

VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

AIR RESOURCES BOARD

ZOOM PLATFORM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2022

4:02 P.M.

JAMES F. PETERS, CSR  
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APPEARANCES

BOARD MEMBERS:

Liane Randolph, Chair

Sandra Berg, Vice Chair

John Balmes, MD

Hector De La Torre

John Eisenhut

Senator Dean Florez

Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia

Davina Hurt

Gideon Kracov

Senator Connie Leyva

Tania Pacheco-Werner, PhD

Barbara Riordan

Supervisor Phil Serna

Dan Sperling, PhD

Diane Takvorian

Supervisor Nora Vargas

STAFF:

Richard Corey, Executive Officer

Edie Chang, Deputy Executive Officer, Planning, Freight,  
and Toxics

Chanell Fletcher, Deputy Executive Officer, Environmental  
Justice

APPEARANCES CONTINUED

STAFF:

Annette Hebert, Deputy Executive Officer, Southern California Headquarters and Mobile Source Compliance

Edna Murphy, Deputy Executive Officer, Internal Operations

Rajinder Sahota, Deputy Executive Officer, Climate Change and Research

Craig Segall, Deputy Executive Officer, Mobile Sources and Incentives

Ellen Peter, Chief Counsel

Catherine Dunwoody, Division Chief, Monitoring and Laboratory Division (MLD)

Dana Grubaugh, Senior Attorney, Legal Office

Warren Hawkins, Manager, Community Outreach and Enforcement Section, Enforcement Division

Adrianna Hernandez, Air Pollution Specialist, State Strategy Section, Community Planning Branch, Office of Community Air Protection (OCAP)

Vernon Hughes, Branch Chief, Community Air Monitoring Branch, MLD

Abigail May, Senior Attorney, Legal Office

Brian Moore, Manager, Community Planning Section, OCAP

Deldi Reyes, Director, OCAP

Jeremy Smith, Staff Air Pollution Specialist, Advanced Monitoring Techniques Section, Community Air Monitoring Branch, MLD

Ken Stroud, Branch Chief, Community Air Monitoring Branch, MLD

Lauren Zaremba-Schmidt, Staff Air Pollution Specialist, Community Planning Section, OCAP

APPEARANCES CONTINUED

ALSO PRESENT:

Alejandro Amador, Casa Familiar

Noe Aparicio

Ernesto Arevalo, Communities for a Better Environment

Victor Beas, Comite Civico del Valle

Josh Beth

John Bottorff, CleanEarth4Kids.org

Bobbi Burns, Global Plating, Inc.

Maria Cervantes

Ana Chiquete, Casa Familiar

Esther Cuevas

Jerry Desmond, Desmond & Desmond, LLC

Matt Dessert, Imperial County Air Pollution Control  
District

Maria Dominguez, Alameda County Public Health Department

Veronica Eady, Bay Area Air Quality Management District

Elsa Escalante

Irma Gomez

Esther Goolsby, Communities for a Better Environment

Justin Guzman, Aircraft X-ray Labs

Madeline Harris, Leadership Counsel for Justice and  
Accountability

Erica Hernandez

Jim Kennedy, Health Air Alliance

APPEARANCES CONTINUED

ALSO PRESENT:

Tung Le, California Air Pollution Control Officers Association

Bryan Leiker, Metal Finishing Association of California

Margie Lewis

Rudy Lopez

Leticia Casillas Luquin, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

Lupita Montoya, Environmental Health Coalition

Mario Munoz

Irma Nunez

Manuel Ochoa

Luis Olmedo, Comit Civico del Valle

Alicia Parker, City of Oakland

Mykela Patton, Communities for Better Environment

Andrea Pineda, New Voices are Rising

Sydney Pitcher

Penelope Quintana, PhD, San Diego State University School of Public Health

Jill Ratner, Rose Foundation

Bertha Rodriguez, Climate Action Campaign

Maryam Saad, New Voices are Rising

Khariyyah Shabazz, Higher Ground Neighborhood Development Corp

Jessica Tovar, New Voices are Rising

APPEARANCES CONTINUED

ALSO PRESENT:

Matthew Vasilakis, Climate Action Campaign

Domingo Vigil, San Diego Air Pollution Control District

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PROCEEDINGS

1  
2 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Good afternoon. The February  
3 10th, 2022 public meeting of the California Air Resources  
4 Board will come to order. I'm going to start this meeting  
5 welcoming a new colleague, Supervisor Nora Vargas from the  
6 County of San Diego is here with us as a new member of the  
7 Board. She's also a member of the San Diego Air Pollution  
8 Control District. And she is in the seat formerly  
9 occupied by Supervisor Nathan Fletcher. So, welcome,  
10 Supervisor Vargas. We're very excited to have you here  
11 with used this morning.

12 Board Clerk, would you please call the roll.

13 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Yes. Thanks, chair.

14 Dr. Balmes?

15 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Here.

16 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Mr. De La Torre?

17 BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: Here.

18 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Mr. Eisenhut?

19 BOARD MEMBER EISENHUT: Here.

20 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Senator Florez?

21 BOARD MEMBER FLOREZ: Here.

22 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Assembly Member Garcia?

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER GARCIA: Present.

24 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Ms. Hurt?

25 BOARD MEMBER HURT: Present.

1 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Mr. Kracov?

2 BOARD MEMBER KRACOV: Here.

3 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Senator Leyva?

4 SENATOR LEYVA: Here.

5 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Dr. Pacheco-Werner?

6 BOARD MEMBER PACHECO-WERNER: Here.

7 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Mrs. Riordan?

8 BOARD MEMBER RIORDAN: Here.

9 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Supervisor Serna?

10 BOARD MEMBER SERNA: Here.

11 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Professor Sperling?

12 Ms. Takvorian?

13 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Here.

14 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Supervisor Vargas?

15 BOARD MEMBER VARGAS: Here.

16 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Vice Chair Berg?

17 VICE CHAIR BERG: Here.

18 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Chair Randolph?

19 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Here.

20 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Madam Chair, we have a  
21 quorum.

22 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Thank you.

23 I'd like to begin with a few housekeeping items.

24 In accordance with Assembly Bill 361, as extended by

25 Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-1-22, we are

1 conducting today's meeting remotely using Zoom, with  
2 public participation options available both by phone and  
3 in Zoom. A closed captioning feature is available for  
4 those of you joining us in the Zoom environment. In order  
5 to turn on subtitles, please look for a button labeled  
6 "CC" at the bottom of the Zoom window as shown in the  
7 example on the screen now. I would like to take this  
8 opportunity to remind everyone to speak clearly and from a  
9 quiet location, whether you are joining us in zoom or  
10 calling in by phone.

11 Interpretation services will be provided today in  
12 Spanish. If you are joining us using Zoom, there's a  
13 button labeled interpretation on the zoom screen. Click  
14 on that interpretation button and select Spanish to hear  
15 the meeting in Spanish.

16 (Interpreter translated in Spanish)

17 CHAIR RANDOLPH: I will now ask the Board Clerk  
18 to provide more details on today's procedures.

19 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you, Chair.

20 Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Katie  
21 Estabrook and I am one of the Board Clerks here at CARB.  
22 I will provide some information on how public  
23 participation will be organized for today's meeting.

24 If you wish to make a verbal comment on the Board  
25 item or during the open comment period at the end of the

1 meeting, you must be joining using Zoom webinar or calling  
2 in by phone. If you are currently watching the webcast on  
3 CAL-SPAN, but you do wish comment, please register for the  
4 webinar or call in. Information for both is -- can be  
5 found on the public agenda for today's meeting. To make a  
6 verbal comment, we will be using the raise-hand feature in  
7 Zoom. If you wish to speak on a Board item, please  
8 virtually raise your hand as soon as the item has begun to  
9 let us know you wish to speak. To do this, if you are  
10 using a computer or tablet, there is a raise hand button.  
11 If you are calling in on -- by the phone, dial star nine  
12 to raise your hand. Even if you have previously indicated  
13 which item you wish to speak on when you registered, you  
14 must raise your hand at the beginning of the item, so that  
15 you can be added to the queue, so that your chance to  
16 speak will not be skipped.

17           If you will be giving your verbal comment in  
18 Spanish and require an interpreter's assistance, please  
19 indicate so at the beginning of your testimony and our  
20 translator will assist you. During your comment, please  
21 pause after every sentence to allow the interpreter to  
22 translate your comment into English.

23           When the comment period starts, the order of  
24 commenters will be determined by who raises their hand  
25 first. I will call each commenter by name and will

1 activate each commenter's audio when it is their turn to  
2 speak. For those calling in by phone, I will identify you  
3 by the last three digits of your phone number. We will  
4 not show a list of commenters. However, I will be  
5 announcing the next three or so that -- commenters that  
6 are in the queue, so you are ready to testify and know who  
7 is coming up next. Please note that you will not appear  
8 by video during your testimony. I would also like to  
9 remind everyone to please state your name for the record  
10 before you speak. This is especially important in the  
11 remote meeting setting and if you're calling in by phone.

12 We will have a time limit for each commenter.  
13 The normal time limit is three minutes, though this could  
14 change based on the Chair's discretion. During public  
15 testimony, you will see a timer on the Screen. For those  
16 calling in by phone, we will run the timer and let you  
17 know when you have 30 seconds left and when your call is  
18 up. And if you require Spanish interpretation for your  
19 comment, your time will be doubled.

20 If you wish to submit written comments today,  
21 please visit CARB's send-us-your-comments page or look at  
22 the public agenda on our webpage for links to send these  
23 documents electronically. Comments will be accepted on  
24 the item until the Chair closes the record.

25 If you experience any technical difficulties,

1 please call (805)772-2715 so an IT person can assist you.  
2 This number is also listed on the public agenda.

3 Thank you. I'll turn it back to you, Chair  
4 Randolph.

5 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you. Today's agenda item  
6 is Item number 22-2-1, Assembly Bill 67 Community Air  
7 Protection Program, fourth annual selection of  
8 communities. If you wish to comment on this item, please  
9 click the raise-hand button or dial star nine now. We  
10 will call on you when we get to the public comment portion  
11 of this item.

12 Assembly Bill 617 requires community-focused  
13 action to reduce air pollution and improve public health  
14 in communities that experience a disproportionate burden  
15 from exposure to air pollutants. The statute also  
16 requires CARB to annually consider selection of  
17 communities for the development and implementation of  
18 community air monitoring plans and/or community emissions  
19 reduction programs. In response to the statutory charge,  
20 CARB established the Community Air Protection Program, or  
21 program for short. Fifteen communities have been selected  
22 by the CARB Board and are currently being implemented in  
23 the program.

24 Recent studies demonstrating a link between long  
25 term exposure to air pollution and increased risk of death

1 from COVID-19 bring a renewed sense of urgency to the  
2 program and highlight the continued need to reduce  
3 emissions and improve the health of residents of  
4 communities that have been overburdened by air pollution  
5 for far too long.

6 Annual consideration of communities has been a  
7 constant since the initial 10 communities were selected in  
8 2018. We want to recognize and applaud the work of the  
9 air districts and the community steering committees, which  
10 has continued despite the challenges of an ongoing  
11 pandemic. Your work is not only making a difference at  
12 the community level, it's also influencing how CARB works  
13 with communities throughout our organization and  
14 throughout our programs.

15 The AB 617 Consultation Group has also been  
16 deeply engaged in supporting the update of the Program  
17 blueprint. Through the creation of People's Blueprint by  
18 a writer's group, which is a subset of environmental  
19 justice leaders within the Consultation Group. CARB's  
20 program blueprint will be significantly informed by the  
21 hard work of the People's Blueprint.

22 We look to this new year with a renewed sense of  
23 hope for reimagining this AB 617 Program. 2022 is a  
24 transition year when we will consider new communities for  
25 the current model and develop strategies to bring benefits

1 to more communities using what we've learned so far.

2 Today, for Board consideration, staff will  
3 present their recommendations for adding two new  
4 communities to the 15 communities already in the program.

5 Mr. Corey, would you please introduce the item?

6 EXECUTIVE OFFICER COREY: Yes. Thanks, Chair.

7 Since the selection of the first communities in  
8 this program, air districts and staff have been working  
9 with community-based organizations and community members  
10 to develop plans that will reduce air pollutant emissions  
11 and exposure at community -- at the community scale. As  
12 you noted, the air districts have convened community  
13 steering committees that include many members that live,  
14 work, or own businesses in the community. And in  
15 coordination with the steering committee, air districts  
16 have deployed community air monitoring systems, as well as  
17 played a key role in developing and implementing emission  
18 reduction programs.

19 Our focus today is the Board's consideration of  
20 CARB staff's recommendation for two new communities to  
21 select into the program as described in the fourth annual  
22 Community Air Protection Program recommendation staff  
23 report. This annual discussion takes place amidst really  
24 another year of continued challenges brought on by the  
25 pandemic and really heartened -- heartened by the depth of



1 commitment to use AB 617 as a tool to improve air quality  
2 for impacted communities, even in the face of these  
3 significant challenges.

4           Community members and air districts nominate  
5 communities to CARB for Board consideration every year.  
6 In developing the community recommendations, you will hear  
7 about today, staff will base the recommendations on  
8 statutory requirements, the Board's prior direction,  
9 community nominations received to date, and lessons  
10 learned from communities in the program. Funding levels  
11 provided by the Legislature for program implementation are  
12 another key factor staff consider in advancing  
13 recommendations as we need to ensure the tools are  
14 available for successful implementation.

15           Flat funding for operations to support a growing  
16 number of communities is already affecting the number of  
17 recommendations we can bring before you. And as you'll  
18 hear in our staff recommendations in the presentation,  
19 important to today's Board decision is ensuring there are  
20 sufficient resources for the previously selected  
21 communities to support effective implementation and make  
22 good on our commitments to these communities.

23           Because the State budget maintains the same level  
24 of funding in fiscal year 2021-2022 for program air  
25 district implementation funds, adding two new communities

1 is likely approaching the maximum total number of  
2 communities able to be supported using the existing model.

3 As a result, and consistent with previous Board  
4 direction, I've advised our staff that 2022 is a  
5 transformative year for the program as indicated by the  
6 Chair. I've directed staff to partner with others in the  
7 development of strategies that can better serve more  
8 overburdened communities in the state. This will be our  
9 primarily focus of discussion with air districts,  
10 communities, and the Board in the coming months, as we  
11 apply the learnings from AB 617 to reset the program to  
12 better deliver on its pro -- on its commitment to all  
13 impacted communities throughout the state. That process  
14 began last year.

15 I also want to note that in addition to the two  
16 communities we're recommending for formal selection today,  
17 there's a third community for which formal selection is  
18 not yet recommended. We'll continue to work with the  
19 community and district on the recommendation. This  
20 challenge is also an opportunity to help with resetting  
21 the overall program. We'll discuss this further in the  
22 staff presentation.

23 I'll now ask Adrianna Hernandez from our Office  
24 of Community Air Protection and Jeremy Smith from our  
25 Monitoring and Laboratory Division to begin the staff

1 presentation.

2 Adrianna.

3 (Thereupon a slide presentation.)

4 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERNANDEZ: Hello.  
5 Thank you, Mr. Corey. It's Adrianna Hernandez.

6 Good afternoon, Chair Randolph and members of the  
7 Board. We are here to present to you our recommendation  
8 of new communities and provide some insight on how we're  
9 planning to reset, refocus, and reimagine the statewide  
10 strategies with an emphasis on community-driven efforts.

11 --o0o--

12 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERNANDEZ: In  
13 today's presentation, we will briefly update you on  
14 aspects of the Community Air Protection Program, including  
15 air monitoring, the status of current AB 617 communities,  
16 resources needs, the process and recommendations for new  
17 communities, and lastly, program reimagining concepts.

18 --o0o--

19 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERNANDEZ: So  
20 let's revisit the current AB 617 communities. There are  
21 15 communities across the state of California that have  
22 been selected by the Board to either develop a CERP, which  
23 is short for community emissions reduction program, or a  
24 COMMUNITY air monitoring plan, commonly referred to as  
25 CAMP, or both. These communities have been selected by

1 the Board over the last three years and are identified on  
2 this map by the orange dots. Now, these communities are  
3 all highly burdened with air pollution and represent a  
4 diverse mix of urban and rural communities. They vary in  
5 geographic size, population density, and air pollution  
6 concerns. And at the heart of these efforts are  
7 communities steering committees, also known as CSCs,  
8 composed of residents and other local stakeholders to help  
9 inform strategy development and set the priorities in  
10 these plans.

11 There are over 325 CSC members across the state.  
12 And we want to take a moment to appreciate their  
13 commitment to improving air quality in their communities  
14 and thank them for their active participation and efforts  
15 to partner with us and the air districts. There have been  
16 over 440 community meetings across the state with  
17 community members and other stakeholders contributing  
18 their time and expertise to development and implement  
19 successful emission reduction and monitoring plans.

20 All communities are working on CAMPs and CERPs,  
21 except for the following communities, the West Oakland  
22 community was selected to work on a CERP only, while the  
23 South Sacramento Florin community was selected to develop  
24 and implement a CAMP only. One of the goals of this  
25 program is to take the knowledge learned from developing



1 varied for each community, four common themes emerged,  
2 including characterizing local emission sources,  
3 determining areas in the community with the highest  
4 pollutant concentrations, informing and tracking CERP  
5 progress in communities where CERPs have been created, and  
6 providing real-time air quality information to the  
7 community in a way that is useful and easy to understand.

8 AB 617 broadly expanded community level  
9 monitoring of key pollutants at higher spatial and  
10 temporal resolutions. Across the state, these pollutants  
11 were the primary focus of community air monitoring:  
12 particulate matter, both PM2.5 and PM10; particulate bound  
13 metals; black carbon; toxic air contaminants, such as  
14 benzene and pesticides; volatile organic compounds,  
15 including pollutants with petroleum origins; and criteria  
16 gases, such as ozone, nitrogen oxides, and carbon  
17 monoxide.

18 On our next slide, we will discuss the monitoring  
19 technologies and tools applied to quantify these  
20 pollutants.

21 --o0o--

22 MLD STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST SMITH: An  
23 important step in planning is the selection of monitoring  
24 methods and tools that support the CAMP's programmatic and  
25 monitoring objectives. Districts worked with their

1 community steering committees to evaluate available  
2 monitoring technologies and considered important factors,  
3 such as applicability, reliability, and data quality.

4 Air sensors have been used in AB 617 communities  
5 by both local air districts, as well as by community-based  
6 organizations. During the last year, these networks have  
7 continued to operate and many have expanded in size.  
8 Several community-led monitoring networks have been  
9 included in CAMPs including the IVAN Network developed by  
10 Comit Civico del Valle in Southern California and networks  
11 developed by groundwork Richmond, and Physicians,  
12 Scientists, and Engineers for Healthy Energy, PSE, in the  
13 Bay Area. Mobile monitoring has been used across the  
14 state in multiple communities. Mobile monitoring has  
15 primarily been used to quantify pollutants along roadways,  
16 identify fugitive emissions, help identify transient  
17 odors, and characterize areas with elevated pollutant  
18 concentrations.

19 Many districts have also increased the number of  
20 stationary monitoring locations in their communities,  
21 including Federal Reference and Fairly Equivalent Methods,  
22 FRM and FEM, for criteria pollutants, such as ozone and  
23 particulate matter, as well as non-criteria monitoring for  
24 species such as black carbon, volatile organic compounds,  
25 toxic air contaminants, and particulate-bound metals. A





1 Continued collaboration between all parties throughout the  
2 planning and implementation process is crucial to conduct  
3 monitoring that meets the needs and objectives specific to  
4 the community.

5           The diverse array of monitoring technologies and  
6 methods utilized in AB 617 communities provide a wide  
7 range of monitoring data sets with varying data quality,  
8 time resolution, and spatial information. However,  
9 applying these monitoring technologies often requires a  
10 significant amount of technical expertise, coordination,  
11 and communication to work properly. All roles and  
12 responsibilities, including those at the community, the  
13 air district, CARB, and any private contractor should be  
14 clearly and concisely defined prior to the start of  
15 monitoring and revisited as needed to prevent loss of data  
16 and failure of monitoring to help the community meet their  
17 objectives.

18           Communities can use monitoring data to inform  
19 future CERP planning activities and to track air quality  
20 improvements from CERP implementation, as such CAMPs  
21 should be -- CAMPs should clearly describe how monitoring  
22 data will be used to support CERP development and  
23 implementation actions.

24           And now, I would like to pass it back over to  
25 Adri.

1                   --o0o--

2                   OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERNANDEZ: Thank  
3 you for the monitoring update Jeremy.

4                   So now we'll go into a brief update on the work  
5 being done in the current 15 communities. So this slide  
6 here shows the status of CERPs in the program.  
7 Communities are either developing or implementing plans.  
8 First-year communities are in their second year of  
9 implementation, second-year communities are in their first  
10 year of implementation, and third-year communities are  
11 developing their plans. All third-year communities have  
12 requested on extension in developing their plans, and the  
13 time frames to develop plans have been a challenge for the  
14 air districts and the community steering committees since  
15 the program inception.

16                   Now, we know that identifying priorities and  
17 specific strategies with true driven -- community-driven  
18 process takes time, and we work with air districts and  
19 CSCs to help ensure that they have the time that they  
20 require to be successful.

21                   So now let's take a moment to describe some  
22 community highlights for the third-year communities just  
23 selected in February 2021.

24                   --o0o--

25                   OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERNANDEZ: They

1 have come together and are currently developing their CERP  
2 plans. Now, these communities started to meet right away  
3 and have used the Zoom platforms to conduct meetings with  
4 facilitation and in Spanish. We have also seen the  
5 co-lead model that began with the West Oakland and El  
6 Centro-Heber-Calexico communities being adopted by other  
7 communities, like the South Los Angeles and Arvin-Lamont  
8 communities.

9           The CSCs have also created additional  
10 opportunities for further discussion on nuanced topics  
11 that come up in the main meetings through the creation of  
12 subcommittees, working groups and, advisory committees.  
13 Now, many of these practices have built upon the  
14 successful integration of such groups on the -- in the  
15 first- and second-year communities. All these engagement  
16 practices stem from the best practices in the initial  
17 communities and we are glad to see that they are being  
18 applied to newer communities.

19           Another great highlight to get broader community  
20 engagement, a new approach was taken on behalf of  
21 Richmond-North Richmond-San Pablo community. The air  
22 district created an online tool, called the Community  
23 Assets and Air Pollution Mapping Project. This tool was  
24 used to collect concerns, not just from the CSC members,  
25 but also from the larger community. Local community based

1 organizations reached out to Richmond, North Richmond, and  
2 San Pablo residents to maximize participation and we look  
3 forward to seeing how this informs the development of  
4 their CERP.

5 Now, the next slide shows some examples of what  
6 we mean by community driven CERP strategies.

7 --o0o--

8 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERNANDEZ: In the  
9 Shafter community, the San Joaquin Valley Air District  
10 created an opportunity to replace gas powered mowers. The  
11 Shafter community successfully replaced 150 gas powered  
12 mowers with electric models in one day providing  
13 incentives to individuals.

14 And in several communities, reducing exposure to  
15 air pollution in schools has been a priority and several  
16 communities have included school air filtration as a  
17 strategy in their plan.

18 Urban greening is also another priority included  
19 in many -- in many communities. Strategies include urban  
20 greening in Southeast Los Angeles and West Oakland, and  
21 vegetative barriers in Stockton.

22 In South Central Fresno the CSC and the air  
23 district are developing a partnership with the City of  
24 Fresno to coordinate more closely regarding the air  
25 impacts of proposed land use projects through early review



1 more communities. And to address this need, CARB staff is  
2 refocusing on statewide strategies to benefit more  
3 overburdened communities. As required by statute, CARB  
4 staff is revising the Program Blueprint with a focus on  
5 equity, a community-driven process, and on expanding  
6 program benefits beyond the current annual selection  
7 model.

8 --o0o--

9 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERNANDEZ: Now, we  
10 want to recognize that during the Board meeting in  
11 February this year, we heard the concern regarding the  
12 competitive nature of the way communities are selected.  
13 One of the ways we are working on reimagining the program  
14 is with a revision of the statewide strategy for the  
15 program, also known as a program blueprint.

16 The Program Blueprint guides implementation and  
17 is required by statute to be updated every five years.  
18 This slide will walk us through the work that is being  
19 undertaken in the consultation group to reimagine the  
20 program and address gaps in the existing Program  
21 Blueprint.

22 After the program had some time to get off the  
23 ground, criticism started to surface from the community  
24 and community-based organizations. And beginning in  
25 February 2020, members of the Consultation Group took

1 stock of the program and identified areas where the  
2 original Program Blueprint could be strengthened in  
3 response to early implementation.

4           For example, the Consultation Group identified  
5 the need for a revised Program Blueprint to be centered on  
6 equity principles, increased transparency, and  
7 community-driven processes. A small subgroup of the  
8 Consultation Group, known as a writers group took on the  
9 task of creating a more equitable and just program  
10 blueprint by developing the People's Blueprint.

11           The People's Blueprint outlines specific equity  
12 principles that will be used to inform statewide  
13 strategies and the revision of the Program Blueprint.  
14 The, People's Blueprint is currently being discussed by  
15 the full Consultation Group.

16           CARB staff will review the People's Blueprint and  
17 is supporting the process for the Consultation Group to  
18 discuss the People's Blueprint, which along with  
19 feasibility and legality will guide CARB in revising the  
20 Program Blueprint.

21           In May, we will update the Board on our progress  
22 to update the Program Blueprint. The draft Program  
23 Blueprint will then undergo a rigorous public review  
24 process open to all interested stakeholders. Also, as an  
25 informational item, the People's Blueprint will be

1 presented to the Board.

2 And in the summer in 2020 -- 2022, I mean, we  
3 anticipate that the Consultation Group will complete the  
4 review of the People's Blueprint and anticipate having a  
5 draft outline of the Program Blueprint for a review.

6 There will be workshops and Consultation Group  
7 meetings to discuss the guidance document outlined, with  
8 the goal to have the draft Program Blueprint ready by the  
9 end of the year. And we plan to take this to the Board  
10 for consideration before September 2023.

11 --o0o--

12 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERNANDEZ: Now,  
13 let's dive into the community recommendation process. As  
14 a reminder, the law requires the Board to annually  
15 consider the selection of additional communities for CAMP  
16 and/or CERP development.

17 --o0o--

18 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERNANDEZ: And  
19 here, we show the consideration that went into this year's  
20 community recommendations. The list builds from prior  
21 year considerations, lessons learned, and Board direction.

22 In the initial community selections, CARB staff  
23 proposed a diverse set of communities based on factors  
24 listed in the statute and in the Blueprint. CARB assessed  
25 a variety of data sources to describe the cumulative air



1 burdens of the communities, as well as vulnerability  
2 measures, such as poverty and unemployment. Now, the  
3 initial goal was to focus on communities that have a  
4 variety of different air pollution sources and were also  
5 regionally diverse.

6 And these initial communities could then serve as  
7 models for successful strategies that could be implemented  
8 in other communities with similar geographies,  
9 demographics, and air pollution sources.

10 In the second year of the program, we also  
11 considered Board direction, which was to prioritize  
12 communities initially selected for monitoring and for  
13 community-emission reduction programs, if supported by  
14 data and the community steering committee. So far, of the  
15 two communities that began with CAMP only, Richmond has  
16 advanced to the CERP, while South Sacramento has not yet  
17 been recommended for a CERP.

18 Now, the third year of the program, the Board  
19 directed staff to develop a list of communities strongly  
20 supported over the last few years with the program, but  
21 the had not been selected. Now this list is, "Communities  
22 Strongly Supported", and it was released to recognize that  
23 the communities that have strong support by the community  
24 and air districts.

25 And as in prior years, we also considered the

1 continued financial support needed to -- for newly  
2 selected communities, while recognizing the continued need  
3 to support the existing plans with resources. And with  
4 this in mind, CARB staff is proposing to recommend two new  
5 communities this year.

6 --o0o--

7 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERNANDEZ: So  
8 let's go through the air district and community  
9 nominations we received over the last year. CARB received  
10 five total nominations from air districts or  
11 community-based organizations. Two of the three  
12 nominations from the air districts recommended East  
13 Oakland and San Diego International Border Community,  
14 which includes San Ysidro and Otay Mesa. Now, the  
15 Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District  
16 nominated three communities for air monitoring plans. And  
17 these communities are North Sacramento, Oak  
18 Park/Fruitridge and Meadowview.

19 One nomination was from a partnership between the  
20 air district and the community partner, which was from the  
21 Imperial Air Pollution Control District with Comite Civico  
22 del Valle, that recommended the Imperial County North End.

23 One nomination from a community-based  
24 organization, which was from the Leadership Counsel for  
25 Justice and Accountability for the La Vina in madera

1 County.

2 CARB did not receive community nominations from  
3 the two larger air districts, the San Joaquin Valley or  
4 South Coast, illustrating the resource strain that these  
5 air districts are currently under. Now, this signals that  
6 the current model needs to be reevaluated as there is a  
7 need for more resources in funds, staff, and time to  
8 continue along with the current community selection  
9 process.

10 --o0o--

11 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERNANDEZ: SO the  
12 first new community staff is recommending today is the  
13 East Oakland community. And this community is being  
14 recommended for a CERP only. The map gives you an idea of  
15 the communities size denoted in pink. And there are  
16 intentionally no boundaries identified. This is to  
17 emphasize that anything that may look like a boundary is  
18 for preliminary evaluation only and the final boundary  
19 will be determined by the CSC.

20 The shaded area is consistent with the  
21 preliminary boundaries that the air district provided in  
22 their community recommendation. If the community is  
23 selected by the Board today, boundaries will be refined by  
24 the community steering committee convened to develop the  
25 community specific plans.

1           Let me provide a little bit -- a little bit more  
2 background of the East Oakland community. Now, the East  
3 Oakland community is about 20 square miles in size with a  
4 population density of 12,000 people per square mile. This  
5 community has several stationary sources, and industrial  
6 facilities, and mobile sources, and freeways, rail, and  
7 freight activities. The Bay Area Air Quality Management  
8 District described their partnership with the East Oakland  
9 community and has been building capacity with East Oakland  
10 neighborhoods and partnering with organizations. The Air  
11 District has also received support from Communities for a  
12 Better Environment and East Oakland Collective, as well as  
13 New Voices are Rising, a program of the Rose Foundation.

14                           --o0o--

15           OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERNANDEZ: Now,  
16 the second new community staff is recommending today is  
17 the San Diego International Border Community. And this  
18 community is about 24 square miles with a population  
19 density of 3,000 people per square mile. This community  
20 is home to two ports of entry, San Ysidro and Otay Mesa.

21           Many of the air pollution concerns in this  
22 community are associated with the ports of entry, truck  
23 traffic, and freeways. The Air District has already  
24 deployed black carbon analyzers into the community to  
25 support their recommendation, and the Air District has

1 received support from the community members by Casa  
2 Familiar and San Diego Association of Governments.

3 --o0o--

4 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERNANDEZ: So we  
5 recognize that this program has challenges and it has  
6 not -- it was not designed to solve all the concerns that  
7 communities have identified. There are limits in the  
8 statute, as there is no new authority provided to CARB or  
9 the air districts, and we know that there are hundreds of  
10 burdened communities and the current program model is not  
11 sustainable. And we are now focusing on how to provide  
12 community-driven solutions across all overburdened  
13 communities.

14 And we also need to work within CARB to  
15 prioritize community level solutions wherever feasible.  
16 And as the program evolves, we have new opportunities. So  
17 we have developed resources and tools for the community to  
18 help build capacity and are using the community air grants  
19 as one mechanism.

20 We have opportunities to -- for communities to  
21 shape policy as well, as in the People's Blueprint, where  
22 experiences and perspectives from environmental justice  
23 leaders have been captured and will be refined during the  
24 consultation group discussions, and broader community  
25 input on the draft of the Program Blueprint.

1           We are working within the agency to make sure  
2 that equity principles are considered and at the forefront  
3 of the policy development, and in a way that makes access  
4 to CARB's work more genuine and responsive to community  
5 members. We are also committed to work with all nominated  
6 communities regardless of selection today.

7                           --o0o--

8           OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERNANDEZ: Now,  
9 although staff recommends two communities today, we would  
10 also like the Board to know that we received nominations  
11 from some of the same deserving communities each year.  
12 The need for resources is large and we still cannot reach  
13 all communities under the current model. We plan to  
14 continue our focus on community engagement and include  
15 community perspectives in how we reenvision the program,  
16 as well as our broader agency policies, programs, and  
17 regulations. And we want to partner with communities to  
18 keep advancing community-driven solutions.

19           As an example, we can look at one of this year's  
20 nominations. The Imperial County North End Community.  
21 Initially, this community was jointly nominated by the Air  
22 District and Comite Civico del Valle. When it became  
23 clear that additional funding for program administration  
24 was not going to be available, the Air District withdrew  
25 the nomination to not put a risk at -- to not put at risk

1 the commitments it has already made to carry out  
2 implementation in the El Centro-Heber-Calexico community  
3 from year one.

4 The Imperial County nomination currently covers  
5 an estimated 600-square mile area, not counting the area  
6 of the Salton Sea. And the key pollutants in the region  
7 are associated with trucks, fugitive emissions from the  
8 U.S.-Mexican border, and the Salton Sea.

9 As other AB 617 communities, these areas are  
10 heavily burdened with health, poverty, and unemployment.  
11 And CARB staff sees the opportunity to work with the Air  
12 District and Comite Civico del Valle to refine their  
13 nomination and explore statewide strategies that may apply  
14 from other community plans.

15 And while CARB staff is not recommending the --  
16 recommending the Imperial County North End Community at  
17 this time, CARB is committed to explore creative solutions  
18 and to work with the Air District and CCV to help address  
19 the community air pollution concerns.

20 We are also committed to work with our sister  
21 agency, the Department of Pesticide Regulation, as well as  
22 the Valle Air District -- or the Valley Air District --  
23 I'm sorry -- on solutions we can put forward for the  
24 community of La Vina.

25 --o0o--

1           OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERNANDEZ: So with  
2 that, let us go into what we see moving forward and what  
3 we mean by program reset.

4           So CARB staff is looking at available agency-wide  
5 resources to expand program benefits to more overburdened  
6 communities. We are now poised to shift the program focus  
7 to resetting the program, using what we have learned so  
8 far in the governance models. We will be addressing the  
9 gaps of equity in the current Blueprint revision, and we  
10 are preparing to develop broader community-specific  
11 strategies outside the current selection model.

12           These strategies will be informed by a robust  
13 engagement process, including continued discussion with  
14 the Consultation Group as well as Board member  
15 consultation. We will provide regular updates to the  
16 Board and look to the Board this upcoming year to help  
17 staff by directing how to reset the program.

18           And examples include, the Program Blueprint  
19 revision process currently underway. The People's  
20 Blueprint ideas and concepts will serve as a starting  
21 point for review, discussion, and comment by the  
22 Consultation Group, air districts, and the public on the  
23 updates to the Blueprint.

24           Now, these strategies will embrace  
25 community-focused approaches, and some examples of which



1 are currently being piloted. One of these efforts is  
2 being led by our Enforcement Division. Enforcement staff  
3 have been embarking on developing community-driven  
4 enforcement plans that target community concerns and  
5 embrace community partnership in developing plans and  
6 reporting.

7 Another example is how we may use community air  
8 grants to support community partnerships in developing  
9 their own emission reduction programs for their community.  
10 We will continue working on meeting with the community and  
11 trying new approaches on our initial concepts for  
12 resetting the program and look for to hearing community  
13 approaches for new opportunities to bring benefits to  
14 other communities, in addition to the communities in the  
15 current CSC model.

16 --o0o--

17 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERNANDEZ: And  
18 now, in conclusion, CARB staff recommends that the Board  
19 approve Resolution 22-3, which includes the selection of  
20 the recommended communities, certifies the community  
21 recommendations are exempt from CEQA, and directs air  
22 districts and CARB to begin work in these communities. We  
23 know that we are at a critical point in the program and we  
24 are looking to exploring new directions that serve more  
25 overburdened communities. And we look forward to working

1 with the community and all stakeholders to reimagine the  
2 program and the revised Program Blueprint, and take steps  
3 to bring program benefits to more deserving communities  
4 beyond the current selection model.

5           And with that, I'll conclude staff's presentation  
6 and would open -- would like to open the floor to our  
7 guest speakers. And then we'll happy -- we'll be happy to  
8 answer any other questions the Board may have.

9           So our first speaker is Matt Dessert, the Air  
10 Pollution Control Officer from the Imperial County Air  
11 Pollution District.

12           MATT DESSERT: Good evening. Thank you, Adrianna  
13 for that introduction and thank you for the well  
14 description of our community corridor consisting of three  
15 cities, the cities of El Centro, Heber and Calexico.

16           For those three cities, we have successfully put  
17 together a CERP and a CAMP, and are currently  
18 administering both of those. That brings the rest of the  
19 valley into play. When we talk about the rest of the  
20 valley, we talk about the north end of the valley, and  
21 that's where that name came from. But there's a cluster  
22 of small cities, small unincorporated cities also, that  
23 come into play and it's a lot of work. It's a lot of work  
24 reaching out and getting into those cities and those  
25 communities, just as it is into the higher populations.

1           When we -- after we heard about our success in  
2 getting the application moving forward, we found out about  
3 the financial constraints, that is the lack of  
4 implementation dollars being static and not being able to  
5 help fund us to make us successful. So we're concerned  
6 about that success drawing back and pulling away from our  
7 current obligations at the corridor of El Centro,  
8 Calexico, and Heber.

9           Those monies are just essential at CARB. You  
10 must understand that to expand the program and move it  
11 forward, it has to change -- the program has to change  
12 somehow, or more funding must be administered to be  
13 available for the success of this program.

14           The populations that are at risk without a doubt.  
15 Socioeconomics are looked at. CalEnviroScreens are looked  
16 at, but everywhere in the community you can see the  
17 need -- the need for the -- and the burden that's being  
18 exposed. No different than it is from other areas in the  
19 State of California. So my main point is here is you need  
20 to refocus these efforts, repackage this, and get a budget  
21 that's put together to successfully grow 617 into the  
22 future that we all want to go into.

23           With that, I'll turn it over to my co-chair and  
24 gentleman that I work with on our 617 corridor Mr. Luis  
25 Olmedo from Comite Civico del Valle.

1           OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERNANDEZ: Yes.

2           LUIS OLMEDO: Thank you, co-Chair Matt Dessert as  
3 we've accustomed to refer to each other.

4           I want to thank -- first of all, just good  
5 evening, or late afternoon, Madam Chair, members of the  
6 Board. Luis Olmedo, Executive Director with Comite Civico  
7 del Valle, a partner and co-chair here with Imperial AB  
8 617 corridor selected communities.

9           Before getting into the comments about the  
10 current nominations, I want to express, you know, our  
11 support. It's certainly not necessary, but we do have  
12 very close connection to the border communities. And I'm  
13 really pleased to see partners such as Casa Familiar and  
14 the Air District being put forth as a nominated community.  
15 I want to congratulate the Board Member Nora Vargas and  
16 her appointment, that is already bringing a lot more  
17 attention to the border region and so I appreciate that.

18           It is -- it certainly is -- it's difficult to  
19 accept the fact that we can't do more. We can't take on  
20 more at this time, but it is promising and we maintain the  
21 enthusiasm that, you know, working with Deldi Reyes, with  
22 Executive Director Richard Corey and their team members,  
23 who have made a very strong commitment to continue to  
24 provide the technical assistance, the support necessary to  
25 put us in the best possible position to be brought forth

1 in potentially the next opportunity for a selected  
2 community.

3 I think it's important to also recognize that,  
4 yes, funding and having funding priorities are going to be  
5 important. And I hope that the Legislature doesn't see AB  
6 617 as an -- as an opportunity that is of the past, but to  
7 see the merits and the progress that has been made in  
8 changing the way that air districts and communities  
9 interact, and changing the ways that government at the  
10 State level and CARB have really opened up to embracing  
11 our communities and changing the way that air pollution,  
12 and air regulation, and partnerships come together.

13 I want to acknowledge my Assembly Member who has  
14 been a champion and a constant champion around raising  
15 the -- what was brought forth by the staff, the fugitive  
16 emissions that come from the border. And I think it's  
17 also important to recognize that if we are to transition  
18 into cleaner sources of energy like lithium, and if the  
19 Salton Sea is being sought out as an area of whether --  
20 where lithium and other minerals are there in abundance,  
21 and could potentially meet, you know, the principles of  
22 environmental justice, equity, and there needs to be a  
23 commitment.

24 So I guess there's not a whole lot to be said  
25 other than we're still committed and we would like to see

1 this community brought forth in the near future. And I  
2 hope that the Legislature and the Governor's budgets are  
3 being considered, as priorities are being made, as a  
4 surplus is being presented to us, that it's not like a  
5 situation where we're just being shown a nice plate -- a  
6 full plate, but yet, we don't get to -- you know,  
7 disadvantaged communities don't get to, you know, a fair  
8 share of it.

9           So with that, I'm just -- I'm very supportive of  
10 the communities that have been nominated. We have a plan.  
11 We have a path forward. Thank you to everyone who  
12 participated. Thank you to the Board and thank you to our  
13 Assembly Member.

14           OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERNANDEZ: Thank  
15 you, Mr. Olmedo and thank you, Mr. Dessert, for your  
16 comments. And thank you, everyone, for your time.

17           Back to you, Chair Randolph.

18           CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you. We will now hear  
19 from the public who raised their hand to speak on this  
20 item. Will the Board Clerk please call the commenters?

21           BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Yes. Thank you, Chair.

22           We currently have 19 people with their hand  
23 raised to speak on this item. Just a reminder that if you  
24 would like to speak, please raised your hand in Zoom or  
25 dial star nine if you're calling in by phone. The first

1 three commenters will be Maria Dominguez, Rudy Lopez, and  
2 Lupita Montoya.

3 So Maria, you can unmute yourself and begin.

4 MARIA DOMINGUEZ: Good afternoon. Buenas tardes.  
5 Good afternoon, Board Randolph, Board members. My name is  
6 Maria Dominguez and today I'm calling from East Oakland on  
7 Ohlone land from my childhood home.

8 I work for the Health Equity Policy and Planning  
9 Unit of the Alameda County Public Health Department,  
10 Office of the Director. And our health equity team has  
11 been working on the COVID-19 response, while also  
12 supporting other health equity issues, including  
13 environmental justice.

14 Today, I'm here to share that we support the  
15 recommendation that the Oakland community and Bay Area Air  
16 Quality Management District selected by the Community  
17 Emissions Reduction Program under the AB 617 Community Air  
18 Protection Program.

19 The Alameda County Public Health Department has  
20 worked with diverse East Oakland stakeholders and  
21 community-based organizations, including Communities for a  
22 Better Environment, CBE, to look closer at the racial  
23 inequities, and life expectancy, and quality of life  
24 resulting from adverse environmental impacts in East  
25 Oakland neighborhoods.

1           During this pandemic, we've heard East Oakland  
2 stakeholders call for more attention to the intersection  
3 of COVID-19 and public health as it pertains to emissions  
4 and air quality, and how persons with respiratory  
5 conditions, including asthma, are disproportionately  
6 affected. We continue to be concerned about this added  
7 burden on community public health when communities of  
8 color, including Latino and Black African American East  
9 Oaklanders are among the most impacted by COVID-19 on top  
10 of already carrying a high cumulative pollution burden  
11 before the pandemic.

12           This is very personal to me as someone born and  
13 raised in East Oakland who lived, worked, studied,  
14 worshipped, and played next to one of the most vehicle  
15 traffic corridors between two major freeways over 30  
16 years. We encourage you to support this plan and look  
17 forward to partnering with you, CARB staff, and the Bay  
18 Area Air Quality Management District and all other  
19 stakeholders to implement this.

20           Thank you so much for your consideration and  
21 thank you to your staff.

22           BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

23           Rudy Lopez, you can unmute and being.

24           RUDY LOPEZ: Good afternoon. My name is Rudy  
25 Lopez. I am a board member of the San Ysidro School



1 District, as well as a board member of our local planning  
2 group, little league, YMCA, and I'm on the CSC through  
3 Casa Familiar. I'm here today to lend my support for the  
4 inclusion of San Ysidro -- of San Diego's international  
5 community, which includes San Ysidro for selection as a  
6 community for this round of AB 617.

7 San Ysidro is primary a lower income and Latino  
8 community. We are boxed in by not only the international  
9 border, but by three freeways, one of which is a  
10 designated truck route, two from the border.

11 We look forward to partnering with the Board and  
12 thank you for your consideration of our community as one  
13 of your focuses of area -- areas of focus.

14 Thank you.

15 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

16 Our next speaker will be Lupita Montoya. After  
17 Lupita will be Jill Ratner, Domingo Vigil, and an  
18 Alejandro Amador.

19 Lupita, you and unmute and begin.

20 LUPITA MONTOYA: Hello. My name is Lupita  
21 Montoya and I am air quality advocate of the Environmental  
22 Health Coalition in the San Diego area and recovery  
23 academic in air pollution for over 30 years.

24 Dear CARB members, the Environmental Health  
25 Coalition fully supports the recommendation to select the

1 international border community of San Ysidro or Otay Mesa  
2 for the development of both community and air -- community  
3 air monitoring and emissions reduction plans.

4           The air pollution challenges faced by this  
5 community are significant and long standing, and they have  
6 been documented previously. We appreciate the CARB staff  
7 has recognized the unique opportunities for improving the  
8 quality of life of this community by implementing both  
9 plans. EHC looks forward to working with the San Diego  
10 Air Pollution Control District to support the border  
11 community on these projects.

12           Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

13           Muchas gracias.

14           BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

15           Jill Ratner, you may unmute and begin.

16           JILL RATNER: Thank you. My name is Jill Ratner.  
17 I am the Senior Program Advisor for the Rose Foundation's  
18 New Voices are Rising program and we have been working  
19 with East Oakland youth for over a decade. And it's clear  
20 that over -- over that time, it's been very clear that  
21 youth in East Oakland are very concerned about the air  
22 they breathe and the impact that it has on their health.  
23 They're concerned about their family members and their  
24 friends who have asthma, and they're concerned about other  
25 health effects as well.

1           We very much support the staff recommendation to  
2 add East Oakland as a community working on a community  
3 emission reduction program, and we look forward to working  
4 with the -- with California Air Resources Board, and with  
5 the air district, and with other members of the community,  
6 including Communities for a Better Environment that's led  
7 this push for a very long time to really bring clean air  
8 to East Oakland.

9           Thank you.

10          BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

11          Domingo Vigil, you unmute and begin.

12          DOMINGO VIGIL: Good afternoon, Chair Randolph,  
13 members of the Board, and members of the public. My name  
14 is Domingo Vigil, Deputy Director at the San Diego County  
15 Air Pollution Control District, or APCD.

16           On behalf of APCD, I would like to reiterate our  
17 support for the selection of the border community for the  
18 CAPP. APCD is committed to continue working with the  
19 border community, CARB, and other agencies,  
20 community-based organizations, and academic institutions  
21 to better understand the air quality challenges in the  
22 community and develop a CAMP and a CERP.

23           CARB recently approved the Portside Community  
24 Emissions Reduction Plan, which serves as a testament of  
25 the collaborative work and success of CARB, APCD, and

1 environmental justice communities in the San Diego region  
2 to improve air quality. APCD will apply the lessons  
3 learned from working with the Portside Community and will  
4 strive to replicate successful approaches in the Border  
5 Community, if selected for the CAPP.

6 As the CAPP continues to grow, APCD supports the  
7 identification of additional funding at the State level to  
8 ensure that we can have a successful and sustainable  
9 program statewide. Also, we encourage an equitable  
10 distribution of available funding to support  
11 implementation across all selected communities.

12 Thank you for considering our nomination for the  
13 Border Community and we look forward to having this  
14 community selected for the Community Air Protection  
15 Program.

16 Thank you.

17 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

18 Our next speaker will be Alejandro Amador. After  
19 Alejandro will be Margie Lewis, Esther Goolsby, and then  
20 Tung Le.

21 Alejandro, you may unmute and begin pin.

22 ALEJANDRO AMADOR: Hello. My name is Alejandro  
23 Amador and I am a resident of San Ysidro and the  
24 Environmental Program Supervisor at Casa Familiar.

25 I want to express my support and Casa Familiar's

1 support for the dire need of San Ysidro and Otay Mesa  
2 becoming the AB 617 communities through San Diego's  
3 International Border Community selection. The high amount  
4 of pollution that comes from the unique dynamic of hosting  
5 the largest landport of entry in the northern hemisphere  
6 needs to be monitored and regulated locally at a community  
7 level and be appropriately addressed to lessen the burden  
8 on the most vulnerable.

9           Studies in San Ysidro have shown that there is a  
10 correlation between border weights times and the amount of  
11 pollution in the community. In addition, the other  
12 resource -- in addition to other sources that impact the  
13 air quality community. San Ysidro a residency heavy area  
14 and Otay Mesa, heavily industrial, but expanding in  
15 housing rapidly in the upcoming years all need to be  
16 regular -- regulatory monitoring and development of a  
17 community emission reduction plan to stake a step forward  
18 towards the -- towards environmental justice in the  
19 region.

20           Thank you.

21           BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

22           Margie Lewis, you may unmute and begin.

23           MARGIE LEWIS: Good afternoon. My name is Margie  
24 Lewis and I'm a resident of East Oakland, not deep east,  
25 located on Ohlone land. I am a member of CBE, Communities

1 for a Better Environment, and have worked in the flatlands  
2 of deep east with CBE. As a result of this work, I  
3 understand and am advocating for the importance of East  
4 Oakland having been chosen -- being chosen to be a  
5 community emissions reduction plan.

6 The neighborhoods in East Oakland are in the top  
7 10 percentile of most environmentally impacted  
8 neighborhoods in the state. The history of redlining and  
9 the inequitable planning practices stemming from it has  
10 allowed industry to grow dangerously close to East Oakland  
11 residential neighborhoods that are Black, immigrant, and  
12 low income.

13 The cumulative impacts of the toxic air soup  
14 caused by major industrial polluting businesses, like the  
15 AB&I Foundry, Argent Materials, the East Bay Crematorium,  
16 one of the largest crematorium on the west coast, Sterling  
17 Environment, and all the auto shops, truck routes, and the  
18 880 freeway are the major contributing factors to the  
19 health and environmental crisis facing East Oakland  
20 residential communities.

21 All this pollution has caused a great disparity  
22 between East Oakland and the hills communities. Alameda  
23 County health data from 2011 to 2015 shows that in zip  
24 codes 94621, and 94603, life expectancy is 74 years, while  
25 in the hills zip codes 94546 and 94619 life expectancy is

1 80 plus years.

2 We need to develop a plan that the air district  
3 and agencies like the Oakland Planning Department must  
4 hold themselves accountable to.

5 I urge you to choose East Oakland, so we can have  
6 the community emissions reduction plan it desperately  
7 needs.

8 Thank you.

9 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

10 Ester Goolsby, you may unmute and begin.

11 ESTHER GOOLSBY: Thank you.

12 Esther Goolsby here. Very much appreciated to  
13 have this time to advocate for east Oakland, my life-long  
14 residency to share and ask for the community reduction  
15 plan to happen here in East Oakland. As you've heard  
16 others that's advocated for East Oakland in saying that  
17 these communities that have been burdened and impacted, I  
18 personally have been burdened and impacted and so have my  
19 children. Living with COPD, and asthma, and other health  
20 problems that is caused and has been by air pollution,  
21 proven -- that has been proven by air pollution and other  
22 pollutions that's in our areas.

23 It is very hard to see community living less than  
24 we know that if they do not live in a polluted  
25 neighborhood, a polluted city, and area, that they would

1 live longer. Seeing my neighbors and just knowing that  
2 this is a problem and now we have an opportunity to again  
3 include communities on telling government agencies how we  
4 need them to care for us. To use this plan for our  
5 community to be able to speak up again and advocate for  
6 their health, when it seems as if communities, cities,  
7 counties do not care about these communities, we have an  
8 opportunity to put a plan in place and hopefully it will  
9 be executed for our health, and our next generations can  
10 be able to have their brains fully developed to the best  
11 ability, for their bodies to be developed, and they have  
12 the ability to be outside and play without being bombarded  
13 with pollution on a daily basis, for our next generations  
14 to be able to provide what their full gifts can be by  
15 again not living in communities that's been bombarded by  
16 pollution.

17 It's hard seeing young children with asthma, not  
18 being able to breathe, or even play, or exercise, for  
19 grown ups to have their lives taken early for us not to  
20 even understand what our elders can do fully.

21 I thank you and I hope East Oakland is chosen.

22 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

23 Our next speaker will be Tung Le. After Tung  
24 will be Mariano Munoz, Ernesto Arevalo, Irma Nunez, and  
25 Ana Chiquete.



1           So Tun, you can unmute and begin.

2           TUNG LE: Thank you. Good afternoon, Chair  
3 Randolph and Board members. My name is Tung Le and I am  
4 the Executive Director of the California Air Pollution  
5 Control Officers Association, or CAPCOA. I'd like to  
6 thank CARB staff for their hard work and for their  
7 partnering with the air districts and communities to  
8 implement the AB 617 program. We look forward to  
9 continuing to work with them and with our community  
10 partners. As many of us will agree, AB 617 is a worthy  
11 community-focused program that will improve the lives of  
12 people disproportionately impacted by severe air  
13 pollution.

14           Staff has shared with us some of the good  
15 progress made in the program thus far, as well as  
16 identified some significant challenges. While we should  
17 applaud our progress, I would also like to take a moment  
18 to emphasize the funding and resources challenge. Despite  
19 the successes we have realized, progress is severely  
20 hampered, because the AB 617 Program has been chronically  
21 underfunded. When AB 617 was first implemented, there  
22 were 10 communities in the program, and at that time,  
23 concerns were already being voiced that funding was  
24 insufficient.

25           Since then, communities have been added every

1 year and tonight the Board is considering adding two more,  
2 making the total 17, a 70 percent increase in work.  
3 However, at the same time, funding for this program has  
4 not been increased, which resulted in increasingly less  
5 resources for air districts and communities already in the  
6 program, and hinders the ability for new communities to  
7 participate. It is obvious how this dichotomy creates  
8 significant challenges to program implementation.

9           As CARB staff has already noted, several air  
10 districts did not submit community nominations this year  
11 because of the lack of funding. These are significant  
12 missed opportunities to improve public health, when we are  
13 concerned that should there be a continued lack of  
14 sufficient ongoing funding, while communities continue to  
15 be added, it will result in the program's progress slowing  
16 to a halt.

17           CAPCOA asks members of the CARB Board that as you  
18 consider adding the communities being presented to you to  
19 the program, that you also consider assisting the air  
20 districts in the communities that we serve to advocate for  
21 sufficient and ongoing funding investment into this  
22 critically important program.

23           Thank you very much.

24           BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

25           Mariano Munoz, you may unmute and begin.

1           MARIANO MUNOZ: Hello. My name is Mariano Munoz.  
2 I'm a third generation San Ysidro resident and local  
3 community steering committee member.

4           I want to express my support for the San Diego  
5 border region to be selected as one of the AB 617  
6 communities for CAMP and CERP. Our region is greatly  
7 impacted by high levels of pollution due to the economic  
8 activity that occurs around our busy border crossing.  
9 This includes transportation of people, goods, and  
10 freight.

11           This border region is a significant and rapidly  
12 growing land port of entry for the state and country for  
13 both commerce and industry. My hope is that inclusion as  
14 an official community will help further help control the  
15 reduce -- and reduce air pollution exposure in my  
16 community as it continues to grow, a community of  
17 professional working class residents that need to have  
18 their health and safety considered for our region to  
19 continue to grow and thrive.

20           Thank you for listening and your consideration.

21           BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

22           And just a friendly reminder to everyone, if you  
23 would like to speak on this item, please raise your hand  
24 in Zoom or dial star nine.

25           And then if you'll be giving a comment in

1 Spanish, please indicate so at the beginning of your  
2 testimony.

3 Next will be Ernesto Arevalo. You can unmute and  
4 begin.

5 Ernesto, are you there?

6 ERNESTO AREVALO: Hi. Can you hear me now?

7 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Yea, we can.

8 ERNESTO AREVALO: Great. Hi. Good afternoon.

9 My name is Ernest Arevalo, Norcal Program Director with  
10 CBE calling in from East Oakland in unceded Ohlone  
11 territory.

12 I'm here to speak in support of the selection of  
13 East Oakland for a community emissions reduction plan.  
14 East Oakland is ready and we've been ready from the  
15 beginning of 617. Community members and I came to  
16 Sacramento to speak in support of our community being a  
17 CERP community, even when not chosen. So I have so much  
18 empathy and support for other communities that are also  
19 asking for this investment, for this focus, because CBE  
20 has been organizing with community members for years.

21 And members have identified facilities of concern  
22 that we hadn't even seen. They shared information about  
23 how it -- how it is to live next to these -- to these  
24 facilities and reported odors to the air districts,  
25 sharing that information with their neighbors. Members

1 have supported air monitoring and followed up with  
2 meetings with the air district on specific actions on  
3 these facilities.

4           Community organizations in East Oakland like New  
5 Voices are Rising, East Oakland Collective, and HOPE  
6 Collaborative have organized community members in  
7 supporting different efforts with CBE, including planning  
8 through the East Oakland Neighborhood Initiative.

9           East Oakland has been shaped by a history of  
10 racist and economic planning practices, including  
11 redlining, and industrial development that has prioritized  
12 the economic engines for the city to the detriment of the  
13 community's health.

14           Growing up in East Oakland, I saw these  
15 industries as something that was normal, not knowing that  
16 every morning I was passing by them going to school that  
17 they were impacting my health. And now as someone who  
18 struggles with asthma and is engaged in this work, I  
19 have -- I have so much understanding of how much my  
20 environment has impacted me over the years, and why this  
21 fight is important, and why investment and the work to  
22 address the livelihoods of future generations is  
23 important.

24           And so I'm very glad that there -- that there is  
25 this recommendation for East Oakland, but I also hope that

1 there can be changes to this program to support more  
2 communities that need the support and want to see this  
3 action because justice is deserved and it's taking too  
4 long.

5 Thank you.

6 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

7 Irma Nunez, you can unmute and begin.

8 THE INTERPRETER: Interpreter speaking. I'm  
9 going to speak with the commenter for a moment to give  
10 instructions.

11 (Discussion between interpreter and Irma Nunez.)

12 IRMA NUNEZ (throughin interpreter): I am Irma  
13 Nunez -- I'm Irma Nunez from the community of San Ysidro.  
14 I would like to express my support for AB 17 -- 617.

15 The front of San Ysidro registers up to six  
16 million autos every day and they idle for up to four  
17 hours. I hope that you keep this in mind. Also, people  
18 are waiting up to four hours on foot to cross over the  
19 border and it's a lot of pollution and it seems to be  
20 getting worse. I hope that you take this in mind -- keep  
21 this in mind, so that our community can be an AB 617  
22 community.

23 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you. Irma, does  
24 that conclude your comment?

25 I think so. Okay. Thank you.

1           Ana Chiquete, you can unmute and begin.

2           THE INTERPRETER: Okay. Interpreter speaking.

3 I'm going to speak with the commenter for a moment to give  
4 instructions.

5           (Discussion between interpreter and Ana  
6 Chiquete.)

7           ANA CHIQUETE (through interpreter): My name is  
8 Ana Chiquete. Good afternoon. I'm a resident of San  
9 Ysidro, the border community and I want to give my  
10 support, so that San Ysidro can be a AB 617 community.  
11 San Ysidro and the border region is very affected by the  
12 pollution for the amount of cars that are crossing the  
13 border, and it greatly affects our health. And for that  
14 reason, the border community needs to be selected, so it  
15 can be an AB 617 community.

16           Thank you very much. Good evening.

17           BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you and thank you  
18 to our translator.

19           Our next speakers will be Veronica Eady, Alicia  
20 Parker, and Esther Cuevas.

21           Veronica, you can unmute and begin.

22           VERONICA EADY: Thank you. Good evening, Chair  
23 Randolph and members of the Air Resources Board. My name  
24 is Veronica Eady and I'm a Senior Deputy Executive Officer  
25 of Policy and Equity at the Bay Area Air Quality

1 Management District. I oversee equity and environmental  
2 justice matters, community engagement, and our AB 617  
3 work.

4 I want to start by thanking CARB staff and the  
5 Board for their support for community-led planning and  
6 decision-making processes. This support makes it possible  
7 for our agency to partner in new ways with communities to  
8 co-develop solutions and ensure that all communities,  
9 especially those most impacted by air pollution, have the  
10 ability to breathe and lead a healthy life.

11 I'm here today to express my support for  
12 selecting East Oakland as an AB 617 CERP community. And I  
13 also want to thank the prior speakers on behalf of East  
14 Oakland, the residents advocates that have tirelessly  
15 advocated for East Oakland, as well as the partner  
16 agencies like the Alameda County Department of Public  
17 Health.

18 East Oakland is largely comprised of black and  
19 brown residents who have suffered for generations from a  
20 history of environmental injustices facilitated through  
21 public policy and agency decisions. As a result, East  
22 Oakland residents have borne a high cumulative health  
23 burden, including high rates of cancer, chronic lower  
24 respiratory disease, mortality, and lower life  
25 expectancies.



1 East Oakland is an excellent -- is in an  
2 excellent position to accept an AB 617 nomination and  
3 partner with the Air District to develop a CERP. The  
4 community has a long-standing history of building strong  
5 community capacity and leadership in air quality planning.  
6 The Air District has been working with community groups,  
7 which include Communities from a Better Environment, whom  
8 you've heard from, as well as New Voices are Rising who  
9 you've also heard from on the East Oakland nomination  
10 process, something that the community has advocated for  
11 since the launch of the AB 617 Program.

12 I want to thank again every community member who  
13 has advocated for East Oakland, whether here before you or  
14 in the Bay Area, and for their partnership with the Air  
15 District to build community capacity and prove -- and  
16 improve environmental health and local air quality.

17 I strongly urge you, on behalf of the Bay Area  
18 Air Quality Management District, to consider and select  
19 East Oakland as the next AB 617 designated community.  
20 Thank you for taking my remarks into consideration.

21 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

22 Alicia Parker, you may unmute and begin.

23 ALICIA PARKER: Hello. My name is Alicia Parker.  
24 Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback tonight.  
25 Good evening, members of the Board. I am a Planner in the

1 Oakland Planning Department and I also report to the  
2 Oakland City Administrator's Office.

3           And on behalf of the City of Oakland, I would  
4 like to thank you for the nomination of East Oakland as  
5 the next AB 617 community. I know that there was a lot of  
6 need for it. I want to say that the role that the Air  
7 District can play -- can play in bringing diverse  
8 stakeholders together to reduce emissions and improve  
9 public health is very, very important and something that  
10 is deeply needed in Oakland. The Air District is uniquely  
11 poised to help bring regulators, academia, community, and  
12 industry together to create allies, and develop solutions  
13 that are successful from a social, public health  
14 perspective, environmental and economic perspective.

15           I also would like to add that I look forward to  
16 applying a racial equity lens to the strategies that are  
17 ultimately developed and to the process, given the role  
18 that redlining and past racist policy have had in Oakland  
19 and in East Oakland in particular.

20           I also want to thank every speaker who spoke  
21 before me. You know, I hope to uplift that -- all of your  
22 comments.

23           Thank you.

24           BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

25           Next would be Ester Cuevas. After Esther will be

1 Bertha Rodriguez, Matthew Vasilakis, and then Penelope  
2 Quintana.

3 So Esther, you may unmute and begin.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hi. I have Esther on the  
5 phone and she will be needing interpretation from Spanish.

6 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Okay. I will have our  
7 interpreter come on. And then just ask her to please  
8 pause after each sentence to allow for translation.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

10 ESTHER CUEVAS: (Spoke in Spanish.)

11 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Esther?

12 ESTHER CUEVAS: Um-hmm.

13 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: One moment. Let our  
14 interpreter say what you -- repeat what you just said.

15 ESTHER CUEVAS (through interpreter): Hi. I am  
16 Esther Cuevas. I'm a resident of Madera, California. We  
17 are waiting for a response about the air in our community.  
18 We see a lot of illnesses such as asthma, pneumonia, and  
19 cancer, so we are waiting for a response. Supposedly we  
20 have been chosen for two air monitors in our community,  
21 but it's been three years and they've never arrived. And  
22 so we've been waiting and we need a lot of things fixed  
23 here. I just wanted to let you know that, because we're  
24 waiting for an answer from you, from CARB, to help us with  
25 all these illnesses that are going on, because of the

1 pollution.

2 Thank you.

3 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

4 CHAIR RANDOLPH: And I will just ask if anyone  
5 else wants to speak who is not already lined up in the  
6 queue, now would be the time to lineup in the queue,  
7 because we will be closing the speaker lineup in about  
8 five minutes. So if you want to speak and haven't yet  
9 raised your hand, go ahead and raise your hand now.

10 Thank you.

11 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you. So our next  
12 speakers again are Bertha Rodriguez, Matthew Vasilakis,  
13 and Penelope Quintan.

14 Bertha, you can unmute and begin.

15 BERTHA RODRIGUEZ: Good afternoon. My name is  
16 Bertha Rodriguez with the San Diego Green New Deal  
17 Alliance. We're calling in sport of San Diego's  
18 international border communities to be selected for this  
19 round of AB 617 communities. This San Ysidro Port of  
20 Entry, like many have stated before, is the most transited  
21 border in the world, which has led to high pollution  
22 levels that impact the health and well-being of the San  
23 Ysidro community, where the majority of low-income,  
24 Spanish-speaking Latino families reside.

25 Climate Change exacerbates social inequities and

1 it is time for authorities to step forward to protect the  
2 San Ysidro residents by selecting it to be part of the AB  
3 617 community.

4 Thank you for your consideration.

5 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

6 Matthew, you can unmute you and begin.

7 MATTHEW VASILAKIS: Thank you. Good evening.

8 This is Matthew Vasilakis with Climate Action Campaign, a  
9 member of the San Diego Green New Deal Alliance dialing in  
10 to support our partners Casa Familiar and the communities  
11 they represent in elevating the international border  
12 communities, San Ysidro and Otay Msa, in their effort to  
13 be selected as an AB 617 community.

14 The international border is a thriving  
15 constellation of communities home to a -- to the largest  
16 land international border crossing in the Western  
17 Hemisphere, communities that are also exposed to a  
18 disproportionate amount of air pollution, environmental  
19 injustice, and impacts from the climate crisis. Border  
20 communities face a unique set of challenge that require  
21 equitable and sustainable solutions to address air and  
22 quality of life issues, including support from State  
23 agencies like CARB. We look forward to supporting further  
24 efforts to help San Ysidro and Otay Mesa in their efforts  
25 to create healthy, climate-resilient communities.

1 Thank you.

2 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

3 Our next speaker is Penelope Quintana. After  
4 Penelope will be Mykela Patton, John Bottorff, and Sydney  
5 Pitcher.

6 Penelope, you can unmute and begin.

7 DR. PENELOPE QUINTANA: Hi. My name is Penelope  
8 Quintana. And I'm a Professor of Public Health at San  
9 Diego State University School of Public Health. And I'm  
10 speaking to express my strong support for the selection of  
11 the San Diego border community. I've had the privilege of  
12 working with communities near the U.S.-Mexico border in  
13 San Diego to measure air quality, which include the  
14 communities of San Ysidro and the Otay Mesa area. These  
15 are also included in your area.

16 San Ysidro and Otay Mesa are heavily affected by  
17 toxic air pollution from transportation and burning  
18 activities from Tijuana. The transportation is associated  
19 with the international ports of entry as we have just  
20 heard. San Ysidro port of entry is the busiest in the  
21 Western Hemisphere, where there's long lines of idling  
22 vehicles waiting to cross that many of the speakers are  
23 familiar with, waiting for hours at the border. And to  
24 the east, the Otay Mesa commercial port of entry, is the  
25 second busiest along the whole U.S.-Mexico border, and the

1 volume of commercial traffic actually increased during  
2 COVID.

3 I have measured high levels of toxic soup  
4 pollution in the community. And this is a toxic air  
5 pollution, but it is also a climate forcer, and these  
6 communities also bear the brunt of climate change. So  
7 these vulnerable communities are affected by the  
8 transportation that brings benefits for all of  
9 Californians, but they bear the brunt of the pollution  
10 from this traffic and trade.

11 Thank you for considering the selection of the  
12 border community. I look forward to you continuing to  
13 support the community, with myself and my colleagues at  
14 San Diego State University. And I work with the San Diego  
15 Air Pollution Control District. Thank you very much for  
16 your time.

17 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

18 Mykela Patton.

19 MYKELA PATTON: Hi, everyone. Good evening. And  
20 thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is Mykela  
21 Patton. I'm an East Oakland resident and I'm the Youth  
22 Organizer for Communities for a Better Environment. I  
23 also am representing New Voices are Rising as well.

24 As community groups who have been in this process  
25 of AB 617 since inception, and also as a resident of East

1 Oakland, I'm really happy this meeting and this space is  
2 just here finally, because East Oakland community, and  
3 specifically members of CBE, have been working to get East  
4 Oakland nominated and designated as an AB 617 community  
5 for a long time. And even before this program started,  
6 there just has been a lot of organization and trying to  
7 get the intersections of environment, and social justice  
8 issues, and environmental justice and pollution to the  
9 forefront of CARB and local air districts.

10 I'm really happy that this space and community  
11 meeting is happening, because it's due time that East  
12 Oakland is a AB 617 community. People in our communities  
13 are quite literally dying and they should not be forced to  
14 breathe unhealthy toxic air because of their race, because  
15 their income, because of their gender, or just because of  
16 where they live.

17 Folks have mentioned redlining. And as you all  
18 probably know, the redlining maps of 1930s look exactly  
19 the same as the East Oakland maps now. Not much has  
20 changed. There are pollution sources that have been in  
21 our communities and killing our community members for  
22 hundreds of years that community has tried to bring  
23 attention to, and it has been ultimately ignored for a  
24 really long time.

25 And I think AB 617 is a great way to get agency



1 folks, stakeholders, the city, and other decision-makers  
2 in the same room as community, and get everyone on the  
3 same page. I am really hoping that East Oakland gets  
4 designated and can go through with the CERP plan, so the  
5 community can begin making real tangible strategies that  
6 they want to see.

7 I know as a youth, I want to see a lot of things  
8 in my lifetime as well and also not have these decisions  
9 or outputs be on a 20- or 30-year timeline. You know, I  
10 want more trees in East Oakland, I want an urban forest,  
11 living wall, a rooftop garden, so many things that  
12 community members have already begun some of them in their  
13 own backyards, but also really need the support of like  
14 the agency with for the funding and support and just to  
15 really rollout the initiative. So I'm really excited for  
16 this hopeful development and thank you for the  
17 consideration and the opportunity.

18 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

19 John Bottorff, you can unmute and begin.

20 JOHN BOTTORFF: Good evening. My name is John  
21 Bottorff with CleanEarth4Kids.org.

22 I support the selection of East Oakland and San  
23 Diego border areas for AB 617 communities. Combining smog  
24 and soot, San Diego has the worst air in the nation,  
25 according CALPIRG's October report.

1 I would also asked you to add the Eastern  
2 Coachella Valley community. The Salton Sea is a very  
3 unique area that has been devastated by man-made pollution  
4 and is expected to be unlivable within a few years. As an  
5 agricultural drainage reservoir, it is polluted by  
6 pesticides and heavy metals. The air in the valley is  
7 full of dust and drifted pesticides, bringing asthma and  
8 other lung problems to those that live there.

9 There are so many communities that need help.  
10 Please pursue more funds and resources to support these  
11 and the other selected communities and let us know how we  
12 can help. Please take action to stop the root causes of  
13 racial, environmental, and social injustice. Sources of  
14 pollution should not be located near homes, and those  
15 sources must be carefully monitored and regulated with  
16 strong penalties for pollution.

17 Zoning practices have always been about profit  
18 for developers and businesses. And the legacy of  
19 redlining puts a shadow on communities like these. There  
20 is so much change that has to happen to support equality  
21 and equity for all. The focus of all regulations must  
22 prioritize human health over profits lies before industry.  
23 For far too long, low-income communities and communities  
24 of color have been forced to sacrifice their health and  
25 lives and the health of their children just to survive.

1 This must stop. Please continue to take strong action and  
2 help us all live a better life.

3 Thank you.

4 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

5 Next will be Sydney Pitcher. After Sydney will  
6 be Andrea Pineda, Khariyyah Shabazz, and then Leticia  
7 Casillas Luquin. Sydney, you can unmute and begin.

8 SYDNEY PITCHER: Hi. My name is Sydney and  
9 thanks for having us speak tonight. I am speaking in  
10 support of resolutions that will promote cleaner air and a  
11 cleaner environment for all of our communities, including  
12 our kids.

13 I am terrified to have learned over the past  
14 several years that communities of color, predominantly  
15 black communities, are faced with a higher amount of  
16 pollution, and have been known to be sacrifice zones.  
17 Communities of color have been having to say they can't  
18 breathe if silence for way too long. It's time that we  
19 lift communities of color and marginalized communities out  
20 of the hole that they've had to live in by promoting  
21 resolutions that will take toxic chemicals out of our air.  
22 And we have less than 10 years to act to reverse -- to  
23 prevent and avert the worst irreversible effects of  
24 climate change that are the most dangerous and deadly.

25 Cleaning up our air is specially important for

1 people with compromised immune systems, because polluted  
2 air leads to more people with compromised immune systems  
3 that causes them to be more -- to be more prone to get  
4 COVID-19 and die from it. Asthma is very common in kids,  
5 with millions of kids getting asthma every year. And if  
6 kids are having to miss school because of asthma, they're  
7 not getting the quality education that they deserve.

8           And I also want to mention that there is a lab  
9 called the Santa Susana Field Laboratory that is a very  
10 polluted site with radiation and other toxic chemicals  
11 promoting childhood cancer.

12           Apparently, Boeing is in charge of cleaning it  
13 up, but there is not really much of a sign that they're  
14 going to clean it up, so I'm hoping that maybe CARB and  
15 some other air agencies can help clean up the Santa Susana  
16 Field Laboratory, so that that community does not have to  
17 suffer in silence and say they can't breathe anymore, and  
18 get childhood cancer.

19           Thanks again.

20           BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

21           And just a reminder that the sign-ups are now  
22 closed for this item.

23           So next will be Andrea Pineda. You can unmute  
24 and begin.

25           ANDREA PINEDA: Can you hear me?

1 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Yes, we can.

2 ANDREA PINEDA: Okay. Good evening. My name is  
3 Andrea Pineda. I've worked with New Voices are Rising  
4 since 2017 and I've lived in East Oakland for most of my  
5 life. My family lives in the 70s, five minutes away from  
6 the AB&I Foundry. And every day that I am at home, I have  
7 bad allergies and I only have them when I am at home. My  
8 sister who never gets headaches, gets headaches now every  
9 day now that we live five minutes away from this foundry.  
10 And everyone that I know on this street, on my block has  
11 either young children that are vulnerable to this air  
12 pollution, not even from just the foundry, from the  
13 airport, from the freeway, diesel trucks. Right on the  
14 way to the foundry, there is an elementary school, Acorn  
15 Elementary. All these people are vulnerable to the toxic  
16 pollution in the air.

17 I support any community that wants this  
18 designation that needs this Designation. No one should  
19 have to live with this condition, especially communities  
20 that have mostly Black and Brown people. I support the  
21 designation of East Oakland becoming an AB 617 community,  
22 because not only do I live here, but my whole family does,  
23 people I care about. Yeah, thank you for your time.

24 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

25 And I apologize if I pronounce your name. Next

1 will be Khariyyah Shabazz. You may unmute and begin.

2 KHARIYYAH SHABAZZ: Pronunciation was nice. My  
3 name is Khariyyah Shabazz. And I work for the organization  
4 Higher Ground Neighborhood Development Corporation. We  
5 have been providing after-school programming for the  
6 communities of East Oakland for about 22 years now. I  
7 would like to support AB 617 funds to be designated for  
8 these East Oakland neighborhoods.

9 We predominantly work with Latino and African  
10 American students. And within this, we see so many issues  
11 of asthma, so many issues of -- breathing issues, so many  
12 issues of not being able to enjoy their open spaces. So  
13 what did we do as community-based organizations in East  
14 Oakland? We did not wait for this funding, but no we  
15 started together and meet and create programs within  
16 ourselves to ensure that our students, that our youth,  
17 that our community are still getting these services and  
18 still providing solutions to the air issues that we face.

19 Some of these programs include a bike program.  
20 There's a bike share program we have. We created a  
21 greenway project where we planted trees within Brookfield  
22 elementary. And then we do ongoing service days. Yes,  
23 the community-based organizations has been carrying this  
24 issue on our back, but now it's time for larger entities  
25 to keep us afloat. It's time for us to be able to pay our

1 community members to sustain what we've already created.

2 Our organizations have a very tight-knit  
3 community, but we all talk amongst each other and we lean  
4 on each other for the resources that are not always  
5 available. We do not allow this to set us back, but we do  
6 need that extra lift. We need the extra funding to pay  
7 the actual community members to sustain what we have. We  
8 have the recipe. We have what works. We know what  
9 programs will work and we have the data to show that it  
10 works.

11 Now, we actually need the funding to keep this  
12 afloat, to keep this going, to keep this going beyond  
13 generations to understand that this is what happens and  
14 these are the solutions that you put in place. Programs  
15 are here, and working, and we need investment within our  
16 youth, and our community, and our actual neighborhoods.

17 The community-based organizations are in a  
18 position at this moment and ready to implement whatever  
19 programs that we have. The wonderful part about this,  
20 these programs came from the actual mouths of the  
21 community members. This is what they want. Yes, this is  
22 environmental racism at its finest, but instead of us  
23 staying back to allow this to conquer us, no, we went  
24 within our own houses and created these internal programs,  
25 but now we need them sustained. We need these programs to

1 continue on, like I said, to generations that allow our  
2 black and brown children to be able to do the basic  
3 necessity, which is breathe.

4 Please let this funding go to the community of  
5 East Oakland, so that we can put in everything that we've  
6 taken away from our generations.

7 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

8 Leticia Casillas, you may unmute and begin.

9 LETICIA CASILLAS LUQUIN: Hi. Thank you so much.  
10 So my name is Leticia. I'm with Leadership Counsel for  
11 Justice and Accountability. We have been working with La  
12 Vina to help them improve their quality caused by  
13 pesticides, freeways, highways, industry, and ag burning.

14 We understand that the funding for 617 is  
15 stagnant, but we encourage CARB to improve this funding,  
16 so that more communities can benefit from this program.  
17 That being said, we appreciate CARB's commitment to work  
18 with the Department of Pesticide and the Air District on  
19 improving La Vina's air quality. And we look forward to  
20 all three agencies -- working with all three agencies to  
21 make a La Vina potentially a 617 community member --  
22 participant.

23 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you. I wanted to  
24 call on -- we have another hand raised that's under Mykela  
25 Patton and I just wanted to confirm if that's Mykela who



1 already spoke or if there's somebody else on that account?

2           If you received a prompt to unmute, could you let  
3 me if that's another speaker?

4           JESSICA TOVAR: I received a prompt. My name is  
5 Jessica Tovar. I don't know why it says Mykela.

6           BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Oh, okay. Yeah.  
7 Sometimes, if you use a different -- like an email shared  
8 or something, it will -- it will do that. So go ahead.

9           JESSICA TOVAR: Oh, okay. Thank you very much.  
10 My name is Jessica Tovar. I am with the New Voices are  
11 Rising. I'm also with an organization called the Local  
12 Clean Energy Alliance. And we -- I actually want to  
13 support the community groups of East Oakland and the  
14 leadership of East Oakland to be recognized as an AB 617  
15 community.

16           The New Voices are Rising youth are very excited  
17 about this opportunity and recommending East Oakland, and  
18 making this community a priority environmental justice  
19 community. We need to address all historical harms and  
20 the lack of resources on air quality issues in East  
21 Oakland, because it's very much well overdue.

22           Such investments can help reduce pollution and  
23 restore justice and bring dignified economic opportunities  
24 to East Oakland. This will require deep community  
25 engagement and community-based implementation to ensure

1 that pollution reduction is done in a good way that works  
2 for the community.

3           And I want to really emphasize governance  
4 throughout this entire process, because not only are we  
5 the holders of solutions to our communities, we are best  
6 suited to implement them to make sure that they are done  
7 right. And I also want to uplift and highlight that we've  
8 already paid with our health and with the lack of  
9 resources, and we shouldn't have to pay for this  
10 transition into the clean energy economy. But if  
11 anything, our communities should be prioritized for  
12 those -- for those clean energy solutions in our  
13 communities.

14           And I want to highlight that, because we've been  
15 told many times that electrification is something that we  
16 need to be doing in our communities, but it needs to be  
17 done right. We shouldn't have to pay the price that it  
18 would cost and we should be able to power our communities  
19 by local clean solar energy. And that's what we want to  
20 see.

21           Thank you very much. Clean power to the people.

22           BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

23           Our next speaker will be Maria Cervantes, and  
24 then Erica Hernandez, and then a phone number ending in  
25 362.

1 Maria, you can unmute and begin.

2 MARIA CERVANTES: (Spoke in Spanish.)

3 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Hello.

4 (Intepreter communicated in Spanish with  
5 Maria Cervantes.)

6 MARIA CERVANTES(through interpreter): My name is  
7 Maria Cervantes. I work in San Ysidro and I live in San  
8 Diego, five minutes from the border. I want to express my  
9 support for the world border of San Diego be selected for  
10 this round of AB 617 communities. San Ysidro and the Otay  
11 Mesa border have definitely been affected by the air  
12 pollution, because the lines are very long to cross over  
13 the border. Personally, I've waited between -- anywhere  
14 between four and eight hours to cross over the border and  
15 there's so much pollution. This is reflected in my  
16 family's health. Almost all of us have asthma and it's  
17 also reflected in the health of the community. For that  
18 reason, I would like for San Ysidro and Otay Mesa  
19 community to be considered for this round of AB 617  
20 communities.

21 Thank you.

22 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

23 Erica Hernandez, you can unmute and begin.

24 ERICA HERNANDEZ: Hello. Can you hear me?

25 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Yes, we can.

1           ERICA HERNANDEZ: Okay. My name is Erica  
2 Hernandez. I'm a second generation San Diegan and have  
3 family that live on both sides of the border. I am  
4 currently working on an MS in environmental health at San  
5 Diego State University and I am studying air pollution on  
6 the border communities and San Diego.

7           I want to urge the California Air Resources Board  
8 to select San Diego's International Border Community for  
9 this round of AB 61 -- AB 617. San Ysidro and the border  
10 region are uniquely impacted by traffic-related pollution  
11 due to the proximity to the busiest land port of entry in  
12 the world. Residents of San Ysidro and other border  
13 communities are also exposed to open burning of plastics  
14 from Tijuana.

15           With respect to traffic-related air pollution,  
16 cars routinely idle for two to six hours to cross.  
17 Anybody that crosses this border or lives in these areas  
18 will tell you that. Studies have shown a correlation  
19 between border wait time and pollution, specifically in  
20 the San Ysidro community. San Ysidro is in the unique  
21 position of being surrounded by three freeways, as well as  
22 being right at the busiest land port entry in North  
23 America. That's 60,000 cars daily.

24           The 905 Highway is the designated truck route  
25 from the I-5 for commercial truck traffic from Mexico.

1 Black carbon is another traffic-related pollutant and a  
2 monitor site in San Ysidro constantly reported higher  
3 levels of black carbon than the rest of the monitoring  
4 sites in San Diego during a 2020 border study.

5 Research work done by SDSU researchers has shown  
6 elevated levels of PM2.5 at child care facilities.  
7 Children are especially sensitive to this pollution  
8 burden. And this is something that impacts the rest of  
9 their lives. Air pollution, such as PM2.5, can lead to  
10 lung disease, lung cancer cataracts, glaucoma,  
11 tuberculosis, and heart disease. In children, it leads to  
12 asthma, pneumonia, and can even lead to early infant death  
13 and is associated with cognitive impairment, that's PM2.5,  
14 one of the biggest pollutants from traffic.

15 San Ysidro is a majority Latino community, 93  
16 percent Latino, and has some of the lowest income  
17 residents in the City of San Diego. As much as 33 percent  
18 of the population in San Ysidro lives below the federal  
19 poverty level. It is unacceptable that the people who  
20 make up the foundation of the economy, and do so for  
21 minimum wage, are also being exposed to the highest levels  
22 of air pollution.

23 Therefore, I support the selection of San Diego's  
24 international border community to be selected as an AB 617  
25 community. In solidarity, I would also like to reiterate

1 a comment expressed earlier by an Oakland resident that  
2 all of these communities deserve healthy air and we should  
3 not have to vie for AB 617 status.

4 Thank you.

5 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

6 Our next speaker will be a phone number ending in  
7 362. After that, we will hear from Noe Aparicio, Elsa  
8 Escalante, and then Manuel Ochoa.

9 Phone number ending in 362 I'm going to have you  
10 unmute and then please state your name for the record  
11 before you begin. You should have a prompt to unmute. It  
12 might be dialing star six.

13 Are you there?

14 VICTOR BEAS: Okay.

15 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Hi

16 VICTOR BEAS: Can you hear me?

17 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Yes, we can hear you now.

18 VICTOR BEAS: Hi. Good evening, Madam Chair and  
19 members of the Board. My name is Victor Beas with Comite  
20 Civico del Valley.

21 I would like to express our strong support for  
22 the selected community of San Ysidro, which includes a  
23 partnership between the Air district and Casa Familiar.  
24 My duty at Comite Civico includes advocating for solutions  
25 and seeking collaboration to address the transport of

1 pollution that crosses the border.

2           We need California to put greater emphasis and  
3 investment at the border region. We need CARB to help us  
4 reach the Legislature and Governor's office to help them  
5 make a critical investment in border communities. And one  
6 way to do this is by acknowledging pollution,  
7 transportation, and people move 24/7 across the border  
8 where the region has always been promised planned reports  
9 agreement, but we do not see any serious investment for  
10 climate investment in the border.

11           I ask CARB to be build border office to assure we  
12 have real investment in staffing at the border, the staff  
13 that know the border region and understands it. We need  
14 AB 617 in this year's budget to invest in community  
15 innovation. And we keep on seeing the benefit being  
16 siphoned by private companies who hire lobbyists to secure  
17 contracts. Innovation start-up just happened at Silicon  
18 valley. They also happen in AB 617 communities. Give us  
19 the benefits and equity California is promising.

20           We are seeing very good results in Imperial  
21 County with the AB 617, so we want to keep -- to continue  
22 with this benefits along the border, because we have some  
23 similar problems with the border.

24           So thank you very much.

25           BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

1 Victor, can you please repeat your last name?

2 VICTOR BEAS: Beas. B as in boy, E-a-s.

3 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you so much.

4 Okay. Noe Aparicio, you can unmute and begin.

5 NOE APARICIO: (Spoke in spanish.)

6 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Hi. We can hear you. Do  
7 you need translation?

8 NOE APARICIO: (Spoke in Spanish.)

9 (Interpreter communicated in Spanish with Noe  
10 Aparicio.)

11 NOE APARICIO(through interpreter): Dear, Board  
12 members. My name is Noe Aparicio and I'm a resident of  
13 San Ysidro for the last 17 years. I want to express my  
14 support for the border region of San Diego to be chosen  
15 for this round of AB 617 communities. San Ysidro and the  
16 border region are very affected by the high level of air  
17 pollution. Specifically in my family, my two -- my two  
18 kids, the 11-year old has asthma, and the nine-year old  
19 has lung problems.

20 Each day approximately a hundred thousand autos  
21 are crossing the border to the Otay Mesa region to come to  
22 work, to shop, or to visit the San Diego Zoo, Sea World,  
23 and -- et cetera. The same amount return each day to  
24 Tijuana, and other towns in Mexico. I urge you, I urge  
25 you that our border regions be taken into consideration,



1 because the problem is very serious, very serious.

2 Thank you very much.

3 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

4 Elsa Escalante, you can mute and begin.

5 (Interpreter communicated in Spanish with  
6 Elsa Escalante.)

7 ELSA ESCALANTE (through interpreter): My name is  
8 Elsa Escalante and I'm a resident of San Ysidro,  
9 California, and I have lived here for the past 18 years.  
10 I would like to express my support for the International  
11 Border Community of San Diego to be chosen for this round  
12 of AB 617 communities. San Ysidro and the border areas  
13 are very affected by the high level of pollution for  
14 various reasons, the traffic from the border and the  
15 trucks that come over every day.

16 For that reason, many of our communities are  
17 suffering their health. Many members of the community are  
18 suffering due to their health, such as asthma and  
19 allergies. For that reason, we would like very much the  
20 International Border Community of San Diego to be chosen  
21 as AB 617 community.

22 Thank you very much.

23 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

24 Next, will Manuel Ochoa. You can unmute and  
25 begin.

1           MANUEL OCHOA: Hell. Can you hear me?

2           BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Yes, we can.

3           MANUEL OCHOA: Okay. Thank you. My name is  
4 Manuel Ochoa and I'm a Fellow in New Voices are Rising,  
5 and am advocating for East Oakland and believe that it is  
6 more important now than ever that Oakland gets nominated  
7 for AB 617. East Oakland has a history of red-lining and  
8 health inequality, and East Oakland is more than ready to  
9 break that cycle. I support East Oakland being designated  
10 as AB 617 community.

11           Thank you.

12           BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

13           Our next speakers will be Josh Beth, Madeline  
14 Harris, and Maryam Saad.

15           Josh, you can unmute and begin.

16           JOSH BETH: Greetings. I am East Oakland  
17 flatlands resident. I've lived in this house in the  
18 flatlands for 17 years. And I never had asthma in my  
19 life, until I moved here. I actually didn't understand  
20 what it was that was happening at first and was really  
21 surprised to find out that I had developed asthma, and  
22 didn't know when I moved here how bad the air quality was.

23           These days, I pretty much live by PurpleAir.com  
24 or .org, whatever it is. I wake up in the morning and I  
25 know how my day is going to go, because I either wake up

1 able to breathe or I wake up with my sinuses burning, my  
2 throat burning, coughing, headachy, spacey, groggy. And I  
3 can -- I can tell by how I feel what the air quality is  
4 like.

5 I -- there are sometimes when I go weeks at a  
6 time without leaving the house, because the air is so bad.  
7 It's routinely -- you know, the AQI is routinely over a  
8 hundred. It's often over 150. And the -- you know, my  
9 son and I monitor the website. And the monitor that is  
10 closest to our house on the home app is often the one that  
11 has the highest AQI reading. You know, and we'll zoom out  
12 and you can see in the wealthier communities in the hills,  
13 they've got good air, and it's only a few miles away from  
14 us. It's kind of crazy.

15 There are actually times when -- fairly often,  
16 where I will not send my son to school, because he has to  
17 walk through the air to the bus and ride the bus for an  
18 hour to get to school, and I don't want him breathing that  
19 air all day. Its a combined awfulness with COVID,  
20 because, you know, he's got to wear the macing all day  
21 anyway. And then the school, because of COVID, has to  
22 keep the windows open all day. So all of that pollution  
23 is blowing in to try and, you know, diffuse any virus that  
24 might be in the air.

25 And then having your respiratory tract already

1 underlying and flamed all the time only makes you more  
2 susceptible to any respiratory diseases that it might be  
3 out there, viruses. So I feel like a prisoner in my own  
4 home often. I think a lot about leaving California,  
5 because I can't afford to live in a wealthier community  
6 here with cleaner air. It's quite frustrating.

7           And I also want to just empathize with the other  
8 speakers from other communities as well who are  
9 experiencing similar suffering. I don't think we should  
10 have to be competing against one another to be recognized  
11 to get clean air to breathe. I think all human beings, as  
12 a birth right, should be able to breathe.

13           We have a lot of unhoused folks out here too, and  
14 they can't even close their doors and put on an air  
15 filter. They're stuck in it all the time.

16           Thank you.

17           BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

18           Next is Madeline Harris. Madeline, you can  
19 unmute and begin.

20           MADELINE HARRIS: Thank you. Good evening. This  
21 is Madeline Harris from Leadership Counsel for Justice and  
22 Accountability. And I wanted to make some comments on --  
23 in support of La Vina residents, because I've been working  
24 with folks in the community of La Vina for past three  
25 years. And residents of La Vina have self-nominated for

1 617 for the past three years and continue to be told to  
2 wait to benefit from this program.

3           So needless to say, as we've expressed to CARB  
4 before, it's disappointing to hear that there aren't  
5 sufficient funds year after year for La Vina, and that the  
6 community is told to wait, especially when we've yet to  
7 see measurable emissions reductions in any of the existing  
8 617 communities.

9           And, you know, I hear so many folks on the line  
10 tonight from communities that are hoping to benefit from  
11 this program and I really want to say that for future 617  
12 communities and existing communities, that it is  
13 absolutely critical that CARB provide some oversight and  
14 accountability to air districts to actually ensure that  
15 this program is working, and that, you know, the  
16 recommendations of steering committee members and  
17 communities are being taken, and implemented, and that  
18 these concrete and measurable emissions reductions are  
19 taking place.

20           But with regards to La Vina, it is a  
21 predominantly Latino, Latina community. Whereas, Esther  
22 Cuevas mentioned there is a lot of pesticide exposure due  
23 to the fact that industrial agriculture lines up directly  
24 to people's homes. There over a million pounds of  
25 pesticides applied in this community each year in some

1 cases, and it's usually around that number. Lots of folks  
2 are dealing with cancer, asthma, and other respiratory  
3 illnesses, and folks are dying and can't afford to  
4 continue to wait.

5           And so that said, we really appreciate CARB's  
6 commitment to work with DPR and the Air District, and we  
7 will definitely work with you alongside community  
8 residents to make sure that that happens, and that  
9 improved air quality in La Vina isn't contingent upon  
10 waiting for the 617 program to, you know, be successful,  
11 and for more funds to come in in order for them to  
12 benefit.

13           But we do continue to elevate La Vina for 617,  
14 because we know that this is a program where the community  
15 would have the opportunity to, you know, develop a CERP  
16 and guide decisions around what happens to improve their  
17 air quality. So I just want to elevate the community for  
18 support for this program again and encourage CARB to do  
19 the most that they can on behalf of La Vina residents.

20           Thank you.

21           BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

22           And our final two commenters will be Maryam Saad  
23 and then a phone number ending in 329.

24           Maryam, can you please unmute and begin.

25           MARYAM SAAD: Hello. My name is Maryam Saad.

1 And I'm a fellow -- I'm the media and Communications  
2 Fellow in the New Voices are Rising, which is a part of  
3 the Rose Foundation, and I'm in support of East Oakland.  
4 Air quality is essential to -- especially for those who  
5 are vulnerable, like if you have asthma or if you're  
6 older. And East Oakland is especially vulnerable and I  
7 believe that they must be notivate -- mote -- nominated  
8 for AB 617.

9 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

10 And a Irma Gomez, I actually see your hand up  
11 now. You had raised your hand earlier, but then it went  
12 away, so I'll go ahead and take your comment next.

13 You should be able to have a prompt to unmute and  
14 then you can begin.

15 IRMA GOMEZ: (Spoke in Spanish)

16 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Yes. So one moment.  
17 We're going to get an interpreter.

18 (Interpreter communicated in Spanish with  
19 Irma Gomez)

20 IRMA GOMEZ (through interpreter): Okay. My name  
21 is Irma Gomez. CARB suggests -- she's suggesting  
22 something for CARB. I'm a resident and a worker in the  
23 community of San Ysidro. She wants to express her want  
24 for the community -- her community to be nominated for the  
25 bill 617. Her county, San Ysidro are really high in air

1 pollution. They're really close to the -- to the San  
2 Ysidro border, where a thousand cars -- thousands of cars  
3 wait to cross the border to the United States  
4 contaminating the air and polluting it for the residents  
5 of the area. That's why she feels that that area should  
6 be considered to be nominated for the 617 bill.

7 Thank you.

8 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

9 Our final speaker is phone number ending in 329.  
10 Please state your name for the record and then you can  
11 unmute and begin.

12 You should have a prompt. If you're calling in  
13 by phone, you should have a prompt to dial star six in  
14 order to unmute.

15 JIM KENNEDY: Hi. I'll try it again. This is  
16 Jim Kennedy. I'm with the Healthy Air Alliance and it's a  
17 privilege to be the last speaker, so I'll be brief.

18 I wanted to listen, uplift, and support the two  
19 community choices of East Oakland and the border area of  
20 San Diego. I also wanted to reiterate what was mentioned  
21 before by a caller about the need for additional funding,  
22 since the number of initial CAPP communities have  
23 increased by 70 percent. It's all about implementation.  
24 I think someone said it has to be concrete and measurable.  
25 And that would be true on any action taken to make sure



1 that there's results in the communities that have been  
2 overburdened.

3 I want to also state that what I'm wanting to  
4 hear more about, and this is a good segue for the staff  
5 and Board, to talk more about the program reset for the  
6 communities that been covered yet, the statewide programs,  
7 like State Implementation Plans, Mobile Source Strategy,  
8 the Scoping Plan -- the 2022 Scoping Plan. How do these  
9 intersect with creating more identified models for  
10 immediate, direct, and measurable reductions in these  
11 communities, because as I talk to people throughout the  
12 State, they ask what more can be done? The AB 617 CAPP  
13 communities create the CERPs, they ask what more can be  
14 done?

15 And creating these clearinghouses of technologies  
16 is great. It's about implementation and we want to see  
17 again not just the plans, but the effects, and how we can  
18 directly attack petroleum to keep it in the ground, go  
19 after the refineries that are mostly located in  
20 overburdened communities, and go after the fuel that's  
21 used in cars that will be around for a while. Their  
22 internal combustion engines, how do we deal with that lag,  
23 even as we move to zero emission.

24 And those can be sometimes the most immediate  
25 effects on community health, which is so important to the

1 community -- for the Health Air Alliance. So thank you so  
2 much for telling us more about how we can reset this  
3 program to be equitable for all Californians, especially  
4 those that haven't been selected today or even weren't  
5 proposed today.

6 Thank you.

7 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

8 Chair, that concludes the commenters for the  
9 item.

10 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. Thank you.

11 I will now officially close the record on this  
12 item. And I see we have several Board members who are  
13 ready to comment on this item. I am going to first go to  
14 our newest Board member, Supervisor Vargas, who is a  
15 Supervisor in San Diego County, where one of the  
16 communities that we're discussing is located.

17 Supervisor Vargas.

18 BOARD MEMBER VARGAS: Thank you, Chair Randolph.  
19 And as a Supervisor for District 1 and Chair of the San  
20 Diego Air Pollution Control District 1, you know, I  
21 represent the front-line environmental justice communities  
22 with the largest air pollution impact in the County of San  
23 Diego, and the Portside Community and the San Diego  
24 International Border Community.

25 Today, really is a truly historical moment for

1 our community and our region that has been waiting for  
2 decades to be prioritized. And as you heard from many of  
3 the callers today, every day our children play with their  
4 friends without a care near significant sources of toxic  
5 emissions from idling cars. And these are our daughters,  
6 our sons, our nephews, our nieces. And community  
7 organizations on the ground and families have advocated  
8 for decades for clean air, but unfortunately, over and  
9 over they've been neglected. And so today, we have an  
10 opportunity to address some of these issues that have been  
11 disproportionately impacted their lives for so long.

12 And so when we talk about the border, there is a  
13 misconception that it's simply a line or a fence dividing  
14 our two countries. And as a proud fronteriza I can tell  
15 you that we are more than that. We are an interdependent  
16 region from culture, to commerce, to our families on both  
17 sides of the border.

18 (Spoke in Spanish.)

19 BOARD MEMBER VARGAS: And so, however, that also  
20 brings the challenge that you heard of today. And what we  
21 know for sure is that health has no borders. And the 24/7  
22 idling of vehicles waiting across the two international  
23 borders crossing in San Ysidro and Otay Mesa every day  
24 present a huge challenge to public health and overall air  
25 quality.

1           Many of the public members today identified many  
2 of the issues that are communities are impacted, right?  
3 We have 12 elementary middle and high schools located  
4 within a 1,200 feet adjacent to the freeway. And for some  
5 of them, the school fence limits the freeway. Most of  
6 these children and families are very vulnerable and  
7 impacted by access to health care -- lack of access to  
8 health care and transportation.

9           And so there's been a lot of work that's been  
10 done in this community. Our border communities have  
11 heightened challenges because of the inefficiencies  
12 connected to cross-border infrastructure, and its local  
13 effects onto the local streets and the road network, and  
14 the very difficult task of getting the attention and help  
15 they need to develop strategies to reduce emission and  
16 impacts.

17           And so as a result, these communities in my  
18 district experience disproportionate impact, compared to  
19 the county and State averages. They actually rank in the  
20 top five percent for diesel air pollution in the state.  
21 And children's asthma hospitalization rates in some of  
22 these counties are three times higher than the county  
23 average.

24           So I'm really looking forward to working with my  
25 colleagues and the Chair as well to ensure there's

1 additional implementation funding for these district --  
2 for the district, and community collaborations that -- I'd  
3 like to recognize the hard work of our environmental  
4 justice community taking on this work, day to day for  
5 decades, and to the CARB team, and to this Board for  
6 continuing to advance the Community Air Protection  
7 Program. This is exactly what we need to be doing.

8 Thank you.

9 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you. I am next going to  
10 go to Board Member Hurt, who's district has a community  
11 that is up for selection as well.

12 BOARD MEMBER HURT: Thank you, Chair. And Happy  
13 Black History Month and happy Lunar New Year to everyone.

14 When I think of AB 617, Black History Month, and  
15 that timing, it's just right on time here to have a  
16 conversation about these two communities who are brought  
17 before us today. And I want to thank all the public  
18 commenters for their testimony. You were all really  
19 elegant and heartfelt in your words. And I hear you and  
20 see you.

21 Also, I want to welcome Board Member Vargas and  
22 thank you for advocating well for your community and your  
23 comments. Welcome aboard.

24 I want to thank too all those community members  
25 who are working with us and sacrificing their time from

1 family and friends and just continuing to build trust as  
2 we reimagine AB 617 and improve resources, ultimately  
3 moving us closer to cleaner air.

4           After reading all these supporting documents for  
5 this resolution, I support both of these communities  
6 moving forward as AB 617 communities. As East Oakland is  
7 within the Air District I represent, and as Chair of the  
8 Community Health Equity and Justice Committee, where we  
9 have focused with staff on AB 617 work, I would just like  
10 everyone to know that East Oakland is another resilient  
11 amazing California community. With deep organizational  
12 and community building partnerships. As you've heard  
13 through the public commenters, they've had decades of  
14 building community capacity, leadership development, and  
15 youth education. For example, the Rose Foundation and the  
16 Youth[SIC] Voices are Rising. It's largely a community of  
17 color with working community members struggling under a  
18 history of environmental injustices as many have stated  
19 before.

20           And so we want to thank CBE for co-leading and  
21 all the community partners who will help to put the CERP  
22 together and work for implementation. As we've all heard,  
23 that is the key, more funding to do the work that is  
24 required. We just started with the CERP, and then again  
25 we have implementation to do thereafter.

1           I think it takes time and money to unravel the  
2 environmental injustice -- or injustices. And someone  
3 mentioned it earlier, the effect of redlining that have  
4 saddled industry in these communities. At the Air  
5 District, we're looking forward to just doing our part to  
6 reimagine AB 617 and give relief to communities.

7           One thing I'd like to pass on too is we will  
8 engage with our newly formed Community Advisory Council,  
9 which are community members in the Bay Area that will  
10 speak to us on topics of participatory budgeting, they'll  
11 help us realign our grant programs, they'll expand grant  
12 making in the environmental justice communities. We  
13 intend on investing in deeper, stronger community  
14 partnerships in the spirit of AB 617, so we can get other  
15 communities on the road and find solutions that the  
16 communities would like to see and not just what we think  
17 is necessary.

18           When I think about improvements in this program,  
19 we need to continue thinking about enhancing our focus on  
20 technical support and training in matters of air quality,  
21 participatory budgeting as a I mentioned earlier. Co-lead  
22 models, we think there's a lot of great benefit in that  
23 direction, and authentic participation where we hear more  
24 discussions amongst community members versus staff  
25 presentations. I think there's a lot of continued

1 improvement and work we can do with that in mind, as well  
2 as transparency and accountability in the process.

3           So I think I've talked a lot. So I'll just end  
4 with gratitude to the writers group, BAAQMD, and CARB  
5 staff, and the AB 617 subcommittee of the Board for  
6 working hard to begin that transformation of this program  
7 and reimagine AB 617 with all the lessons we've learned to  
8 date. This is a great program and I know that we will  
9 improve with time as we speak more with the community,  
10 because if the community doesn't believe it or feel it,  
11 we've got work to do. And I'm confident that this Board  
12 is invested in this work through the leadership of Chair  
13 Randolph. Change is coming. And I'll end with this. As  
14 a public commenter said earlier, East Oakland is ready.  
15 So I look forward to folks voting for them.

16           Thank you.

17           CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you so much.

18           Supervisor Serna.

19           BOARD MEMBER SERNA: Great. Thank you, Chair.

20           First, let me start by saying, I apologize for  
21 the hat, but I have Omicron hair, so that's why I'm  
22 wearing a hat that displays my alma mater.

23           I want to thank certainly those members of the  
24 public that waited patiently to address the Board. You  
25 know, I've been on this Board almost a decade. It's gone



1 by very fast and it comes with a lot of diligent  
2 listening. I've learned that on this Board listening is  
3 perhaps the best attribute that all of us can express.  
4 And it's always -- it has always impressed me the most  
5 when we hear from members of the public that share their  
6 very personal stories, especially about health impacts.

7           And I was listening very intently to some of the  
8 speakers today talk about their children, their  
9 grandchildren being affected by asthma, certainly being  
10 affected by black carbon, and other air toxins and  
11 pollutants. And that for me is what sticks with me the  
12 most.

13           And so I am certainly going to be supporting  
14 staff's recommendation today, but I do want to make a  
15 suggestion. Board members and the public will recall that  
16 during the course of the slide presentation by staff, we  
17 saw that there were two air districts that withdrew their  
18 nominations. And they withdraw their nominations, because  
19 of a lack of resources, and they also made it contingent  
20 upon increased funding.

21           Members of the Board will remember that at our  
22 last meeting, I spoke at some length about the necessity  
23 to match and make commensurate with the charge that we've  
24 been given by the Legislature to implement through our  
25 local air districts working with our local air districts'

1 AB 617 programming, and the resources and the funding  
2 necessary to make it effective.

3           And I think what -- unfortunately, what we're  
4 seeing, and in the case of Sacramento we're seeing it  
5 profoundly, is that it is not commensurate. It's nowhere  
6 near it. So what I would like to suggest, Chair, is that  
7 we look to the third page of the resolution and make the  
8 third whereas on that page read as follows. I want to put  
9 this in the record. Mr. Corey does have the language.  
10 But it would read as follow, "Whereas, some local air  
11 districts are currently forth -- forced to withdraw  
12 community recommendations for AB 617 program consideration  
13 due to a lack of resources or have made nomination  
14 consideration contingent on funding increases, and that  
15 these circumstances clearly demonstrate the dire need for  
16 additional resources and funding necessary for effective  
17 AB 617 implementation".

18           The reason I think it needs to be in the  
19 resolution is that it certainly complements what staff  
20 have put in there already reflecting the need for more  
21 resources, but this gives some solid and very current  
22 examples of what the lack of resources and funding is  
23 actually doing. It's causing local air districts to steer  
24 clear of the -- of taking advantage of what AB 617 has to  
25 offer, if not for more ability to do so and to do so

1 effectively. So I think it does belong in there. And I'd  
2 like to, at the right time, make that suggestion. I'll  
3 leave it to others to make a motion on this, but I would  
4 like for my colleagues to consider that.

5           And then lastly, I do want to certainly welcome  
6 Nora to the -- to the Board. It's always very lonely  
7 sometimes when we don't have other especially elected  
8 supervisors on the Board. And I've had the good fortune  
9 to work with a few, including Supervisor Fletcher, who we  
10 miss, but we know that Supervisor Vargas is going to do a  
11 wonderful job. You can tell already by her eloquence in  
12 advocating for her constituency. And I plan to support  
13 that along with what staff have recommended for Oakland as  
14 well.

15           So that concludes my comments, Chair, and at the  
16 right time again, I'll make mention of the additional  
17 language.

18           Thank you.

19           CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. Thank you.

20           Board Member Takvorian.

21           BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Thank you, Chair. Well,  
22 I'd like to follow on Supervisor Serna's comments and  
23 welcome Supervisor Nora Vargas to the Board, one of my  
24 supervisors. So while we really do miss Nathan Fletcher,  
25 I really want to welcome Nora Vargas and say that I've had

1 the opportunity to work with Supervisor Vargas in various  
2 capacities over many years. And we are really incredibly  
3 fortunate to have her join our board and lend her  
4 expertise on many issues, particularly health concerns in  
5 disadvantaged communities.

6 She has been an instrumental leader during the  
7 pandemic to ensure dissemination of science-based  
8 information about vaccinations. And that has led to  
9 pretty high vaccination rates in our areas. So we're  
10 grateful to her for that. And she's now the Chair of the  
11 San Diego Air Pollution Control District, a role that she  
12 assumed as the District transitioned to an independent  
13 district in 2021. So she's been leading it in a very  
14 demanding transition. And you've already heard her today  
15 eloquently talk about her extensive experience related to  
16 the border and to the pollution there.

17 So I just want to add my welcome to her and to  
18 thank the staff for the very comprehensive report that  
19 they've presented to us on the Community Air Protection  
20 Program. And I would support the staff recommendations to  
21 add both East Oakland and the international border, San  
22 Ysidro and Otay Mesa. I wanted to thank the community  
23 organization -- the community members and the  
24 organizational members who took the time to share their  
25 expertise and their experience today.

1 I'm pretty familiar with the border, as  
2 Environmental Health Coalition is a cross-border  
3 organization with offices in Colonia Chilpancingo which is  
4 located just a mile south of the U.S.-Mexico border at  
5 Otay Mesa. And Otay Mesa is the second busiest commercial  
6 port of entry on the U.S.-Mexico border. And it's grown  
7 now to have only -- over one million trucks crossing there  
8 ever year. So, as we know, we've been looking at the  
9 pollution from heavy-duty trucks, we know that that's an  
10 incredible impact on now the growing residential community  
11 in that area.

12 And for San Ysidro, there's been a tremendous  
13 effort that's occurred over many decades in the border  
14 communities to document and reduce that air pollution.  
15 And I just want to give a shout-out and kudos to Casa  
16 Familiar and San Diego State University School of Public  
17 Health, as well as to San Diego Air Pollution Control  
18 District for their tireless work to document the hazards,  
19 particularly associated with the San Ysidro border  
20 crossing.

21 I have complete confidence in San Diego Air  
22 Pollution Control District's ability to do the work.  
23 They've done a wonderful job in the Portside communities  
24 with community outreach, substantial participation,  
25 utilizing participatory budget discussions. And we just

1 adopted -- the CARB Board just adopted in October a very  
2 ambitious community emission reduction plan. So I have a  
3 lot of confidence that this project will move in that  
4 direction as well.

5 I only have one area where I have concern that  
6 I -- I'm -- I really am concerned about the funding and I  
7 appreciate that others have raised this issue. And I  
8 would support the amendment to the resolution that  
9 Supervisor Serna has proposed.

10 I do, however, want to ask the Board to think  
11 about the way in which the district implementation funds  
12 have been allocated. As far as I know, the funds have  
13 been pretty much flat since the second year of the program  
14 at about \$50 million per year. And when we approve these  
15 two communities, we're going to have 17 communities.  
16 However, to my knowledge, the funding allocation has not  
17 been increased, which I think we need to work on, but it's  
18 also not been updated to recognize that change.

19 So given the amount that we have to work with, I  
20 think while we'd all like additional funds, we need to  
21 also look at ways in which the funding that we do have is  
22 allocated. So while we're working with our legislative  
23 partners to increase the funding, I think we do need to  
24 ensure that all of the 617 communities have an equal  
25 opportunity to succeed. And to do that, I do believe we

1 need to revisit the district allocations.

2           So it's troubling to me that proposals were --  
3 have been withdrawn and I don't think we want to have that  
4 continue to go forward. So I would like to suggest that  
5 the Executive Officer review the allocation formula and  
6 come back during the next discussion of the 617 program,  
7 which I think is probably May, and to report on the  
8 funding allocation for both the districts -- for both the  
9 district implementation as well as the incentive funding.

10           So that's my suggestion. I was not thinking I  
11 would put it in the resolution, but wanted to get other  
12 Board member thoughts about that as well.

13           Thank you.

14           CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. Thank you.

15           Assembly Member Garcia.

16           ASSEMBLY MEMBER GARCIA: Good evening,  
17 colleagues. I want to join the welcoming committee as  
18 well to welcome our newest Board member, Nora Vargas. I  
19 was going to say I don't miss Nathan, not for any bad  
20 reason, but just simply, you know, I'm happy to have Nora  
21 here. And we'll see Nathan when we see him in San Diego.

22           I'm hearing loud and clear the comments from the  
23 public, the comments from all of you on the Board, that we  
24 have a fundamental problem here and that's the funding  
25 issue moving forward. Now, we could take away that that's

1 what he heard throughout the entire evening thus far, but  
2 I also heard that there are members of the community that  
3 want to see greater oversight of the funding that is in  
4 place with our air districts, with the existing 617  
5 communities.

6 I also heard that there's a need for greater  
7 interagency collaboration. And given the designation of  
8 the border community today, we heard that there needs to  
9 be binational collaboration. The issue of the port of  
10 entries, the border wait times, both for vehicles, trucks,  
11 and pedestrians is real. We've heard that for quite some  
12 time, given that we represent the eastern part of the  
13 California border port of entries in the Calexico-Mexicali  
14 area, and the contributions to poor air quality and carbon  
15 in our children's lungs on a regular basis taking place.

16 I want to -- I want to just tell you that our  
17 office is working closely with Assembly Member Cristina  
18 Garcia, who is working on a number of possible reforms to  
19 AB 617. Both her and I have agreed to tag team on the  
20 funding request. And as I shared at the last Board  
21 meeting, the approach is going to be one in which we look  
22 for a continuous allocation for a handful of years. And  
23 the model that we are basing our approach on is the model  
24 that was utilized to address the safe clean drinking water  
25 policy in the State of California. Something that will go



1 out for approximately 10 years and something that will  
2 allocate money in the hundreds of millions of dollars in  
3 moving in that direction.

4 I'm saddened, but it's the real situation that we  
5 have in front of us that the community that has pulled it  
6 back is a community in my district. It's the area that  
7 covers the other portion of the Salton Sea community. As  
8 you all know, a very large environmental justice issue  
9 that is before us, but that also has some unique  
10 opportunities that are presenting themselves today and  
11 that the State of California is seriously looking at.

12 So I just -- I want to just say that I'm hearing  
13 loud and clear what the challenge is here, but it isn't  
14 just a monetary one. Folks have talked about oversight,  
15 folks have talked about interagency collaboration,  
16 Department of Pesticide and other regulatory agencies that  
17 need to be engaged directly with these communities as  
18 they're developing and implementing their plan, and then,  
19 of course, a real look at the border region and that  
20 binational collaboration that we need to pursue.

21 I want to say a few words in Spanish.

22 (Spoke in Spanish.)

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER GARCIA: I yield back my time,  
24 Madam Chair. Thank you for the opportunity for this  
25 moment to say a few words. We're listening loud and

1 clear. Look forward to bringing back some positive news  
2 as we move forward with these initiatives that I touched  
3 on just a few minutes ago.

4 Thank you.

5 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you.

6 Dr. Pacheco-Werner.

7 BOARD MEMBER PACHECO-WERNER: Thank you, Chair.  
8 I'd like to begin by addressing the Spanish speakers.

9 (Spoke in Spanish.)

10 BOARD MEMBER PACHECO-WERNER: So I would -- I  
11 think for me one of the things that I wanted to say is,  
12 one, in English as well, is that I am following up on --  
13 as part of the comments today on the La Vina speakers and  
14 the issue that they raised.

15 One of the things for me that this brings up in  
16 terms of the calls that we heard for more funding, I think  
17 that, you know, we've had that conversation ongoing, but I  
18 really feel like we really need to put into plan, you  
19 know, what are the next steps. And it seems like, you  
20 know, Board Member Garcia is already implementing a plan.  
21 And however we can be supportive of that as well, you  
22 know, please let us know.

23 For me, I definitely think and support not only,  
24 you know, putting into the resolution the -- you know, the  
25 reasons -- you know, what the struggles are for air

1 districts to add communities. I think as part of the  
2 report back, it's not only for me looking at the funding  
3 formula, but really how we can use the tools we already  
4 have for oversight and how we can actually be using those  
5 within this context to understand the 617 process that's  
6 happening at the air districts better. So the -- for  
7 example, the annual report, I feel like maybe we could  
8 take a more proactive look at, you know, what --  
9 understanding really what are the community challenges,  
10 needs, and opportunities, because I do feel like for me  
11 looking at a funding formula doesn't give me all the data  
12 that I really need to understand how the allocations are  
13 actually working or not working.

14           And I think that one of the things that I've seen  
15 just hearing the air districts at CAPCOA, hearing the  
16 representative Tung Le today, you know, I don't think any  
17 air district is saying we have too much money for this --  
18 you know, for this program. And I know that when they  
19 started this, you know, there was a sense of getting  
20 through the program and getting through the first part,  
21 getting through the planning and then implementation, you  
22 know, you're set. And I think what they're seeing now is  
23 that that's not true. It is more time intensive. And so  
24 I do feel like I want us to understand what tools we have  
25 to really understand the problem before we really make a

1 decision on, you know, advising a reformulating.

2 I do know that CAPCOA does have, you know, some  
3 sort of say in this matter too, so I think it's also  
4 helpful for me to take it from a collaborative approach.  
5 And if we're going to hear from the Executive Officer, I  
6 would like to hear from the air districts themselves too,  
7 in terms of where they're seeing the opportunities. But I  
8 do feel like we need to use all of the data tools that we  
9 have to really understand the problem before making  
10 recommendations as to where to splice and dice on these  
11 limited funds, and as always, right, think bigger and keep  
12 capitalizing.

13 This is what I like about the conversation about  
14 reimagining this program, you know, how we can build on  
15 the successes that we've already had. And I think  
16 probably Board Member De La Torre will talk a little bit  
17 more about that, you know, the successes we've already had  
18 to streamlining and using our CARB voice to really augment  
19 some of the scenes that we're seeing across these  
20 communities to more statewide levels of implementation, so  
21 that communities that are faced with the same problem over  
22 and over again can see a more systemic solution and maybe  
23 more communities can be impacted by this program by simply  
24 implementing at a higher level solutions for the problems  
25 that they're facing. So that's my hope for the

1 reimagining of this program.

2 But again, I would support hearing really what  
3 are the tools we have to make the most sound decision on  
4 how to move forward with the funding allocations.

5 Thank you.

6 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. Thank you.

7 Board Member De La Torre.

8 BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: Thank you.

9 I wanted to first talk about La Vina, because  
10 I've met with the folks from that community and I'm going  
11 to say it Spanish, because I think most of the people who  
12 spoke from that community spoke in Spanish.

13 (Spoke in Spanish.)

14 BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: I just said that I  
15 wanted to acknowledge the various community members from  
16 La Vina who expressed their concerns that they wanted to  
17 be part of this process. And I said, you know, obviously,  
18 they're not selected today, but that in the future, you  
19 know, we'll see what we can do for them, whether it's  
20 through 617 or some other mechanism. And I also said that  
21 I was going to ask Deldi Reyes, who runs our 617 programs,  
22 to make a comment on that, if that's okay, Chair.

23 Deldi.

24 OCAP DIRECTOR REYES: Yes. Good evening, Chair  
25 Randolph and Board members. And Board Member De La Torre,

1 thank you for that. I also just want to say welcome to  
2 Supervisor Vargas.

3 (Spoke Spanish.)

4 OCAP DIRECTOR REYES: I'm also in a border  
5 community, but from Texas. Señora Cuevas, yes, we heard  
6 your comment. We are committed to working with you and  
7 your neighbors in La Vina, even outside of this formal 617  
8 selection. I do hear you say that there had been a  
9 promise made of two monitors. It was not something that  
10 our staff or the Air District committed to, but that  
11 really is beside the point. We know that there are very  
12 critical needs in your community and we are prepared to  
13 learn more about what they are and work together, not just  
14 CARB and the Air District, but also with our colleagues at  
15 the Department of Pesticide Regulation.

16 And so one of the things I think we should -- we  
17 should think about doing, sooner rather than later, is  
18 meeting with you in person, if you will have us, at your  
19 convenience to hear directly from you what the concerns  
20 are and get our own sense of that.

21 And we also are very pleased that we have been  
22 able to, through the Community Air Grants Program, make an  
23 award to one of the very, very high capacity coalitions in  
24 the Central Valley, the Central California Asthma  
25 Collaborative, which includes in the scope of work a

1 proposal to work with not only in your community in La  
2 Vina, but also other communities in the Central Valley.  
3 So we're very pleased that we're able to support that and  
4 plan to also participate, if we're able to, if we're  
5 allowed to, as resources to help move that work along.

6 BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: Thank you, Deldi.

7 (Spoke in Spanish.)

8 BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: I just translated what  
9 Deldi said.

10 So big picture -- well, before I do that, Nora,  
11 welcome. It's so great to see you. When I heard that you  
12 were taking Nathan's place, I was very, very happy,  
13 because I know that you've been fighting these good  
14 fights. Good trouble as John Lewis said, and really,  
15 really happy to have you here, and look forward to working  
16 with you, and maybe, at some point, actually seeing you in  
17 one of these meetings, not just on a screen.

18 So welcome. And in terms of the program broadly,  
19 I want to say what I've said at everyone of these  
20 occasions. For me, these are happy occasions. We are  
21 identifying communities for a program that does not exist  
22 anywhere on the planet. When I tell people from out of  
23 state, or who aren't familiar with it, or other countries  
24 that we have a program that goes down to the community  
25 level, they can't believe it. They can't believe that we

1 are mitigating at the local level and that we are taking  
2 community input to do it.

3           It's a wonderful program. I will say that over,  
4 and over, and over again. And I also call it a sampler  
5 platter, because it reflects urban areas, goods movement  
6 areas, rural areas, just a little bit of everything of the  
7 most impacted communities, up and down the state of  
8 California.

9           And so it was always intended to be a laboratory  
10 for solutions, not just in a specific 617 community, but  
11 in like communities, up and down the state. So I can -- I  
12 can tell you two successes that we have had, and this has  
13 just been two, three years since the first communities got  
14 their CERPs passed and have been implementing. So it's  
15 only been two or three years. You can't expect to reverse  
16 decades or even centuries in two or three years, but we  
17 are making progress and I'll give you two examples.

18           One, pesticides. The Shafter community brought  
19 us that issue. It was outside of the scope of what CARB  
20 does. That's not our area. It's DPR's. We brought DPR  
21 into that session at Shafter. There have been some  
22 changes at the Department of Pesticide Regulation in terms  
23 of the leadership. The previous had left and then the --  
24 there was an interim, and then now there's a permanent  
25 one.



1 Well, if you didn't see it, DPR, the Department  
2 of Pesticide Regulation, announced a pilot project that  
3 they're going to undertake in four counties in California  
4 with an eye toward building toward a statewide regulation.  
5 The first is in Riverside -- not the first one, is in  
6 Riverside, another is in Ventura County, another is in  
7 Santa Cruz County, and the fourth is in Stanislaus County.  
8 Again, a sampling of counties all rural in the state of  
9 California. And they will be pesticide notification  
10 pilots in everyone of those counties. And again, the  
11 learnings from that will go into a statewide regulation,  
12 hopefully sooner rather than later.

13 But that directly came from this process. It  
14 directly came from the Shafter community asking us for it.  
15 So we are making absolute progress. It wasn't something  
16 we knew that we could promise, but we did promise that we  
17 would fight for it with the community. And now, it's  
18 moving ahead.

19 Second, something that's very common in goods  
20 movement communities like where I live, with the trucks,  
21 and the buses, and the trains, are polluting the air. Our  
22 Enforcement Division, led by Todd Sax, figured it out,  
23 right, that this issue keeps coming up in these similar  
24 communities. Well, now, he's starting to reach out with  
25 enforcement strategies and collaboration strategies with

1 those communities that have similar impacts, not just 617  
2 communities. And again, we didn't mandate it. It's just  
3 that CARB figured out that this is happening in multiple  
4 places. And any other community that is impacted in the  
5 same way, whether they're 617 or not, should know about  
6 these tools that can be used to clean the air in those  
7 communities.

8           Two very specific examples doing exactly what AB  
9 617 was meant to do. So I'm very, very proud of that.  
10 And I'm sure when we have this meeting next year, we'll  
11 have more great examples. And I do look forward to the  
12 May conversation around how we restructure this program.

13           Thank you, Assembly Member Garcia for your  
14 commitment on the budget. We're going to need it. We're  
15 going to need some help to expand the funding. But I  
16 would also point out that air districts are not powerless  
17 in this process. The Bay Area District and South Coast  
18 District have added supplemental assessments that support  
19 AB 617 communities, the work that they're doing on AB 617,  
20 by assessing a fee on polluters. They're doing that at  
21 the local level. They totally have the authority to do  
22 it. And maybe San Diego or some of these other districts  
23 can follow their lead and assist -- assess a similar fee  
24 to help support this program going forward at the local  
25 level.

1 I'm not saying we're going to take the money back  
2 that we're do -- that we're putting out there. It's just  
3 another nudge or help that can be done at the local level  
4 in support of this program.

5 So with that, I'm supportive of both communities.  
6 Even though I'm geographically challenged in the Bay Area,  
7 I have now learned that East -- I knew the community. I  
8 didn't know what it was called. So East Oakland and the  
9 San Ysidro border communities very supportive.

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you.

12 Dr. Balmes.

13 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: I'll try to be very quick,  
14 because we've had a long meeting and discussion. And I  
15 support virtually everything that's been said by my  
16 colleagues, so I won't repeat any of that. And I really  
17 look forward to the May meeting where we'll talk more  
18 about reimagining AB 617 to hopefully do more of what Mr.  
19 De La Torre said about trying to get the learnings from  
20 our AB 617 designated communities to the other communities  
21 that deserve the protections and the benefits that come  
22 with AB 617 designation.

23 That's a long conversation. I'm not going to go  
24 there today. I wanted to reach out to Assembly Member  
25 Garcia - I hope he's still listening behind the Mickey and

1 Minnie Mouse screen - because I very much support, as I  
2 said last meeting, more budgetary support from the  
3 Legislature for AB 617. But I also think, in addition to  
4 oversight, that governance of AB 617 implementation needs  
5 to be considered. I don't want to try to prescribe  
6 anything in particular, but I think that both Imperial  
7 County and West Oakland, which has been mentioned today,  
8 are models of co-leadership and participatory budgeting  
9 that I think would be nice to have in future legislation,  
10 because it's caused a fair amount of tension between  
11 community groups and districts about, you know, who has  
12 what power. And that kind of clarification would go, I  
13 think, a long way towards better implementation and better  
14 delivery to the community of what -- the communities of  
15 what they want. So I would -- I saw that you put some  
16 thumbs up, Assembly Member Garcia, so I'd be happy to talk  
17 more with you about those specific issues.

18           So with that, I don't know if it's time to make a  
19 motion. I don't know if there's any other Board member  
20 hand up.

21           CHAIR RANDOLPH: I haven't commented yet, so --  
22           (Laughter.)

23           BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Oh. Sorry, Chair Randolph.

24           CHAIR RANDOLPH: That's okay. I'm actually going  
25 to be --

1           BOARD MEMBER BALMES: But call on me when you're  
2 done.

3           CHAIR RANDOLPH: I'm going to be fairly brief,  
4 because all of you were so eloquent in your comments and  
5 raised really important issues. Obviously, you know, the  
6 funding issue is key and we have kind of two funding  
7 issues that we are grappling with, right? I mean, we have  
8 the limited amount of operational funds that we have  
9 available and how does that get divided up in a situation  
10 where new communities are being selected, and air  
11 districts are taking on additional burdens.

12           I think Dr. Pacheco-Werner's point was well taken  
13 that these issues are interrelated with a lot of the other  
14 kind of fundamental things we need to be thinking about  
15 with the 617 program. So I certainly support asking the  
16 Executive Officer to continue to work on that issue with  
17 CAPCOA and the districts. And as part of our May  
18 discussion, we can include that on the table as -- in  
19 terms of potentially providing some thoughts and ideas in  
20 that area.

21           And then the larger funding issue, I appreciate  
22 all the comments. You know, the budget process is very  
23 extensive in California. And so I encourage Board members  
24 to, you know, participate in that process as they -- as  
25 they see fit and advocating their points of view.

1           And I appreciate Supervisor Serna's proposed  
2 addition to the resolution. And my sense, hearing the  
3 discussion from the Board, is that they are -- there would  
4 be a lot of support for that additional language as part  
5 of the resolution. And I think -- I think we got it into  
6 the record, so if the maker of the motion can refer to  
7 that, then we'll make sure that the resolution reflects  
8 it.

9           And I'm going to encourage our newest colleague  
10 who represents that border community to make the motion  
11 this evening.

12           BOARD MEMBER VARGAS: Thank you, Chair. With  
13 that, I would like to make a motion to support the staff  
14 recommendation, including the -- Supervisor Serna's  
15 recommendations to approve the resolution for the  
16 community selection.

17           BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Second.

18           CHAIR RANDOLPH: And is -- okay. There's a  
19 second. All right. Thank you so much.

20           Board Clerk, will you please call the roll.

21           BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Dr. Balmes?

22           BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Yes.

23           BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Mr. De La Torre?

24           BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: Yes.

25           BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Mr. Eisenhut?

1 BOARD MEMBER EISENHUT: Yes.  
2 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Senator Florez?  
3 BOARD MEMBER FLOREZ: Aye.  
4 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Ms. Hurt?  
5 BOARD MEMBER HURT: Aye.  
6 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Mr. Kracov?  
7 BOARD MEMBER KRACOV: Yes.  
8 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Dr. Pacheco-Werner?  
9 BOARD MEMBER PACHECO-WERNER: Yes.  
10 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Mrs. Riordan?  
11 BOARD MEMBER RIORDAN: Aye.  
12 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Supervisor Serna?  
13 BOARD MEMBER SERNA: Aye.  
14 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Professor Sperling?  
15 BOARD MEMBER SPERLING: Aye.  
16 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Ms. Takvorian?  
17 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Aye.  
18 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Supervisor Vargas?  
19 BOARD MEMBER VARGAS: Vargas, yes.  
20 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Vice Chair Berg?  
21 VICE CHAIR BERG: Aye.  
22 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Chair Randolph?  
23 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Yes.  
24 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Madam Chair, the motion  
25 passes.

1 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Thank you.  
2 Congratulations to the communities of East Oakland and the  
3 International Border Community in San Diego.

4 Okay. It is now time for open public comment.

5 If you wish to provide a comment regarding and  
6 item of interest within the jurisdiction of the Board that  
7 is not on today's agenda, please raise your hand in Zoom  
8 or dial star nine if you are on the phone. Will the Board  
9 Clerk please call commenters.

10 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Yes. We currently have  
11 two people with their hands raised to speak for open  
12 public comment.

13 Bryan Leiker and Jerry Desmond.

14 Bryan I have unmuted -- or I have activated your  
15 microphone. You can unmute yourself and begin.

16 BRYAN LEIKER: Thank you. Can you hear me okay?

17 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Yes, we can.

18 BRYAN LEIKER: Okay. Thank you. This is Bryan  
19 Leiker. I'm the Executive Director of the Metal Finishing  
20 Association of California. Also have a family-owned  
21 business K&L Anodizing in Burbank.

22 I just wanted to bring attention to the Board.  
23 There's a current issue, CARB's ATCM on chrome(VI), which  
24 is under the rulemaking process right now. A few concerns  
25 for our industry. This rule, which is in progress right



1 now, we feel is not going in a direction that tackles the  
2 science and the facts. Our industry was heavily involved  
3 in a rulemaking process with AQMD on their 1469. And that  
4 rule, many of our shops are currently trying to comply  
5 with, which would further reduce emissions -- actually  
6 drastically reduce emissions.

7 Our industry, which is about less than one  
8 percent of hex chrome emissions statewide, that current  
9 rule would further reduce emissions, you know, another 90  
10 or so percent.

11 One of our concerns with this rule is that this  
12 rule includes phaseouts and bans. And we don't feel that  
13 rules should include phaseouts and bans, but should be  
14 based on emission controls and science. One of the issues  
15 with banning these processes will be that they will  
16 relocate, you know, possibly out of state, maybe into  
17 Mexico. And then what would happen would be you'd have  
18 trucks -- diesel trucks importing/exporting parts  
19 throughout the state.

20 Our industry is crucial to, you know, aerospace,  
21 to medical, to automotive, to military. A lot of what we  
22 do is for Boeing for major primes. Also, on the  
23 decorative hex chrome, many our members, smaller  
24 businesses, support customers too. So we're urging the  
25 CARB Board to take a very close look at what's being

1 proposed here. This is a whole new direction for us when  
2 a rule includes a phaseout or ban. You know, we stand for  
3 our industry, many years for protecting the environment.  
4 We've received a clean air award from South Coast AQMD and  
5 have been involved in many rulemaking processes and  
6 come -- have come to fair conclusions and outcomes during  
7 those rulemaking processes.

8           So I'm urging the Board one last time to take a  
9 close look at this. It would have a detrimental impact on  
10 the state long term, possibly causing an entire industry  
11 to move out. And that would be the loss of thousands and  
12 thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in revenue. So  
13 we feel that this can be controlled with emissions. If we  
14 look at 1469, as a rule, that we feel could go statewide,  
15 and further reduce these emissions, and provide our  
16 industry to continue to operate in the state.

17           So thank you for your time.

18           BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

19           Jerry Desmond, you can unmute and begin.

20           Jerry, are you there?

21           It does look like you're unmuted, but we aren't  
22 able to hear you.

23           All right. I will come back to you in a bit.

24           Next, we have a phone number ending in 600 and  
25 then we have another commenter by the name of Justin

1 Guzman.

2           So phone number ending in 600, I've activated  
3 your microphone. You can unmute and begin.

4           It looks like you've unmuted, but we can't hear  
5 you.

6           BOBBI BURNS: Hi. Good evening. My name is  
7 Bobbi Burns. I am with the MFA here in the Bay Area. I  
8 have a metal finishing shop. And we've been working very  
9 closely with CARB regarding the ACTM. I've been listening  
10 to the hearing, since 4 p.m., since it started. And I  
11 have to say that, you know, it's a lot. It's a lot to --  
12 it's a lot of emotion and a lot of communities showing up  
13 to -- it's a lot to listen to.

14           But one thing that I am hearing about AB 617 is a  
15 lot of communities that are in the middle of truck  
16 emissions, communities that are built in free -- on  
17 freeways, in between freeways. I actually have my  
18 community here where my business is for 20 years has been  
19 industrial. And they just started building probably  
20 10,000 homes in the heavy industrial area in my community,  
21 and on the freeway line. So it's confusing to me, you  
22 know, why these communities are put in these areas.

23           But what concerns us with the upcoming -- this  
24 rule, the ACTM is, you know, banning us, banning this  
25 controlled process that we have here in California that

1 we've been controlling and continue to control. It just  
2 sends -- it's just going to create more emissions, more  
3 trucks, trucking things in and out of California to get  
4 services and finishes that they need in manufacturing.

5           So I feel like we're just going to be creating  
6 more emissions that will affect these communities. And it  
7 sounds like 617 is a very effective program. And I  
8 just -- I think there's a correlation. You know, while  
9 one program is trying to help communities deal with these  
10 toxic emissions, the other part of it is creating more by  
11 shipping jobs out of California and shutting businesses  
12 down. The demands are (inaudible) my customers. Demands  
13 for these finishes are not just --

14           CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thirty seconds remaining.

15           BOBBI BURNS: Thank you. The demands for these  
16 finishes doesn't go away. Our customers will just have to  
17 go somewhere else. They'll just have to go out of state.  
18 So I thank for your time and thank you for letting me  
19 speak.

20           BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

21           Our last speaker is Jerry Desmond. Jerry, you  
22 can unmute and begin.

23           JERRY DESMOND: Thank you. Hopefully, it works  
24 this time. Thank you, Chair and members. Jerry Desmond,  
25 also with the Metal Finishing Association of California.

1           Just adding on to the comments that Bobbi and  
2 Bryan mentioned earlier. The reason that we're coming to  
3 you today with an item not on the agenda is because, based  
4 on the last working group meeting on January 20th, there  
5 are -- we're expecting regulatory language that would  
6 actually ban decorative hexavalent chrome plating two  
7 years after adopt -- after the Board decision and then  
8 also establish a ban for hard chrome plating for industry  
9 and defense.

10           And I just wanted to add to the whole discussion  
11 that there isn't -- two things. One is there is not an  
12 easy transition for decorative chrome plating over to  
13 trivalent chrome plating, such as the endeavor that CARB  
14 did with Perc back in the day with dry cleaners, because  
15 our customers don't accept tri chrome plating. And they  
16 will take that -- those plating operations out of the  
17 state.

18           And then secondly is that we are offering, and we  
19 don't think that there's been due consideration being  
20 given to yet, of the alternative pathways to actually  
21 lower emissions to the possible -- to the lowest possible  
22 level that we can accomplish in the state and keep jobs  
23 here.

24           And the three are that there be an emission-based  
25 rule, an alternative to specific mandates that can

1 establish an emissions limitation for each facility with  
2 periodic testing, which would enable a compliant facility  
3 to operate. The second is to adopt a Rule 1469 plus.  
4 Rather than mandates, an adoption of the Rule 1469, like  
5 the South Coast District, that our members are spending  
6 tens to hundreds of thousands of dollars to comply with,  
7 with an added requirement, such as the installation of  
8 HEPA filters that is being achieved in South Coast. And  
9 then the third is a technology review followed by action.  
10 Rather than putting a specific mandate out there to  
11 establish a specific date for a ban, the periodic  
12 technology reviews would trigger a ban, if there is a  
13 determination in that review that there are alternatives  
14 to chrome(VI), that the meet -- that meet the requirements  
15 for a specific application, such as MIL-SPEC for the  
16 defense industries, or our customers.

17 So we wanted to bring that to thre Board's  
18 attention. We appreciate the engagement of all of you and  
19 the staff that are working on the rule. And we really  
20 hope we can towards a reasonable solution.

21 Thank you.

22 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

23 And I do see one more commenter. Justin Guzman,  
24 you can unmute and begin.

25 JUSTIN GUZMAN: Hello there. Can you hear me

1 okay?

2 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Yes, we can.

3 JUSTIN GUZMAN: Awesome. Thank you.

4 Yeah, first of all, thank you to the Board for  
5 taking the time. You know, I think have a unique position  
6 when it comes to myself. You know, growing up in Compton,  
7 being an immigrant, who doesn't want clean air, right?  
8 But also being in that type of community, you also need  
9 opportunity. You know, I worked very hard to be where I'm  
10 at. Luckily now, I am the president of a metal finishing  
11 shop and all in. You know, my son works for me, my  
12 daughter works for me. You know, the thought of having to  
13 close up shop in a couple of years is really  
14 heartbreaking.

15 And, you know, I am super proud that I'm here.  
16 I'm a stakeholder. You know, we negotiated with the AQMD.  
17 I don't think anybody can do what we do better than here  
18 in Southern California. You know, we're going to throw  
19 away all those, you know, I don't know, hundreds,  
20 thousands of hours of working with AQMD to get us here.  
21 So we're going to throw it out of the -- out of the -- you  
22 know, out of the window to go to, what, Arizona or Mexico?  
23 It's just mind-boggling. We understand that a lot of  
24 these emissions are transportation related. We've  
25 reduced, you know, 90 percent in the last couple of

1 decades.

2           The numbers -- if you look at MATES reporting,  
3 you know, the III, IV, V, VI -- up to VI, sorry in MATES,  
4 the reductions are tremendous. We've got some members in  
5 the association that they've done the fence-line testing.  
6 They're down to nanogram and it was up-wind, so it wasn't  
7 coming from their facility.

8           You know, I really do think that we have to  
9 engage AQMD and have them present their findings. We've  
10 done and we're continuing to do anything that we can.  
11 We're at the table. We're here. We're negotiating. We  
12 want to be a part of the solution.

13           Thank you for your time.

14           BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

15           Chair, the concludes the commenters for open  
16 comment.

17           CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. Thank you. The February  
18 10th CARB Board meeting is now adjourned.

19           Thank you. Good night, everyone.

20           (Thereupon the Air Resources Board meeting  
21 adjourned at 7:15 p.m.)

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