution
2 Control District. The portside environmental justice
3 neighborhoods include Sherman Heights, Logan Heights,
4 Barrio Logan and West National City.

5 The key air pollution concerns in the community
6 are the port, freeways, and small industry. The portside
7 community was initially selected as a monitoring community
8 in 2018, and staff is recommending this community be
9 approved in 2019 to begin the development of a community
10 emissions reduction program. This recommendation follows
11 Board direction to prioritize monitoring communities
12 moving into the development of a community emissions
13 reduction program and is supported by the community
14 steering committee, which voted to recommend the
15 transition.

16 --o0o--

17 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUNEZ: In the San
18 Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, we are
19 recommending one new community, Southwest Stockton.

20 This year, the San Joaquin Valley APCD
21 prioritized communities in the northern region of the
22 district. The key air pollution concerns in Southwest
23 Stockton are associated with the inland port, rail, and
24 freeways. This recommendation is consistent with Board
25 direction to consider those communities previously

1 recommended by the community as a priority, since
2 Southwest Stockton was nominated last year as an urban
3 priority, and is ranked as a top prior this year by San
4 Joaquin Valley's AB 617 environmental justice steering
5 committee.

6 CARB and the air districts also received letters
7 of support from community-based organizations such as the
8 Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Stockton and Little
9 Manila Rising.

10 --o0o--

11 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUNEZ: In the South
12 Coast Air Quality Management District, two new communities
13 are being recommended.

14 The first is the rural community of Eastern
15 Coachella Valley, which includes Coachella, Indio,
16 Thermal, Oasis and North Shore. The key air pollution
17 concerns in this county are associated with fugitive dust
18 from construction activities, unpaved roads and parking
19 lots, and agricultural activities. And the receding
20 Salton Sea is also a source of dust and odor concerns.

21 This recommendation is in line with your
22 direction to give consideration to those communities that
23 were recommended by community members as a priority last
24 career, but not selected.

25 CARB and the air district also received letters

1 of support from Comite Civico del Valle and Leadership
2 Counsel for Justice and Accountability.

3 --o0o--

4 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUNEZ: The last new
5 community recommendation is Southeast Los Angeles, which
6 includes South Gate Walnut Park, Cudahy and portions of
7 Huntington Park, Florence-Firestone, and Bel Gardens.

8 The key air pollution concerns in the community
9 include large industrial areas, freight activities, the
10 Alameda corridor, and impacts from freeways.

11 The recommendation is consistent with your
12 direction to consider communities that were prioritized by
13 air districts and communities last year, but not selected.
14 This Southeast Los Angeles recommendation is supported by
15 numerous community-based organizations, such as the
16 Council of Mexican Federations in North America, the South
17 Gate Community Environmental Health Action Team, and
18 Communities for a Better Environment.

19 --o0o--

20 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUNEZ: As work begins
21 in these communities, we are recommending a number of
22 steps that we can take now that will improve program
23 implementation. These are included in today's resolution.

24 We recommend the Board to take direction -- we
25 recommend the Board to direct these specific actions to

1 We are also developing new tools that increase
2 data and information accessibility for the public, such as
3 AQ-VIEW, the Technology Clearinghouse, and new emissions
4 reporting requirements. AQ-VIEW, for example, will focus
5 on displaying local air quality data collected in AB 617
6 communities and will be a single central hub for viewing
7 current air quality data throughout the state.

8 And we are also continuing to work on new and
9 amended CARB and air district regulations, including
10 district implementation of the best available retrofit
11 control technologies on large industrial sources and CARB
12 regulations such as the amendments at -- to the At Berth
13 Regulation the Board considered last week and the Advanced
14 Clean Trucks Regulation yesterday.

15 We also know that it's critical that we identify
16 regulatory approaches and other innovative policies being
17 developed for the 2018 communities that can be applied
18 elsewhere in the State. And we'll be discussing how to
19 facilitate that progression with air districts, the
20 community, and industry stakeholders.

21 And the Community Air Grant Program is also
22 supporting communities across the state. Last year, we
23 awarded 27 community-based organizations to implement
24 projects to benefit over 35 communities throughout the
25 state. For instance, the Rose Foundation's Just Breathing

1 Project increases participation in AB 617 implementation
2 among Oakland youth, along with their families and
3 friends, and other community members.

4 In the Eastern Coachella Valley, the 29 Palms
5 Band of Mission Indians established a new PM monitoring
6 station and is sharing air quality data online and at
7 community outreach events.

8 And the project headed by Physicians for Social
9 Responsibility, Los Angeles aims to strengthen the
10 knowledge and capacity of residents and establishes an air
11 quality academy to help cultivate community leaders via
12 education and technical training, community-led reporting
13 and participation, among other things.

14 --o0o--

15 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUNEZ: And we are now
16 pleased to report the community air grants for the second
17 round of funding were announced yesterday and include
18 awards to 29 organizations across the state. Similar to
19 the projects selected in the first round, these grants
20 have been awarded to projects in both selected communities
21 and also to projects in other communities. These include
22 Wilmington, Arcata, and Sacramento, and others.

23 Coalition for a Safe Environment's project will
24 establish a low-cost stationary air quality monitoring
25 program in Wilmington and will also create a community

1 advisory committee, student and adult internship training
2 programs, and a public website for displaying monitoring
3 data.

4 In the North Coast Unified Air Basin, Blue Lake
5 Rancheria will bring hands-on air quality monitoring and
6 AB 617-focused curriculum to local elementary schools and
7 high schools. The Valley Vision's project Sacramento
8 Neighborhoods Activating on Air Quality aims to engage the
9 Norwood/Old North Sacramento, and Oak Park communities
10 through education and workshops on AB 617, and support
11 community-led air monitoring efforts.

12 --o0o--

13 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUNEZ: In conclusion,
14 CARB staff recommends that you approve Resolution 19-35,
15 which includes the selection of the recommended
16 communities, certifies the community selection
17 recommendations are exempt from CEQA, and also directs air
18 districts and CARB to start work in these -- to begin work
19 in these communities expeditiously, as previously
20 described.

21 We know that we have a lot of work ahead, and the
22 number of impacted communities and the challenges -- and
23 the challenges they face is large. Today's selection of
24 additional communities, along with broader statewide and
25 local efforts are incremental steps in the sustained

1 transformation that's needed.

2 Both CARB and the air districts are committed to
3 ongoing adjustments as we grow the program and focus on
4 long-term implementation.

5 And with that, I'll conclusion staff's
6 presentation and we would be happy to answer any questions
7 the Board may have.

8 CHAIR NICHOLS: Okay. We have a very large
9 number of -- I'm sorry. We have a very large number of
10 witnesses, who've signed up on this. As best as I can
11 tell, most are actually supporting the staff
12 recommendations, which makes it a little easier I think to
13 ask them to shorten their testimony.

14 We have a -- my suggestion is therefore that we
15 begin with the two-minute limitation from the start,
16 rather than having to rush later to the end. And also, I
17 want to ask if you are here and think you might want to
18 testify, and haven't yet signed up, please do it now, so
19 we can close the list and know where we are.

20 So we have -- we can just begin with the list
21 that's posted up there. And I will ask you when you see
22 your name coming up on the list there, if you're a couple
23 of speakers away, if you can move down towards the front,
24 that would be appreciated. We have two microphones
25 available, one on either side. So it should be ease to

1 get to one.

2 So I believe we're starting though with a
3 representative from Assembly Member Cristina Garcia's
4 office. Yes.

5 MS. NUNO: Thank you. Good morning. My name is
6 Evelyn Nuno. I am the environmental deputy, field
7 representative, and member of the East LA, West Commerce,
8 Boyle Heights community steering committee in the 58th
9 Assembly District. And I'm here on behalf of
10 Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia who represents the 58th
11 District. And I'll read the following statement from her
12 in support of this measure, but also with a little
13 adjustment.

14 So I urge the California Air Resources Board to
15 include the City of Bell Gardens in its entirety as
16 opposed to only the southern portion as a second year
17 grantee for emissions reductions strategies and air
18 quality monitoring plans.

19 This predominantly low-income community of color
20 has historically and disproportionately been treated like
21 a wasteland, exposed to compounding environmental
22 pollutants and toxins that do not remain in the southern
23 portion of this city. Out of the 2.5 square miles, there
24 are a total of 24 records in DTSC's EnviroStor with sites
25 of soil contamination all over the city, three of which

1 are the only active sites and are located in the northern
2 part of the city. There are a total of 50 records in the
3 GeoTracker sites with sites that are impacted for
4 groundwater quality, five of which are active open sites
5 and four are located in the northern part of the city.

6 According to a 2018 study by the L.A. County
7 Public Health Department, Bell Gardens' 43,000 residents
8 approximately suffer from cardiovascular disease-related
9 deaths at a higher rate than L.A. County, seven percent of
10 children 17 years and below are diagnosed with asthma,
11 and, as you may know, this city ranks 53rd -- in the 53rd
12 percentile in the CalEnviroScreen score. It also ranks
13 4th percentile in the California Healthy Places Index,
14 which combines about 25 characteristics, including
15 socioeconomic, environmental characteristics, and sort of
16 spits out a score to correlate life expectancy. So again,
17 it ranks fourth.

18 These residents are choked between two major
19 freeway arteries, the 5 and the 710. They're just trying
20 to breathe. And rates of asthma, cancer, cardiovascular
21 diseases will only increase with the increase of the goods
22 movement out of the Long Beach and L.A. Ports.

23 So I would just like to ask the Board to
24 respect -- respectfully consider the entire City of Bell
25 Gardens as a second year -- within the second-year

1 community boundary -- preliminary boundary in Southeast
2 L.A.

3 Ane lastly, I would also like to express my
4 support for the Shafter community's emission reduction
5 measures, and encourage CARB and air districts to use
6 their authority to include pesticide air -- toxic air
7 contaminants programs in their emission reduction efforts.

8 Thank you.

9 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

10 Ms. Ghosh.

11 MS. GHOSH: Yes. Good morning, Chair Nichols,
12 members of the Board. My name is Jo Kay Ghosh and I am
13 the director of Community Air Programs at the South Coast
14 AQMD.

15 First, I want to thank you and your staff for
16 working closely with us to implement the AB 617 Program to
17 improve air quality in environmental justice communities
18 across the state. We want to express our support for the
19 staff recommendations for Eastern Coachella Valley and the
20 South East L.A. communities for this program.

21 Our staff have already begun working to establish
22 community partnerships and we are eager to work together
23 with these communities to develop these plans. Now, one
24 of the ongoing challenges, of course, is to ensure that
25 resources are available to support this program. The

1 current funding the South Coast AQMD received is less than
2 our current expenditures and will be insufficient to
3 effectively implement this program, if two more
4 communities are added.

5 Therefore, we will continue to work with your
6 staff and other air districts to secure consistent funding
7 to continue to bring much needed resources to these
8 environmental justice communities. We're grateful for
9 your leadership on this program and the push toward
10 environmental equity across the state.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

13 MR. LEMUS: Good morning, Chair Nichols, CARB
14 Board, and staff. My name is Jaime Lemus and I am the
15 Transportation and Climate Change Manager at Sacramento
16 Air Quality Management District.

17 On October 28th, 2019, our District submitted a
18 letter to CARB recommending a second community for year
19 two of Community Air Protection Program. The second
20 community is the South Natomas, Del Paso Heights, Norwood,
21 Old North Sacramento community area in Sacramento. This
22 second community was originally identified in our final
23 community recommendations report submitted for AB 617.

24 As our air burden pollution analysis outlined in
25 the report, immediate state action is necessary for these

1 communities areas. There are members here of this
2 community today who will speak more on this.

3 Board Member Phil Serna is also the Sacramento
4 County Board Supervisor that represents this community and
5 is very familiar with these issues. I'm here today to
6 respectfully request additional resources to be dedicated
7 for these impacted communities.

8 The District is engaged with these communities
9 all around the AB 617 Program. We're hosting multiple
10 meetings and coordinating with numerous community members
11 and leaders in support for this area. These members are
12 United Latinos, Green Tech, Garden Land Northgate
13 Neighborhood Association, Benito Juárez Community Resource
14 Project, Mutual Assistance Network, Brother to Brother,
15 and many others.

16 And with your support and additional State
17 resources, we look forward to deliver on the promise of AB
18 617 in this community.

19 Thank you very much.

20 MR. NUDD: Chair Nichols and members of the
21 Board, my name is Greg Nudd. I'm the Deputy Air Pollution
22 Control Officer at the Bay Area Air Quality Management
23 District. Thank you for the opportunity to provide some
24 comments today and than you for your unanimous approval of
25 the West Oakland action plan last week.

1 You're not seeing any new communities from the
2 Bay Area today, and -- but I want to assure you that our
3 level of effort is not dropping. We want to reiterate our
4 commitment to implementing ag AB 617 and continuing this
5 work throughout the Bay Area.

6 We learned a lot in West Oakland over the -- in
7 West Oakland and Richmond-San Pablo in the past years.
8 One of the biggest lesson is that the community having the
9 capacity to participate in a meaningful and substantive
10 way is a key to success and that takes time.

11 So what we want to do over this next year is
12 spend -- is to get those communities up to speed and able
13 to participate with us as equal partners like you saw in
14 West Oakland. In some cases, this involves working with
15 nonprofits, say in San Jose, who have never worked in the
16 air quality space. And in some cases, it involves working
17 with community groups in places like East Oakland who have
18 a lot of experience, but there may be multiple groups
19 operating in that space and building a joint
20 decision-making body for that community.

21 So over the next year, we've committed to working
22 with all of our high priority communities, which include
23 East Oakland, Eastern San Francisco, Vallejo, San Jose,
24 Pittsburg, Bay Point, and the tri-valley with a deeper
25 focus on East Oakland, Eastern San Francisco, and Vallejo,

1 where we're in the process of negotiating partnership
2 agreements and working towards the beginnings of steering
3 committees.

4 District staff is also looking at our local
5 emissions inventories and we have a process in place to
6 drive every street in the Bay Area and make PM2.5
7 measurements. So all this data will come together and
8 inform our decisions for the next year.

9 I want to echo the statements that have been made
10 by my colleague at South Coast is a caution about adding
11 new communities without additional funding. And we don't
12 want the program to be diluted by spreading the resources
13 too thin.

14 Thank you again for your time.

15 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

16 BOARD MEMBER GIOIA: Madam Chairman, a question
17 and a comment for Greg.

18 CHAIR NICHOLS: Yes, go ahead.

19 BOARD MEMBER GIOIA: Greg, first, this relates to
20 a comment to Greg. So the Air Board released the
21 community grants early this morning, which is good to know
22 in preparation for this discussion today.

23 And since Richmond is remaining a monitoring
24 community, there were three grants for Rich -- in
25 Richmond, about \$300,000 to extend the groundwork Richmond

1 work, 300,000 to extend the PSE work, and about 250,000
2 for a separate study on coal.

3 So a comment I was going to make and make sure,
4 Greg, that you're in agreement on this is is that it seems
5 to me that the new community grant a coal that the A --
6 that the existing AB 617 community steering committee
7 should be the committee that guides that work, rather than
8 setting up a whole new committee. Sometimes I know when
9 we establish grants, the grantee sets up their own sort of
10 advisory committee. It seems that when we have an AB 617
11 monitoring community that the existing community steering
12 committee should serve in that role. Would you agree,
13 Greg?

14 MR. NUDD: Yes, I would. I'd also like to point
15 out we're in the process of standing up a technical
16 advisory group in Richmond-San Pablo.

17 BOARD MEMBER GIOIA: Right. Correct.

18 MR. NUDD: So it would be great to have that --

19 BOARD MEMBER GIOIA: Right.

20 MR. NUDD: -- infrastructure guide all of the
21 grant work.

22 BOARD MEMBER GIOIA: So I just wanted then to
23 relay this, Richard, for CARB is that as part of working
24 that grant out to the -- for this new study, which was a
25 potential study that the community steering committee was

1 going to add anyway, that the existing community steering
2 committee serve really as the advisory and technical group
3 through their mechanism, rather than set up a whole new
4 one.

5 And then the second point is since CARB is
6 providing funding for additional monitoring, that actually
7 frees up or makes available more air district funding,
8 frankly, to do other monitoring that the community
9 steering committee wants to do, because CARB's providing
10 about \$850,000 -- well, yeah, six -- \$850,000 in -- for
11 three -- for three studies.

12 CHAIR NICHOLS: You know, I ran a pretty loose
13 meeting here, but this topic is not actually germane to
14 what we're being asked to vote on here today.

15 BOARD MEMBER GIOIA: Well, the reason it's
16 germane is because there may be some people who want
17 Richmond to move from a monitoring community to an
18 emissions reduction community, since that issue --
19 although this community steering committee, and we'll hear
20 from them, voted to remain a monitoring community. So I
21 wanted to make sure that that issue was addressed, since
22 essentially we're allowing them to continue a monitoring
23 community.

24 CHAIR NICHOLS: I understand. It's a valid
25 point. I'm just saying we've got a lot of people here who

1 want to testify on all these different committees.

2 So thank you.

3 Okay. Next.

4 MR. SHEIKH: Good morning, Madam Chair and
5 members of the Board. First I want to just start by
6 thanking Richard, Karen, Veronica, all the great CARB
7 staff, there - it's a long list. I'm not going to go
8 through all the names - for all of your leadership and
9 hard work this last year. It was really a year of
10 accomplishment and a lot of lessons learned that we're
11 hoping to put to good use as we move forward with the
12 second year of implementation, pending your Board's
13 approval of the new communities.

14 I wanted to voice strong support for the
15 recommendations here this morning, including the
16 recommend -- the selection of Southwest Stockton as the
17 next community in the San Joaquin Valley. It is the
18 community that rose to the top in terms of the
19 prioritization methodology that was utilized.

20 The entire boundary, as it stands right now, is
21 actually within the top five percent of CalEnviroScreen,
22 along with a number of other factors that were considered
23 in that process. We held up a robust public process in
24 talking about this in the valley over this last year.

25 I also wanted to mention that there are many

1 other communities in the valley that clearly want to be a
2 part of this very important program that brings a lot of
3 attention and resources to communities. I see friends
4 here, for example, from the Arvin and Lamont communities.
5 As part of our recommendation to CARB, we also recommended
6 them as another community for consideration.

7 But because we know the resources are very tight
8 and we want to also voice support for some of the comments
9 that were made earlier about the tight resources, we also
10 are very understanding of the fact that you do have to
11 pick a certain number communities to make sure that we do
12 give the proper level of attention to this very important
13 program.

14 But I did want to mention that Arvin and Lamont
15 was also something that our board considered and put
16 forward as part of the recommendations for CARB
17 consideration.

18 Very fortunately, the community grants that were
19 talking about earlier, a lot of those I think will benefit
20 those communities. And we are looking forward to working
21 in those communities and others that have shown the
22 capacity and interest, and actually taken advantage of the
23 lessons learned in the 617 Program to bring those same
24 approaches into those communities.

25 So with that, I'm going to keep my comments

1 brief. Just thank you again for all of your hard work.
2 We actually have the steering committee process ready to
3 go pending your approval and are ready to move forward
4 with implementing this program in Southwest Stockton.

5 Thank you very much.

6 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Can I ask a question,
7 please? Sorry.

8 CHAIR NICHOLS: Yes. Questions. Sorry.

9 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Samir.

10 CHAIR NICHOLS: Samir, there was a question for
11 you.

12 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: So I know that there
13 will be comments today about the inclusion of pesticides
14 in the plans. So I wonder if you wanted to address that.
15 I thought you might have included those in your comments.

16 MR. SHEIKH: Well, I'm happy to, Madam Chair.

17 Yes, so in the Shafter plan, I think there was a
18 comment raised by Assembly Member Garcia's office in their
19 public comment earlier. Thank you for the opportunity to
20 address that.

21 So the plan actually does include pesticide
22 reduction measures. We are actively working with CARB and
23 DPR to understand the concerns that are being raised about
24 that particular concern, to see if we can continue
25 evolving that measure. But there are a set of measures in

1 the Shafter CERP that are actually targeted not only at
2 reducing pesticides themselves through the ongoing
3 measures there, but also on the notification and reporting
4 to the public.

5 There's a couple of facets to the -- there's
6 actually a couple of individual measures that we've been
7 working on that are actually in the CERP. So I'm not sure
8 exactly if the comment is related to the issues of
9 authorities, which is the issue that I think may be of
10 concern that we're talking to CARB and DPR about.

11 But I wanted to make sure it was very clear that
12 the CERP includes a number of pesticide measures, because
13 those were concerns that were raised by the community.

14 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Well, my understanding,
15 I'll sure we'll hear from others today, is that it is the
16 matter of authority. And that my understanding is that
17 it's allocated to DPR as opposed to the District and CARB.
18 So I think that if you choose to comment on that now, that
19 would be great. But I think that's going to be a matter
20 of discussion that we'll have later today.

21 So to simply say that it's the authority of
22 someone else doesn't really mean it's included in the
23 plan. And my understanding is that's -- that's the issue
24 that some folks are raising.

25 MR. SHEIKH: Yeah, and if I could respond to

1 that. I mean, Madam Chair, again, just respectful of time
2 on the item here.

3 So DPR is the primary authority that has
4 historically regulated the use of pesticides. And so we
5 have had them at the table this entire year, understanding
6 the concerns and working on a collection of measures that
7 are included in the CERP.

8 Now, to the issue of authority. It is something
9 that we understand has been raised as a concern. And
10 we're obviously looking at that issue. I would defer also
11 to our partners at CARB and DPR themselves to also provide
12 some clarity as to whether they feel there's a different
13 set of authorities. Perhaps CARB has the authority that
14 historically they have not had in the past. That's an
15 issue maybe Richard or others from -- you know, maybe Val
16 from DPR, I'm happy to hear their feedback on that.

17 But we're going with the historic authority. The
18 agencies that have actually done that in the past, they've
19 been at the table and they've actually proposed measures
20 that are in the CERP right now as we speak. And, in fact,
21 we're actually working on trying to implement those.

22 But, of course, we're willing to work through
23 those issues with both CARB and DPR.

24 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Thank you.

25 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thanks.

1 MR. KARD: Good morning, Chair Nichols and Board.
2 I'm Bob Kard, Air Pollution Control Officer for the County
3 of San Diego. Thank you for this opportunity. I'll be
4 very brief.

5 First of all, I want to compliment you and the
6 CARB staff for all the support we get. We think it's a
7 tremendous team, as I -- because we are one in this case.
8 And so I thank your staff for what they do.

9 I'm here to support staff's -- CARB staff's
10 recommendations, especially as it pertains to changing the
11 portside environmental justice neighborhoods in San Diego
12 County to a community emission reduction program. I think
13 it's valuable. We also would hope for San Ysidro and Otay
14 Mesa to be included, but we fully understand the
15 limitation of funds. And you can only do so much with the
16 existing funding levels. So I'll leave that as it is.

17 We are already undertaking emission reduction
18 measures and have been for some time now in the portside
19 community. We've been doing mobile sources under an MOU
20 with CARB, both on-road and off-road, with thousands of
21 inspections. We do anti-idling inspections. And we've
22 increased frequency of inspections at stationary sources.

23 And so for this program to now come into play, if
24 your Board approves this today, will really help, because
25 we'll have additional resources that we can put into

1 stationary emission con -- emission reduction measures.

2 And so with that today, I would urge you to
3 support staff's recommendation to vote for it and thank
4 you for your time.

5 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

6 MS. ROGAN: Good morning, Madam Chair and members
7 of the Board. I'm with the Mayor's Office in the City of
8 Stockton.

9 We know in Stockton that air pollution emissions
10 and poor environmental indicators have disproportionately
11 and historically impacted low income communities of color.
12 The Southwest Stockton community is approx -- or sort of
13 designates about 12.2 square miles and a population about
14 51,000 people. These are also neighborhoods and
15 communities that reflect near zero employment.

16 The community is impacted by freight, rail lines,
17 and the Interstate 5, Highway 99, and State Route 4. In
18 2018 and 2019, Stockton's TCC planning process led to the
19 emergence of Rise Stockton, which is an emerging coalition
20 of community advocates and environmental justice
21 organizations. That only the Mayor is supportive of A --
22 Stockton's AB 617 designation, but as you'll note, our
23 community groups are extremely active and have been very
24 proactive in advocating for the communities and
25 neighborhoods that they represent.

1 The collaborative stakeholder structure that
2 emerged out of the TCC planning process is providing a
3 very strong foundation for the city and the community
4 groups to partner going forward on TCC implementation and
5 the future, as well as AB 617.

6 So we'd like to advocate strongly and support the
7 staff's recommendation for Southwest Stockton's AB 617.
8 And happy to take any questions or comments.

9 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

10 DR. SINCLAIR: Good morning, Chair Nichols. I'm
11 Ryan Sinclair. I'm -- Thank you for allowing me time to
12 comment. I'm a member of the Alianza Coachella Valley and
13 a faculty member at Loma Linda University.

14 Alianza is a collaborative of the environmental
15 justice allies and partners that work towards a common
16 goal to increase equality of life around environmental
17 justice issues in the Eastern Coachella Valley.

18 In the last two years, one of Alianza's projects
19 has focused on work with the local youth to conduct
20 Community science activities focused on water quality, air
21 quality, and GIS mapping using balloons -- balloon
22 mapping. Of these, the GIS balloon mapping process
23 demonstrated that dynamic and rapid change in the Salton
24 Sea shoreline.

25 We are able to detect a rapid decline in the

1 shoreline at the North Shore Yacht Club, an area about a
2 half a mile. And we were able to detect an average of
3 about 160 feet out over one year. So this is related to
4 the AB 617, of course. We're really happy that the ECV is
5 being -- is -- has made the list, and -- but we also want
6 to emphasize that these kind of community youth activities
7 are really important

8 This striking finding, it further validates the
9 rapidly changing environment of the Salton see and brings
10 the forecast models that the community sees down to kind
11 of real earth or a real perspective for community members,
12 when you can actually see -- we went there in 9/2018 and
13 then we went back in 10/2019 and we see that it's 160 feet
14 out on average using a GIS and balloon mapping technology

15 So we're really happy about the ECV being
16 nominated. The ECV has components of rural and urban
17 pollutants. And it represents kind of a new sort of area
18 and a new challenge, and we're looking forward to that.

19 So thank you very much.

20 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

21 MR. HOFREITER: Good morning, Madam Chair and
22 members of the Board. My name is Larry Hofreiter and I'm
23 an AB 617 community member representing the Port of San
24 Diego.

25 I'm here today to speak in favor of staff's

1 recommendation to advance the portside community from
2 emissions monitoring to emissions reduction.

3 The Port of San Diego has been a longtime
4 advocate for clean air and emissions reduction. We
5 were -- in 2007, we had a clean air program, which set the
6 foundation for us to install shore power at our cruise
7 ship terminal and our 10th Avenue marine terminal. Our
8 cruise ship terminal was one of the first ports in the
9 state to provide shore power to passenger vessels.

10 In 2013, we were one of the first ports in the
11 nation to adopt a climate action plan. We've established
12 GHG emission reduction goals in 2020, which we're on track
13 to meet, and emission reduction goals for 2035, which
14 we're in the process of updating.

15 I'd like to just take a few moments to just
16 update you in terms of some recent efforts, because they
17 pertain to what you're voting on today. We're currently
18 undergoing a number of demonstration projects, one of
19 which is a renewable energy microgrid at our 10th Avenue
20 marine terminal to help improve air quality, reduce GHG,
21 and increase the resiliency and reliability of energy.

22 We're also finished installing nine chargers at
23 our cruise ship terminal for electric forklifts, 26
24 electric vehicle chargers for our employees, and ten
25 chargers to power electric cars, drayage trucks, and yard

1 tractors at our National City marine terminal. And just
2 last year, our Port Tenants Association received a \$5
3 million grant to demonstrate ten battery electric yard
4 tractors, drayage trucks, and forklifts.

5 While we are proud of these accomplishments,
6 we'll be the first to tell you that there is more that we
7 need to do and we cannot do it alone.

8 Our steering committee has been meeting monthly
9 for more than a year and we're eager to begin developing
10 an emissions reduction plan. We encourage you to support
11 staff's recommendation.

12 And thank you for your continued partnership.

13 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

14 MS. BARUT: Good morning. I am Elaine Barut. I
15 am born and raised in South Stockton. And I am the Social
16 Justice Program Manager for Little Manila Rising. Thank
17 you, Chair Nichols and Board members for allowing us to
18 speak today.

19 I am here today to advocate strongly for
20 Southwest Stockton to be chosen for the 2019 community
21 selection for AB 617. If Southwest Stockton is to be
22 chosen, what would it mean for our community? We believe
23 its impact would bring a new heightened awareness of our
24 environment to Southwest -- to Southwest Stockton
25 residents and change the course of our community's health.

1 Southwest Stockton has disproportionately high
2 rates of poor environmental and health outcomes for 95 to
3 100 percent pollution burden, diesel particulate matter,
4 particulate matter 2.5 rates to high poverty rates, and
5 extremely high asthma rates based on CalEnviroScreen
6 indicators.

7 We recognize that many of those outcomes are a
8 result of historic disinvestment -- disinvestment dating back to
9 1930s redlining practices in conjunction with building the
10 cross-town freeway affecting marginalized communities and
11 communities of color.

12 Communities like Southwest Stockton that
13 experience disparities and the social determinants of
14 health, poverty is perhaps the most difficult barrier to
15 overcome in educating and engaging a community.

16 By its nature, poverty often signifies very busy
17 people, people who have severe -- several more immediate
18 concerns than air quality or who aren't often afforded the
19 luxury of considering big-picture issues like policy or
20 environmental impacts.

21 More so, the simple truth is sadly our community
22 understands shootings. It is a product of the environment
23 created by racist and unjust public policy. Environmental
24 inequity and asthma is also a product of racist and unjust
25 public policy. Asthma is just a slower bullet.

1 However, organizations like Little Manila Rising,
2 Community Partners, and the City of Stockton have built
3 and established genuine trust where community engagement
4 does occur and are excited for the chance to engage in the
5 healing of our historically redlined community and to
6 teach the importance of knowing past policies in order to
7 help change future outcomes.

8 With the opportunities AB 617 CAPP brings, these
9 resources could mean a world of difference for future
10 health and ecological outcomes for Southwest Stockton.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

13 MS. LEEK: Good morning, Chair Nichols and
14 members of the Board. My name is Jasmine Leek. I'm the
15 founding and managing direct -- founder and managing
16 director of Third City Coalition here -- based in
17 Stockton. I want to thank you and the Board for the
18 opportunity to speak on this item today. And I just want
19 to express my strong support for the recommendation made
20 by staff to include Southwest Stockton as part of the 2019
21 Community Air Protection Program communities.

22 Since 2016, my coalition partners and I have been
23 connecting with residents in South Stockton. And
24 through -- one of the ways that we've been doing this is
25 through the Transformative Climate Communities Program.

1 And one of the key activities that we've been able to
2 accomplish through that program is the development of a
3 sustainable neighborhood plan, which allowed us to engage
4 with over nearly 2000 residents within the planning area
5 of which Southwest Stockton is a part.

6 Our intention is to leverage the information that
7 we obtained from residents through that process to inform
8 how we direct investments from things outside of the TCC
9 process as well. And I just want to share a couple of the
10 things that we learned through that process from our
11 Residents. Most of them just want to live in a healthy
12 safe community with access to basic amenities like, you
13 know, ways to get from work to school, to medical
14 appointments and shopping.

15 They are deeply interested in understanding in
16 how to reduce energy costs as it's become a major burden
17 for them in our neighborhoods. They also are interested
18 in learning how to travel safely through their communities
19 on -- through bike and walking pathways to access public
20 parks, and -- yeah, breathe cleaner air I think
21 ultimately.

22 We do see tremendous alignment for AB 617 with
23 the work that's already being done in our community. And
24 we think that the designation will give us the opportunity
25 to make these investments happen more equitably and more

1 quickly.

2 Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

3 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

4 Mr. Robinson.

5 MR. ROBINSON: Good morning, Chair Nichols, Board
6 members. I am Willie Robinson from the Richmond-San Pablo
7 air monitoring plan team. I also have the pleasure of
8 serving as co-lead as a part of the steering committee. I
9 just want to thank you for the continued support for
10 approving -- to approve the grants and the resources that
11 we need to do -- continue our robust study of the area.
12 As you know, our area is quite broad. We had the
13 challenge of trying to put together a steering committee
14 that consists of over 35 persons -- of 35. So that was
15 quite a challenge, but that challenge is becoming more
16 enjoyable, because you have the opportunity to see
17 community coming together to be the voice for what's
18 impacting them. And we strongly believe that -- I
19 strongly believe that that's an approach that help all of
20 us to do better in the community where we work.

21 Obviously, we have some high profile situations
22 that we are addressing. But more importantly, block by
23 block, we are finding out that there are other things that
24 has impacted us. So as we make these decisions about
25 improving those conditions, I think overall we're better.

1 So thank you for the opportunity to continue to
2 grow our monitoring plan program, so that it does impact
3 or share the impact of what's happening to us overall.

4 Again, thank you for the opportunity and look
5 forward to continuing our work there in the Richmond-San
6 Pablo area.

7 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

8 While our next speaker is coming forward, since
9 you and a number of others have mentioned the issue of
10 resources to do this work, I'd just like to remind people
11 that we're in the middle of a fiscal year, as far as the
12 State is concerned, and so we're operating with the funds
13 that we're approved last year -- last spring really, the
14 spring-summer. But there's a new budget that's in
15 preparation at the moment. It will go to the Legislature
16 in January. And there's clearly a need that's been
17 established I think for sustained funding for this
18 program.

19 So I'm hoping that all of you who are here and
20 who are committed to the program will continue your
21 activism and involvement when it comes to making sure that
22 we are able to continue to fund this work as well. Thank
23 you.

24 MR. PRUITT: Good Morning, Chair, staff, those
25 are in the audience. My name is Jonathan Pruitt. I am

1 the Environmental Justice Program Coordinator at Catholic
2 Charities Diocese of Stockton. We want to start by first
3 commending CARB staff and the Valley Air District on
4 working collaboratively with San Joaquin Valley
5 stakeholders, residents, businesses, environmental
6 advocates, and community groups to further advance the
7 goals of the AB 617 Community Air Protection Program.

8 As local community partners, advocates, and
9 residents within the City of Stockton, we want to express
10 our strong support for Southwest Stockton. We are
11 seeking -- we are committed to promoting the pre -- the
12 resident participation to support community capacity
13 building. The City of Stockton has built mo -- has built
14 trust and momentum among residents and established
15 effective relationships among city government and
16 community partners.

17 The partnership and collaboration strengthened by
18 the TCC planning grant that Stockton was awarded last year
19 would be leveraged and sustained through the AB 617 CAPP.
20 With this program, there is potential to lower carbon
21 emissions and protect the community's health for
22 generations to come.

23 We wholeheartedly support Southwest Stockton as a
24 community for the draft 2019 community recommendations for
25 AB 617 Community Air Protection Program.

1 Thank you, guys.

2 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

3 MR. JOSEPH: Hello. My name is Randy Joseph.
4 And I am represent the Richmond-San Pablo steering
5 committee, also a co-lead. And more importantly, I
6 represent the RYSE Youth Center and the youth that are
7 part of the work to support AB 617 and our steering
8 committee to make sure that we're on a monitoring plan.

9 I always tell people that this part of this plan
10 is like planting a tree, right? And you plant a tree --
11 you don't plant a tree for yourself. You plant a tree for
12 the further generations, so they can use the tree and gain
13 from it.

14 And part of this monitoring process is making
15 sure that -- that they get the benefit from a tree by
16 being part of the process. And from my youth, I represent
17 them. I meet with them weekly to get them up to date on
18 what's going on with our steering committee to make sure
19 they're informed and they can come up with a plan to how
20 to leverage the data to better their community and to
21 better the air quality in the places where they live.

22 And without this monitoring plan and this
23 committee, they wouldn't have that opportunity to be in --
24 to be invested in and to do the hard work to make sure
25 that they have an opportunity to be involved, so they can

1 change the air in the community where -- in which they
2 live.

3 And from them, they want to say continue to
4 invest in them, because they matter, especially our in our
5 city of Richmond-San Pablo where they get left behind and
6 they don't believe that they matter. Programs like this
7 and situations like this to make sure that they matter is
8 important. And they want to continue to be invested in
9 and continue to be cared for. And they also want to be
10 listened to at the same time.

11 So hope you continue to support this, and we get
12 the funding to do this, and that we continue this process
13 going forward.

14 Thank you very much.

15 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

16 MR. OCHOA: (Spoke in native language)

17 Good morning, distinguished members of the
18 California Air Resources Board staff and guest. My name
19 is Maximiliano. I work with Comite Civico del Valle. I'm
20 a community member of the Eastern Coachella Valley. And
21 I'm also Purépecha.

22 First and I foremost, I would like to acknowledge
23 all the collective work and efforts that has gone through
24 to make this agenda item in today's meeting possible. I
25 also wanted to acknowledge the Assembly Member Eduardo

1 Garcia for championing this bill that he's able to bring
2 attention, funding, and resources to the communities most
3 disproportionately impacted by polluting industries and
4 identifying ways to bring solutions to the community level
5 by community members who are experts in their community.

6 The Eastern Coachella Valley as a region has been
7 underfunded for decades for needs, services, resources and
8 especially infrastructure. While issues are beyond the
9 scope of air quality, air pollution contributes largely to
10 the cumulative impact in our community.

11 There are several projects taking place in our
12 community addressing said impacts. AB 617 will bring
13 projects that directly address in reducing emissions in
14 the region, while simultaneously providing the community
15 the necessary tools to monitor the air we breath.

16 Projects and monitoring through AB 617 will contribute to
17 the larger scope of projects directly addressing major air
18 quality concerns as a result of the drying Salton Sea, a
19 growing public health hazard concern for the entire
20 southwest region.

21 As we -- as we move forward, we have to remember
22 that each community is as unique as the next one. Eastern
23 Coachella Valley is home to a predominantly Latino
24 community. But within that Latino community, there are
25 various indigenous groups, including the Purépechas.

1 Few of us able to speak English, able to
2 participate in speeches such as this. A good percentage
3 is able to speak Spanish and participate at our local
4 level. However, the majority can't and is unable to
5 participate due to ongoing language barriers.

6 The language barrier remains an obstacle to my
7 indigenous community to openly participate in public
8 meetings, hearings, and roundtables. There are estimated
9 5,000 Purépechas in the Coachella Valley. The majority
10 living in unincorporated communities of the Eastern
11 Coachella Valley, roughly making 20 percent of the
12 population of the Eastern Coachella Valley.

13 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you. You've used up your
14 time. Thank you.

15 DR. LEIER: Good morning, Chair Nichols and
16 members of the Board. My name is Casey Leier. I'm the
17 Director of Research for HARC. We're a nonprofit located
18 out in the Eastern Coachella Valley. And we specifically
19 collect population-level health data for this very issue
20 of understanding the health of our community.

21 HARC was a partner in submitting the nomination
22 for the Coachella Valley region to be selected in year two
23 of AB 617. And we strongly support the CARB nomination.

24 We know from our data that there are over 62,000
25 people that live in the Eastern Coachella Valley, many of

1 whom are Latino. They are very, very poor, and they are
2 underserved by the community.

3 The Coachella Valley is very quite geographically
4 isolated and we're often forgotten by the broader
5 California region. We're tucked away, so people forget
6 about us, but regardless still in need of resources and
7 attention.

8 Importantly, our research shows that 11 percent
9 of adults and ten percent of children report that they've
10 been diagnosed with asthma. And we know that relationship
11 between pollutants and asthma diagnoses is tenuous. We
12 know that there is a relationship and it can certainly
13 exacerbate the symptoms of asthma.

14 The concerns about quality of air in the region
15 have long been a concern about our community. And so we
16 graciously support your nomination and your support for
17 improving the health of the Coachella Valley.

18 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

19 I'm going to interrupt the flow here for a
20 minute, once again, because I think for those of us
21 sitting up here and possibly for you in the audience, you
22 may have noticed that there has been a film operation
23 going on here this morning and you may be wondering what
24 happening. We're -- it's an open meeting. And so anyone
25 can come in and take pictures, but this has been sort of

1 an on ongoing activity this morning. So I thought that I
2 would ask for Veronica to speak briefly to what the film
3 crew is up to.

4 ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE OFFICER EADY: Yes, Chair
5 Nichols. As I understand, this is a documentary film crew
6 that is doing a piece on the women of the San Joaquin
7 Valley. So they wanted to be able to record the groups
8 that are here today from San Joaquin Valley.

9 CHAIR NICHOLS: Great. Thanks very much. And
10 happy to have you go about your work.

11 Okay. Back to the order here.

12 Ms. Felipe.

13 MS. FELIPE: Good morning, distinguished members
14 of the Board. My name is Alma Felipe. And I am here --
15 I'm a resident of the Coachella Valley and I am also a
16 member of the Purépecha community.

17 I work at a school setting in Coachella. I have
18 siblings, cousins attending the Coachella Valley Unified
19 School District. There has been multiple times where I
20 have seen firsthand how the air quality affects our
21 children, how it affects my community.

22 Sometimes students have to stay inside during the
23 recess due to the high smoke, pesticide odor, or the
24 rotten smell coming out of the Salton Sea. These are the
25 times when the poor air quality is visible or when we can

1 actually smell the odors, but what about the times that
2 it's not visible.

3 As an educator, having tools such as the air
4 quality monitors in the valley would greatly assist us in
5 ensuring we are looking out for our students and be able
6 to rapidly take actions when the air is hazardous. I am
7 thankful for -- I am thankful for all the local
8 organizations that are trying to do what they can to
9 educate our community about the air quality in our
10 community. I do understand that they have limited funds
11 and can only do so much.

12 Funding is not the only challenge that is
13 encountered, but also a language barrier, especially for
14 Spanish-speaking communities or small communities like the
15 Purépechas. In the Coachella Valley, there are
16 communities within the community. I am proud to be a
17 member of Purépecha community.

18 Just like me, there are many who are interested
19 in going to the meetings and resource fairs, but unlike
20 me, they struggle to overcome the language barrier and
21 thus get discouraged to attend to them, because they are
22 unable to understand Spanish or English.

23 Because of this language barrier, they become
24 unaware of how hazardous the air can get at times and how
25 to protect themselves during poor air quality days.

1 Furthermore, sometimes they work in the fields,
2 they are not given warnings and are subject to more
3 illness. With more funding and having educators,
4 interpreters that speak our language, the Purépechas, the
5 natives, the residents of the Coachella Valley will be
6 better informed of all issues.

7 Thank you.

8 CHAIR NICHOLS: Two minutes goes by really fast.
9 But there are a lot of people waiting to speak. We're on
10 page one still and we've got at least three so, if not
11 four,

12 Okay.

13 MS. AIRD: Hello. Good morning. My name is
14 Sarah Aird. And a co-director with Jane Sellen, my
15 colleague, of Californians for Pesticide Reform. And I'm
16 ceding my time to Jane.

17 CHAIR NICHOLS: Okay.

18 MS. SELLEN: Chair Nichols, members of the Board.
19 First, many thanks for selecting our community air
20 monitoring grant. We're honored to partner with CVAQ and
21 CCAEJ on this important effort. We just heard yesterday.
22 Thank you very much for that.

23 On behalf of the Californians for Pesticide
24 Reform statewide coalition I'd like to thank CARB first
25 for selecting Eastern Coachella for the second year of AB

1 617 implementation, but also need to register our concern
2 about the exclusion of any San Joaquin Valley agricultural
3 communities in year two, and specifically Arvin and
4 Lamont.

5 Excluding San Joaquin Valley rural communities,
6 exempts agricultural practices in the valley from the
7 scope of the program this year, despite the enormous
8 contribution made by ag to the valley's air quality
9 problem. As you know, we've had to fight to make sure
10 pesticides are included in the air quality conversation.
11 Excluding agricultural San Joaquin Valley communities take
12 the pressure off the San Joaquin Valley Air District to
13 address pesticide pollution in the valley.

14 I came before you in Oakland last week to
15 register the coalition's objection to the Air District's
16 language in the Shafter CERP, disavowing their authority
17 and that of CARB to address pesticide toxic air
18 contaminant emissions.

19 I also urged you not to adopt the Shafter CERP,
20 unless this language is removed and unless it includes at
21 least one measure the community has called for to reduce
22 pesticide emissions, particularly 1,3-dichloropropene over
23 and above any statewide efforts and over and above
24 monitoring and notification, both of which are welcome,
25 but do not reduce emissions.

1 If I may respond to Mr. Sheikh. The CERP adopted
2 by San Joaquin Valley Air District does not include any
3 pesticide emissions reduction measures specific to AB 617,
4 except for DPR's statewide rulemaking on 1,3-D, which is
5 unrelated to AB 617. It was actually court ordered. It
6 is not part of this program. It cannot count as an
7 emissions reduction measure of the purpose of the Shafter
8 CERP. I'm glad to hear him state that the Air District is
9 looking at jurisdiction. But with respect, that's not
10 what it says in the CERP.

11 It was very interesting for me to be in Oakland
12 last week and to hear how their CERP process went. It's
13 clear that the Bay Area Air District's approach has been
14 quite different from that of the San Joaquin Valley Air
15 District. That once contaminants of highest concern were
16 identified, they were included in the CERP with
17 responsibility for emissions reduction measures parceled
18 out to the relevant authority whether it be city, county,
19 port authority, or other State agency. And that approach
20 coincides with the stated intention of CARB not to allow
21 jurisdictional issues to exclude any contaminants of
22 concern from CERP plans.

23 When it comes to Eastern Coachella, I trust that
24 CARB will provide the South Coast District with clear
25 guidance with regard to pesticides based on our first year

1 experience.

2 In conclusion, thank you for including a rural
3 community in year two. And going forward, we urge you to
4 prioritize agricultural communities in the San Joaquin
5 Valley in the scope of your community emissions reduction
6 program.

7 Thank you very much.

8 MS. VIELMA: Good morning, Chair Nichols and
9 Board members. My name is Esperanza Vielma. And I am the
10 Executive Director of the Environmental Justice Coalition
11 for Water, as well as the founder for Cafe Coop, and also
12 serve on the Board of Valley LEAP, and an advisor for
13 Latinxs and the Environment for UC Berkeley, and serve on
14 the EJAC for the San Joaquin Environmental Air Pollution
15 Control District.

16 And I'm here to speak as a lifetime southside
17 Stockton person who's lived there and has experienced
18 firsthand our air quality with simple tasks such as
19 running, especially down Airport Way, then Charter, then
20 back. It is a difficult thing to imagine the fact that
21 you cannot simply just have a run without experiencing our
22 poor air quality.

23 So I'm here to urge you in terms of supporting
24 Southwest Stockton in terms of AB 617, so that we can
25 focus on the underserved areas of South Stockton, which

1 have gone, you know, to the wayside many times. But I
2 feel that you will make the right commitment in terms of
3 helping us serve South Stockton.

4 And just to note that we are making our ways in
5 terms of we have members in the -- as part of our co-op
6 that are trying to reduce emissions with having start-up
7 companies that have vehicles that are only electric and
8 hybrids.

9 So I'm simply here to support and -- Southwest
10 Stockton in terms of AB 617 and hope that you will do the
11 same.

12 Thank you very much.

13 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

14 MS. LAU: Good morning, Chair Nichols and --

15 CHAIR NICHOLS: You could just move that down.
16 Would somebody help her.

17 MS. LAU: Move it down?

18 CHAIR NICHOLS: Yeah, you could -- you can move
19 it around very easily.

20 MS LAU: All right.

21 CHAIR NICHOLS: There you go.

22 MS. LAU: All right. Thank you so much.

23 CHAIR NICHOLS: Okay.

24 MS. LAU: Thank you for the opportunity to speak.
25 My name is Cynthia Lau and I'm here on behalf of the

1 Environmental Justice Coalition for Water. And I really
2 want to just say ditto to what Esperanza has just said.

3 But I think more importantly, I'm hearing a lot
4 of different comment and I'm learning a lot about air
5 quality by just sitting here. And I have to say that I'm
6 very new to this space and this arena, but I'm very
7 interested in how I can learn more, and how I can
8 participate in a more meaningful way. This AB 617 is all
9 about, you know, reducing toxic air emission into
10 disadvantaged community.

11 And as I look around, I'm trying to see faces
12 that I could relate to. So obviously, I am a member of a
13 disadvantaged community that is not taking the opportunity
14 to give voice to some of the issues that they are dealing
15 with.

16 So born and raised in southside Stockton and also
17 a sufferer of low-grade allergies throughout the year.
18 Never really knew quite what it was, except I would joke
19 around that perhaps I was just allergic to Stockton.
20 Well, it turns out there is some truth to it, because of
21 the poor air quality in southwest Stockton. People suffer
22 with low-grade allergies and with asthma, and they don't
23 really think about it's what's in the air.

24 So I would like to ask you to, you know, select
25 southwest Stockton as part of the new rounds of funding

1 for reducing air toxins and contaminants in the air,
2 because sometimes my community, and I'm thinking that,
3 wow, I'm here on behalf of EJCW, but I can't really name
4 the communities that I'm really a part of, because I
5 haven't been given the okay to advocate on their behalf,
6 but please I would love to be their voice.

7 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

8 MR. MALAND: Yes. Good morning, Board and Chair.
9 My name is Brent Maland. I am the logistics coordinator
10 for Environmental Justice Coalition for Water. And we
11 actively participate in the reduction of auto emissions by
12 leasing only hybrid and electric vehicles. And so I ask
13 the Board to select the much neglected area of southwest
14 Stockton as part of the community for AB 617.

15 Thank you.

16 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you and congratulations on
17 a crisp piece presentation.

18 Come on. It's okay.

19 MS. SALA: Okay. Good morning. Thank you for
20 the opportunity to speak. I'm Marbella Sala. I'm from
21 Gardenland Northgate Neighborhood Association and over 30
22 years living in that community.

23 So I'm here just to speak on you considering
24 including South Natomas as one of your communities. I
25 know it wasn't identified in those commun -- the three

1 communities that are identified are very worthy of the air
2 monitoring program, but I want you to consider our
3 community as well.

4 And I'm going to speak a little bit about
5 Northgate, because that's where I live. And that's where
6 our association advocates for that community. It's a very
7 diverse, low-income working, class community. We have
8 Latinos, African-Americans, Russian, Southeast Asians
9 living in that community and we live and support each
10 other.

11 Unfortunately, it's a community that is many
12 times overlooked and neglected, because of reasons that
13 others have spoken. There -- our community focus is on
14 working and providing for their families, providing for
15 their elders, and oftentimes don't understand, like many
16 have said, why, you know, their children have asthma, why
17 we have high rates of cancer, and why we get sick.

18 And I believe our community meets all of the
19 criteria. We have a socially, economically disadvantaged
20 community that is neglected and not served the way it
21 needs to be served. And so I really -- I think our
22 community could benefit from an air monitoring. We have
23 Northgate that is a thoroughfare -- thoroughway from
24 downtown to I-80 and then west El Camino. And every day
25 over a thousand cars go through our community where we

1 have -- is that it?

2 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

3 MS. SALA: Okay. There's others that will
4 speak --

5 BOARD MEMBER SERNA: Madam Chair?

6 CHAIR NICHOLS: Yes.

7 BOARD MEMBER SERNA: I just -- for the record, I
8 just want to make sure that everyone understands the
9 various neighborhoods that were just identified are in
10 Sacramento. That wasn't made clear.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

13 MS. EMERY: Hello. My name is Annette Emery.

14 And I'm President of the Gardenland Northgate Neighborhood
15 Association in South Natomas, which is part of Sacramento.
16 And I'm glad that Supervisor Serna is here, because he
17 understands the area so very well.

18 And there is a recommendation last year that
19 South Natomas be included. I understand there's great
20 need. But when you look at our area, we were formerly
21 farmland that's now being flooded with houses. We are a
22 thoroughfare, as Marbella mention, along Northgate, along
23 West El Camino, along Truxel between I-5 and I-80.

24 We have a lot of multi-generational families that
25 includes seniors and children. Huge amounts. There's a

1 mutual housing right near my -- me that has more children
2 per square block that there is in six counties around the
3 area.

4 Across from that is an Eskaton Senior Place.
5 This is really common. We are dealing with people who are
6 living in this area, who find that the walking and
7 bicycling is so bad due to air quality, that everybody
8 hops in cars, which, of course, makes it worse.

9 So we would really like you to consider
10 including -- I know there's a lot of need, but please
11 include South Natomas in this, because we're close to
12 downtown. We're near I-5. We're near I-80. We have a
13 lot of families with great needs and a lot of children
14 playing out in this very dirty air -- air.

15 So thank you so much.

16 MR. AGUIRRE: Hello. My name is Cesar Aguirre.
17 I work with the Central California Environmental Justice
18 Network. I'm here to thank the Board for their
19 nominations of both Coachella and Stockton, two very
20 needed communities. I also want to bring light onto the
21 Arvin/Lamont area in Kern. This is an area that falls
22 into the 98th percentile in poverty, 98th percentile for
23 ozone, 97 for PM2.5, and 93rd percentile on the
24 CalEnviroScreen with upwards of 9,500 active pesticides
25 per square mile.

1 As we've heard, the regulation used to measure
2 asthma is the emergency room visits. Based on a Kern
3 Department of Public Health study shows that the asthma
4 rate emergency room visits in Kern are higher than the
5 California average. But Arvin/Lamont is a low-income
6 community with little to no access to health care and the
7 incidence rates are not accurately represented.

8 On top of that, there is thousands of trucks that
9 pass by Arvin/Lamont on a daily basis in front of schools,
10 parks, and houses, including the only clinic in Arvin.
11 This clinic also shares a wall with repeat offender and
12 oil pump that we have gathered grab samples and
13 forward-looking infrared images that have shown
14 hydrocarbons wafting into neighborhoods and explosive
15 levels of gases.

16 They are exempt from all air mitigation efforts
17 by our district, because they are a small producer. The
18 only regulatory monitor in Arvin is a ozone monitor that
19 is four and a half miles away from the center of the city.
20 But we have evidence that has shown that Arvin is a much
21 needed community.

22 It is an environmental justice community.
23 Multiple residents from both Arvin and Lamont have
24 attended meetings in Shafter during the steering committee
25 to familiarize themselves with the process, and they have

1 active ties with California -- Central California
2 Environmental Justice Network and the Center on Race,
3 Poverty, and the Environment, which share -- which have
4 relationships with the districts and CARB. This is a
5 community that can hit the ground running. They're
6 exposed to it and they were even active in self-nominating
7 themselves in the process at their local districts.

8 Thank you very much.

9 MS. SANTOYO: Hello. Good morning. My name is
10 Byanka and I work for Center on Race, Poverty and the
11 Environment. I'm also part of the steering committee for
12 the Shafter area.

13 I'm here a little bit to represent what the
14 Shafter went through in trying to include pesticides as
15 their emission reduction. But yet, the air district did
16 not -- took any of the recommendations -- the
17 recommendations that were added were dismissed. The only
18 great thing that we got from the CERP from Shafter was to
19 have notification, which is not helpful for any emission
20 reductions. And we do thank the air district for the
21 notification, but yet, we're still not -- we're still not
22 addressing the fact that we want air toxic contaminants to
23 be addressed in the CERP of Shafter.

24 I am also here as a resident of Arvin. I am --
25 I'm raised and born -- and I know the difficulties of the

1 air contaminants that are happening in the area. We had a
2 series of self-nominations from the City of Shafter, from
3 the Kern County Public Works, from the residents, not only
4 from Shafter, but -- I'm sorry from Arvin and Lamont. But
5 we're having a big gathering of residents wanting to do
6 this, because they've seen the process that had happened
7 in Shafter.

8 We -- we're really concerned about the diesel pollution
9 that is happening, because we have three freeways that
10 are -- that are affecting the community. We're in a
11 little horseshoe of mountains that create the air
12 emissions to be stuck in that area, which is the 5, the 99
13 and the 58, which is three freeways that are heavily used
14 of heavy vehicle.

15 We also have two pathways that cross in between
16 the cities of Arvin and Lamont, that is 223, that is the
17 Bear Mountain, and the 184 that crosses the Lamont area.

18 So. Sorry.

19 MR. MARTINEZ: Good morning. Tim Martinez,
20 Community Resource Project. Community Resources Project
21 is a 47-year old non-profit organization based in
22 Sacramento. We provide much needed services to low-income
23 and disadvantaged communities. Our mission has evolved to
24 provide a variety of programs in energy efficiency and
25 weatherization services, women, infant children, health

1 programs and education. We provide these services for the
2 elderly, disabled, disadvantaged families, veterans,
3 low-income, and single-parent households.

4 Many individuals, especially children and
5 elderly, suffer from asthma due to living near freeways
6 and industrial areas with many large trucks passing by.
7 There's a lack of grocery stores from which to purchase
8 quality food for better health and nutrition.

9 Quality medical services are difficult to find in
10 the neighborhood to conduct necessary screenings, prevent
11 illness, and provide nutritional education for mothers and
12 children. Multiple families live together in
13 single-family homes to offset the high cost of rent in the
14 area. And most of the homes are older, neglected, and
15 need upgrades, which include heating and air conditioning,
16 and weatherization.

17 Older homes can contain mold and asbestos,
18 further complicating the health and wellness of the
19 elderly, infants, and children and breast feeding mothers.
20 Rent costs are high and apartment complexes are tough to
21 locate. These are -- there are also necessary
22 requirements for first and last month's rent, security
23 deposit, and start-up costs for utilities for families
24 without disposable income or savings.

25 The impact -- the impact is significant in the

1 northeast, Natomas, I-80 corridor near Northgate and
2 Norwood Avenues. Air monitoring stations and additional
3 resources and monies for agencies, such as CRPE, to expand
4 the help we're providing are much needed. CRPE has
5 disbursed over \$6 million in energy efficiency benefits to
6 this community.

7 Thank you.

8 MS. MENDEZ: Good morning, everyone. My name is
9 Rosa Mendez on behalf of Alianza Coachella Valley and the
10 community. I would like to take the opportunity to
11 express our support For AB 617 community selection of the
12 East Coachella Valley.

13 The communities in ECV in partnership with local
14 non-profits have a long history of advocating. Many of
15 the projects and investments - sorry - coming to our local
16 and State agencies have been a result of the community
17 push organized to meet their needs. We are here once
18 again to push for those needs.

19 We fight because our lives are worth it. Having
20 regulatory air monitors in the East Coachella Valley will
21 support and elevate our fight for better air quality. We
22 know firsthand that our air quality is bad. We know by
23 the nose bleeds our children are having, the terrible
24 allergies, and our outrageous cases of asthma and other
25 respiratory illnesses.

1 With the shrinking of the Salton Sea negative
2 health impacts will continue to be seen in high numbers.
3 This is why I am here. As a youth, a community member,
4 and the future of my community, we cannot wait any longer.
5 We urge you to accept the nomination of the ECV for both
6 the community air monitoring program and community
7 emission reduction plan.

8 My community, my family will be -- lives will
9 change. Thank you.

10 MS. LEAL: Hello, everyone. Good morning. My
11 name is Patricia Leal. And I am a resident born and
12 raised in the East Coachella Valley.

13 On behalf of Alianza Coachella Valley and the
14 community residents we work with within the Coachella
15 Valley, I would like to take the opportunity to express
16 our full support for the selection of the East Coachella
17 Valley for both the community air monitoring program and
18 community emission reduction plan.

19 East Coachella Valley to me is home, vibrant,
20 with a strong community. It is also true that Coachella
21 Valley has air quality issues due to high exposure of
22 pesticides used in ag, the shrinking of the Salton Sea,
23 and up-to-date data, airborne diseases potentially coming
24 from the Salton Sea impacting as well.

25 Community residents have health concerns and the

1 reality is that impacts are already being felt. We
2 believe that by CARB accepting the nomination of the East
3 Coachella Valley, a rural community, CARB will not only be
4 acknowledging the realities and the rural population
5 experiences as a priority, but together continue towards a
6 plan of action that helps us address these bigger air
7 quality issues.

8 We know firsthand that we have poor air quality.
9 And again, the reality is that with the rapid decreased
10 levels of the Salton Sea, air quality will only get worse.

11 We urge you to accept the nomination of the East
12 Coachella Valley for both the community air monitoring
13 program and community emission reduction plan. Thank you
14 for your attention.

15 MR. HARRIS: Good morning. My name is Madeline
16 Harris. I work with Leadership Counsel for Justice and
17 Accountability and I partner with community of La Vina,
18 which is a small unincorporated community in the Central
19 Valley surrounded by agriculture without any buffers
20 between row crops and people's homes.

21 Crop dusters regularly spray toxic pesticides
22 directly over residents' homes, harvesting machinery kicks
23 up dust, and diesel trucks and tractors frequently pass
24 through the community.

25 Each year in the township area of La Vina, which

1 is predominantly low income and Latinx, approximately one
2 million pounds of pesticides with adverse health impacts
3 are applied. In the same census tract across Highway 99,
4 lies an upper middle class white community also surrounded
5 by agriculture where about one-third of this pesticide
6 poundage is applied each year.

7 There is no reason why this should be the case.
8 And this is an example of blatant environmental racism.
9 La Vina submitted a 617 nomination this year, but received
10 no response from CARB. We urge CARB to honor the
11 community nomination process and seriously pursue self-
12 nominations like this one.

13 In La Vina, asthma and cancer are prevalent,
14 directly affecting nearly every household. Residents can
15 name neighbors who they have watched die from
16 environmentally induced respiratory conditions. This
17 community is one of many that suffers due to the lack of
18 consideration of pesticides as toxic air pollutants by
19 State agencies like this one. And we ask that you
20 immediately begin considering pesticides as pollutants
21 that should be addressed by programs like 617.

22 Regional air districts and CARB do have the
23 authority to include actions in emission reductions plans
24 that would address pesticide exposure, and they should, as
25 this is a matter of life or death for countless

1 communities, including La Vina.

2 Lastly, we invite you to join us in the community
3 for a meeting with local and regional decision makers to
4 move forward on their priorities and on their 617
5 nomination. We look forward to continuing to work with
6 CARB to ensure that all people have the right to breathe
7 and live healthy lives in their communities and homes.

8 Thank you.

9 MS. DEL CASTILLO: Good morning. My name is
10 Nancy Del Castillo. I'm from Salton City and I've been
11 living there for five years. I'm a simple mom. I
12 volunteer in the schools for my kids looking for the best
13 future and quality of life for them.

14 And now I worry about my daughter and my son. My
15 baby boy, four years ago, he start suffering for severe
16 bloody nose, congestion, headache pain, throat pain, eyes
17 pain, and constant infections. Sometimes he's unable to
18 sleep -- he is unable to sleep because he can't breath.

19 When it's too windy in our community, all kids
20 are suffering the environmental issues. And this is also
21 happening with all kids who are living around the Salton
22 Sea. We have no regulation monitors and we need to have
23 them in order to know what Arvin is supposed to.

24 Our childrens are facing severe issues. Our
25 children continue to have increased environmental issues.

1 Please consider the Eastern Coachella Valley in the
2 northern corridor in Imperial County. And also, I want to
3 thank Veronica and Trish for being in our community.

4 Thank you.

5 MS. GARCIA GUZMAN: (Spoke in Spanish.)

6 CHAIR NICHOLS: I'm sorry, please. Could you ask
7 her to pause so the translator can translate.

8 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, Ms. Nichols. The
9 interpreter has conducted a translation of her speech. I
10 will be happy to read it on her behalf after she's
11 finished.

12 CHAIR NICHOLS: Oh. Okay. That's fine. We
13 didn't know. Thank you.

14 THE INTERPRETER: Thank you so much.

15 MS. BRENDA GARCIA (through interpreter): Good
16 morning. My name is Brenda Garcia. I live in Salton City
17 for more than three years. My family and I were in search
18 for a home when we arrived in Salton City. We were
19 mesmerized. We liked the house, the people, the place,
20 and the tranquility. During the last three years, we have
21 felt different in regards to our health. My children have
22 nasal, ocular, respiratory, and skin allergies. The
23 allergies are caused because of the bad air quality. The
24 air contains arsenic and selenium, which are metals. All
25 these toxins are in the air and our people are breathing

1 it.

2 We breathe contaminated area with the risk of
3 suffering from asthma, nasal allergies, and worst of all
4 cancer. The Lake of Salton City is the biggest lake of
5 California, which gave shelter to 400 bird species.

6 CHAIR NICHOLS: Go ahead.

7 MS. BRENDA GARCIA (through interpreter):

8 Nowadays, the birds are gone due to the drought
9 of our lake. The odor of the lake, mosquitos, and all the
10 illnesses are truly worrisome, especially when there's
11 humidity. In the schools, our children are exposed to
12 contract all sorts of airborne allergies. There are two
13 reported cases of cancer amongst children already.

14 I am worried about the health of our children who
15 are the future of our nation. And I think that they have
16 the same rights as any other child. Children should enjoy
17 their childhood without allergies and good health, just as
18 any other child.

19 I don't want to reach a point where the children
20 will be required to use an oxygen tank. My daughter takes
21 three different allergy pills and one nebulizer. My girl
22 goes days without sleeping because of nasal congestions
23 and a clogged up nose. My daughter's friends and
24 schoolmates suffer from nose bleeds due to poor air
25 quality. When there are strong winds around, children

1 cannot go out and play.

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. ANNA GARCIA (through interpreter): Good
5 morning. My name is Anna Garcia Garcia. I am six years
6 of age. And I want to tell you that the air has bad
7 things and we get sick. When there's a lot of air or
8 smoke, my friends and I cannot go outside. We have
9 allergies in our noses, eyes, and ears. When the air
10 smoke comes to my city, the water smells very badly. I
11 need you to help me clean my city. We cannot see through
12 the air and the allergies are worse and we become more
13 sick. I want to have clean air to run and play outside.

14 The trees are the lungs of the planet. And in
15 Salton City we don't have many trees and we need more to
16 have clean air.

17 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

18 MS. LILIAN GARCIA: Good morning, Madam Chair,
19 Board members, and public. My name is Lilian Garcia. I'm
20 from the Coachella Valley. I advocate for the Coachella
21 Valley and Imperial County. I'm here today to remind you
22 again of the severe levels of pollution our communities
23 have faced within the Salton Sea Basin, which includes
24 again the Eastern Coachella Valley and the northern
25 corridor in Imperial County.

1 As you all may be aware, we are exposed to
2 high -- high levels of hydrogen sulfide, lead from the
3 Chocolate Mountain Gunnery Range, high PM10 levels,
4 metals, pesticides, toxic chemicals, and unexploded
5 ordinance from the Salton Sea Test Base.

6 Our region is unique due to the pollution at the
7 Salton Sea. Please consider the Eastern Coachella Valley
8 and the northern corridor.

9 I will take this time right now to read a letter
10 that was provided to me from Valerie Luna. She's one of
11 our -- the one you saw right now is one of our youngest
12 advocates. And Valerie Luna is an 8th grader from John
13 Glenn Middle School.

14 I'm not going to read the entire letter, because
15 of the time. And so I'll go ahead and start right now.

16 "Let's talk a little about the place known as
17 the Salton Sea. It's full of high levels of salt
18 and dead fish that stink. But what people don't
19 mention are the dangerous amounts of arsenic,
20 pesticides, lead, chromium, and DDT, not to
21 mention it was a test site for the military.

22 "As the sea dries up, all those toxins get
23 released as they turn into dust and get picked up
24 into the air we breathe. Many have voiced their
25 opinions that saving the sea would be a waste of

1 money. Outsiders say the locals only complain of
2 headaches and nose bleeds, which is not enough to
3 prove it's a health hazard. How can they say
4 those are the only symptoms they claim, when they
5 haven't bothered to ask, listen, or give them the
6 time of day.

7 "No one mentions their difficulty breathing,
8 skin rashes all over, dizziness, or swelling that
9 they children get on their arms, hands, legs, and
10 feet. It is easy as an outsider to come in and
11 look at a problem, look at the numbers,
12 statistics, facts, and formulate a solution to
13 the problem.

14 "But this isn't just a word problem in math.
15 There are actual people being affected right now
16 by this crisis. What about the men and women who
17 -- and children currently living in this city and
18 neighboring cities who are breathing in this
19 toxic on a daily basis".

20 I would like to take the time right now just to
21 Veronica Eady, Trish Johnson, and Elizabeth Melgoza for
22 the commitment to our communities. Last week, Veronica
23 Eady and Trish Johnson came out to Salton City and heard
24 the concerns. So I'd like to comment both of them for
25 that.

1 Thank you for your time.

2 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

3 MS. RAMOS: Good morning. My name is Isabel
4 Ramos. And I'm a resident of the community of Thermal in
5 Eastern Coachella Valley.

6 I came today to ask you to help support the
7 selection of the Eastern Coachella Valley as an AB 617
8 community. This program will really help us to recall
9 waste to -- that we can improve our air quality and our
10 health. As a sophomore at Desert Mirage High School and
11 daughter of farmworkers, I know firsthand what we are
12 being exposed to in our community. Pesticides are being a
13 big issue you where I live and they impact the entire
14 region.

15 Fires are also a big issue in the area and I live
16 through it just last month. This is not the only first
17 time it happened. Though what happened with the fire is
18 that 25 students were sickened by smoke coming from a
19 Thermal dump fire that caused our schools to shut down.
20 Students were sent home. About 14 students were taken to
21 hospitals with minor respiratory symptoms. This bad air
22 quality lasted over three weeks. My family, friends,
23 myself felt bad, because we don't want to breathe harmful
24 pollution from bad air quality.

25 Although, we don't get the same resources as

1 other communities do, we want -- we own -- not deal with
2 bad air quality, but also we deal with contaminated water,
3 poor housing, and more environmental issues. We live next
4 to Salton City, which is affecting everyone around it.

5 We breathe the toxic dust that comes from it.
6 And yet, no one seems to be happening. I hope that with
7 today's decisions, we will finally be able to identify
8 ways to improve our air in Eastern Coachella Valley. And
9 I'm personally committed to being and working to represent
10 my community and my school.

11 Thank you.

12 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Good morning. My name is Olivia
13 Rodriguez. I'm a community member of the Eastern
14 Coachella Valley and I live in Thermal.

15 I'm here to advocate for the selection of the
16 Eastern Coachella Valley for the community air monitoring
17 program and community emissions reduction plan. It is
18 essential to address our concerns with a community-focused
19 approach, especially because our live realities will be
20 able to fill in the gaps that data has yet to capture and
21 any implementation efforts.

22 Our communities of the Eastern Coachella Valley
23 have already been engaging in environmental justice
24 efforts. Local advocates from youth, elders, and
25 non-profits are pushing for our communities to be

1 integrated and centered in any environmental justice
2 efforts.

3 At the community level, we face several
4 challenges, such as poor infrastructure, transportation,
5 lack of affordable housing, lack of safe spaces that also
6 are interconnected to our growing environmental health
7 concerns.

8 Because of these additional barriers that amplify
9 our public health concerns, it is even more essential to
10 integrate community -- community's voices, so that we can
11 creatively and efficiently work towards solutions.

12 Due to the lack of regulate -- regulatory air
13 monitors in our communities, our air quality data has yet
14 to validate our growing respiratory issues and concerns.
15 Our Salton Sea is shrinking and residents know that
16 further exposure to toxins will continue to worsen our
17 environmental, health, and public health concerns.

18 Throughout this year, I've been engaged with the
19 community science workshops mentioned earlier by Dr.
20 Sinclair. During these sessions, communities are able to
21 create -- to collect, interpret, and most importantly,
22 they're able to produce community-owned data. That does
23 document our environmental health realities.

24 So I urge for the selection of the Eastern
25 Coachella Valley, so that we can strengthen efforts to

1 strategically, effectively, and creatively address the
2 urgent threats our communities face.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. ZARAGOZA: Good morning, members of the
5 Board. My name is Rebecca Zaragoza. I am a Senior Policy
6 Advocate with Leadership Counsel for Justice and
7 Accountability based in the Eastern Coachella Valley. I
8 want to thank staff first for recommending the Eastern
9 Coachella Valley for year two of AB 617. We've engaged
10 residents of the unincorporated communities and the City
11 of Coachella for the past two years on this program and
12 helped elevate the unique needs of rural and agricultural
13 communities and why they should also benefit from such
14 programs.

15 So the biggest priorities that I want to
16 highlight and that have already been highlighted today are
17 the impacts of pesticides and the Salton Sea. For one,
18 we're surrounded by fields. People who work in the -- who
19 work in the fields also live near them and they're also in
20 really close proximity to -- proximity to schools. The
21 community has been pushing for CARB and South Coast AQMD
22 to address the impacts of pesticide exposure, more
23 seriously especially through AB 617.

24 The second concern that's unique to this region
25 is the Salton Sea. I know it's a complicated issue, but

1 when we're talking about air quality and public health,
2 the Salton Sea needs to be part of the conversation and
3 process for emission reduction.

4 Finally, I just want to show our support for the
5 other communities like South Central L.A., La Vina, and
6 Arvin and Lamont who are also asking for your help.

7 There are significant flaws in the program in
8 regards to the selection process and development of CERPs
9 that lack enforcement. That's not something that we want
10 to happen in the Eastern Coachella Valley. But again, the
11 ECV has waited for too long for real reductions to take
12 place and hope that your decision today in support of the
13 Eastern Coachella Valley will finally change that. The
14 lack of investment in the -- in the region from both this
15 Agency and South Coast AQMD needs to stop.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. PADILLA MENDOZA (through interpreter): Good
18 morning. My name is Teresa Padilla Mendoza. I came from
19 the area if La Vina -- from Madera, California.

20 I am here to ask for help for our community. We
21 are a small community, but we have a lot of problems. We
22 live around the fields. It is why the pesticides do not
23 wait year by year.

24 The problems in our community have been
25 increasing. It is why I am asking for you to keep in mind

1 our community for a better air quality.

2 Thank you so much.

3 MS. AGUAYO (through interpreter): Good morning.
4 My name is Eduwiges Aguayo. I come from Madera,
5 California. I live in an area called La Vina. Where I
6 live in this community it's surrounded by fields and
7 there's a lot of agriculture. And we have a big problem
8 with pesticides. And I'm here representing the community,
9 because what I think is happening or we think is happening
10 is some of the farmers are not respecting the rules and
11 they are using a lot of pesticides. And that's really
12 affecting especially the seniors in our community and the
13 children.

14 I have an experience myself. One day I went to
15 my backyard to look at my plants and all of a sudden I
16 felt this very strong smell of pesticides. I felt my
17 lungs contracting and I had to run back inside and get my
18 inhaler so I could actually breathe. I also have two
19 relatives that died actually from lung cancer. They used
20 to work -- this person in the pesticides. And oftentimes
21 these workers are not warned of the danger that they are
22 being exposed to.

23 My request is that you please emphasize this
24 problem of the pesticides. And thank you very much.

25 MS. TONEY: Good morning, everyone. My name is

1 Joelle Toney and LaDonna will be right after me.

2 I actually timed this out for three minutes, but
3 I realize I have two, so I'll go really quickly. So thank
4 you so much for listening to all the testimony that speak
5 about environmental justice and air quality throughout the
6 community. I'm grateful for Supervisor Gioia's statements
7 that the findings for the environmental justice research
8 aren't surprising and that we need to find a way to get a
9 database that expedites the process between research and
10 action to clean up air in our communities.

11 California has always been at the forefront to
12 protect the public from smog and climate change. And if
13 these words sound familiar, it's because they're the words
14 of Chair Nichols last year when she was defending against
15 the federal government's attempts to reverse all of the
16 action that we've been doing to clean our technology and
17 our -- reduce our air quality emissions.

18 But I'm not here to sing your praises this
19 morning. I am here to ask you to raise your collective
20 voice for AB 617 and the communities who need your
21 oversight to ensure the process is community lead.

22 My boss tells me anecdotally that if you have to
23 teach someone something, it's no longer their decision.
24 And this is especially the case when the status quo is
25 being upheld and industry and government agencies are

1 taking the lead and control away from community members.

2 Needless to say, a truly community-led process
3 is -- can only occur when we encourage our air districts
4 to paint a full picture, which includes information, which
5 contradicts some of the beliefs and actions that they may
6 be taking.

7 The South Sacramento community has attempted to
8 reclaim our power by staging forums for open dialogue with
9 environmental justice advocates and government agency
10 employees who tell us the truth, one of whom is Jose
11 Saldana who's donated his time and has told us the truth
12 in situations that have jeopardized him.

13 So after a year of hard work, and we acknowledge
14 the work of the air district, we would like to ask for you
15 to collectively raise your voice and ensure a process that
16 is full of integrity.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. WILLIAMS: I'm not sure how you want to do
19 it, but Janniece was giving me her two minutes.

20 VICE CHAIR BERG: I'm sorry. Just tell us what
21 do you need?

22 MS. MURRAY: I'm Janniece Murray and I would like
23 to pass my time to LaDonna Williams.

24 VICE CHAIR BERG: Oh, that's fine. Thank you
25 very much. And so you'll have four minutes, ma'am.

1 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you.

2 VICE CHAIR BERG: Thank you.

3 MS. WILLIAMS: Good morning. My name is LaDonna
4 Williams. And Janniece, and I, and some other members are
5 from Vallejo, California.

6 And although I want to say thank you for the
7 program, which actually has the potential to do some good,
8 it is actually failing. I do oppose the project.
9 Although, I support the communities that you are choosing.
10 Vallejo definitely is one that needs to be on that list.
11 As folks know, we've had fires, we've had numerous
12 explosions.

13 And to sit and hear trucks and diesel, when we're
14 not hearing refineries. We're not hearing the things that
15 affect agriculture. You guys are missing the mark by
16 pushing monitoring when our communities need emissions.
17 We've had, over the many careers, data that's been
18 collected in our communities, that shows how bad our air
19 is. And to continue a pattern and a path of monitoring,
20 instead of emissions in our communities is failing us
21 through this AB 617.

22 I say this with just frustration, because
23 although there's been some good people in this process -
24 Jose, Veronica, even Mr. Nudd, some of you on the Board.
25 I know Diane has worked tirelessly - we cannot sit here

1 and praise a system that focuses on monitoring. We're
2 walking around monitoring here, there, and everywhere, and
3 people are dropping dead. Our kids are dying. Our kids
4 are suffering, so are our families.

5 We have to push the envelope. To get up here and
6 praise a monitoring system and say that community is
7 driving this process, when we know that it isn't. Just be
8 transparent. This process is driven by agency. Agency
9 selects pretty much who's on this committee. A lot of it
10 is being led by industry, the same folks that's polluting
11 our families and our communities.

12 Yet, we set up these processes, where folks think
13 we're -- we're clapping and commending folks for
14 monitoring our air that is killing us, when you already
15 know it's bad.

16 We also cannot ignore the fact that years of data
17 has disappeared. Where is that data? You already have
18 the data to show. We should not be forcing and pushing
19 monitoring. We should be pushing reductions for our
20 communities and really get serious about stopping the
21 pollution. We can't stop it, if agency allows polluters
22 to come in and increase, and expand, and then you give us
23 funding to do, you know, various programs, but you're not
24 holding the polluters accountable for what they're doing,
25 and neither are you stopping the damage.

1 So, yes, I support the communities in being
2 supported, because they all need it, but your approach
3 leaves a whole lot to be desired. And we all need to come
4 back to the table with you all and design a real program
5 that's going to start reducing pollution and preventing
6 it.

7 Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. PARK: Dear, Board of the California Air
10 Resources. My name is Yolanda Park and I am the Director
11 Environmental Justice 58. Thank you for this opportunity
12 to. Speak I did have a little longer speech, but I'll cut
13 it short.

14 We ask for Stockton to be selected for 2019's
15 Community Air Protection Program. As Pope Francis says in
16 his encyclical *Laudato si'*, if everything is related, then
17 the health of society's institutions has consequences for
18 the environment and the quality of human life. What takes
19 place in any one area can have a direct or indirect
20 influence on other areas. So we ask that you let Stockton
21 be and have that direction and indirect impact on
22 surrounding communities in a positive way.

23 Speaking as mom for two of my four children I was
24 pregnant with and gave birth to in Stockton. So two of my
25 children I was born -- were born in Stockton and I was

1 pregnant with them in Stockton. They were born with
2 asthma and reactive airway disease. My other two children
3 with whom I was pregnant with outside of Stockton were not
4 born with these health issues.

5 Food for thought. Thank you.

6 MR. PARK: Dear, CARB. My name is Zeke. I am
7 six. We need clean air in Stockton. I was born in South
8 Korea. I didn't have any health problems because the area
9 I was born had clean air.

10 My brothers have breathing problems, because the
11 air was bad. We moved to Lodi and my sister, who was born
12 in September, does not have any health problems. So
13 please vote for Stockton.

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. FIGUEROA: Well, hello, everyone. My name is
17 Lesly Figueroa. I'm a policy advocate with Leadership
18 Counsel and also a community members of Coachella.

19 So first of all, I just want to start off by
20 saying thank you to CARB and all the work that has been
21 going on I know also with the Eastern Coachella Valley.
22 But I also wanted make sure to point to a few other
23 critical issue going on I think with the AB 617 process
24 that a lot of folks have been mentioned already. And I
25 want to make sure to go a little bit more into detail.

1 For example, I know CARB needs to make sure to -- make
2 sure that community emission reduction plans also are
3 complying with AB 617 and the blueprint, most specifically
4 regarding Fresno, in that the plan doesn't include the
5 quantifiable emission reduction targets.

6 Secondly, to include and incorporate the rural
7 sources of emissions in rural areas such as pesticides or
8 toxic air contaminants in AB 617, to address those toxic
9 emissions. I know sometimes those are forgotten. I know
10 we've mentioned them a little bit earlier, but making sure
11 that they're more meaningfully included within the
12 process. It ends up coming up a lot within the Central
13 Valley and it will be coming up also within the Eastern
14 Coachella Valley.

15 So making sure when the process is coming for the
16 ECV, that that's meaningfully and actively part of that
17 steering committee process.

18 Also, the fact that a variety of strategies need
19 to be included in the plan that are regulatory and enforce
20 -- have some enforcement, which other groups have also
21 mentioned that it's there, but making sure that we are
22 also addressing the emission reduction part of it and not
23 just the monitoring part.

24 So in the draft plans, like in Fresno, that's one
25 of the things that are pretty much lacking. And also, the

1 air districts -- the air districts need to include and
2 incorporate community priorities in the plans that ensure
3 early action on implementation. I think with the
4 experience with the community it's been that folks have
5 been giving feedback. But going back to that question is
6 how is it actively being incorporated and making sure that
7 people who are spending their time in these committees are
8 actually seeing the fruits of their labor?

9 So thank you.

10 VICE CHAIR BERG: Thank you very much. I thought
11 before we take our next speak, a little process might be
12 helpful.

13 So I think we'll go till about a few minutes
14 after 12:00, then we'll take our lunch break. I'm
15 expecting Mary back, but I'm thinking about a half hour,
16 maybe 40-minute lunch break. And so, Herman, you'll be
17 the last speaker before lunch, number 48. And I saved the
18 group of New Voices to kick us off, okay, after lunch.

19 So just to give you a little timing process.

20 Thank you so much.

21 MR. MORENO: Good morning, Chair and members.
22 I'm Eddie Moreno here on behalf of the California
23 Environmental Justice Alliance. Thank you for the
24 opportunity to submit comments on this item.

25 The core purpose and intent of AB 617 is to

1 produce real significant emission reductions and improve
2 air quality in the most impacted communities throughout
3 the state. Unfortunately, the -- this bottomline CERP
4 requirement has not been fully accomplished in this first
5 round. In order for this program to meet the visions of
6 its statutory mandate, we request that concrete
7 improvements are made in the program moving forward and
8 that steps are made to develop measures that will apply to
9 all impacted communities, not just those -- those few that
10 are selected.

11 An approach that focuses on reducing pollution in
12 specific sectors and reducing overall cumulative emissions
13 burdens will help ensure that communities, which are not
14 selected for the CERPs are not further left behind.

15 As related to the second round community
16 selection, we are disappointed to see that CARB is only
17 nominating a few communities in the -- in this next cycle,
18 even though the 617 budget largely remains the same.

19 As a result, we have the following four requests.

20 Number one, CARB should improve the CERP process
21 to ensure that real reductions occur and that CERPs are
22 consistent with community priorities.

23 Number two, CARB should work with -- to improve
24 the transparency of the community selection process by
25 clearly identifying selection criteria, as well as other

1 communities to be targeted in future cycles. CARB should
2 should seek further opportunities for additional funding.

3 Third, CARB should clarify that all monitoring
4 communities and additional communities prioritized by air
5 districts qualify for CERPs.

6 And finally, CARB should minimize competition
7 between communities and support capacity building. As a
8 part of this, CARB should develop an approach to ensure
9 that accomplishments from CERP -- from the CERP process
10 can be applied to all impacted communities by developing
11 sector-based approaches. Thank you for your time and we
12 urge you to review our comments.

13 MS. DODSON: Hello. I was confused as to what
14 the break was going to be. I didn't know if I was going
15 to be after or before lunch, so...

16 VICE CHAIR BERG: You did great. Thank you very
17 much. I'm sorry for the confusion.

18 MS. DODSON: Thank you for having me. I wish to
19 say that last year we had -- there were ten communities
20 that were going to be considered to get help and then it
21 got reduced to three. And we're not included, South
22 Vallejo or Vallejo, again. We're being overlooked again.

23 I am so disappointed. I don't know what it takes
24 for us to get the help we need. A monitor is great. It
25 has its place, but a monitor only monitors. The situation

1 is, yeah, that's condition. That's all it does and
2 nothing else.

3 Someone told me all the darkness in the world
4 cannot put out a lit candle. That's true. You have had
5 the data for what we're going through, our CARE community,
6 for well over 20 years. And in case people don't
7 understand what the CARE means. It means Community, At
8 Risk Evaluation.

9 Well, now, it's become a Community At Risk High
10 Risk Evaluation. And we're being ignored again. Three
11 other communities and we're being ignored. I would like
12 to invite all you people on the panel, all of you, come
13 out to Vallejo and we South Vallejans will take you on a
14 tour. We'll take you on a tour. Come all at one time.
15 Let us know when. We'll take you on a toxic tour, all
16 right? And we'll spend about four or five hours from
17 beginning to end. I'm inviting you all.

18 And the people in South Vallejo will meet you.
19 And some have already gone on the tour, but we'll take
20 you, so you can see what you are missing.

21 Now, I have one solution that I think would help.
22 Stop killing the trees, which are so advantageous to give
23 us oxygen. All this paper. My God, we have to kill trees
24 to do that. The trees give us oxygen. They take away --
25 the take in carbon dioxide and give us oxygen. That's one

1 solution. We have many more to give you in South Vallejo,
2 but we need to see you.

3 Thank you.

4 VICE CHAIR BERG: Thank you.

5 MR. BARAHONA: Good morning, Madam Vice Chair,
6 and members of the Board. My name is Herman Barahona.
7 I'm with United Latinos here in Sacramento County.

8 I grew up in South Central L.A. and Southeast
9 L.A. close to the famous City of Vernon. Later on, after
10 college, I moved to the Bay Area where I lived very close
11 to Vallejo and Richmond. And now here I am in Northern
12 California, in Sacramento -- North Sacramento, where
13 200,000 people are -- have been at risk, have been sick,
14 or exposed to toxic chemicals in the air, in the water, in
15 the land.

16 And in all those years and all those areas where
17 I've lived, I've always heard that, hey, why do the rich
18 schools have the best robotics problems and the poorest
19 schools doesn't have anything, right?

20 I've always heard why does the biggest hospital
21 in town only accept 5,000 Medi-Cal recipients, when
22 there's 500,000 in the county. This is the first time I'm
23 hearing poor people, poor communities across the state
24 will go through a triage process, and we're going to have
25 to pit them against each other.

1 For me, that's not innovative. That's not bold.
2 And I'm really encouraging you to think of a way to please
3 work with the community leaders to find a creative and
4 innovative way to include everybody. Their dignity is
5 worthy. Their humanity is worthy. And I encourage you
6 and I applaud you for the leadership for AB 617, which has
7 really opened the doors to this discussion. I encourage
8 you to please consider including and having an equitable
9 approach to the issues of environmental justice and enjoy
10 your lunch.

11 Thank you.

12 VICE CHAIR BERG: Thank you very much.

13 So why don't we go ahead and take a break. We'll
14 come back at 12:35. I say that more for the Board
15 members, but we will see you back here at 12:35.

16 Thank you.

17 (Off record: 12:02 p.m.)

18 (Thereupon a lunch break was taken.)
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25

A F T E R N O O N S E S S I O N

(On record: 12:37 p.m.)

VICE CHAIR BERG: Thank you. Okay. Everyone, let's take our seats and we're going to resume the testimony. We've got a group, New Voices are Rising, from Oakland.

MS. DZIB: Good afternoon. My name is Melanie. I'm a Senior at Coliseum College Prep Academy. It's a high school located in Oakland, California. I live in Oakland near the Havenscourt area. And even though today I was supposed to have been in school, I made the decision to be here in the presence of -- within my community and be the voice that draws attention to the poor air quality that East Oakland is continuing to face.

From the walks of Oakland, I see the people that are young to old who come from different ethnic backgrounds. This is what makes Oakland beautiful. It's diversity and its strong sense of advocacy for justice, despite the other social justice issues that we face.

The narrative that is left unspoken about East Oakland is its pollutions and the -- it's the pollution and the health problems that community members are developing. I worry about the well-being of my community. But it's also scary to know that not many of them are aware that there are health -- that their health is at

1 risk.

2 As a student, I, and alongside other students,
3 are stepping up towards the inequalities within the
4 systematic oppression that we continue to encounter. I
5 have been -- I have been told to enjoy my youth and to
6 have fun. But I can't rest, especially knowing that my
7 community is suffering.

8 The ways that we help our community members is
9 through education addressing -- in addressing these
10 issues. But it isn't enough. There is little to no
11 action taking place to help us eradicate this issue of air
12 pollution. And it feels like our advocacy and voices are
13 unheard.

14 Today, I come forward to you in hopes that I
15 can -- that you can consider East Oakland in the future as
16 a priority community under AB 617. Yet again, we are also
17 asking for more action to be taken to -- you have the
18 authority and -- you have the authority to make my
19 community a better place in ways such as working towards
20 improving the efficiency of the trucks that pass by our
21 neighbors -- neighborhoods, enforcing and holding up the
22 standards our local air districts, and existing laws and
23 regulations.

24 Thank you.

25 MR. BIBIANO: Good morning, everyone. My name is

1 Anthony Bibiano. I am here on behalf of New Voices are
2 Rising. I was born and raised in East Oakland and I am 18
3 years old. I believe we can all agree that clean air is a
4 fundamental right. Yet, millions of people are denied
5 that right every day. Me and my East Oakland community
6 are a part of this. I can't tell you how many times me
7 and my parents visited the emergency room for my little
8 sister, a seven year old little girl who has asthma, and
9 describes it by saying it feels like breathing through a
10 straw, all because she wanted to be outside playing at the
11 park down the block and going outside for recess at
12 school, never realizing that there's an industrial factory
13 and big dirty diesel trucks polluting from nine to five
14 every day around her schools, at our parks, and around our
15 home.

16 How do you escape this when it's all around you?

17 It is clear that my community, a community of low
18 income people of color experiences this, because we are
19 targeted, with only industrial areas right next to our
20 homes and dirty diesel trucks all around our houses. Our
21 experiences are real and the consequences of polluted air
22 are all around East Oakland. East Oakland needs to be
23 given the necessary support, so we can breathe without
24 fear.

25 This is important, because as we wait for this

1 change, we are battling day by day to survive. I know the
2 process of designating a community as a priority community
3 is a tough process in terms of deciding what communities
4 to prioritize, but that doesn't mean we can give up on
5 East Oakland. And I hope to see East Oakland as a
6 priority community in the next year.

7 Also, as I'm wrapping up, I just want to say on
8 behalf of the New Voices are Rising and the Rose
9 Foundation, that we recently found out that our program
10 was selected for funding to keep out -- to keep carrying
11 out AB 617 work. We are extremely grateful with the Board
12 for the funding. And we hope the Board keeps supporting
13 similar programs like ours in order to carry out more AB
14 617 work.

15 I also want to thank everyone who came out today
16 for their own communities. I know what it feels like to
17 think you don't have a voice. There is so much work to do
18 in this world and I'm glad there's community leaders
19 standing up for the issues they care about, because that's
20 the only way we will move forward.

21 Thank you.

22 BOARD MEMBER SERNA: Good job.

23 MS. PATTON: Hello, all. My name is Mykela
24 Patton. And I am the Program Assistant for the New Voices
25 are Rising program, which is a youth environmental justice

1 group through the Rose Foundation, based in Oakland,
2 California.

3 Apart from that, I've also lived in Oakland my
4 entire life and I'm currently a resident of East Oakland.
5 Today, I am here, because time can no longer be lost. For
6 too long, communities like East Oakland, Modesto, Carson,
7 and the Eastern Coachella Valley have been left behind due
8 to many racist and classist policies, such as redlining
9 and segregation. They can no longer be forgotten. They
10 have been left to deal with the burdens of poor air
11 quality and the health effects due to that.

12 The AB 617 process is a good start, but more
13 needs to be done. There needs to be pressure on the
14 Governor's office as well as the Legislature to allocate
15 more funds to the overall AB 617 process. We are willing
16 to help you do this, but we do need your support.

17 Without the addition of more funds, marginalized
18 and impacted communities are forced to fight over
19 resources, instead of build together and build capacity.
20 Even if communities are not selected through AB 617,
21 policies need to be created and things need to be done.
22 CARB and local air districts can improve air quality
23 without AB 617. CARB needs to go to these communities and
24 create realistic and tangible solutions that the community
25 wants and needs, such as more enforcement mechanisms, a

1 local clean air ordinance, and a Clean Truck Rule.

2 AB 617 already shows that CARB understands the
3 importance of listening to community members first and
4 foremost. And as a grantee, we understand the commitment
5 CARB has to the AB 617 process. However, do not wait for
6 AB 617 to make change in these communities.

7 Thank you for taking the time to listen.

8 CHAIR NICHOLS: And Tyrone Netters?

9 Is Tyrone here?

10 How about Adam Harper?

11 Or Kevin Hamilton?

12 Patricia Jones?

13 Lunch break seems to have sent everybody away.

14 Oh, the trade show is out there too. That's true.

15 Okay. Well, let's -- let me just call some
16 names. Anybody. Anybody who's -- he's already spoken.
17 Some people are coming.

18 People are coming. If we can round them up.

19 Thanks so much.

20 VICE CHAIR BERG: Are you signed up?

21 CHAIR NICHOLS: What number?

22 Fifty-five. Go. Come on down.

23 VICE CHAIR BERG: Yeah, absolutely.

24 Oh, I'm sorry.

25 CHAIR NICHOLS: Fifty-five is good. We'd only be

1 missing three people who could be -- they can catch up.

2 Okay.

3 MS. ROBERTS: Well, when he smiles, his brown
4 eyes almost close. He's so happy. And the dimples in his
5 cheeks sink deep just like the dimple in his chin. And
6 his name is Elijah and he's seven years old.

7 Just about the time -- excuse me -- he put down
8 his sippy cup, he picked up an inhaler. Now, my name, as
9 I said, is Gloria Mushonga Roberts. And I am a member of
10 SCOPE. And as a member of SCOPE, I am also an ambassador
11 for the Southern -- South Central Los Angeles Air Quality
12 Academy.

13 And around the corner from SCOPE, is the 74th
14 Street School, where hundreds of children, just like
15 Elijah, play soccer in air that's toxic with mult -- from
16 multiple body -- auto body shops. They try to learn
17 mathematics in English inhaling fumes from numerous dry
18 cleaners. As they eat their lunch, they inhale particles
19 and ingest pernicious particles of metals from neighboring
20 facilities.

21 And finally, that's not enough, but there are
22 freeways, a morass of freeways, that surround the 74th
23 Street School and the schools of South L.A. There's the
24 105 to the south, the 405 to the west, the 710 to the
25 east, the 10 to the north, and cutting right down the

1 middle of the community is the old 110.

2 Trapped in this noxious swamp of freeways, body
3 shops, cleaners, and metal facilities are almost 13
4 elementary schools. These schools represent hundreds of
5 children between the ages of five and 12 who put down
6 their sippy cups and picked up an inhaler.

7 This isn't the only thing that's true about --
8 this isn't only true about South Central L.A., it's also
9 true throughout all of California. And this is the fifth
10 largest economy in the world?

11 But I've only given you an example of the
12 elementary school count in South Central. Now, I ask you
13 to include all of the middle and high school children, all
14 of the babies who go to child care centers and nursery
15 schools, and all of the infants who suck in toxins as they
16 suck in their mother's milk.

17 The children of South Central L.A. can't wait for
18 solutions and investments.

19 CHAIR NICHOLS: Ma'am, your two minutes are up.

20 MS. ROBERTS: Okay. Thank you.

21 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

22 It look like you got a good group of people here
23 with you too though.

24 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, we do.

25 CHAIR NICHOLS: Shall we try again and see if we

1 should go back to 52.

2 MR. NETTERS: Yes, and I would really appreciate
3 that.

4 (Laughter.)

5 CHAIR NICHOLS: And there you are. Okay.
6 Good. See, we held your place for you.

7 MR. NETTERS: Raining on us out there.

8 So good afternoon, Chairman Board -- Chairman and
9 the Board. Thank you so much for your meeting today and
10 opportunity to address air-related issues.

11 Certainly, acknowledge supervisor, Supervisor
12 Serna who we're proud of the work that he's doing on the
13 air and other issues in the Sacramento area.

14 So my presence here is on the behalf of Green
15 Tech. And specifically, we wanted to include the Board to
16 add the communities -- the protected communities it's
17 focusing on in the upcoming year, of green -- Gardenland,
18 South Natomas, Northgate, and Del Paso communities.

19 I am particularly sensitive -- I actually live
20 off of Garden -- of Northgate and Garden Highway. And I'm
21 dealing with Garden Highway being shut down. And so
22 there's an increase -- I mean, while the cars are just
23 constantly around all the time, so I'm really dealing with
24 the air-related kind of issue there.

25 But again, on the behalf of Green Tech, which

1 is -- as you know, we're building an electric vehicle hub
2 in the Del Paso area on Grand and Main. And the --
3 appreciate the Board's investment in that community and
4 the development of it. So I think it's very important
5 that we continue with that. So I wanted to strongly
6 encourage you to include -- the executive ability to
7 include again Garden -- Gardenland, South Natomas,
8 Northgate, and Del Paso communities.

9 Thank you so much.

10 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

11 Hi.

12 MR. HARPER: Madam Chair, Adam Harper with CAL
13 CIMA. I want to thank the Board for this opportunity to
14 speak. We have no position on the communities that should
15 be selected. We have been observing the process across
16 the state. And we wanted to call one issue up for
17 consideration in your blueprint modifications.

18 The Board appropriately delegated the communities
19 the ability to modify their boundaries to fit their
20 communities. In at least one instance, that re -- that
21 has resulted in a steering committee that upon expansion
22 didn't have space for kind of the new areas adopted and
23 representation from those communities in that expansion.
24 And if the Board staff could think about slight
25 modifications to the blueprint or clarifications that

1 ensure that consider -- consideration of a -- community
2 participation on the steering committee from the expanded
3 areas would be appreciated. So thank you and good luck.

4 CHAIR NICHOLS: Okay.

5 MR. HAMILTON: Good afternoon. And thanks for
6 saving my place. Season's Greetings to you all, by the
7 way. CCAC supports Stockton as the valley's next 617
8 selected community this round, with the proviso that
9 additional agency efforts be focused at expeditiously
10 developing a list of lessons learned strategy --
11 strategies that could be brought to bear early on other
12 communities, such as Pacoima, Arvin, Lamont, Lindsay,
13 Kettleman City, Los Banos, South Modesto, Patterson, and
14 others like La Vina, who was discussed earlier, left out
15 of this year's selection.

16 Additionally, we feel that given the amount of
17 conflict generated around the actually boundary area that
18 took up an inordinate amount of time and energy the first
19 round, the lesson learned there is, as soon as possible,
20 begin holding informal community meetings on that issue.
21 Then be open and flexible about adjusting it to meet the
22 community's concerns, all prior to the first official CSC
23 meeting. Then be ready to modify it again should new
24 remembers raise other needs. The goal, to have a final
25 community-informed and supported boundary when the first

1 official CA -- SC meeting starts.

2 So if I didn't take anything else out of the
3 first year process, that was critical. I shouldn't have
4 had to end up at the Assembly Committee talking about
5 boundaries to get that done.

6 So we don't -- and it dragged on for four and a
7 half months. So we ended up with a really crushed
8 timeline at the end of the process. So let's not do that
9 again. It wasn't fun.

10 So otherwise, thank you for all your hard work.
11 I really want to thank the staff on the EJ side and the
12 OCAP staff. You guys have been great. Come down. Join
13 us at meetings. Bring us into the conversation. Advocate
14 for us. I know we didn't get everything we wanted every
15 time, but I'll tell you, we're a hell of a lot further
16 along than we've ever been before.

17 So thank you very much.

18 VICE CHAIR BERG: Thank you, Kevin. Before you
19 go, you had turned in a card late on the --

20 MR. HAMILTON: Research side.

21 VICE CHAIR BERG: -- research side. So can I ask
22 you --

23 MR. HAMILTON: I was told yeah, I don't --

24 VICE CHAIR BERG: No, that was me. So I need
25 to -- so I just want to know can you take a minute to let

1 us know you -- what you were thinking about that, please.

2 MR. HAMILTON: Yeah. So I really feel strongly
3 that the research agenda, because it -- the idea of
4 focusing on environmental justice communities and pairing
5 that with this work we're doing on AB 617 needs to be
6 concrete, focused, an intentional.

7 And what I mean by that is there are so many
8 things that we're putting into play into these CERPs in
9 these communities, that we have no idea if they're
10 actually going to do what we think they're going to do.
11 So I need to be confident that the ARB and other entities
12 are putting that research money in place, along with these
13 new ideas, so that we can get baseline data and get some
14 real information about how these -- these interventions
15 impact the health of these communities, and also is it
16 actually reducing any emissions of any kind while it's
17 doing that.

18 And by the same token, we need to support the
19 folks who are waiting for the air to be cleaned. There's
20 no magic here. None of these solutions are going to clean
21 the air in a year. Okay. We're looking five to ten years
22 before, you know, we finally see clean air in some of
23 these places. These industries can't be lifted up and
24 moved somewhere else and you can't just retool their
25 entire operation in ten minutes.

1 So all of that's going to take time. In the
2 meantime, again, research based, resear -- results focused
3 kinds of efforts need to be taken in these communities in
4 residence where people are living adjacent to these
5 sources that protect them, and especially children and
6 elders who may be suffering from a chronic illness and
7 probably are in fact.

8 So that's in nutshell.

9 VICE CHAIR BERG: I appreciate that. And I would
10 add to that then communicated, so if we -- right?

11 MR. HAMILTON: Yes. In a way that's useful and
12 understanding. And all that research should engage the
13 community and the CSC in the process, which can be done
14 very easily. And we have a long history of doing that
15 with folks like Dr. Balmes here.

16 VICE CHAIR BERG: Yeah.

17 MR. HAMILTON: So again, Vice Chair Berg, thank
18 you very much. I appreciate you asking the question and
19 giving me the time.

20 VICE CHAIR BERG: Well, thank you very much.

21 MR. HAMILTON: You're welcome.

22 VICE CHAIR BERG: I ran it long.

23 CHAIR NICHOLS: Yes. Justice was done, at least
24 on that issue. Okay.

25 Ms. Jones.

1 MS. JONES: Yes. My name is Patricia Jones. And
2 I live in South L.A. And the reason why I'm here is
3 because I need to testify about our children. And I'm a
4 senior as well, so I want to live until 90, so I want to
5 make sure that I can breathe. And so that's the purpose
6 of why I'm being here.

7 And so our babies and our seniors are being
8 highly affected with this. And what happens so many times
9 is they're out of school, because they can't go to school.
10 Their parents don't know how to deal with them, because
11 they have to work.

12 And so my concern is this, our major concern and
13 demand is that in our community, we get so -- so many
14 times we get left out. We -- you guys didn't -- you
15 didn't okay us on the first go round, 2019. We didn't get
16 okayed for 2020 yet, because 2020 is not here. But at the
17 same token, we need you to think about South L.A. We're
18 out there doing community activism. We're fighting for
19 these individuals. We're fighting for Latina and
20 African-American.

21 And now, we have caucasians coming into our area.
22 We're fighting for everybody, because everybody has a
23 right to breathe. And so the thing about it is if we
24 don't have that chance, then we're in trouble.

25 And the major concern I'm fighting with right

1 now that - it wasn't brought up. It was brought up maybe
2 one time - is that the contamination of our auto body
3 shops, our dry cleaners, and the metals, and -- in these
4 facilities, and sometimes they're building senior units
5 overtop of an oil well. So that means -- because I lived
6 in one, that's why I can testify. And there have been
7 mild[SIC] and moldew[SIC]. And so now we're having other
8 problems coming up that never would have come up in the
9 past. And so those things we have to look at.

10 And, in closing, together with the S -- southern
11 -- the SCLA Push Project, we want to continue engaging
12 with the SB 617 process as we are creating our visions for
13 a healthier community in South L.A. And we need you to
14 make sure that our vision is reached.

15 Thank you so much for letting me share.

16 MS. WARMSLEY: How are you doing today?

17 My name is Iretha and I'm with SCOPE. I'm an
18 ambassador of the Air Quality Academy here in South L.A.

19 Now, everybody has said pretty much the same
20 thing. You'd have to be pretty heartless not to feel that
21 we're all suffering from bad air quality. It's not about
22 race. It's about human beings. And we deserve the right
23 to breathe free air -- clean air. Babies are standing
24 here, parents. I'm a sufferer of asthma. My family is a
25 long generation of asthma and nose bleeders. And we don't

1 know why this is happening.

2 But where I live it's a lot of laundromats, auto
3 body shops. Literally, you come out of your house and
4 this is what we're experiencing every single day. I just
5 don't -- you can say the same thing over, and over, and
6 over. This is not a conversation that I like to be -- how
7 do I say -- anyway. I don't like to repeat myself and
8 repeat what others have said.

9 But if this doesn't touch your heart, if this
10 doesn't let you see that you can't just fix one situation
11 and not fix the other one. We all deserve a right to have
12 clean air. It's like fixing a pipe. You keep replacing
13 the little pieces, eventually you're going to have to fix
14 the whole thing.

15 So we may not find some money. Dig in there. I
16 know we got money. This is California. We have plenty of
17 money in our communities in our -- in the world to help
18 these kids not to have to suffer the way they're
19 suffering, to help South L.A. to get clean air. Get rid
20 of some of these auto body shops. Give us the opportunity
21 to live. And I feel like I'm going -- I mean, I have
22 asthma. I really feel like I won't be here to see 70, if
23 they don't do anything about it. And so just -- well,
24 thank you very much. And that's it.

25 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you. We agree with you by

1 the way.

2 MR. GUTIERREZ: Hello. Good afternoon, Madam
3 Chair and the Board. My name is Ignacio Gutierrez and I
4 live in South L.A. And I live near the 110 Freeway, which
5 we have an elementary school right by -- right by -- next
6 to the freeway, which our children are breathing those
7 toxins.

8 And I'm also an ambassador for South Los Angeles
9 PUSH Project, where we measure the air quality. And I'm
10 asking that we get -- accept -- we get accepted -- our
11 petition gets accepted for next year, because we're not on
12 the -- we're not elected for next year. And we -- South
13 Central community, we have been forgotten for many years.
14 And I ask that we get elected for next year or the
15 following year.

16 Thank you. And you have a great afternoon.

17 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

18 THE INTERPRETER: Okay. I thought I had hers. I
19 don't.

20 MS. PALACIO (through interpreter): My name is
21 Alma Palacio. I live in South Central L.A. For me it's
22 very important be an ambassador of South Central LA PUSH.
23 I'm a graduate of the Academy of Air Quality to know how
24 to protect my family and my community. I suffer from
25 allergies. My son suffers from nasal hemorrhaging. My

1 neighbor of 18 years old died of leukemia. Pregnant women
2 suffer birth defects. I live near three petroleum drills.
3 I live near South Central L.A. We have been ignored for a
4 long time. We deserve this opportunity to improve the
5 quality of air.

6 CARB, we need that you hear us, our communities.
7 The community of South Central L.A., we want AB 617. We
8 don't appear in the list to be selected next year. And we
9 are not fighting with Coachella or East L.A. We want the
10 same conditions and most of all we want clean air.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIR NICHOLS: All right. Thank you.

13 MS. VEGA: Hello. My name is Mayra Vega. I'm a
14 community organizer from SCOPE. But today I'm coming as
15 ambassador from the Air Quality Academy with South Central
16 LA PUSH. And you heard about SCOPE in many communities.
17 We are people of color, people with -- living under
18 poverty levels. And people of color, you know, sometimes
19 the language is a barrier. But something is affecting
20 everybody. It's the air quality.

21 And we live in four -- in between four freeways,
22 the 10, 110, 105, and 405. And a lot of oil drilling is
23 in the area. You hear Pat Jones and other members
24 suffering, you know, and their families. You know, not
25 only the cancer, the asthma, the allergies. And the same

1 thing, we're not fighting for fans. We are here to
2 make -- ask to CARB to ask for a more credible approach
3 that can identify emissions reduction solutions and best
4 practices for industries, sector by sector, and not
5 community by community.

6 We hope that CARB takes the steps necessary to
7 ensure the successful implementation of AB 617 with a
8 serious and rigorous effort -- effort to eliminate the
9 program's competitiveness. We are not fighting. We are
10 not competing. It's not a competition. We are fighting
11 to survive, to live, and have a healthy life.

12 I'm 51 years old and I hopefully I can live until
13 103 years old.

14 (Laughter.)

15 MS. VEGA: But we need you guys. Thank you. God
16 bless.

17 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

18 MR. AYALA: Hello, CARB Board members. My name
19 is Nelson. I come from South Los Angeles. I represent
20 SCOPE. And like my fellow community leaders of South Los
21 Angeles have mentioned, we've been suffering for years of
22 pollution. We all know what pollution causes eventually
23 on the long run. We've being experiencing from health
24 diseases.

25 So I think it's time to make a change -- make a

1 change for our community, which has been -- we're
2 surrounded by freeways, airport traffic pollutants, public
3 transportation pollutants. And we're concentrate a lot of
4 population in South Los Angeles. And we've been ignored
5 for so many careers already that we have to pretty much
6 deal with the aftermath of all these health diseases that
7 are caused by pollutants in our city.

8 So I'm asking you to please include South Los
9 Angeles in your agenda, please. This is for our
10 community, our children, our seniors. So please include
11 us next year.

12 Thank you very much. Have a great day.

13 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

14 MS. PLEITEZ (through interpreter): Hello. Good
15 afternoon. My name is Elba Lilian Pleitez. I represent
16 SCOPE from South L.A.

17 I am here to say that I also support East Los
18 Angeles. We are not in competition. But at the same
19 time, we want to make sure that we are taken into account.
20 I myself live in a residence that is between four
21 freeways. It has several oil drills near by.

22 My husband has had cancer. He was so sick he had
23 to leave the country because he didn't want to die here.
24 Myself, I am now alone, and I also suffer from allergies.
25 I have itches all over my body. I have to use special

1 creams. I have another relative that also suffers from
2 allergies. It's what is in the air. There's a lot of
3 toxicity in the air. We have auto body shops. We have
4 tire places. We have a barbecue place that has a lot of
5 smoke. We are breathing all of that and we are just here
6 to ask you to please take us into account when you think
7 about the communities to be included.

8 Thank you very much.

9 MS. KAKOUSSIAN: Good afternoon. My name is Maro
10 Kakoussian. I'm the campaign assistant for the STAND L.A.
11 Coalition. Sand Together Against Neighborhood Drilling
12 here to speak on behalf of Martha Dina Arguello from
13 Physicians for Social Responsibility, Los Angeles. I want
14 to start by thanking the Board for supporting our air
15 monitoring grant. Our organization, along with our
16 partners, are implementing our community air protection
17 grant, the South Central LA PUSH Project to understand the
18 sources of air pollution and health impacts, which aims to
19 strengthen the knowledge and capacity of communities to
20 address air pollution.

21 Through our South Central LA PUSH Project, we
22 have trained more than 60 residents on air pollution and
23 community air monitoring, who are ready and prepared to
24 take on this mission to reduce emissions and improve
25 public health.

1 We know that South Central L.A. was not selected
2 as one of the first ten communities of AB 617 and was not
3 nominated to be selected the second year. For the second
4 round of community selection, we ask that CARB listens to
5 the communities that have been neglected for too long. We
6 support the South Coast AQMD nomination of our allies in
7 communities from East Coachella and South East Los
8 Angeles, at it is true that all communities need to start
9 reducing air pollution. We must stop forcing communities
10 who are also suffering from the impacts of air pollution
11 to compete with each other.

12 All our communities deserve to benefit of air
13 quality improvements. South Central Los Angeles
14 overexposed to toxic air from a cluster of small sources
15 of air pollution, high volume traffic pollution driven by
16 the nearby 10, 110, and 405 freeways. More specifically,
17 there's a high concentration of sources of a pollution,
18 including over 139 auto body shops, 34 dry cleaners, 79
19 metal facilities, and several oil drilling sites that
20 contribute to the pollution and cumulative burdens in
21 South Central L.A.

22 We hope that CARB takes the steps necessary to
23 ensure the successful implementation of AB 617 with a
24 serious and rigorous effort to eliminate the program's
25 competitiveness, listen to community needs, and implement

1 real emission reductions, plans that are accessible to all
2 communities.

3 Thank you so much.

4 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

5 MR. MINOR: Hello. My name is Bryan Minor and
6 I'm with South Central Los Angeles PUSH.

7 And originally, I was going to come up here and
8 speak about our young athletes and how they're created
9 with a disadvantage from the beginning. But it seems
10 everybody is talking about the same thing, they're getting
11 money and then they're asking for more. And that's not
12 going to solve anything.

13 So my main thing is saying people need to care
14 more about their neighbors than about themselves,
15 otherwise it's not going to work, because you can't just
16 put up an air line and the air is not going to cross this
17 path. You have to clean up what's around you. Then you
18 clean up what's on the inside.

19 So -- and I want to applaud you guys for being
20 able to make a decision that you can't win. Because half
21 the people are going to be happy for the decision and then
22 the other 100,000 or so are going to be, you know -- so
23 it's more so like I just want to applaud you guys and
24 commend you guys. We're waiting on our turn. And until
25 you guys get to us, we're going to be -- continue to

1 fight.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. CEBREROS: Good afternoon, Madam Chair and
4 members of the Board. My name is Edith Cebberos. And I
5 am with Communities for a New California Education Fund.
6 And I am from Indio located in the Eastern Coachella
7 Valley, and one of the many people affected by the bad air
8 quality. Many unincorporated communities, Mecca, Thermal,
9 Oasis, and North Shore are suffering from health issues.

10 This is related to the Salton Sea spreading toxic
11 dust that goes to neighborhoods as we all have heard
12 today. Residents suffer from -- resident suffer from an
13 issue they have no control over, which is air pollution
14 and require the help of the State to strategize how to
15 move forward.

16 We need the AB 617 bill to keep communities
17 hopeful for a better tomorrow and aware of what is
18 happening. I also work in a health clinic where concerned
19 mothers and families take their children for asthma.
20 Sometimes -- sometimes they think they are the problem,
21 but need to be provided with accessible information to be
22 aware of how it's an environmental impact on the health of
23 our local communities.

24 Education is key and we must create health
25 awareness and campaigns -- campaigns to educate the

1 community about the health risk posed from air pollution
2 and how to reduce exposure. People have allergies all
3 your long, but it's from constant air pollution. If a
4 community has the opportunity to be involved, then we can
5 all build powerful relationships, because it's a much more
6 intimate connection that we want to contribute our energy
7 into. And a great example of this is Comite Civico del
8 Valle and the Imperial Valley with the IVAN program that
9 has over 40 air monitors available.

10 Community members have access to report
11 environmental problems every five minutes and can protect
12 themselves from the dangerous air quality, because of the
13 air monitors.

14 The Eastern Coachella Valley will benefit from
15 having air monitors as well and should help us
16 determine -- I would like to thank Assembly Member Garcia
17 for authoring AB 617, which makes this nomination
18 possible.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. JOHN HERNANDEZ: Good afternoon, Madam Chair
21 Honorable Board members, staff. Thank you for all the
22 hard work that you do and such a difficult task of trying
23 to improve air quality throughout California.

24 I'm John Hernandez. And I'm a community activist
25 around the Salton Sea area. I've been in the region for

1 70 years. I've worked in the Coachella Valley. I've
2 worked throughout Southern California when my prior job
3 was with the State for about 30 some years. I've been
4 retired a dozen years.

5 But it breaks my heart to know that, you know, we
6 don't enough to do enough. But we have something and we
7 can do something. And there's two analogies it brings to
8 my mind. It brings the one about inviting people to a
9 party and not having enough to feed everybody, having to
10 turn people away. And the other one is the one about King
11 Solomon having the difficulty of -- the story with the
12 baby of trying to determine whose baby it was and having
13 to, you know, say that maybe we're going to cut it in
14 half.

15 So the Salton Sea is a big -- is a big issue.
16 And it's something that's the whole area. So the northern
17 part, yes, thank you for your recommendation of 617. But
18 if you do nothing, then perhaps some of the children, the
19 babies will die -- will continue to die. You know, it's
20 heart breaking to hear the compelling stories of Anna
21 Garcia, and also the other young man in one of the other
22 areas of the state.

23 But nonetheless, you have the opportunity and you
24 have the power to do something. So I thank you for
25 implementing this. And we need an approach that your

1 agency can weigh in on. I mean, I've been waiting over 15
2 years to do something when the water transfer happened and
3 I'm watching the Salton Sea dry every day.

4 I have a little place out there also, but thank
5 you. Do something. Save the children. And thank you
6 very much for listening. Have a great day.

7 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you for coming.

8 MR. LUIS OLMEDO: Good afternoon, members of the
9 Board.

10 CHAIR NICHOLS: Good afternoon.

11 MR. LUIS OLMEDO: My name is Luis Olmedo. I am
12 the Executive Director of Comite Civico del Valle.

13 And first of all, I want to inform you that we
14 are very much in support of every environmental justice
15 organization, advocate, and resident that has brought
16 their concerns forward. And I know you're all listening.
17 I also want to say that we want to thank you for the staff
18 for the nomination of the Coachella Valley, the South
19 Coast Air Quality Management District, Assembly Member
20 Eduardo Garcia, as well as Assembly Member Cristina Garcia
21 for authoring AB 617.

22 I have stood here many times explaining the
23 importance of bringing attention to the Salton Sea region,
24 Imperial, Coachella. So I'm not going to do that anymore,
25 because I feel like we've come a long way, and I don't

1 have to keep repeating what you already know. And today
2 is a testament that you're listening.

3 We are still going to have a gap between the
4 further southern part of Imperial and the Eastern
5 Coachella Valley. And just like we did last year, we
6 submitted a nomination and we began immediately to have
7 conversations with the staff. I want to ask that we
8 continue immediately to have a conversations of how we
9 address the middle.

10 I also want to do a shout-out for CCEJN and the
11 communities that they brought forth. They've done a
12 tremendous job in the central valley and many other
13 communities across the state. Thank you for what you do
14 and thank you to the staff and the executive team of the
15 Air Resources Board.

16 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thanks. And we'll see you soon.

17 (Laughter.)

18 CHAIR NICHOLS: Okay.

19 MR. MIGUEL HERNANDEZ: Hi. Good evening. Miguel
20 Hernandez with Comite Civico del Valle. Thanks for this
21 opportunity to provide this comment. Thanks to the Board.
22 Thanks to the staff. Thanks for the nominations, the
23 recommendations. And also, thanks -- special thanks to
24 Assemblyman Garcia for championing this legislation. That
25 has been really helpful for our community, for the whole

1 Salton Sea region.

2 Now, with the Eastern Coachella Valley being
3 nominated, it puts a big willingness to do things and get
4 things done. And as was just mentioned, we're going to
5 have that gap in between the Eastern Coachella Valley and
6 the southern part of the Imperial County. So we look
7 forward to keep advocating for that little gap that we're
8 going to have there. So be expecting of that nomination
9 coming forward in the future.

10 Also, I would like to express the importance of
11 adding additional communities, such as the north part of
12 the county -- Imperial County, as well as others
13 throughout the State that have been brought up to this
14 podium and testified that have -- they haven't been
15 selected just yet.

16 But we hope that this program continues to get
17 the necessary funding that is needed to keep adding
18 communities and to keep on funding the existing ones.

19 So additionally, I want to -- hearing from the
20 earlier comments about the importance of the Purépecha
21 community in the Eastern Coachella Valley. And if my mind
22 doesn't do me wrong, I think it was about 20 percent of
23 those residents that speak Purépecha, and so far the
24 blueprint it's only been translated to Spanish. So we
25 only have two versions.

1 So for the Eastern Coachella Valley that will be
2 something to consider to have that translated, if you want
3 to keep the spirit of AB 617 and having that community
4 participate and collaboration. I think that will be a
5 strong asset for the Eastern Coachella Valley to have that
6 document being translated and keep on engaging that
7 community, which is a strong community, and really active
8 community of the Eastern Coachella Valley.

9 And lastly, I just want to thank again for this
10 opportunity. I'll definitely look forward to see the
11 Board come next year January in Imperial County for the
12 first time, by the way. And we'll gladly see you over
13 there. And Happy Holidays.

14 Thank you.

15 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

16 Hi.

17 MS. BLANCO: My name is Brittany Solorzano
18 Blanco. I am a Program Coordinator at Comite Civico del
19 Valle.

20 I hope everyone has been doing good.

21 I have heard many concerns from the Eastern
22 Coachella residents through working with schools in the
23 area and also attending meetings in that area. This
24 includes concerns about the drying Salton Sea and its
25 impacts on human health. The Eastern Coachella Valley is

1 directly impacted by the drying of the Salton Sea.

2 The exposed playa is full of pesticides,
3 selenium, arsenic, DDT particulate matter, and so many
4 other toxins and carcinogens due to the fact that it is
5 used as a drainage for agricultural runoff.

6 As the sea dries, the toxic dust goes into the
7 bodies of many of the Eastern Coachella Valley's residents
8 causing illnesses and poor air quality. Young, old,
9 healthy or not, this toxic dust has no bounds, even though
10 there have been attempts at mitigation.

11 I am here today to show my strong support for the
12 Eastern Coachella Valley to be nominated as an AB 617
13 community for the sake of the community's health and their
14 future.

15 Thank you.

16 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

17 MR. RUDY GUTIERREZ: Good evening, Madam Chair
18 and Board members. My name is Rudy Gutierrez. I'm a
19 resident of the City of Coachella. I've been living there
20 for the past 16, 17 years. Prior to that, I grew up right
21 down the street here. I'm a country boy from a little
22 town called Hilmar, Turlock, a little dairy farm. Very
23 family-oriented small-town environment. Kind of like what
24 you see with a lot of these folks that came here today.

25 The people. Right, the people will make the

1 change. During my time of in the Coachella Valley, I had
2 the opportunity to sit on the Board for the South Coast
3 Air Quality Management District for the CVAC -- or, I'm
4 sorry, for the EJAC for about two years.

5 During that time, I realized they didn't really
6 know who we were in the Coachella Valley. And it was very
7 interesting to see the underinvestment that they provided
8 for us. There's a little town called Indio Hills. They
9 didn't even recognize that location. It's a big
10 retirement place for a lot of folks.

11 We have a lot of humans in the Coachella Valley,
12 especially Eastern Coachella Valley, that suffer a lot
13 with a lot of air quality issues, especially with the
14 Salton Sea. You know, we have the water going down. You
15 guys heard a lot of testimony of that. We just need a
16 concerned board up here that's going to take action, and
17 you guys have done so.

18 I'm here to ask for continued support for
19 Assembly Bill 617. Thank you Assembly Member Garcia for
20 your strong support and your continued support in our
21 Coachella Valley. I also want to make sure we highlight
22 all the local community members, such as the ones that
23 were here today for their strong efforts and the
24 commitment to making sure this air is important for
25 everyone to breathe.

1 And again, I can't overemphasize the air quality
2 of the Salton Sea. As a resident -- and I have two boys.
3 Unfortunately, one of them does have asthma. I don't know
4 how that happened, but it did. My oldest one doesn't have
5 asthma. So I'm not sure how that works and they're both
6 born there, but appreciate your support with Assembly Bill
7 617.

8 Thank you.

9 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

10 MR. VELEZ: Good afternoon. My name is Jose
11 Velez, Comite Civico de Valle founder. My recommendation
12 is to include Coachella Valley East and all Salton Sea in
13 your AB 617 Program.

14 Thank you.

15 CHAIR NICHOLS: Great. You said it well.

16 MR. RUBEN OLMEDO: Hello. Good afternoon,
17 members of the Board. First off, I want to thank everyone
18 for giving us the opportunity to speak and express
19 ourselves. My name is Ruben Olmedo. I come on behalf of
20 Comite Civico del Valle from Imperial Valley.

21 I am here to support staff recommendation and I
22 ask Board supporting selection of the Eastern Coachella
23 Valley for two AB 617 communities. With Coachella being
24 nominated, it will greatly improve air quality in the
25 region.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

3 MS. VARGAS: Good afternoon, Madam Chair, members
4 of the Board. My name is Anna Lisa Vargas. And I am a
5 native of the Eastern Coachella Valley. I grew up in
6 Thermal and I now reside in the City of Indio. And I am
7 grateful that Imperial Valley, our neighboring valley, was
8 selected in year one, and that we are nominated in year
9 two. And I would like to thank our Assembly Member Garcia
10 for authoring the bill.

11 And I'm very proud to say that he's -- I know him
12 and that he went to the same high school as I. And that
13 he is someone in our community that we are very proud of,
14 and he has been here representing us. And I would also
15 like to say that we want to include those other
16 communities that are surrounding the Salton Sea, as they
17 are largely impacted. Especially, you heard the testimony
18 of the young -- the young child and the families that are
19 also living in those very -- the same communities.

20 And I also want to say that as someone who
21 represents that area, we have other elected officials
22 that -- like our Supervisor Victor Manuel Perez and our
23 Congressman Dr. Raul Ruiz, who also are born and raised in
24 Coach -- in the City of Coachella and also attended
25 Coachella Valley High School, like our Assembly Member and

1 myself.

2 And I want to urge you to include them or help
3 them be part of this process, because as it -- as
4 recent -- and most recently, last month, we had fires.
5 We've had areas that don't have access to potable water
6 that are not connected to the public water system, which
7 is Coachella Valley Water District, and that have arsenic
8 that exceed the State standard, sometimes by ten times.

9 And so, it is urgent. We've asked them to work
10 on these issues, because air quality is one of the many
11 environmental justice concerns in the Eastern Coachella
12 Valley and they have not been responsive like our Assembly
13 Member.

14 So thank you very much.

15 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

16 MR. VALENZUELA: Good afternoon, members of the
17 Board. My name is Sergio Valenzuela. I'm a Community Air
18 Monitoring Technician with Comite Civico del Valle. And
19 I'm here to support staff recommendation. And I ask the
20 Board's support in selecting Eastern Coachella Valley for
21 year A -- for year two AB 617 community.

22 As an Air Monitoring Technician, one of the
23 humbling advantages of my position is the opportunity to
24 get involved with the community and hear their stories.
25 While installing several monitors in Eastern Coachella

1 Valley, it was touching to hear how many residents were
2 thrilled and excited to find out that they were getting
3 monitors in their community.

4 Some even referred to it as hope, that they had
5 hope that their concerns were being addressed, hope that
6 there was positive movements towards the protection of
7 their health, and hope that future generations can live
8 quality lives in the beautiful Eastern Coachella Valley.
9 This message is echoed throughout the community.

10 And so again, I ask the Board of -- the Board to
11 support the selection of Eastern Coachella Valley for year
12 two AB 617 community and provide more than hope, but a
13 better quality of life. Thank you, Assembly Member Garcia
14 for this opportunity and thank you Board members.

15 MS. SANDOVAL: Hello, everybody. Good afternoon.
16 My name is Isamay Sandoval. And I am here too with Comite
17 Civico del Valle. And we're here representing the
18 Imperial Valley and supporting the Eastern Coachella
19 Valley. So as all of us have heard all of the concerns
20 that we have with air quality and how they effect the
21 social determinants of health, you know, I'm just really
22 here to echo everything and just kind of make it known
23 that, you know, this is a need that we have in everywhere
24 in California. And I just wish there were more
25 nominations selected over the course of California,

1 because California is so big.

2 But right now, you know, I just want thank
3 everybody for come out and giving their testimonies,
4 because it's not easy to be up here. But I hope that you
5 consider in Eastern Coachella Valley to get chosen, you
6 know.

7 Because if there's one thing that I can say about
8 the Eastern Coachella Valley is that, you know, it's home
9 to this huge music festival. And, you know, after
10 everybody leaves, what's left? The community and their
11 air quality issues and, you know, just helping reduce all
12 the emissions that are there, and monitoring, and knowing,
13 hey, it's green outside. I can go and have a -- have a
14 barbecue or something or, hey, it's yellow, let's go
15 inside. And it's important for those citizens to have
16 access to all of that.

17 Thank you.

18 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you. I believe that number
19 76, Mr. Zambraho had to leave and so we've now completed
20 our list of witnesses and we will close the hearing at
21 this point.

22 We will have to take some action. But a number
23 of Board members I think would like to address specific
24 aspects of this. I just want to say one thing before we
25 get into further discussion, which is I don't know that we

1 were as clear as maybe we should have been at the
2 beginning. But I'd like to make sure that people
3 understand now, that we tried hard -- I think I can say
4 the staff tried hard not to make this a competition for
5 who had the worst air, and, you know, you win if you have
6 the worst air, and then ARB will come in and help you.

7 And there's really two reasons for that. One is
8 that we are trying hard to keep the number of communities
9 that were directly engaged with at a manageable level and
10 to not overpromise when we don't have resources or ability
11 to actually do anything useful.

12 So this whole 617 process, which is new for us, I
13 don't want to call it an experiment, because we know we're
14 committed to do it. But it's a way -- it's a new way of
15 working and we are learning, as several people pointed out
16 along the way. We've already learned quite a lot. And
17 most of what we're learning, I believe, will be applicable
18 much more broadly, so you don't have to be named as a
19 community under 617 in order to get the benefit of the
20 things that we will learn as a result of this, because it
21 will change the way we work with communities around the
22 State.

23 So I think that's -- that is the important thing
24 to stress here is that we're trying hard to identify
25 communities that, you know, meet the criteria, including

1 having bad air. But that's, you know, also having
2 community organizations that are able and willing to step
3 forward and assist, and then air districts that's able to
4 be part of it, et cetera.

5 And so we -- we have a group of a few more
6 communities that we're, I hope, going to include in all of
7 this. But that doesn't mean that it's like a closed club
8 and you can't get into it, unless you're chosen by us. At
9 least, I don't think that's what it should mean and I
10 don't -- I don't think that is what it's going to mean.

11 So I just -- I do want to thank everybody who
12 came, and, of course, for the support for the
13 designations, but just to say there's -- it's not the end
14 of the story.

15 I know that Mr. Serna wants to speak and has to
16 leave, and Ms. Takvorian wants to speak for sure, and I'm
17 sure that we'll hear from Assembly Member Garcia about the
18 Coachella, and then others as well, but let's with those
19 three anyway.

20 Okay.

21 BOARD MEMBER SERNA: Great. Thank you, Chair.
22 And first, let me start by thanking you for that preface
23 to our comments. I think it's probably some of the most
24 important part of what we have to share following the
25 testimony that we heard. I'm very glad that Chair Nichols

1 stressed the fact that this is a learning process for us.
2 And it really is kind of unfortunate that the -- the
3 overtone that maybe sometimes misinterpreted in some -- in
4 a case like this about pitting communities against one
5 another, as some speakers said, gets -- that becomes the
6 takeaway, and it really shouldn't.

7 If you think about this Board, we represent not
8 only different professions, whether it be academia or
9 health care, but we also represent different parts of the
10 state. But collectively, we represent the entirety of the
11 state. And so when I see on the list of speakers, when we
12 have the columns of support, oppose, and neutral, and
13 unfortunately when I see folks oppose something like this,
14 my reaction is that that's somewhat disappointing, because
15 I don't think anyone that spoke today or that has
16 submitted in writing their position on this matter really
17 opposes the application of resources to clean up the air
18 anywhere in the state.

19 I did hear -- we did hear today from a handful of
20 folks from the -- not just the city and county that I have
21 the good fortune of representing, but the district that I
22 represent. And there's no denying that that part of the
23 district, Northgate, Gardenland, Natomas part of
24 Sacramento certainly has its fair share of challenges when
25 it comes to criteria pollutants, greenhouse gas emissions

1 and other challenges from an environmental standpoint.

2 But at the same time, I, in addition to my
3 colleagues, have to -- have to, in this instance, really
4 kind of weigh the equity of how we are going to again work
5 with very, very limited resources to address a phenomenal
6 challenge in the entire state.

7 I want to thank the folks that came out from the
8 part of the district I represent. I should underscore,
9 and I suspect maybe others will do the same, that -- and
10 please, staff, if I'm incorrect in this statement, correct
11 me, but I don't believe there's any reason why if you --
12 if the community that you advocate for today is not
13 selected, that there's not an opportunity in the future
14 for those communities to stay at the table, so to speak,
15 and be considered in the future.

16 And again, I'm speaking as someone who also
17 represents an area that, during the first round of AB 617
18 resource application, was fortunate to be selected last
19 year, South Sacramento. So again, I don't think you would
20 expect us to have some awkward split vote up here by way
21 of the map that we represent, the geographies that we
22 represent. But I just wanted to make that very clear,
23 before we take a vote later today.

24 Thank you.

25 CHAIR NICHOLS: Okay. Diane.

1 Diane.

2 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Okay. Thank you. I
3 just wanted to express my thanks to the OCAP staff. I
4 know that it's been an enormous effort on all of your
5 parts. I seen you in San Diego and I know that you're in
6 other parts of the state. I know you've had a lot of good
7 discussions with community members and organization.
8 You're providing assistance to them and to the
9 districts -- the air districts. So I just wanted to say
10 thank you and -- for all that great work, because I know
11 it's been a lot. So thank you so much.

12 Thanks to everyone was here today, but more for
13 all of the work that you're doing in your communities
14 every day. So I know this only represents a small part of
15 the work that you do and the care that you have -- excuse
16 me -- for your communities and for your families.

17 I want to say that in addition to being -- having
18 the privilege of being on this Board, I also work in San
19 Diego in the portside communities that are part of this
20 project. And I've -- I want to give a shout-out to the
21 San Diego Air District for their great leadership in
22 moving us forward. And I want to say that I support the
23 move to a community emission reduction program and hope
24 that my colleagues will do that as well.

25 I think we've had a good stakeholder process.

1 And we had a vote of the stakeholders of the steering
2 committee. And it was the majority who voted for that.
3 So I appreciated that process and I also the desire to
4 move forward.

5 I support the recommendations for the three new
6 communities. They're good choices, but I agree with
7 Supervisor Serna, this should end with our Chair that this
8 should not be a competition. And I'm really disappointed
9 that we were not able to include more of the communities
10 for this year. Arvin, Lamont, La Vina, South Vallejo, San
11 Ysidro, Northgate, and South Central, and the list goes on
12 and on. And I think this is a demonstration of the need
13 in our state, and someone -- a number of people have said
14 that.

15 This is not an uncommon occurrence in our
16 communities, communities of color, low-income communities,
17 that we have this desperate need for relief. So 617 I
18 think was never intended to solve all the problems. 617
19 was, I think, intended to point at these problems and say
20 we desperately need for their to be help for these
21 communities. So we really shouldn't stop here with the
22 resources that are provided by 617, but we really need to
23 expand this to the other resources that CARB has and that
24 the State has.

25 And so I would reiterate what Chair Nichols has

1 said that we really need to advocate with the Legislature
2 that more dollars -- and with the Governor's office that
3 more dollars need to be provided, not just to 617
4 communities, but to all the regulations and rules that
5 will support the community emission reduction plans,
6 because it's all very integrated.

7 That said, I think there does -- one of my asks
8 for staff would be that as we think about revising the
9 blueprint, that we really need to look at how we are
10 communicating about the transparency of the selection of
11 communities, how many communities will be selected, what's
12 the criteria.

13 We've talked a little bit about on-deck
14 communities. And those might be ones that have submitted
15 this year, submitted last year, that are getting feedback
16 from staff that are preparing. So I think we need to be
17 more transparent about that, and so that communities know
18 that they're -- that they're in a line, that there --
19 there's a path towards getting more resources, so that we
20 can really include them in future cycles.

21 And I know that we can't promise money that we
22 don't have. I get that as you said before.

23 (Laughter.)

24 CHAIR NICHOLS Yes, if we could.

25 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Our Chair says that to

1 my. I know that. I heard it.

2 (Laughter.)

3 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: But I also think that we
4 have an obligation as CARB to express to everyone who does
5 control the budgets that we have a lineup of folks and
6 communities that desperately need these resources. So we
7 need to do our part, I think, to line that up. So -- and
8 I think we just have to be more transparent about it.

9 To staff, in terms of the changes -- or the
10 process for improving the blueprint and applying the
11 lessons learned, I would like to see a specific timeline
12 and process for how we are going to incorporate some of
13 those lessons learned.

14 I know that there is a consultation group that's
15 being chaired by Dr. Balmes in February. And I understand
16 that that -- this is going to be the topic at that meeting
17 or could be. Maybe that's a request. And that Mr. London
18 is also doing a meeting of a number of folks, I think, in
19 February or March, right. But it's not clear to me what
20 we're doing with all that information and when it's coming
21 back to the Board to make those changes. So that would be
22 a question that I have.

23 And I think that the biggest issue, and this has
24 been raised by a number of folks and in writing in letters
25 is that we really need to ensure that we're reducing

1 pollution and improving health. That's the point of AB
2 617. And we can have great process -- I'm sure we need to
3 improve process in all of the steering committees and all
4 of the ways that we relate to communities. But the bottom
5 line is are the communities less polluted and are people
6 healthier?

7 So that's what I think we need to be able to
8 demonstrate with the plans that the metrics are metrics,
9 that they're quantifiable, and that we're coming back
10 every year with a report to show how those -- how those
11 metrics are being met, and that they're specific concrete
12 emission reduction quantifiable reductions that are in the
13 plan and the specific measures that are being taken.

14 And so some of the things that have been said, I
15 agree with. Some of the measures are vague. They're not
16 specific. They don't say how much pollution is being
17 reduced. And I think CARB staff really needs to help the
18 communities and the districts to make them more specific.
19 It's not clear what CARB's evaluation is.

20 We had this conversation last week in West
21 Oakland. We all appreciated all the hard work that they
22 did. And they were first in line. I'm sure we're going
23 to appreciate Imperial Valley's next month. But where's
24 the place where we can try to help with making these plans
25 better? What -- I really invite the communities to ask

1 CARB to do that, to say these are the places where we need
2 your help, so that we know better what we can do to --
3 what we can do to help.

4 And so those are -- that's -- those are the
5 questions I have and the comments that I have, because I'm
6 concerned about what we do in the situation, for instance,
7 that we're hearing about in Shafter, where there are
8 pesticides that are clearly a concern for the community.
9 There's a debate about whether they're actually included
10 in the CERP and whether or not there's authority for the
11 district to deal with them.

12 And I think we're already included -- including
13 issues like land use in CERPs where the district clearly
14 doesn't have authority. So I'm not sure why pesticides
15 would be different or other issues like that, that the
16 community has raised that would relate to air pollution.

17 So I'd like to hear some response about that as
18 well, and not just for us, but for the communities, so
19 that they know, one, what kinds of things they can put in
20 their CERPs, and two, what's the decision-making process.
21 How does CARB get our hands around those issues and can we
22 revise a plan that comes to us when community members are
23 asking for changes that might not have been reflected by
24 the district approved version.

25 So I know that's a lot. Apologize. But I need

1 to get it done before I leave.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIR NICHOLS: Well, do you want to have a brief
4 response, at this point, if you can on the two main issues
5 here.

6 OCAP DIVISION CHIEF MAGLIANO: So a couple of
7 things I think maybe starting with greater clarity on the
8 process for next year. As you mentioned, Boar Member
9 Takvorian, I think this concept of on-deck communities is
10 an appropriate one, similar to the direction that you
11 provided last year when we looked to communities that were
12 recommended but were not selected this year, as well as
13 communities that we heard a lot of testimony from today.

14 One of the things we can do is probably be more
15 direct in listing and outlining what we think that list of
16 communities are, recognizing that we'll still continue to
17 go through the public process and review that. And then,
18 of course, always subject to the available funding.

19 And then on the timeline for blueprint changes.
20 You know, we talked a little bit about, you know, some of
21 the things we're thinking about as part of that lessons
22 learned slide. But I think it is very appropriate, as we
23 go to the next consultation group, which I think is
24 actually the end of January, and we can start laying out
25 what that more specific timeline would look like, as well

1 as maybe start of having a straw man list of what some of
2 those more specific changes are.

3 And I know we've all been in conversations with
4 community groups and the air districts about what some of
5 that might look like and then how different interim steps
6 feed into that, from the Consultation Group, to Jonathan
7 London's convening, and then the timeline for completion.

8 And then going back to metrics, yes, obviously,
9 that was one of the key discussions that we had when we
10 were in West Oakland last week is that we've got this very
11 ambitious list of strategies, but you get emission
12 reductions when you actually implement those strategies.

13 So I think part of it is making sure, as we did
14 last week in Oakland, and making recommendations on how do
15 we strengthen implementation to make sure that there are
16 those very clear metrics, not only long term, but short
17 term, so that we know that there are interim products that
18 we can be tracking as we go along.

19 And then we do have the mechanism of the annual
20 reports that are required under both the statute and the
21 blueprint as our mechanism for looking at what has been
22 accomplished and where we might need to make changes. So
23 I think we also talked about the potential for an interim
24 update, maybe some time this summer.

25 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Okay. Well, thank you

1 for all that. The only thing I would ask is that as we --
2 that as we think about what the changes might be to the
3 blueprint, that perhaps we think about what guidance --
4 more specific guidance could be provided for the
5 communities that are coming up on developing their CERPs,
6 because we really don't want to be, after the fact, with
7 them. So we can provide some feedback, but I think it's
8 better if we can provide it from the beginning.

9 So I would put that at the top of the list of
10 things that hopefully Dr. Balmes' committee is going to
11 tackle.

12 Thank you.

13 (Laughter.)

14 CHAIR NICHOLS: Another -- another assignment.
15 Okay. All right. I was going to call next on Assembly
16 Member Garcia, just...

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER GARCIA: Thank you, Chair. I
18 guess I'll start by acknowledging all of the recognition
19 and kudos that has been shared. But I'd be remiss if I
20 didn't fully disclose that, you know, I was like Robin in
21 the whole grand scheme of things here to Cristina Garcia
22 being Batwoman --

23 (Laughter.)

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER GARCIA: -- and taking leadership
25 on the issue. She laid out the vision and put forward the

1 leadership for myself and several other colleagues to
2 follow.

3 And so I'd like to just transfer or for that
4 matter share the acknowledgments and the many thanks that
5 I've received here today to give to her. In fact, this
6 past week, as we both shared the space in Madrid at the
7 COP25, it was her who got to speak about AB 617 to other
8 members of the U.S. delegation, whether they were from
9 Minnesota, Washington State, Hawaii, or Maryland, who are
10 looking at what we're doing here in California, once
11 again, as pioneering the way when it comes to addressing
12 environmental issues, but more specifically environmental
13 justice issues in communities throughout California.

14 That man times outside of our state people do not
15 recognize that they exist. That there are, in many
16 instances, two Californias that we have and that we're
17 working with. As we've heard today, there are many other
18 communities that want to be and that should be part of a
19 targeted effort to addressing emission reductions and air
20 quality improvements.

21 So I just wanted to start my comments by
22 acknowledging the leadership and the vision that my
23 colleague Cristina Garcia laid out and I followed, as did
24 many other colleagues in this State Legislature.

25 With that being said, I -- you know, I bet you

1 all know that I'm happy that Imperial County was selected
2 in the first round and that the Eastern Coachella Valley
3 was selected in this round.

4 What I would like from the staff, if possible, is
5 on behalf of my colleague, Cristina Garcia, a logic behind
6 separating a community within her district. I believe
7 it's the Bell Gardens community that was mentioned by a
8 staff member of hers, if that could be included. And
9 there may be a good reason why it isn't. And there may be
10 a good explanation what the strategy behind that is. And
11 so that my colleague and the members of her community can
12 understand specifically what the logic there was.

13 Coming back to some of the efforts that we have
14 underway in the Coachella Valley, it was mentioned
15 numerous times that we have this huge body of water known
16 as the Salton Sea, 340 square miles to be specific of
17 emitting very toxic dust. It was not mentioned, but only
18 what ten or 15 times that I counted by the members of the
19 community that came to speak today, including the young
20 six-year old who spoke without notes, who told us what her
21 dilemma is along with her siblings in the Salton Sea
22 communities.

23 And so I wanted to make a request, given that we
24 now have two communities that have been identified for
25 this effort, if ARB can facilitate a conversation between

1 the two air districts to ensure that the gaps surrounding
2 the Salton Sea communities, although not part of 617
3 communities as identified, that the air districts will be
4 implementing certain types of practices and strategies to
5 improve the overall health of air monitoring in that area.

6 Because for those who may not know, the State has
7 a liability with the Salton Sea mitigation due to water
8 transfers that occurred in the early 2000s in some of the
9 largest quantities that the country has ever seen. And
10 the State signed on to say we will mitigate whatever
11 impacts that occur with this urban water transfer that
12 takes place.

13 And so public health, of course, is at the
14 forefront and center of AB 617 and demonstrating outcomes
15 after plans are being implemented. But we, in the
16 communities of the Salton Sea, want to see collective
17 account being taken into account, working closely with
18 other agencies like the natural resources agency that is
19 leading the way with the Salton Sea ten-year management
20 plan --

21 CHAIR NICHOLS: Right.

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER GARCIA: -- that is focused
23 solely, at least the first phase of it, on air quality
24 mitigation and ecohabitat that should result into better
25 public health outcomes for that area.

1 So I just wanted to make those comments. I'd
2 like a response in regards to whether or not that's
3 possible. Number two, the question regarding Cristina
4 Garcia's district representative about Bell Gardens. And
5 then lastly, just commend all of the community residents
6 that are here from the Salton Sea communities, Alianza,
7 Leadership Counsel, Comite Civico del Valle, HARC, those
8 who came here not associated with any of these groups.
9 And then in Spanish.

10 (Spoke in Spanish.)

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER GARCIA: I wanted to just say
12 that the work that was done prior to the selections of AB
13 617 Imperial County and now Eastern Coachella Valley, I
14 think it's the infrastructure that was built by the
15 community organizing around the issue that probably made
16 it that much more tangible for these communities to be
17 selected. So I acknowledged the presence of these groups
18 that are here, the many that are not, but that are working
19 on this issue also need to be commended. And again, thank
20 you for allowing me to say a few words regarding this
21 matter.

22 CHAIR NICHOLS: Of course, I think the staff can
23 probably respond. I certainly saw heads nodding with
24 respect to the effort to bring the two communities
25 together and bridge the divide around the Salton Sea. But

1 should I ask Karen or Richard do you want to say a few
2 words about this?

3 EXECUTIVE OFFICER COREY: Yes, Chair. And
4 Assembly Member Garcia, the Chair is right on point in
5 terms of the coordination with Imperial district in South
6 Coast in terms of the interaction. That follow up is
7 there and it will be strengthened, as well as the ongoing
8 coordination with resources agency IID and the others that
9 are involved in the Salton Sea efforts and the associated
10 task force. The linkage between the district in terms of
11 the gap that you identified, we get that, and there will
12 be follow up on it.

13 With respect to the boundaries for the Southeast
14 L.A. as you referred to in terms of the Assembly Member
15 Garcia. As was the case last time when boundaries were --
16 when the Board acted on communities to -- for the
17 preparation of community emission reductions plans, we
18 recognized that the follow up with both the District and
19 the steering committees, there will be some further
20 engagement and refinement of boundaries.

21 In other words, the blueprint was written to
22 recognize some adjustments to boundaries as is the
23 resolution here. So there is flexibility to recognize
24 what you just described. And I have followed up with the
25 district on that count, as well as we'll engage the

1 steering committee.

2 And, you know, Mr. Hamilton mentioned that that
3 process last time took longer than it should have, in
4 terms of in Fresno. We recognize that and we believe this
5 can be responded to. So it hasn't been finalized. But if
6 the Board acts and directs as recommended, those are
7 preliminary boundaries, and you have our commitment to
8 follow up with the District and the steering committee
9 with respect to the recommended adjustment.

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER GARCIA: Okay. Thank you. I
11 would just like to say that, you know, last year, we found
12 ourselves in a similar situation.

13 CHAIR NICHOLS: Yes.

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER GARCIA: And we expressed the
15 desire to see the Air Resources Board continue to work
16 with the communities that were not selected and to share
17 the information, the plans that are being developed, the
18 practices with the communities that spoke today, that
19 spoke last time, so that because they're not designated a
20 AB 617 community, that it does not preclude them from
21 reaping direct benefits of best practices, and perhaps
22 even other resources that may be available outside of the
23 617 --

24 CHAIR NICHOLS: Yes, absolutely.

25 ASSEMBLY MEMBER GARCIA: -- pot of money.

1 CHAIR NICHOLS: And that I think we -- in the
2 past, we have made information available about other
3 resources that communities could access. And hopefully,
4 we can do even a better job of that.

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER GARCIA: And then on the
6 resources point, I just want to say that we're going to
7 need all the help from the folks that spoke today, the
8 communities that were selected, the communities that
9 weren't selected to make sure that in this next fiscal
10 year's budget that we are addressing the funding issue for
11 the existing communities, as well as these new additional
12 communities. And, of course, you know, the point-to money
13 in my perspective is the GGRF funds, the proceeds from our
14 carbon program, and, you know, that we continue to see
15 consistent auctions.

16 CHAIR NICHOLS: Um-hmm.

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER GARCIA: And that we shouldn't be
18 put in a place where we have to pick between investing in
19 clean water or clean air. Because ultimately, we're
20 talking about the same populations, geographically located
21 in the same regions that we are selecting today and that
22 we selected last year, and then those that aren't
23 selected. It's the same people, the same communities, the
24 same fenceline communities that are facing environmental
25 disproportionately impacted problems.

1 So I just wanted to say that, you know,
2 collectively, we're going to have to really drum up a lot
3 of momentum behind a significant budgetary ask.

4 Those are my comments. Thank you again for your
5 attention.

6 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

7 I'm going to have a very hard time getting the
8 image of Cristina Garcia as Batwoman with you as Robin out
9 of my head.

10 (Laughter.)

11 CHAIR NICHOLS: I may not even try.

12 (Laughter.)

13 CHAIR NICHOLS: That's great. It's -- it's
14 terrific. No, I think she would look great as -- be great
15 as Batwoman.

16 All right. Do we have others?

17 Yes, Mr. Gioia.

18 BOARD MEMBER GIOIA: Great. I want to first
19 start by thanking everyone who came today, because I
20 think -- and let me just say, we hear you. And that all
21 of you who've come today are essentially saying the same
22 thing, which is we want our air pollution issues addressed
23 now. We want them addressed as quickly as possible. We
24 don't want to wait. And you're all right. You're all
25 absolutely right. That's what I think collectively we all

1 want to be doing.

2 I live in Richmond. I represent Richmond, which
3 is also an AB 617 community. So I understand the passion
4 that those of us who live in these communities feel about
5 the need for quick action.

6 And I want to say something about just -- not
7 just the AB 617 process, but the other things that are
8 happening. I think it's important for us to also
9 remember, as important as AB 617 is, it's a process. It's
10 not the only vehicle to address a lot of these issues.
11 And that the importance of continuing to advocate for new
12 regulations within our own air districts, new regulations
13 at the State level. So let me just say something about
14 that.

15 Even with AB 617, even if you're not in an AB 617
16 community currently, we're not standing still. There are
17 a lot of things happening to benefit communities across
18 the state. Yesterday, we had a discussion about a new
19 truck rule that would really require -- we would be the
20 first agency in the world to actually require the
21 manufacturer and sale of zero-emission electric trucks.
22 And we're doing that as quickly as we can.

23 In fact, yesterday, we talked as a board about
24 moving faster than what was in the staff proposal. And a
25 lot of it is because of the things you have said over

1 time, which is we need to clean out dirty diesel trucks as
2 quickly as possible.

3 And while AB 617 is a process to recommend that,
4 we already know that. And so while incentive funding can
5 switch that out, a regulation by this agency can make that
6 happen as well.

7 We also had a meeting in West Oakland last week
8 about a proposed rule to - this is more for the portside
9 communities - to require more ships to plug in to shore
10 power and turn off their dirty diesel auxiliary engines.

11 I use those as just two examples of actions
12 occurring here to reduce air pollution in the most highly
13 impacted communities, whether or not that community is an
14 AB 617 status.

15 I serve on the Bay Area Air Quality Management
16 District Board, so I can speak to regulations we're
17 working on - and other air districts are working on their
18 own sets of regulations, - are new rules to reduce
19 emissions from stationary sources, like refineries. We're
20 working on numerous rules that would affect communities
21 throughout the Bay Area that are not AB 617 communities
22 today.

23 So I think all of you as advocates can continue
24 to advocate for those things at your local air district at
25 a local city council when there's a land-use issue. And I

1 think you've already shown you're effective at what you
2 do. And so I just want to offer that as -- as action
3 that's important to do.

4 Getting back to AB 617. Yes, there is a resource
5 issue. I wish local air districts and the State Air Board
6 had more money to increase the number of AB 617
7 communities. And I know how hard the staff at the Bay
8 Area Air District are working to do the two communities
9 that we've designated to do them right, West Oakland and
10 Richmond.

11 I've gone to basically every - I missed one -
12 steering committee -- community steering committee meeting
13 in Richmond. And I'm always impressed by the level of
14 discussion, by the leadership of community steering
15 committee, some of whom are here today - and thank you for
16 your leadership - by the staff who are working hard to
17 translate that leadership into action.

18 So it's -- this is a very time-consuming process.
19 And so I know Assembly Member Garcia and his colleagues
20 are going to consider, and I know he's advocated, for us
21 to get more funding. And you all should be advocating to
22 your legislators, just as you've come and advocated to us,
23 because they're the ones that control the purse strings to
24 get more money to fund this process.

25 And that will allow us to add more communities

1 quicker. And I know the ones we're adding all deserve.
2 There's others that deserve to be added. But we don't
3 want to see this as a competition.

4 I know my colleague Diane Takvorian who works on
5 these issues on the front lines, you know, understands the
6 importance of developing best practices from these. So
7 one of the things we're hoping is to get best practices
8 out of this process, that can be used in other
9 communities, whether or not an AB 617 community exists,
10 that community is designated as one.

11 Because remember, AB 617 did not give more
12 authority in us, a local air district, or a city to take
13 action. It just developed a process where the community
14 leads the way to help tell what all of us should be doing.

15 I'll close with one last point. Make sure I'm
16 covering it. And that's that the -- the resource issue is
17 one that we also want to show that the benefits we get are
18 deserving of the investment. And I know the air districts
19 are all putting together the best information they can to
20 show this.

21 And I'm impressed by the plan from West Oakland.
22 But we also know that the plans are really the start of a
23 new chapter, which is a chapter to actually get them
24 implemented, right? These plans won't mean anything if we
25 can't get them implemented. And I think we all stand

1 ready and committed at whatever level, our local hats or
2 the State hat, to helping get these plans implemented, so
3 that they make a tangible difference in communities around
4 the state.

5 So with that -- and I'll -- I appreciate again
6 the work that I've seen happen in my own city where I
7 live, and I'm looking forward to -- as Richmond continues
8 for -- I support continue -- I just may as well add,
9 Richmond continuing for another year as a monitoring
10 community, because that's what the community steering
11 committee voted to do, and I want to respect that.

12 And then they will transition to an emissions
13 reduction community after that. There was a speaker who
14 said we should make a commitment that all the monitoring
15 communities become emission reduction communities. I
16 think we've already made that commitment. I think we've
17 already said that and that will happen at the timing that
18 is requested by the local community.

19 CHAIR NICHOLS: Okay. Thank you.

20 Other commenters?

21 I know Dr. Balmes wanted to speak. Do you have
22 a --

23 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Mr. De La Torre has got his
24 hand up.

25 CHAIR NICHOLS: All right. Hector. Our

1 system -- our system here is not great, if I'm -- it's
2 mostly me who has a problem.

3 Go ahead.

4 BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: Thank you.

5 I want -- I'm going to start with the Southeast
6 because I live there. I'm in this community. In fact, I
7 was just telling Sandy, the picture that is there is right
8 by my house. I'm sure that was not on purpose. It was
9 just a coincidence.

10 (Laughter.)

11 BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: But I recognize those
12 big yellow stacks anywhere. I drive by them all the time
13 and they stink. But when I looked at the map, and to the
14 question about north -- the northern part of Bell
15 Gardens -- and I noticed all of Bell is not in here. I
16 assume that those communities are part of the adjoining
17 community -- 617 community that was already selected,
18 because the railyards are in the picture there of the map.
19 So is that accurate?

20 I don't have the old --

21 OCAP DIVISION CHIEF MAGLIANO: Right.

22 BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: -- the old -- the
23 other one.

24 OCAP DIVISION CHIEF MAGLIANO: I think you're
25 correct. And I don't know if we still have the South

1 Coast representative here. But in the South Coast, many
2 of their communities actually sort of adjoin each other
3 and cover much of the freight corridor.

4 BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: Yeah. I think that's
5 what's going on Assembly Member Garcia is that it's in the
6 neighboring district that was already selected. Because
7 as I look at it, the railyards are there. They're in the
8 picture, so I assume that they're right up against each
9 other.

10 DR. FINE: I'm Philip Fine, Deputy Executive
11 Officer at South Coast.

12 So the first year community did include the
13 western part of Commerce and the railyards. Both
14 railyards are part of the study area, so they're eligible
15 for looking at the emissions and trying to reduce the
16 emissions. This community is to the south of there, so
17 I'm not sure the City of Bell itself is part of the
18 first-year community. We have it defined as a high
19 priority community for a potential subsequent year.

20 But the sources that affect those communities are
21 covered, everything in Vernon and those railyards, because
22 they're sandwiched between now the first-year community
23 and the second-year community.

24 BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: Yeah, I can't imagine

25 DR. FINE: So they'll benefit greatly from all

1 the work that we're doing.

2 BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: Yeah, Bell, Maywood,
3 and Commerce have to be. I mean, the railyards are right
4 there. Huntington Park is in this one.

5 But anyway, that was my sense was that it's
6 probably because of this -- these two districts being
7 right next to each other. The dominant feature in the one
8 that was already selected are the railyards. The dominant
9 feature here is the 710 freeway and Industrial. So I
10 think that's why they're different and it makes sense to
11 me.

12 The Southeast communities were in the top ten
13 last time. You'll remember I spoke about this. And we
14 were bumped. And so we had to wait till this cycle. And
15 I spoke, at that time, about not liking it, but the
16 rationale was right. It was true. And I think that's --
17 that leads me to the second point, which is this is always
18 intended to be, what I call, a sampler platter of
19 California, rural areas, goods movement corridors, port
20 areas, et cetera, different characteristics.

21 That's what's important here, is that these ten,
22 and now with these extra ones, reflect characteristics
23 that impact those communities, different kinds of
24 pollution that take place in those communities, so that we
25 can learn how to address those problems, not just in these

1 ten or 13, but up and down the state. So that if we learn
2 something that works in Shafter, we can take that to
3 Coachella. We can take that to other rural communities.

4 If we learn something in Wilmington, we can take
5 that to West Oakland and vice versa. So these are not
6 static. I know it was mentioned earlier. They're not
7 meant to be these little fiefdoms. They're meant to be --
8 that's why our staff is connected to all -- all of them,
9 so that they can see what's working, what great ideas are
10 coming out of these various communities and apply them
11 elsewhere.

12 So we don't have to wait. Whether you are
13 selected today, or next year, or three years from now or
14 hot, whatever we learn that's working, we're going to
15 apply. Hopefully, we'll have the money to do that.

16 So I think that's the most important thing.
17 Related to rural communities, the pesticide issue, I agree
18 with Board Member Takvorian, we need to incorporate. I
19 had discussions with people from that community. It's
20 obvious that that's an issue in that community. And it
21 needs to be incorporated somehow, whether it's through DPR
22 being engaged, whether it's through us being engaged. It
23 seems pretty clear to me. If those pesticides are
24 airborne, they're airborne. And so that -- we have to
25 figure out how we incorporate those into the plan, not

1 just there, but anywhere that's an issue.

2 Urban communities, goods movement. You know,
3 whether you're in South Gate, or Northern Bel Gardens, or
4 West Oakland, goods movement is a problem. So we clearly
5 have to address that. Industrial communities, a lot of
6 the folks from South Central were mentioning the different
7 kinds of industrial facilities that are in those
8 communities. We have those too.

9 So whether it's in Hunt -- a chrome plating plant
10 in Huntington Park or a chrome plating plant in South
11 Central L.A., the same -- same thing. Whatever we learn
12 in one, we can adapt to the other.

13 Very importantly it's been mentioned in terms of
14 resources, we just have limited capacity. We're -- our
15 small team, Karen's small team, is having to run up and
16 down the state to all of these meetings, and make sure
17 that things are going smoothly, and we're kind of looking
18 over your shoulder. We're not running anything, but we're
19 monitoring it all.

20 And we have limited staff resources, funding
21 resources. I've been to some of these meetings in these
22 communities. And the air districts first thing they
23 always tell me is we need more money. And, you know, it's
24 we -- don't have more than what we're given. So that's an
25 issue.

1 But as we're -- again, as we're implementing
2 these ten and now these other three, we're going to learn
3 things, we're going to adapt those and use them in other
4 places up and down the state.

5 And I'll close with this. This concept of
6 microarea community mitigation is absolutely unique.
7 There is no one on the planet that is doing this and we
8 just started it. So we're not experts. We're learning as
9 we go along. We're facing challenges as they pop up and
10 trying to address them.

11 But as I go and talk to folks from other states,
12 I've even had discussions with people in other countries,
13 and I describe this to them, they can't believe we're
14 doing it, because it is so targeted. They don't -- they
15 don't think in those terms and we didn't either up until a
16 couple years ago. But it is really important to recognize
17 that, that we are looking at the community level. We are
18 trying to address these things in California that other
19 people aren't even thinking about. It's not even on their
20 radar.

21 We're going to be successful because this Board
22 is committed to doing it, because the Legislature is
23 supporting us in doing it, and so I have no doubt we're
24 going to be successful.

25 I don't know what the time frame for that is

1 going to be. I don't know that it's going to be
2 successful everywhere at the same time. But we are going
3 to be successful with this, because we are determined to
4 do it.

5 (Spoke in Spanish.)

6 CHAIR NICHOLS: Okay. Dr. Balmes.

7 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Thank you, Madam Chair.

8 And I -- I'm glad that I'm following articulate messages
9 from both Hector De La Torre, Diane Takvorian, and even
10 Supervisor Gioia.

11 So as I've said many times, AB 617 charging us
12 with actually addressing environmental injustice is
13 transformative potentially. Hector just was very
14 articulate about that. So that's part of the reason we
15 have to get it right, because everybody is looking to us.
16 We said that yesterday about the Advanced Clean Truck
17 Rule. We have to get that right and we have to get this
18 right.

19 And I'm actually proud to be on the Board and
20 excited about the possibility of getting it, right but
21 we're not obviously there yet.

22 So I wanted to mention the health metrics issue
23 that Ms. Takvorian brought up, because I'm not sure if
24 Assembly Member Garcia was in the room early today when I
25 was talking about that. But I believe that the original

1 sponsor, Cristina Garcia, wanted to see our efforts in AB
2 617 communities, the monitoring, the emission reduction
3 plans, to make a difference in terms of health. And
4 certainly, the selected communities and the wider EJ
5 community has wanted to see us do something about health
6 and we talked about it this morning, so I won't belabor
7 it.

8 But I wanted Assembly Member Garcia to hear that
9 I think we might need some budgetary help on the part of
10 health departments, the State and county health
11 departments, for the -- initially, the selected
12 communities to do at least some pilot work. I suggested
13 this morning that asthma exacerbations might be the
14 easiest one to do it. A lot of thought would be -- would
15 be needed. But I -- I do think to connect the dots to --
16 we need to have some health metrics down the line.

17 And I was fine with us not starting with that,
18 because it's -- it's a heavy enough lift what we're doing
19 now, but I think we need to move towards that. So I just
20 want to make sure you heard that.

21 I also agree about the ambient pesticide issue.
22 As many of you are probably tired of hearing me say, I've
23 worked in the San Joaquin Valley area since 1999 and I've
24 heard about ambient pesticides the entire time as a major
25 concern on the part of communities down there. I think

1 I -- I actually even got a grant from the CDC to study
2 that. But it turned out that it was my lack of knowledge
3 about who was really exposed to ambient pesticides from
4 agricultural application in Fresno, so we actually really
5 didn't have the population in Fresno that was exposed.
6 It's really more in the rural communities around the San
7 Joaquin Valley cities.

8 So Shafter I agree with the community concerns
9 that we address ambient pesticides. And I realize it's
10 not been in our bailiwick in the past, but I think we're
11 really forced to be -- to have to deal with it now. So I
12 thank you, both Ms. Takvorian and Mr. De La Torre for
13 bringing that up.

14 In terms of learning from the selected
15 communities, I totally support what's been said about
16 that. One of the things that I wanted to impart to
17 community members from SCOPE and the Vallejo activists, if
18 any of those folks are still here, is that keep your
19 organizing efforts going, because it really is -- it
20 really helps. West Oakland was well organized. They were
21 ready to sort of go when AB 617 came out. IVAN in the
22 Imperial Valley also similarly well organized.

23 And part of that organization is reaching out to
24 your air district, because if you can show a partnership
25 with the air district, that will help you in the selection

1 process down the line. It isn't just having bad air.
2 It's having community organization, which clearly is
3 present. You guys came today and that was really good for
4 us to hear, but also working with your district.

5 So I won't go on, because I'm sure other people
6 want to say things. I'm -- I think AB 617 -- I thank the
7 Legislature for giving us AB 617, because it is -- it is a
8 law that has caused this Board, that's Board members and
9 staff, to really address environmental justice. You know,
10 we were talking about it for a long time, but I think
11 we're really doing it now.

12 And, you know, initially, baby steps. And I'd
13 like to think we're at least at the toddler stage now.

14 (Laughter.)

15 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: I want to keep going. We
16 need more help from the Legislature. We need to try to
17 find ways to help communities that haven't been selected
18 so far and we need to help the -- what did you call it --
19 say, Karen, the tiered up or --

20 OCAP DIVISION CHIEF MAGLIANO: I think it was on
21 deck.

22 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: On deck. Thank you. The
23 on-deck communities to get all the way to selection.

24 But thank you.

25 CHAIR NICHOLS: Other Board members wish to

1 speak.

2 BOARD MEMBER MITCHELL: There isn't much more
3 left to say, because I heartily agree with everything that
4 has been said so far. And certainly support the
5 recommendation of staff. What this does is increase the
6 ten communities we chose to 13, and the three that are in
7 the South Coast District now become five.

8 And as we've noted, funding is really important,
9 because the real test will come next year when we're
10 implementing the first plans. And I think there's -- we
11 will learn some lessons from implementing our first plans
12 that can carry across our boundaries into the other
13 communities. And as Mr. De La Torre said, we choose
14 communities by the characteristics in those communities.
15 What are the big sources of pollution? And it doesn't
16 necessarily coincide with the boundary of the cities. But
17 what you decide in the community that's chosen does float
18 across the boundary into those communities that still feel
19 the effects of the sources of that pollution. And so they
20 are addressed and hopefully aided and in better situation
21 for that work.

22 The metrics is a big issue. And we've seen from
23 the comments of the steering committees out of almost all
24 of them that metrics is important. But it's really hard
25 to -- I think it's easier for us to get metrics on the

1 amount of pollution that we've reduced, but it's harder to
2 get metrics on the health. You know, what happens between
3 the sources of -- and reductions of pollution and the
4 health outcomes. That's harder to get to.

5 But I do think even if we get metrics on the
6 amount of pollution reduced, it's helpful for the
7 communities to know that something is actually being done
8 and that we are making progress.

9 So we'll be back here in a year with -- after
10 implementation of some of the CERPs -- of all the CERPs
11 that are out there. And hopefully, we will have some
12 lessons learned and we'll be ready to embark on the next
13 round.

14 The on-deck communities, Dr. Balmes is very
15 correct. The communities that are organized are the more
16 likely ones to get selected, simply because they already
17 have a framework on which we can build. And so for those
18 of you that came today that are on-deck communities, I
19 urge you to take the advice of Dr. Balmes. That
20 organization is important within your communities.

21 Thank you so much. We look forward to having a
22 good year next year with implementing our first plans.

23 CHAIR NICHOLS: Okay. I'm going to take that as
24 a motion to approve the staff report.

25 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Second.

1 CHAIR NICHOLS: All in favor, please say aye?

2 (Unanimous aye vote.)

3 (Board Member Takvorian not present.)

4 CHAIR NICHOLS: Any opposed?

5 Any abstentions?

6 No.

7 Great. It's done. And thank you all. This is
8 good work and good progress. And we're definitely lifted
9 up by the energy and enthusiasm of the communities. So we
10 couldn't possibly do this on our own.

11 We need to shift here to one last item of
12 business also related to the San Joaquin Valley. And that
13 will be the last item for today's meeting. So we're
14 actually pretty much on schedule, amazingly enough.

15 All right. The final item on our agenda for
16 today is Item number 19-12-2, the San Joaquin Valley
17 Agricultural Equipment Incentive Measure. This item
18 represents the first step in meeting a commitment from the
19 valley state -- the valley's SIP strategy to achieve
20 SIP-creditable emissions reductions from agricultural
21 equipment by replacing the oldest and dirtiest
22 agricultural equipment with the cleanest technology
23 available. So this is a measure from the SIP that the
24 State took responsibility for and we now have to fulfill
25 that commitment.

1 Mr. Corey.

2 EXECUTIVE OFFICER COREY: Yes. Thanks, Chair.

3 The San Joaquin Valley PM2.5 SIP adopted by the
4 Board this past January included a commitment to achieve
5 emission reductions from incentivizing the turnover of
6 older agricultural equipment. The measure being
7 considered today is a significant downpayment on our
8 overall commitment to clean-up agricultural equipment in
9 the valley.

10 For many years, the San Joaquin Valley Air
11 Pollution Control District and Agricultural Industry have
12 successfully implemented agricultural incentive projects
13 ultimately exceeding the targeted reductions laid out in
14 the 2007 Ozone SIP. The success is due to a collaborative
15 effort to secure dedicated funding and disburse it quickly
16 and efficiently.

17 With this measure, staff documents that the
18 emission reductions from incentivizing equipment turnover
19 meet EPA's requirements for SIP credit. The value
20 incentive -- or rather the valley incentive measure
21 demonstrates that with identified funding programs,
22 California has already achieved half of the emission
23 reductions anticipated from agricultural equipment
24 specified in the Valley PM2.5 SIP.

25 This measure includes existing projects funded

1 through the Carl Moyer Program, and USDA's Natural
2 Resources Conservation Service Program, and future
3 projects using the first two years of FARMER funding.

4 While we're halfway there, continued funding is
5 necessary to achieve the remaining emission reductions and
6 provide healthy air quality to valley residents.

7 I'll now ask Austin Hicks of the Air Quality
8 Planning and Science Division to give the staff
9 presentation.

10 Austin

11 (Thereupon an overhead presentation was
12 presented as follows.)

13 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HICKS: Thank you, Mr.
14 Corey.

15 Good afternoon, Chair Nichols and members of the
16 Board. As Mr. Corey just described, the valley incentive
17 measure fulfills CARB's commitment to adopt a measure
18 quantifying the emissions reductions from the incentivized
19 turnover of older agricultural equipment and provides a
20 significant downpayment on CARB's overall SIP commitment
21 in the valley.

22 --o0o--

23 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HICKS: First, let us
24 take a step back and review how we got here.

25 Mobile sources are the largest contributor to the

1 formation of fine particulate matter, or PM2.5 in the
2 valley. Thus, in October 2018, CARB adopted the Valley
3 State SIP Strategy to provide mobile source emission
4 reduction commitments needed for the valley to attain
5 federal PM2.5 standards in 2024 and 2025. As part of
6 this, CARB committed to adopt an incentive measure to
7 achieve emission reductions from agricultural equipment.

8 Our commitment was to take initial action by 2020
9 and then achieve emissions reductions of 11 tons per day
10 of oxides of nitrogen, or NOx, and 0.08[SIC] tons per day
11 of PM2.5 emission reductions by 2024. For 2025, the
12 emissions reductions commitment was for ten tons per day
13 of NOx and 0.8 tons per day of PM2.5.

14 The agricultural industry's history of strong
15 participation in incentive programs has driven the success
16 of reducing emissions from agricultural equipment, so much
17 so, that the agricultural industry met their 2017 ozone
18 commitment. Today's measure builds upon these exist --
19 existing successful incentive programs and is the first
20 step in fulfilling this commitment.

21 --o0o--

22 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HICKS: This measure
23 provides the legal mechanism to achieve SIP credit for the
24 associated emission reductions from agricultural equipment
25 from both existing and future projects.

1 The existing projects are already operating in
2 the valley today and we are quantifying the actual
3 emissions reductions from these projects. These projects
4 were funded through U.S. Department of Agricultural
5 Natural Resources Conservation Service, or NRCS, and
6 CARB's Carl Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards
7 Attainment Program, or Moyer Program.

8 For future projects, U.S. EPA requires that an
9 established funding source must be identified. CARB staff
10 have identified the Funding Agricultural Replacement
11 Measures for Emission Reductions, or FARMER Program,
12 established in 2018 as the funding source for future
13 projects.

14 All three of these programs, Moyer, NRCS, and
15 FARMER target the replacement of older and dirtier
16 agricultural equipment with newer and cleaner engines.
17 While the district implements the incentive programs
18 maintains all project-level information, CARB is the State
19 agency responsible for ensuring this emission reduction
20 commitment is met.

21 --o0o--

22 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HICKS: So why target
23 this source in the valley?

24 As shown by the outermost rings of these two
25 charts, on a statewide basis, agricultural equipment

1 accounts for about eight percent of the total NOx and PM
2 from mobile sources.

3 But in the San Joaquin Valley, agricultural
4 equipment accounts for 22 percent of NOx and 27 percent of
5 PM from mobile sources.

6 --o0o--

7 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HICKS: Incentives
8 continue to be a highly cost effective means of reducing
9 emissions from agricultural equipment. This graph shows
10 that compared to other source categories, off-road
11 agricultural equipment replacements, as shown by the green
12 bar on the left, cost approximately \$7,100 per ton,
13 significantly less than the \$10,400 per ton average for
14 the Moyer Program as a whole.

15 The cost effectiveness of these reductions led
16 staff to include an incentive measure in the Valley State
17 SIP Strategy.

18 --o0o--

19 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HICKS: Earlier, as
20 mentioned, CARB adopted the Valley State SIP Strategy in
21 2018. This strategy builds on existing mobile source
22 controls and includes new measures, both regulatory and
23 incentive, to reduce emissions of NOx and directly emitted
24 PM2.5.

25 This table is from the Valley State SIP Strategy

1 and shows the full list and schedule of State measures
2 needed for attainment of the federal PM2.5 standard in the
3 valley. The highlighted section represents the State's
4 commitment to consider an agricultural equipment incentive
5 measure that quantifies the emission reductions from
6 incentivized turnover of older and dirtier agricultural
7 equipment. We are fulfilling part of that commitment
8 today.

9 --o0o--

10 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HICKS: In the strategy,
11 CARB estimated 11 tons per day of NOx emission reductions
12 could be achieved from incentivizing the replacement of
13 agricultural equipment. This diagram outlines how these
14 reductions will be achieved over the course of the SIP.

15 The yellow portions represent today's action that
16 totals approximately six tons per day of NOx emissions
17 reductions, implemented Moyer and NRCS projects, and new
18 projects funded with first two years of FARMER. Today's
19 measure is a down payment and achieves half of the needed
20 emission reductions identified from the agricultural
21 equipment sector.

22 The pink section of this diagram represents a
23 future action that could be funded through mechanisms such
24 as additional years of FARMER Program funding or other
25 incentive programs to achieve the remaining emission

1 reductions needed to meet our SIP commitment. These
2 future projects will be accounted for in one or more
3 future SIP actions that we will bring to the Board.

4 --o0o--

5 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HICKS: I will now go
6 over what is included in this measure. The Valley
7 Incentive Measure quantifies emissions reductions from
8 existing Moyer Program, and NRCS projects, and from
9 projects to be funded with the first two years of FARMER
10 Program funding.

11 Per U.S. EPA requirements, CARB will maintain a
12 dedicated webpage housing the annual demonstration reports
13 submitted to U.S. EPA and the associated project
14 information. The associated information will be
15 included -- will include project data, so the public can
16 track project's completion and reproduce the emission
17 reduction associated with this measure. In other words,
18 the public can enforce whether CARB is getting the
19 emission reductions committed to in this measure.

20 --o0o--

21 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HICKS: Not all the
22 money is coming from federal, local, or State funds. The
23 agricultural industry has made private investments to
24 match public incentives used in turning over older diesel
25 vehicles and equipment. Based on implemented projects

1 included in this measure - those funded in part through
2 the Moyer Program and NRCS programs - over \$236 million in
3 public funding has been used to replace 3,200 pieces of
4 equipment since 2015.

5 The agricultural industry has stepped up and
6 matched public investments by investing an additional \$194
7 million to clean up equipment from this sector.

8 Through this combination of industry, federal,
9 State, and local funding, \$430 million have been invested
10 in cleaner agricultural equipment in the past five years.

11 --o0o--

12 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HICKS: The agricultural
13 equipment replacement program has been successful in
14 achieving emission reductions because of the collaboration
15 of many partners, industry, the air district, our
16 colleagues at NRCS, and here at CARB. As we look toward
17 achieving the final increment of emission reductions from
18 this source category, partnership will continue to be key.
19 You will hear from several of these partners following the
20 staff presentation.

21 --o0o--

22 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HICKS: The FARMER
23 Program has been a critical funding source for the San
24 Joaquin Valley Agricultural Equipment Incentive Measure.
25 The FARMER Program is designed to achieve greenhouse gas

1 emission reductions and cost effective criteria pollutant
2 and toxic air contaminant emission reductions from
3 agricultural vehicle and equipment projects.

4 Funding for the FARMER Program has come from
5 various sources and the statewide program allocations are
6 made on an annual basis. As shown in the graph, in fiscal
7 year 2017-18, the FARMER Program received \$135 million
8 statewide through AB 109, and AB 134 with \$85 million
9 coming from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, or GGRF,
10 \$35 million from the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and
11 Vehicle Technology Fund, and \$15 million from the Air
12 Quality Improvement Program, or AQIP.

13 In fiscal year 2018-19, the FARMER Program
14 received \$132 million statewide through SB 856, with \$112
15 million coming from GGRF and \$20 million from the
16 California Tire Recycling Management Fund.

17 In the first two years of the FARMER Program, the
18 valley received about \$212 million, of which \$155 million
19 will be invested in off-road ag -- off-road mobile
20 agricultural equipment replacement projects. These
21 projects are expected to achieve 680 lifetime tons of
22 PM2.5, and 10,600 lifetime tons of NOx reductions in the
23 valley.

24 However, in fiscal year 2019-20, the FARMER
25 Program received \$65 million from GGRF statewide of GGRF

1 funds through AB 74, represented by the third green bar on
2 this chart. The purple line on this slide indicates that
3 between 2020 and 2023 ongoing funding of \$193 million a
4 year statewide is needed to achieve the required emission
5 reductions from agricultural equipment.

6 Ensuring a sustained and higher level of funding
7 for the FARMER Program over the next four years is
8 critical to ensuring the Valley SIP target is achieved.

9 --o0o--

10 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HICKS: Now, I would
11 like to focus on U.S. EPA integrity elements of this
12 incentive measure. U.S. EPA has specified that an
13 incentive measure to be SIP-creditable it must include
14 these four integrity elements: surplus, quantifiable,
15 permanent, and enforceable.

16 A project is surplus if it is not used to fulfill
17 another requirement or other SIP-related program.
18 Eligible projects must replace a piece of equipment that
19 still has a useful life and physical inspections verify
20 the original equipment is operational.

21 For quantifiable, U.S. EPA requires that all
22 information and calculations used to quantify emission
23 reductions is publicly available. Therefore, equations
24 and information to calculate the emission reductions are
25 included in this measure and project level data will be

1 available on CARB's website.

2 U.S. EPA considers a project to be permanent if
3 the State can ensure that the emission reductions occur in
4 practice for as long as they're relied upon in the SIP.
5 Record keeping, reporting, and application requirements
6 ensure that emissions are calculated correctly and
7 properly represented.

8 And finally, the emission reductions achieved
9 through these projects are considered enforceable for SIP
10 purposes, if all elements are independently verifiable and
11 program violations are defined with appropriate corrective
12 action, a responsible agency is identified, and citizens
13 have access to emissions-related information for
14 enforcement purposes.

15 Here, CARB is identified as the responsible
16 agency and the guidelines that govern those various
17 funding programs lay out specific requirements and
18 associated remedies. Project-level contracts between the
19 District and the private party provide further enforceable
20 elements.

21 --o0o--

22 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HICKS: In addition to
23 these integrity elements, E -- U.S. EPA requires assurance
24 that the reductions will happen. This mechanism ensures
25 that the public can enforce a associated emission

1 reductions identified in the Valley Incentive Measure and
2 is the portion of this measure that will be formally
3 submitted into the SIP.

4 The mechanism contains the emission reduction
5 commitment to achieve 5.9 tons per day of NOx emission
6 reductions and 0.3 tons per day of PM2.5 reductions. It
7 is -- also requires annual tracking of progress and
8 includes a commitment that CARB will adopt and submit
9 substitute measures to remedy any shortfall in emission
10 reductions, if projects are no longer operating in the
11 valley.

12 --o0o--

13 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HICKS: The Valley State
14 SIP Strategy included emission reduction targets for
15 agriculture -- agricultural equipment for two PM2.5
16 attainment years for two separate PM2.5 standards, 2024
17 and 2025.

18 This diagram shows how the Valley Agricultural
19 Incentive Measure achieves the emission reductions for
20 these two attainment years.

21 Agricultural equipment replacement projects have
22 a ten-year project life, which means that the emission
23 reductions from project -- from projects initiated in 2015
24 are SIP creditable through 2024, and projects initiated in
25 2016 are SIP creditable through 2025.

1 Due to the ten-year project life, projects --
2 project emission reductions in 2015 do not carry over to
3 2025, and thus, there's a difference in emission
4 reductions needed between these two attainment years.

5 --o0o--

6 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HICKS: The table on
7 this slide shows the emission reductions from the projects
8 we are talking about today. The Valley Incentive Measure
9 is estimated to achieve 5.9 tons per day of NOx and 0.3
10 tons per day of PM2.5 emission reductions in 2024; and 5.1
11 tons per day of NOx and 0.3 tons per day of PM2.5
12 emissions reductions in 2025.

13 As described in the previous slide, the
14 difference in emissions reductions from each attainment is
15 a function of the project life and timelines.

16 --o0o--

17 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HICKS: Looking forward,
18 as part of our overall air quality attainment strategy for
19 the valley, CARB is working to achieve emission reductions
20 from all mobile source categories, including agricultural
21 equipment. The measure being considered by the Board
22 today represents half of the targeted emission reductions
23 for ag -- from agricultural equipment, but continued
24 federal, State, and local incentive funding is crucial for
25 providing the remaining emission reduction commitment.

1 Year-after-year, applicants for the agricultural
2 equipment incentive programs exceed incentive funding
3 available in the valley. Due to this high demand, there
4 is an ongoing wait list of applicants. This indicates that
5 additional funding could be utilized promptly. Board
6 support in securing additional funding for these projects
7 will ensure the success of meeting our SIP commitment for
8 agricultural equipment in the valley and ultimately
9 attaining -- attainment of the PM2.5 standards.

10 As previously mentioned, staff estimates \$193
11 million a year will be needed statewide between now and
12 2023.

13 --o0o--

14 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HICKS: Staff recommends
15 that the Board adopt the Valley Incentive Measure,
16 including the Enforceable Implementation Reporting
17 Mechanism as a revision to the California SIP, and direct
18 the executive office to submit the Valley Incentive
19 Measure to U.S. EPA.

20 This concludes my presentation.

21 CHAIR NICHOLS: Okay. Thank you. It seems to be
22 a really worked out program, but obviously there's more to
23 come. So let's begin with our witnesses starting with
24 Roger Isom.

25 Good to see you. It's been a while.

1 MR. ISOM: Yes, it has. Good afternoon.

2 CHAIR NICHOLS: Good afternoon.

3 MR. ISOM: Roger Isom, California Cotton Ginners
4 and Growers. And I really don't have anything more to say
5 after that presentation, because it really says it all.
6 The last time I was here was when you guys adopted this
7 SIP measure. And at that time, I told you that ag would
8 no only meet our goal, we would exceed it.

9 CHAIR NICHOLS: Um-hmm.

10 MR. ISOM: And that's just exactly what's
11 happened. We've done everything that we said we would.
12 It's actually exceeded our expectations to be honest with
13 you. And as my colleague that works with me will be
14 talking, we've gone beyond just looking at new diesel.
15 We're actually looking at other technologies. And you'll
16 see just how successful that's been as well.

17 The thing is is we've got to continue this. We
18 need your help. We need you guys expressing the need for
19 this funding to continue, the FARMER funding. We're going
20 to do the same thing with the farm bill, and with Carl
21 Moyer, and all the other sources that we use. Farmers
22 will continue to step up, as has been said. There's over
23 \$200 million in applications sitting at the District right
24 now that can't be funded until more funds are received.

25 So we're going to be there. We're going to

1 continue to do it, and just would like to have your
2 support going forward to continue the success. You know,
3 the District right now is just barely workshopping some of
4 the regulations that are in the SIP. We're already
5 halfway there. So this is a great success story. We
6 hope that we can get the District to attainment for PM2.5,
7 which would be incredible.

8 But the other thing to remember too is that this
9 is also working towards ozone attainment, and, as you'll
10 hear in a minute, that we're also getting greenhouse gas
11 reductions, which is significant as well.

12 CHAIR NICHOLS: Right.

13 MR. ISOM: So this is, in my opinion, a great way
14 to end a Friday. This is a success story and we'd like to
15 have your support going forward.

16 Thank you.

17 CHAIR NICHOLS: Well, I think you will. Thanks a
18 lot.

19 Mr. Hamilton.

20 MR. HAMILTON: That was quick.

21 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: You could be just as quick.

22 MR. HAMILTON: I just -- for once I don't know
23 what to say.

24 (Laughter.)

25 MR. HAMILTON: So Central California Asthma

1 Collaborative is a huger supporter of the FARMER Program.
2 I want to say a great thanks to their staff for coming
3 down. And we were lucky enough to be able to arrange a
4 number of environmental justice advocates to sit down with
5 the team and make some contributions to that, that were
6 honored in the program itself. And I think it's probably
7 one of the better programs that we've ever seen for
8 incentive for ag.

9 From my perspective what we're asking for today
10 is really a grand new experiment. It's said that
11 desperate times require desperate measures. And
12 considering the Governor's lack of investment in our SIP,
13 I'm feeling pretty desperate about it at this point. And
14 I find myself supporting something I, and many of my
15 colleagues, have opposed for many years, that's
16 incentive-driven reductions in a SIP.

17 So we all know emissions must be surplus,
18 quantifiable, permanent, and enforceable. But what's
19 changed?

20 Well, one thing that's changed is CARB certifying
21 its role as being the entity that's going to quantify
22 those and ensure they're permanent. CARB will be
23 responsible for ensuring there's no backsliding. CARB
24 will be responsible for everything.

25 (Laughter.)

1 MR. HAMILTON: So just saying.

2 (Laughter.)

3 MR. HAMILTON: And the bullet in the enforcement
4 slide --

5 CHAIR NICHOLS: We love this program.

6 MR. HAMILTON: -- though does concern me, and I
7 really wish staff wouldn't say things quite like this. It
8 says and I quote, "Ensures the public can enforce the
9 emission reductions". The public can't enforce anything
10 in a SIP. Okay. So let's just be clear. That's not so.

11 But the fact that -- I -- and I don't see a
12 constructed public accountability process. So until
13 somebody builds that, and I'm happy to be part of it, you
14 know, that doesn't really apply. But what I see that
15 mitigates that concern is CARB naming itself as being
16 accountable for this. So I'm comfortable with that.

17 So -- and that's you folks. So make no mistake,
18 we'll be watching this closely. But we'll also be rooting
19 for it to be successful. So CCAC is going to go out on a
20 limb with you and support this measure. And let's get
21 this done.

22 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

23 Mr. Sheikh.

24 MR. SHEIKH: I realized I was a little bit far
25 away there from the podium, so I rushed up here.

1 Thank you. And first, thank you for two days of
2 Board meeting and for your patience through a lot of
3 discussion.

4 This program -- I just want to say ditto, ditto,
5 ditto to all the points that were made by CARB staff.
6 It's been such a source of pride at the Valley Air
7 District, because of the way that we've been able to bring
8 today CARB, the local ag community, advocate for funding.
9 And, of course, I really want to kind of end on that point
10 and keep this really short that we're actually at a
11 critical juncture here with the State budget process,
12 where we need to take advantage of what you just heard.
13 You have the ag community up here. You have the
14 environmental justice community up here, at least speaking
15 for Kevin. I'm not going to speak for anybody else in the
16 community.

17 But I see a lot of energy behind the positivity
18 that we've built in this program, as one that deals with
19 ozone, PM2.5, diesel particulate matter reduction. We've
20 exceeded targets. We actually have over \$200 million
21 worth of projects right now that are sitting in the queue
22 waiting to be funded.

23 We're funding them at a 50 percent level, well
24 below what you typically would see in a Moyer Program. So
25 you're seeing a lot of cost share by the ag community, and

1 actually making these projects happen. And they're doing
2 it taking advantage of new technology where electric
3 works. We've seen ag all-terrain vehicles being funded.
4 We're seeing the latest here on the diesel side, where
5 you're getting both NOx and particulate matter reductions.
6 It's been a very successful program.

7 It's great to see CARB continuing to work with us
8 to really make sure that we tell this story, so when we
9 go back, as we're doing right now through the legislative
10 process, we're able to show the success and advocate for
11 that increased funding that we need.

12 We can get it done, but we just need your support
13 to make sure it happens. I just have to say it's a little
14 disappointing not to see a lot of the folks that were here
15 earlier to actually look at what a great example this has
16 been, where we don't actually have the regulatory
17 authority in this particular case, but we've been able to
18 actually work together to make something happen. And it
19 really would have been a good story for a lot of folks
20 that were talking about some of the other issues earlier
21 to actually have seen it play out here, and what could be
22 done when we all work together.

23 So than you very much.

24 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

25 MR. MCGLOTHLIN: Good afternoon, Chair Nichols,

1 CARB Board members, and staff. My name is Chris
2 McGlothlin. I'm here with the Western Agricultural
3 Processors Association. Again, here to echo the
4 sentiments that were said previously by my predecessors,
5 as well as Samir, specifically looking at new technologies
6 focusing on outside of just tractors, which is kind of the
7 primary focus of a lot of these programs. But in reality,
8 we've replaced over 1,500 ag utility vehicles in the
9 Central Valley alone.

10 And to that point, Polaris has hired 70
11 employees. And Fresno Ag Equipment is the number one UTV,
12 ATV dealer in the nation at this point. And so to see a
13 buy-in from an industry for equipment like that that you
14 wouldn't normally think within a funding program to see
15 the success that it's had in our community has been great.

16 Our industry, not only for the ag UTV portion of
17 it, we're also looking at new technology specifically for
18 ag. The agricultural industry focusing primarily on
19 electric yard trucks, which haven't -- you know,
20 they're -- nothing has been proofed out yet. There's been
21 a couple of cases where we've seen some efficacy in other
22 industries, but we've already got a waiting list for ag
23 facilities wanting to sign up and receive incentive
24 funding to try out that equipment and have it on-site at
25 their facilities.

1 And so we're really encouraged by that. We
2 encourage you to support this measure moving forward. And
3 thank you.

4 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

5 MS. CREMERS: Good afternoon. Noelle Cremers
6 with the California Farm Bureau Federation. I want to
7 continue to express my appreciation CARB staff for working
8 with us on this. I think this is a great illustration of
9 how incentive measures work. As I've testified yesterday,
10 on the Advanced Clean Trucks Rule, I pointed out the value
11 of incentives. And this is a real-world example of where
12 we can work together and achieve the benefits of reducing
13 air pollution by using incentives and working together.

14 So oftentimes with regulations, you will reach
15 just the absolute minimum of the regulation. But with
16 incentives, we have plenty of examples of going above and
17 beyond what the original goal was. And I think this shows
18 this in past partnerships really show this.

19 So I just -- I appreciate all the work that's
20 gone into this. We're committed to continuing that effort
21 moving forward, and urge the adoption of incentive
22 measure.

23 Thank you.

24 CHAIR NICHOLS: Thank you.

25 MR. CUNHA: Good afternoon, Madam Chairman.

1 Manuel Cunha with Nisei Farmers League and I would like to
2 thank a few of the staff at this time, Mr. Richard Corey
3 and Kurt Karperos for all the continuing effort with your
4 staff. Michael Benjamin, all the work you've done, Lucy
5 or Lucinda, Erin Uchida, Michelle Buffington, and Mr.
6 Powers. The only man that's in that office that's with
7 these ladies, so he definitely has challenges of great
8 excitement.

9 But I want to thank your entire staff. They've
10 been tremendous. The concept as you heard today. And I
11 do appreciate in the document, whereas for you to take
12 your document that that has and put in there those four
13 circles that show the collaborative team, agriculture,
14 industry, EPA, federal, USDA, ARB. I think that those
15 four circles solved the entire whereas document. Because
16 without that, we would have not met our 2017 way ahead of
17 time, close to 19 tons, when we only needed five to ten.
18 And now we're here at this next step.

19 So the efforts of the funding is crucial. The
20 issue of getting enough money, we went to the Farm Bill,
21 we only used to get 25 million. In this last Farm Bill,
22 we were able to go back and get 37 million for the five
23 years, and that's important.

24 And so we need to do everything with the
25 Governor's office to go from the 65 million, where 52

1 million of that went for water and it should have been
2 with the Cap-and-Trade discussion for what we're doing.

3 So with your efforts of the Board, as well as
4 other folks, that we go back and we hope that the Governor
5 puts back into his 2020 budget for the 137. But more than
6 that, we need 190 some million, because of the backlog.
7 And we need to have that filled, because as of January 1,
8 our farmers are going to be challenged in the San Joaquin
9 Valley, Madam Chairman, of a reduction of 800,000 acres
10 because of the water crisis.

11 And we don't want to lose this type of concept of
12 working together and having the farmers -- they've put in
13 a lot of money. They don't get a free tractor. They
14 don't get a free harvester. They actually put their money
15 where their mouth is. And their farm -- and the
16 farmworkers making their jobs still available. And that's
17 what's important for these rural communities. You've got
18 43 rural communities in the San Joaquin Valley. They
19 depend on agriculture.

20 And these new tractors, new harvesters, yard
21 goats, and even ULTVs that the San Joaquin Valley was able
22 to do that and have Polaris as the only electric company
23 that had to put people to work and hire more people,
24 because of the demand and that creates a lot of jobs.

25 So, Madam Chair, I thank you for all your efforts

1 and your staff. But I want to commend Michael Benjamin
2 for working with us and his entire team. And we look
3 forward, Madam Chair, to work with you and your Board.

4 Thank you.

5 CHAIR NICHOLS: I appreciate it very much.

6 I'm sure you heard some of the earlier
7 conversation about resources. We're all a little on pins
8 and needles, because we don't know what's going to be
9 available in the budget for next year in all these areas.
10 But we understand the importance of this program. And it
11 is a SIP program, so it definitely has a very high
12 priority for us as well.

13 Okay. I think that concludes the testimony and
14 unless somebody has anything -- ah, Mr. Eisenhut.

15 Please.

16 BOARD MEMBER EISENHUT: I want to -- Manuel,
17 thank you for referring to the staff presentation. And I
18 hope all of the industry presenters who are here today
19 walk out with a copy of that presentation that reflects a
20 lot of work. And that is a document that I hope you share
21 with your constituents. It tells a great story. And it
22 deserves to be shared. So this is a program that's
23 proven, that's effective. And, Madam Chair, I would move
24 approval.

25 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Second.

1 CHAIR NICHOLS: All right. Don't all second at
2 once.

3 Officially -- excuse me. I did not officially
4 close the record. So let me do that first, but we'll
5 then -- that will be taken as having done, and now you've
6 moved and seconded the resolution.

7 And let's all take a vote.

8 All in favor, please say aye?

9 (Ayes.)

10 (Board Members Florez and Takvorian not present.)

11 CHAIR NICHOLS: Any opposed?

12 Great. This is a great way to end the December
13 Board meeting, I have to say. It's a really nice -- a
14 nice note to end on.

15 Yes, we should be breaking out the champagne.
16 But instead, we'll probably all be headed for airports,
17 and train stations, and whatever for the holidays.

18 But I do want to thank everybody, those who are
19 still here and those who left, and, of course, to my Board
20 and to the staff for a really remarkable year. And it
21 won't -- we won't get much rest, because we'll come back
22 in January with a lot of other big things to do. But this
23 has been a time of really great achievement. So thanks to
24 all and Happy Holidays.

25 I think we're adjourned.

(Thereupon the Air Resources Board meeting
adjourned at 3:02 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E O F R E P O R T E R

I, JAMES F. PETERS, a Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of California, do hereby certify:

That I am a disinterested person herein; that the foregoing California Air Resources Board meeting was reported in shorthand by me, James F. Peters, a Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of California, and was thereafter transcribed, under my direction, by computer-assisted transcription;

I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for any of the parties to said meeting nor in any way interested in the outcome of said meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 7th day of January, 2020.



JAMES F. PETERS, CSR
Certified Shorthand Reporter
License No. 10063