

VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

AIR RESOURCES BOARD

ZOOM PLATFORM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2022

8:31 A.M.

JAMES F. PETERS, CSR
CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER
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APPEARANCES

BOARD MEMBERS:

Liane Randolph, Chair

Sandra Berg, Vice Chair

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

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

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

APPEARANCES CONTINUED

STAFF:

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

Ambreen Afshan, Environmental Justice Program Manager, Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ)

Dana Grubaugh, Senior Attorney, Legal Office

Abigail May, Senior Attorney, Legal Office

Natalie Spiegel, Air Pollution Specialist, OEJ

ALSO PRESENT:

Sarah Bliss, Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians

Harvey Eder, Public Solar Power Coalition

Kevin Hamilton, Central California Asthma Collaborative

Cynthia Mackey, Winning Strategies

Nayamin Martinez, Central California Environmental Justice Network

Lonnie Mason, First Generation Environmental Health and Economic Development

Ector Olivares, Catholic Charities

Luis Olmedo, Comite Civico del Valle

Richard Polanco, California Emerging Technology Fund

LaDonna Williams, All Positives Possible

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PROCEEDINGS

1
2 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Good morning. The
3 February 25th, 2022 public meeting of the California Air
4 Resources Board will come to order.

5 Board Clerk, will you please call the roll.

6 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Yes.

7 Dr. Balmes?

8 Mr. De La Torre?

9 BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: Here.

10 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Mr. Eisenhut?

11 BOARD MEMBER EISENHUT: Present.

12 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Senator Florez?

13 BOARD MEMBER FLOREZ: Here.

14 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Assembly Member Garcia?

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER GARCIA: Present.

16 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Ms. Hurt?

17 BOARD MEMBER HURT: Present.

18 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Mr. Kracov?

19 BOARD MEMBER KRACOV: Here.

20 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Senator Leyva?

21 Dr. Pacheco-Werner?

22 BOARD MEMBER PACHECO-WERNER: Here.

23 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Mrs. Riordan?

24 BOARD MEMBER RIORDAN: Here.

25 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Supervisor Serna?

1 Professor Sperling?

2 BOARD MEMBER SPERLING: Here.

3 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Ms. Takvorian?

4 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: I'm here.

5 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Supervisor Vargas?

6 BOARD MEMBER VARGAS: Vargas present.

7 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Vice Chair Berg?

8 VICE CHAIR BERG: Here.

9 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Chair Randolph?

10 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Here.

11 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Madam Chair, we have a
12 quorum.

13 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Thank you.

14 In accordance with Assembly Bill 361, as extended
15 by Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-1-22, we are
16 conducting today's meeting remotely using Zoom with public
17 participation options available both by phone and in Zoom.

18 A closed captioning feature is available for
19 those of you joining us in the Zoom environment. In order
20 to turn on subtitles, please look for a button labeled
21 "CC" at the bottom of the Zoom window, as shown in the
22 example on the screen now.

23 I would like to take this opportunity to remind
24 everyone to speak clearly and from a quiet location,
25 whether you are joining us in Zoom or calling in by phone.

1 Interpretation services will be provided today in Spanish.
2 If you are joining us using Zoom, there is a button
3 labeled "Interpretation" on the Zoom screen. Click on
4 that interpretation button and select Spanish to hear the
5 meeting in Spanish.

6 (Interpreter translated in Spanish)

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

9 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you, Chair
10 Randolph. Good morning, everyone. My name is Katie
11 Estabrook and I am one of the Board clerks. I will
12 provide some information on how public participation will
13 be organized for today's meeting.

14 If you wish to make a verbal comment on the Board
15 item or during -- you must be using Zoom webinar or
16 calling in by phone. If you are currently watching the
17 webcast on CAL-SPAN, but you wish to comment, please
18 register for the Zoom webinar or call in. Information for
19 both can be found on the public agenda for today's
20 meeting. To make a verbal comment, we will be using the
21 raise hand feature in Zoom. If you wish to speak on a
22 Board item, please virtually raise your hand as soon as
23 the item has begun or let us know you wish to speak.

24 To do this, if you are using a computer or
25 tablet, there is a raise hand button. If you are calling

1 in on the phone, dial star nine to raise your hand. Even
2 if you previously indicated which item you wish to speak
3 on when you registered, you must raise your hand at the
4 beginning of the item, so that you can be added to the
5 queue and so that your chance to speak will not be
6 skipped.

7 If you will be giving your verbal comment in
8 Spanish and require an interpreter's assistance, please
9 indicate so at the beginning of your testimony and our
10 translator will assist you. During your comment, please
11 pause after each sentence to allow for the interpreter to
12 translate your comment into English. When the comment
13 period starts, the order of commenters will be determined
14 by who raises their hand first. I will call each
15 commenter by name and will activate each commenter's audio
16 when it is their turn to speak. For those calling in, I
17 will identify you by the last three digits of your phone
18 number. We will not be showing a list of commenters.
19 However, I will be announcing the next three or so
20 commenters in the queue so you are ready to testify and
21 know who is coming up next. Please note that you will not
22 appear by video during your testimony.

23 I would also like to remind everyone to please
24 state your name for the record before you speak. This is
25 important in the remote meeting setting and it is

1 especially important for those calling in by phone to
2 testify.

3 We will have a time limit for each commenter.
4 The normal time limit is three minutes, though this could
5 change based on the Chair's discretion. During public
6 testimony, you will see a timer on the screen. And for
7 those calling in by phone, we will run the timer and let
8 you know when you have 30 seconds left and when your time
9 is up. If you require Spanish interpretation your comment
10 time will be doubled to allow for consecutive translation.

11 If you wish to submit comments to -- written
12 comments today, please visit CARB's send-us-your-comments
13 page or look at the public agenda on our webpage for links
14 to send these documents electronically. Comments will be
15 accepted on the item until the Chair closes the record for
16 that item. If you experience any technical difficulties,
17 please call (805)772-2715 so an IT person can assist.
18 This number is also noted on the public agenda.

19 Thank you. I'll turn it back to you Chair
20 Randolph.

21 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you. The only item on
22 Tuesday's agenda is item number 22-3-4, overview of
23 Community Air Grants Program and 2021 awardees. If you
24 wish to comment on this item, please click the raise hand
25 button or dial star nine now and we will call on you when

1 we get to the public comment portion of the item.

2 AB 617, the Community Air Protection Program is a
3 key tool for addressing disproportionate pollution across
4 the State. Established in 2017, AB 617 is unique in that
5 it requires CARB and air districts to work with local
6 residents, businesses, and other stakeholders to tackle
7 air pollution at the community scale and to center
8 community voices and priorities.

9 As part of AB 617, the Community Air Grants
10 Program provides support for community based organizations
11 and California tribes to participate in the Community Air
12 Protection Program. These grants can help awardees deepen
13 their participation in the AB 617 process, as well as to
14 build capacity to become active partners with government
15 and others to identify, evaluate, and ultimately reduce
16 air pollution and exposure to harmful emissions in their
17 communities. Award amounts range from \$100,000 to
18 \$300,000 and focus on community capacity building at the
19 local scale.

20 The uniqueness of this program allows for more
21 community groups and tribal governments to have the
22 opportunity for education and capacity building in their
23 communities to make a potentially large impact. Pursuant
24 to Assembly Bill 617 and California Health and Safety Code
25 Section 44391.2(d) and in support of the California Air

1 Resources Board Community Air Protection Program, program
2 staff have selected final awardees for the community air
3 grants program utilizing funding from the fiscal year 2019
4 to 2020.

5 This item is informational and the Board will not
6 be taking formal action today, but I really look forward
7 to the discussion and guidance from Board members. Mr.
8 Corey, would you please introduce the item?

9 EXECUTIVE OFFICER COREY: Yes. Thank you, Chair.
10 We've come a long way in reducing air pollution. However,
11 as the Board knows, California's ongoing air pollution
12 challenges are particularly stark in disadvantaged and
13 frontline communities. The air quality and health
14 improvements we've seen over the past 50 years are not
15 shared by all. Nearly a third of Californians,
16 predominantly people of color, live in over the -- over 400
17 California communities that have disproportionately dirty
18 air. This pollution burden results from a long history of
19 structural and environmental racism, poor land use
20 decisions, poverty, and disinvestment.

21 Data from CalEnviroScreen shows that people of
22 color are more likely than Whites to live in the most
23 polluted neighborhoods, while Whites are more likely to
24 live in the least polluted areas. CARB's response to this
25 stark disparity is to make racial equity and environmental

1 justice more than just a stated priority. We're committed
2 to equity, environmental justice, as a way of doing
3 business and clean air for every community is our goal.

4 The community air grants program is a piece of
5 the puzzle to address this. Community air grants fund
6 projects that provide support for California
7 community-based organizations and California tribes.
8 Projects are wholly located in and benefit disadvantaged
9 or low-income communities or are on tribal lands. Since
10 the program's inception, a total of 15 million has been
11 awarded to almost 50 community-based organizations and
12 tribal governments.

13 Projects funded through the grant program include
14 community-driven air monitoring, dissemination of
15 information on local emission sources, education, and
16 development of actions to reduce air pollution in their
17 communities. This year, staff have conditionally awarded
18 10 million to fund the Community Air Grants Program to
19 support 39 community-focused efforts across the state.

20 I'll now ask Ambreen Afshan who manages CARB's
21 Office of Environmental Justice to give the staff
22 presentation.

23 Ambreen.

24 (Thereupon a slide presentation.)

25 OEJ ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM MANAGER AFSHAN:

1 Thank you, Mr. Corey. Good morning, Chair
2 Randolph, Vice Chair Berg, and members of the Board.

3 We are here today to present to you an overview
4 of Community Air Grants Program managed by CARB's Office
5 of Environmental Justice and our 2021 grant awardees.

6 --o0o--

7 OEJ ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM MANAGER AFSHAN:

8 One piece of AB 617 is Community Air Grants.
9 These grants fund projects that provide support for
10 California community-based organizations and tribes.
11 These grants can help awardees deepen their participation
12 in AB 617 process as well as build capacity within
13 communities to become active partners to identify,
14 evaluate, and ultimately reduce air pollution and exposure
15 to harmful emissions in their communities.

16 The goal of Community Air Grants Program is to
17 fund community-driven efforts to reduce exposure in
18 communities most impacted by air pollution. While these
19 grants are funded through AB 617, their scope is far
20 reaching and broader than AB 617. Grantees don't have to
21 be located solely in an AB 617 community. Rather, these
22 grants fund projects in disadvantaged communities and
23 low-income communities throughout the state.

24 Through AB 617, communities around the State are
25 working together to develop and implement new strategies

1 to measure air pollution and reduce health impacts. The
2 Community Air Grant Program builds on those efforts by
3 funding these strategies.

4 --o0o--

5 OEJ ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM MANAGER AFSHAN:

6 For each community air grant project selected, it
7 must prioritize equitable public participation, local
8 partnership building, and coordination, resource
9 leveraging, in-kind support, workforce development,
10 environmental justice within the context of California's
11 air quality policies, and transferability of emission
12 reduction strategies from AB 61[SIC] communities to other
13 communities with similar sources of air pollution.

14 In order to maximize the benefits to
15 disadvantaged communities and to provide direct,
16 meaningful, and assured benefits to priority populations,
17 all community air grants funded projects must be fully
18 located in and benefit disadvantaged and/or low income
19 communities, or on tribal lands.

20 --o0o--

21 OEJ ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM MANAGER AFSHAN:

22 There are three broader categories of funding
23 under community air grants, educational, targeted, and
24 technical projects. Technical and targeted projects are
25 funded up to a maximum amount of \$300,000, and \$100,000

1 for educational projects. Educational projects can
2 include community engagement, air quality education, and
3 support projects. Technical projects can include
4 community air monitoring and modeling, as well as
5 technical training and technology assessment.

6 The image on the left depicts Groundwork
7 Richmond's air monitoring program funded under the
8 technical category of air grants. They are receiving
9 another grant to expand their program for Air Rangers III.
10 Air Rangers III would extend and expand a comprehensive
11 three-year community-oriented air monitoring network with
12 a sophisticated emissions source based modeling approach
13 to identify and evaluate emission sources of fine
14 particulate matter, specifically targeting flaring from
15 the Chevron refinery and wildfires.

16 Targeted projects can include community capacity
17 building, emission reductions strategy development and
18 expansion, and community air monitoring plan development.
19 The image on the right depicts PSR-LA's work to build the
20 capacity of South Central LA residents to understand the
21 pollution in their region.

22 As one of the current new awardees, their project
23 will expand community training for the South Los Angeles
24 AB 617 implementation, evaluate the South LA AB 617
25 process, work with residents and the regulatory agencies

1 to identify barriers for engagement, conduct a qualitative
2 and quantitative analyses of the AB 617 matrix for
3 success, and work with local small businesses to identify
4 strategies to advance emission reduction and clean
5 production solutions.

6 The next few slides will further provide details
7 on each of these project types with specific examples.

8 --o0o--

9 OEJ ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM MANAGER AFSHAN:

10 As mentioned earlier, educational projects can be
11 funded for a maximum grant amount of \$100,000. This slide
12 provides a list of examples of type of educational
13 projects elements that meet the Air Grant Program goals
14 and priorities. This is not an exhaustive list, rather to
15 provide a list of examples to help as applicants are
16 thinking about project ideas.

17 The list includes: Community engagement and
18 education supporting CARB's Blueprint document; conducting
19 air quality education; developing partnerships and
20 coalition building for the purpose of AB 617; facilitating
21 community interaction and cultivating working
22 relationships with government agencies; education and
23 support on specific Community Emission Reduction Programs;
24 education on other AB 617 statewide strategies; education
25 on best available control technologies (BACT), best

1 available retrofit control technologies (BARCT); education
2 on air quality enforcement concepts; education on the data
3 reporting and communication; and, any other elements of AB
4 617 program or the Blueprint.

5 One of the projects funded under the educational
6 category in this round of funding is for the -- is for the
7 Morongo Band of Mission Indians to continue to operate of
8 their air quality monitoring network and to support air
9 quality awareness and education presentation to the
10 students at the Morongo School and will also support
11 materials for inclusion in their newsletters, which they
12 do quarterly, and social media posts. They will develop
13 also posters and presentations on local air quality
14 concerns on ways to reduce exposure, which will be
15 delivered at community events, such as Earth Day, Cultural
16 days, and back to school events.

17 --o0o--

18 OEJ ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM MANAGER AFSHAN:

19 Again, the technical projects can be funded for a
20 maximum of amount of \$300,000. This slide includes
21 examples of technical projects that meet the goals and
22 purpose of the Community Air Grants Program. These
23 include: Community technology assessment; community
24 training, for example, monitoring and technical education,
25 including data collection and analyses; community-led air

1 protection efforts; technical implementation for deploying
2 sensors; community modeling; and community inventory
3 training, and community air monitoring support.

4 Some of these technical projects funded through
5 this round include Valley Vision project, which will
6 deepen the current work of four non-profit organizations
7 and community members in building partnerships and
8 advancing resident identified AB 617 emission reduction
9 strategies in these two vulnerable sentimental
10 neighborhoods.

11 The Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians will develop
12 an air monitoring network of the tribal community to raise
13 awareness of air quality issues stemming from wildfires
14 and other pollution sources.

15 CFROG's projects will continue gather details
16 air -- details about air quality monitoring data in
17 California climate investment priority population of South
18 Oxnard and West Ventura.

19 --o0o--

20 OEJ ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM MANAGER AFSHAN:

21 Targeted projects, this is a new category for
22 this year, and can be funded for up to \$300,000 and
23 include the following four category types: community
24 capacity building projects to build grassroots capacity
25 and provide tools to maximize participation in AB 617

1 process;

2 Emission reduction strategy development. To
3 support the public process, this project category requires
4 engagement with local community members to identify
5 barriers to strategy identification;

6 Emission reduction strategy expansion. This
7 project documents statewide community-specific needs to
8 help develop and identify successful strategies that could
9 be applied across communities with similar sources of air
10 pollution or adapted as a statewide effort;

11 Community air monitoring plan development which
12 is to provide air monitoring plan development guidance to
13 ensure that communities have the tools and experience
14 needed to collect useful and actionable data.

15 Some targeted projects we are funding in this
16 round include:

17 Community Environmental Council Project. This
18 project is to develop solutions with local communities
19 that will people's exposure to air pollution, wildfire
20 smoke, and pesticides. This project will achieve the goal
21 by expanding local air quality monitoring gathering
22 reliable data on local air quality and conducting air
23 quality data analyses to better understand air pollution
24 impacts.

25 Central California Asthma Collaborative. This

1 project is support -- is to support emission reduction
2 strategy expansion for the local community steering
3 committee in Stanislaus, Madera and Tulare County. This
4 project will ensure that local community steering
5 committees understand the various opportunities available
6 through existing and proposed air toxics emission
7 reduction strategies and create working group of these
8 same local steering committees to consider and propose new
9 opportunities to reduce or mitigate those emissions.

10 Breathe Southern California. This project will
11 pilot an accountability-focused freight sustainability
12 score for major retailers who move cargo via the San Pedro
13 Bay port complex to improve public health and
14 environmental justice primarily in disadvantaged
15 communities.

16 --o0o--

17 OEJ ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM MANAGER AFSHAN:

18 A total of \$15 million has already been awarded
19 to about 50 community-based organizations and tribal
20 governments for education and community air monitoring
21 projects with 10 million in addition for this year.

22 The first year we put out a solicitation in 2018,
23 we awarded 27 applications out of 65 applicants. The
24 second year, we awarded 29 applications out of 48
25 applicants. This year, which is using funds from fiscal

1 year 2019, 2020, we were appropriated \$10 million. We
2 have received a total of 60 applications and are awarding
3 39 projects, including five tribal entities.

4 --o0o--

5 OEJ ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM MANAGER AFSHAN:

6 This slide provides a broad overview of our grant
7 execution timeline. After releasing a draft of request
8 for application and listening to community feedback and
9 comments through public workshops and public comment
10 period, our final request for application was released on
11 July 2nd, 2021. We have heard from our community partners
12 that more time is needed to put these projects together.
13 Based on this feedback, rather than a traditional 30 day
14 period, a request for application was opened for three
15 months and was closed on October 1st, with an extension to
16 submit documents during a grace period closing on October
17 22nd.

18 During the grace period, program staff checked
19 all 60 submitted proposals for completion and worked with
20 the applicants to submit the missing documents. We just
21 wanted to make sure that we are entertaining all the
22 requested -- we are entertaining the information needed to
23 move these applications to the next step.

24 The next step was to check the proposals for
25 minimum qualifications to make sure they met our

1 eligibility requirement. And the proposals were sent to
2 the review team to evaluate and then score.

3 This year, review team consisted of 18 reviewers
4 across seven different divisions at CARB, as well as the
5 Strategic Growth Council. In order to select the list of
6 awardees, grant applications that met the minimum
7 qualifications were evaluated and scored in two steps,
8 administrative and technical review, and the programmatic
9 alignment review.

10 --o0o--

11 OEJ ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM MANAGER AFSHAN:

12 CARB received a total of 60 applications with
13 requested funding of just under 15 million, indicating a
14 strong demand for assistance. Using this scoring criteria
15 as outlined in our request for application, the 18-member
16 review team scored every single submitted project and
17 generated a final list. We awarded funding to the highest
18 scoring projects until all of the 10 million allocations
19 were accounted for. We now have 39 grant awardees for
20 that \$10 million.

21 --o0o--

22 OEJ ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM MANAGER AFSHAN:

23 This slide provides an overview of all the
24 submitted applications we received during this year's
25 request for application. We received 18 applications in

1 the South Coast and 18 in the Bay Area, for a total of
2 requested amount or ask of 4.5 million and 4.3 million
3 dollars respectively.

4 In the next slide, you will see community air
5 grant awardees by an air district but we wanted to provide
6 this overview slide to show the air districts where are
7 applications spent from.

8 --o0o--

9 OEJ ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM MANAGER AFSHAN:

10 This slide depicts where this year's awardees are
11 located by an air district. Most of awardees are located
12 in the South Coast, Bay Area, and San Joaquin Valley with
13 other grantees spread across the state.

14 --o0o--

15 OEJ ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM MANAGER AFSHAN:

16 AB 617 communities across California face
17 significant challenges with air pollution including Inland
18 Empire border region, the Central Valley, Los Angeles, the
19 Bay Area, and San Diego. Grant recipients are not only
20 located in these locations mentioned on the slide, as well
21 as other disadvantaged and low-income communities
22 throughout the state.

23 --o0o--

24 OEJ ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM MANAGER AFSHAN:

25 This slide shows a list of this round's Community

1 Air Grant awardees. The selected projects reflect the
2 diverse needs across the state and include
3 community-driven air monitoring, improving public access
4 to information about local pollution sources, reducing
5 community exposure and tracking progress on pollution
6 reduction efforts.

7 --o0o--

8 OEJ ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM MANAGER AFSHAN:

9 This slide provides a background on what we are
10 thinking for the future of the Community Air Grants
11 Program. As can be seen from the chart, Out of total 60
12 submitted applications, 33 applicants are current grantees
13 and 27 proposals came from new applicants for this round
14 of funding. And percentage-wise, it is 55 percent
15 existing grantees who submitted applications and 45
16 percent new applicants. But when we look at the
17 percentage of successful applicants, the ratio is 64
18 percent existing grantees, and 36 percent new.

19 Looking at these numbers, we are rethinking about
20 how we can provide greater technical assistance to
21 communities during the application process, broaden our
22 outreach efforts to increase the number of new applicants,
23 include more organizations from locations not previously
24 funded, and get enhanced communication for future
25 solicitations that are informed by community feedback to

1 highlight results of the program.

2 Finally, our priority for the future is to make
3 some needed adjustments in the program based on what we
4 have learned through the implementation of the program
5 since 2018 along with what we have heard from the
6 applicants and the feedback we have received from our
7 community partners. To make sure, we are providing the
8 funding to fill in the gaps in the frontline,
9 disadvantaged, and low-income communities where this
10 funding hasn't funneled through yet.

11 --o0o--

12 OEJ ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM MANAGER AFSHAN:

13 Thank you for listening to our presentation on
14 the current state of air grants and this year's air grant
15 awardees. To wrap up our presentation, we want to
16 highlight a couple of our current grants that will
17 continue to be doing some of this work with new round of
18 funding.

19 One on the left is Twenty-Nine Palms Band of
20 Mission Indians air quality monitoring program, the middle
21 photo is Brightline Defense and Community Youth Center
22 leaders setting an air quality monitor, and the photo on
23 the right shows a community meeting conducted by Madison
24 Park Neighborhood Association.

25 Again, thank you. With that, I will conclude

1 staff's presentation would like to open the floor to our
2 guest speakers, and then we'll be happy to answer any
3 questions the Board may have.

4 Today, we have five guest speakers including one
5 tribal representative. Our first speaker is Ms. Nayamin
6 Martinez of Central California Environmental Justice
7 Network followed by Mr. Luis Olmedo from Comite Civico del
8 Valle, followed by Ms. LaDonna Williams of All Positives
9 Possible, followed by Mr. Kevin Hamilton of Central
10 California Asthma Collaborative, and last, but not least,
11 Ms. Sarah Bliss of Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission
12 Indians.

13 With that, I will ask Ms. Nayamin Martinez to
14 unmute her mic and speak.

15 NAYAMIN MARTINEZ: Thank you. Good morning,
16 everyone. Can you hear? I hope you can hear me. My name
17 is Nayamin -- good morning, Chair Randolph and Board
18 members. My name is Nayamin Martinez. I am the Executive
19 Director for the Central California Environmental Justice
20 Network.

21 We're pleased that our project -- the proposed
22 project is being recommended for funding. Our project is
23 titled The San Joaquin Valley Visualization of Ozone, or
24 VOZ. Through VOZ, we will expand community access to
25 real-time quality information at the local level by

1 expanding our existing community air monitoring network,
2 not only by adding more monitors, but also by adding an
3 additional component.

4 So far, we were only measuring PM, but with this
5 new grant, we will be able to add low cost ozone sensors.
6 We will be giving priority to rural communities that lack
7 nearby ozone monitors and where levels of ozone may be
8 higher than in monitored urban areas. This project will
9 be paired with a culturally relevant community education
10 component on the health impacts of both ozone and PM2.5,
11 especially the dangerous combo of the two pollutants that
12 we have experienced in the past two years during the
13 summer months, where we have had wildfires and we had
14 experienced high levels of PM2.5 and ozone at the same
15 time.

16 Our VOZ project would also include a community
17 education component on the south -- sorry at a curriculum
18 to teach high school students how to assemble and deploy
19 low-cost ozone and PM monitors. Additionally, we will
20 continue supporting residents from South Central Fresno
21 Shafter, and Arvin-Lamont, so they can meaningfully engage
22 in the implementation and Board development of their
23 community air monitoring plans and their community
24 emission reduction plans in their respective communities.

25 We are grateful for this opportunity to continue

1 working in partnership with CARB and another environmental
2 organizations within the Central Valley and beyond,
3 including the Comite Civico del Valle, the Central
4 California Asthma Collaborative, The LEAP Institute, the
5 Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, all of
6 them are recommended also for funding and we will work
7 together to improve the air quality in the Central Valley
8 and other parts of California.

9 Thank you for this opportunity and I am available
10 to respond to any questions or provide additional
11 information about our VOZ project. Thank you.

12 OEJ ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM MANAGER AFSHAN:

13 Thank you, Nayamin.

14 The next on our list is Mr. Luis Olmedo from
15 Comite Civico del Valle. Please unmute yourself, Mr.
16 Luis.

17 LUIS OLMEDO: Hello. Am I unmuted?

18 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Yes, you are.

19 LUIS OLMEDO: Okay. Hello, Ambreen. Thank you
20 for the opportunity. Madam Chair and members of the
21 Board, I'm very appreciative of just having yet another
22 opportunity to work collaboratively with CARB. CARB is
23 doing the right thing making investments in our community
24 through these air grants. I do want to uplift, because I
25 feel like I have such a rich history with this program,

1 but, you know, Trish Johnson and Ryan Atencio who I knew
2 personally building the framework, putting together the
3 guidelines, and then creating the program elements that
4 certainly have been a living document and continue to be
5 innovated through the leadership of Chanell and Ambreen.
6 So I want to just, you know, uplift that and say that
7 first, Richard, for the opportunity that you've given our
8 communities, Madam Chair and members of the board.

9 I -- we have a -- we have again a rich history,
10 you know, doing -- working on citizen science, we've been
11 very fortunate to have been able to create a network that
12 is very expansive in the Imperial Coachella, over 70 air
13 sensors at this point that are oper -- currently operated
14 and managed by our team of technical experts here. We
15 maintain a current -- the same actually team and have
16 grown the team of scientists and monitoring experts that
17 still have been a sustainable part of our team. This new
18 grant will allow us to be able to create -- well, first of
19 all, to be able to do a technology survey, be able to do a
20 cost-benefit analysis, and be able to customize a monitor
21 to respond to the most critical air monitoring needs that
22 we have here in the conditions that we live here in this
23 agricultural, desert, highly impacted polluted area.

24 Some of the benefits that we've seen through this
25 community science is the opportunity to build innovation

1 science hot. Every monitoring station that we have out
2 there is -- it becomes a scientific hub. It's really
3 important that the Board and the CARB staff know how
4 valuable giving communities the power to do community
5 science has been. It has allowed us to get to this point
6 where we're now again putting a mobile monitor together to
7 be able not to be -- collect just a single fraction of a
8 second, right, and then -- and then that be the total
9 value of data that we have, but to have continuous
10 monitoring around the clock creating local jobs, creating
11 local sustainability, creating local science, and being
12 able to offer this to our local education in terms of the
13 green jobs, the technology jobs that the Governor and that
14 continuously, you know, puts forth that we need to have
15 sort of this just transition.

16 I cannot stress enough how important it is to
17 have these dollars brought to our communities. And I say
18 that I take an opportunity of this platform to remind the
19 Board that to the extent possible, don't just put it on
20 companies. Bring it into our communities, because we can
21 be the scientists and engineers that CARB needs. We've
22 already had staff here that have moved on to jobs, whether
23 it's the private sector, whether it's government that have
24 started here working on monitoring, learning the science,
25 learning the monitoring. We want to be able to contribute

1 that.

2 This has also given us an opportunity to venture
3 into another space, which is the installation of electric
4 vehicle chargers. Now, we're moving into that space and
5 being able to install these. There is so much science,
6 and innovation, and start-up project opportunities that
7 can happen here in our communities, and it's being made
8 possible through the air grants.

9 Sadly, it hasn't received the same amount of
10 investment -- the equitable investment. There's \$30
11 million, last I saw, in the Governor's budget. We need to
12 make sure that those \$30 million get injected into the
13 CARB air grants.

14 But with that said, I thank you for the
15 opportunity to speak today. We are not going to let you
16 down. I want to uplift all my partners that are part of
17 the IVAN Network, that are part of the AIRE Collaborative,
18 Nayamin, being one of the speakers. We certainly have a
19 great team and we hope to continue this partnership.

20 Oh, I should say real quick that I also thank
21 CARB for institutionalizing -- obviously, 617, and their
22 efforts for institutionalizing community monitoring. I
23 want to uplift the 14 elements that the IVAN network
24 meets. We're contributing data to the CARB's air data air
25 view data capturing database that we're working with CARB.

1 So thank you very much for the opportunity to speak today.
2 So much to be said, so little time.

3 Bye. That's all.

4 OEJ ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM MANAGER AFSHAN:

5 Thank you.

6 Next would be Ms. LaDonna Williams of All
7 Positives Possible.

8 Ms. Williams, please unmute yourself.

9 LaDONNA WILLIAMS: Yes. Good morning. Can you
10 hear me?

11 OEJ ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM MANAGER AFSHAN:

12 Yes.

13 LaDONNA WILLIAMS: Good morning, Chair Randolph
14 and the Board. My name is LaDonna Williams. I am
15 Program's Director for All Positives Possible, a small EJ
16 frontline community group in the Bay Area, Richmond,
17 Vallejo area.

18 First and foremost, I want to commend CARB for
19 its effort -- efforts, let me say that, in engaging with
20 community in a respectful way, which hasn't always been
21 the case when it comes to our frontline environmental
22 justice, particularly Black American communities.

23 But I do want to open this up first and foremost
24 by acknowledging the staff folks that you have had on
25 board and currently have on board: Ms. Veronica Eady, our

1 superstar who was Jose Saldana, Trish is a star as well.
2 Those were the previous ones when we had first engaged in
3 this process and received a very much needed grant that
4 happened during this chaotic part of COVID. It literally
5 turned our worlds upside down, where we didn't know
6 whether we were coming or going, our family members our
7 neighbors were dying -- literally dying around us, and
8 many folks just could not hold up. And had we not
9 received a grant during that period, I'm sure I would not
10 be here being able to share some of the successes that we
11 had.

12 And through this chaos -- and I'm going to be all
13 over the place, so please bear with me, because it's
14 difficult for me to read through these notes. I just have
15 to speak from the heart. But the grant enable us to reach
16 out to the neighborhoods and the -- we call them invisible
17 neighborhoods, and communities, and residents whose voices
18 don't cut -- make it to the table through lack of
19 confidence, definitely no funding, and just the lack of
20 knowledge it takes to engage in these processes, and the
21 courage it takes to get up and speak on behalf of the
22 issues. That grant in 2019 definitely made the difference
23 for All Positives as well as some new and upcoming groups
24 you will hear of soon in these processes.

25 So for that, I definitely have to say thank you

1 to those staff members that were committed. There was an
2 80-page monster of a proposal that we had no idea how to
3 really work through. And we complained, and they heard
4 us, and they reduced that 80-page down to 20 with no doubt
5 was a transition with Chantell and -- excuse me. I'm so
6 sorry. I always say Chantell, it's because I've got a
7 friend named Chantell -- Chanell, and Ambreen, and Trish.

8 They worked diligently to work with us on making
9 this proposal doable for small groups like ours that don't
10 have the staff, that has not had the previous funding to
11 engage in these processes. So again for that, I thank you
12 all.

13 However, the downside is that AB 617 as a project
14 in our opinion is a failure. We can't -- we can't claim
15 success and pat folks on the back for a process only using
16 a leverage of money. Money does not gauge that. Is it
17 really reaching the communities who are invisible, and who
18 you don't see, and don't hear that suffering. On the
19 regional level, it looks like a success. On the local
20 level, it has failed us, but we continue to work through
21 these processes. And again, your staff has made that
22 difference in working with us and sweating this out.

23 Now, I know that you all are aware of that 2021
24 audit. That is the monster in the room that folks don't
25 want to talk about, but it pinpointed and showed the map

1 that you guys showed and who got support, who didn't. And
2 we can even hear testimony of the successes that proves
3 the -- who got the funding and who didn't. And when the
4 fundings were initially -- I know it's different layers of
5 funding and different names, and I don't even want to try
6 to get into that, but the initial funding that went out,
7 only one black community, one black community, West
8 Oakland, got that grant, and the rest of us were left out.

9 And then folks would constantly come on these
10 hearings and boast of the successes, but you failed to
11 reach the other communities. And for that today, I want
12 to speak on that, because more effort needs to be put into
13 environmental justice. We're talking \$10 million for
14 California. And even with that 10, you could have been
15 more inclusive, particularly for black folks, but you
16 weren't. But let's say we're moving forward on that as we
17 recognize it, but it doesn't tell me that CARB is very
18 committed to environmental justice when you only put \$10
19 million into, you know, community air grants knowing that
20 our communities are EJ communities.

21 So how much commitment can you say you are --
22 that you have, if there's only 10 million to cover
23 California on these issues. That audit spoke volumes.
24 And it also showed you where the failures occurred, and
25 that again is in disadvantaged communities, where we were

1 listed. But who got the majority of that funding? It
2 certainly wasn't us. So my recommendation would be that
3 you put your money where your mouth is. You staff -- you
4 give staff the appropriate funding that they need to be
5 able to work with our communities or continue to work with
6 our communities in a productive way, where we really can
7 claim some real successes.

8 Now, having said that, with that audit as well --
9 and I appreciate how Mr. -- or Senator Bradford, you know,
10 was no nonsense. When it came to that specific issue, he
11 pounded you guys and spanked you, and you needed it. And
12 hopefully folks' ears are listening and they're willing to
13 take that constructive criticism and move forward. But in
14 those audits, they talk about disadvantaged, but again
15 particularly when it comes to African Americans, or I
16 should say American Blacks, particularly those that have
17 beared the brunt of being invisible, and having lack of
18 funding, but yet we bear the largest burdens of
19 environmental injustice, racism, inequities.

20 I want to see CARB again be about what they say
21 they're about, because again in that audit, I didn't hear
22 particular focus on Black Americans. And there must be,
23 because we continue to be at the lowest end when it comes
24 to funding and support, yet our burdens are at the highest
25 end. And when people mention Black and Brown, that is a

1 continual marginalization and erasure of Black-specific
2 issues that are unlike any others.

3 And I think also CARB has evidence of the need to
4 address Blacks as a specific protected class, because
5 along with that in 2020 -- and I know the hours are -- I
6 mean, excuse me, years are going by on us so fast. And
7 now we have even Russia to deal with. So it's just one
8 hit after another, after another that creates this huge
9 mental, you know, anxiety and depression.

10 But you received an anonymous letter from a Black
11 high ranking employee that told you of the racism,
12 particularly against Black women within CARB. And
13 although there was some acknowledgement, and I think
14 everybody knows who it is, but for the sake of right now,
15 I won't mention the name, but you all know who she is,
16 what has really been done on the inside with that?

17 How are Black women being treated on the inside,
18 because I was the one that raised that issue, unbeknown at
19 that time, how deep this was going on in CARB. And when I
20 raised that issue a month later, this letter surfaces.
21 But I raised that issue because of the mistreatment that
22 Black women have received on the outside of CARB in these
23 spaces between the air district and CARB process, where
24 literally folks were banning against us to oust us out of
25 having a voice at the table. This cannot be. And when

1 CARB did move forward, even though I raised that issue,
2 they never checked in with me or asked my recommendation.
3 They went to the least pushback, the least folks that
4 would push back and hold you accountable. So I want to
5 put that back on the radar as well.

6 And I want to see that CARB, through this
7 process -- you have a great team trying to work hard and
8 put this together, so that we all can boast successes,
9 particularly Black American organizations, which we can't,
10 at this point, other than yes, we're thankful for getting
11 a grant. However, the results are still far lacking. We
12 cannot afford to just walk around and monitor us. We're
13 not lab rats. So to monitor bad air that we already know
14 is bad from one end of California to the other and only
15 boast monitoring, no. We're need air filtration systems.
16 We need things to offset the impacts that are hitting us
17 indoors as well as outdoors.

18 And on that again, I will commend CARB, because
19 when All Positives came forward and asked for support for
20 indoor pollution, you know, support, we did receive that.
21 We've been moving forward. They have given us a grant
22 again this year. That is wonderful. However, there is a
23 lot more work to be done and we are hoping as we move
24 forward through this process that CARB recognizes the need
25 to support those of us that are trying to help increase

1 the participation of these invisible communities that you
2 all continue to miss.

3 And again, it is our job. I'll take that. It is
4 our job as community advocates and leaders to help
5 recognize who are within our communities, and some that
6 are outside of our communities. But if we have the
7 knowledge of folks that need that help, it is -- it is
8 incumbent upon all of us to do our part to bring these
9 issues to you, but we want you to react.

10 And I do want to say, although I've had a lot of
11 issues with certain Board members, I recognize that there
12 are some that are very committed to this, so hats off to
13 you. Mr. Corey, I appreciate the fact that when the
14 community came to him and said, hey, we want to have these
15 certificates, he worked with Amanda and others to ensure
16 that we could get these certificates of participation.
17 All of that matters. And you all can tell me when I'm
18 past my time. I won't be offended. But there's so many
19 issues that we have to try and get in in such a short
20 period of time. Five minutes does not do it.

21 But I'd like to recommend that also - I guess you
22 call them listening sessions - I would like to see it on a
23 larger scale with folks being able to really come to you
24 and the Board listen intently on community issues and
25 concerns that heavily impact our communities, so that we

1 don't have the two or three minutes or five to blurt out
2 all of this stuff that is pent up inside us that is
3 literally making or breaking.

4 It is a matter of life or death for many of our
5 communities. As we move through this pandemic, as we move
6 through these continual exposures from polluting companies
7 that are being slapped on the wrist and continuing to
8 pollute, we expect that CARB, along with our air
9 districts, will start taking hard core measures not just
10 these slap-on-the-wrist fees, but really hit these comp --
11 polluting companies in their pockets and/or shut them
12 down, because we don't want to keep allowing and living in
13 an environment where they are allowed to pollute. You see
14 them. Nothing close to what they should be. You then in
15 turn give it to us in the form of grants, but we then end
16 up burying triple, quadruple the burdens of pollution that
17 is further killing our families.

18 So again, I want to say thank you for the
19 opportunity to speak. Thank you for listening. And if
20 anyone has any follow-up questions of how this can be done
21 better, particularly for Black Americans in this process
22 who continue to be the least supported as we see from
23 these California reparations procedures, even the Black
24 folks on these committees cannot do the right thing by
25 Black folks. So we're hoping to work with you at the

1 community level and changing these burdens, and
2 environmental racism, and health injustices that occurs in
3 our communities.

4 Thank you.

5 OEJ ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM MANAGER AFSHAN:

6 Thank you. Thank you, LaDonna.

7 The next would be Mr. Kevin Hamilton of Central
8 California Asthma Collaborative.

9 KEVIN HAMILTON: Good morning, Madam Chair,
10 members of the Board, staff. Thank you for the
11 opportunity to speak today.

12 I do want to raise up, as some of my colleagues
13 have already, the tremendous role that staff, particularly
14 Trish Johnson for the San Joaquin has played. Trish has
15 been here since day one. She was lucky enough to be
16 assigned our area to follow throughout this process for
17 the last almost five years now, certainly four years. And
18 she has done a fantastic job and is there for us every
19 time we need her and the whole EJ team.

20 So moving on, I just want to once again state my
21 appreciation for this project, for this funding. We all
22 know that it's too little. And we know that the need is
23 great. We began this as a five- to seven-year project
24 back in 2018. Our Community Air Grant approach has been
25 very systemic, and developing -- and focused at developing

1 capacity of our fellow community-based organizations
2 across the San Joaquin Valley.

3 Through this funding historically, we've seen
4 some landmark issues happening. Early on, the creation of
5 the San Joaquin Valley Environmental Justice Steering
6 Committee. This is 17 organizations at this point - it
7 started as nine - who have come together with members from
8 San Joaquin County all the way down to Kern County to work
9 on the area of AB 617 in a collaborative fashion.

10 Because of these opportunities in this
11 collaborative, we've been able to get together and work
12 together every year on these funding cycles. And for
13 those who are able to prepare proposals, interact --
14 intersect them with each other, so that the projects are
15 all really one really large project focused at bringing
16 these assets to all of our communities in an equitable
17 fashion.

18 Through this funding, we have been able to
19 develop a valley-wide community air net -- air monitoring
20 network for PM2.5 like no other, SJVAir.com. Other than
21 Luis's network, which ours is modeled after, SJVAir.com is
22 the only community air network we know of that is operated
23 by the community for the community, where the data is
24 actually adjusted every day for local meteorology and
25 other factors, and meets all 14 requirements that CARB put

1 down for air monitoring networks.

2 This year, because of this grant, we'll be
3 looking to fully add black carbon in a few different
4 places. We've also been able to purchase actual
5 regulatory grade monitors that we've been placing on
6 schools. And with this grant for this year for our
7 technical grant, we'll be placing two more of those
8 technical -- or high-grade monitors on two new schools,
9 which is a great opportunity for both the kids in those
10 schools in these small communities, which are tremendously
11 disadvantaged, and living in poverty rates as high as 50
12 percent.

13 And the majority of the students in these
14 schools, English is a second language. So these kids are
15 getting opportunities that no one else ever sees in
16 these type -- in these areas. And we just feel like this
17 is one of the major strengths of our programs. This
18 allowed us to form a core group, which is CCEJN, CVAQ, and
19 CCAC, which -- from which sprung all of this work. That
20 group continues to work together today and our grants
21 again are all interactive, intersective -- intersecting
22 and interlocking, because there's just so much work to be
23 done.

24 So this year we received both a technical grant
25 and a targeted grant. And the technical grant, as I

1 mentioned, will be continuing to maintain and expand the
2 existing air monitoring network. All the air monitors in
3 these communities that have been funded through this
4 program were placed and are operated by residents in these
5 communities. Each one of these communities developed its
6 own community air monitoring program. And that group,
7 which is the equivalent of a community steering committee,
8 is being led by a local community based organization there
9 that is funded again through these grants.

10 At least a third of the funding in each of our
11 grants are passed on through to those smaller community
12 based organizations who did not have the capacity to
13 operate or write an actual community air grant.

14 So we feel that that's our role. And that's the
15 role all of our larger organizations should be playing is
16 helping our brothers and sisters out there in these
17 communities that are working as hard as we are, and just
18 don't have that capacity to be able to write and then
19 operate these highly technical programs.

20 In our targeted grant, we will be doing just
21 that, focusing on the three communities that we've already
22 developed outside of the 617 process in south Stanislaus
23 County, South Madera County, and Eastern Tulare County.
24 These projects started from work done by -- under the CAG
25 1 program, as we call it. We don't develop cool names for

1 our programs. I wish we did like Nayamin's. But we're
2 just calling them CAG 1, CAG, 2 and CAG 3.

3 However, in that effort, we're going to see for
4 the first time, we believe, a community emission reduction
5 program built again outside the AB 617 existing system.
6 We feel that this is the future of the program. It brings
7 equity into the program. It doesn't bring the kind of
8 funding stream that the excess money, 617, brings to other
9 communities that are inside the program get and that has
10 become so contentious and often seems to me actually slows
11 the program down, but there are a tremendous number of
12 existing incentives that are already available and we will
13 be working with CARB and the air districts to -- and other
14 entities to make sure that those incentives are funneled
15 into these communities who are actively planning an
16 emission reductions program and need to have that funding
17 targeted at those programs, and challenging that
18 first-come first-served approach that's been around for so
19 long for quite a number of these incentives programs,
20 which can be tremendously frustrating.

21 So the information that's gathered from the air
22 monitoring network and from all of these community efforts
23 is being brought together by our partner, Central Valley
24 Air Quality Coalition, who is developing a master guide
25 book for AB 617 for working with communities outside again

1 this sort of constructed process that's brought so many
2 benefits, but also been somewhat of curse as we are forced
3 to pick winners and losers every year. And because the
4 need again is so great, the losers are a much bigger group
5 than the winners.

6 And so it's a shame when we get to the point when
7 we're forcing communities that live in poverty to fight
8 with each other for funding every year to get what they
9 should be getting already, but somehow that's just the way
10 this program developed out.

11 However, without this funding again, this
12 tremendous work that we've been so lucky as to be able to
13 do would not be happening through this project, working
14 with local communities who have identified facilities in
15 their communities that are problematic, but they didn't
16 feel were being responsive to their requests for
17 information to determine whether or not they were creating
18 a health problem for them. Our program at CCAC has the
19 technical experience to run health hazard assessments
20 working with CARB to vet that process and CARB staff who I
21 want to give a shout-out to as well. Those folks over in
22 that department have been so great to work with, as well
23 as the air monitoring department over there, helped us
24 develop our corrections for all of our air monitoring
25 data.

1 We've been able to identify health hazard
2 assessments that are as much as 20 years out of date and
3 take those to the agency, who has happily taken them and
4 been grateful for them, and then in turn started the
5 recredentialing cycle with those same entities, so that
6 their health hazard assessment is now up to date, and the
7 community can understand exactly kind of threat they might
8 be under from air toxics and other pollutants coming from
9 those facilities.

10 The thing that this illustrated though again is a
11 weakness in the system, where, you know, we uncovered
12 quite a few -- I'm not going to say the number, but I'll
13 say that it's over 10, and less than 50, specific
14 facilities where this sort of travesty was going on, where
15 they could get away with reporting the same numbers year,
16 after year, after year, and nobody seeming to notice,
17 because their regulation was so loose.

18 One of the things that AB 617 brought us was a
19 tightening of that regulation, and happily the agency
20 seemed to be grateful for the help that we can bring to
21 that. And again, these are facilities that are identified
22 by residents in the communities that we're working with
23 and that our partners are working with.

24 So I think a lot of problems are slowly but
25 surely coming to the surface and then being solved. We

1 are working collaboratively on a lot of levels with both
2 the air districts and CARB, which is something that was
3 new to us. You know, unfortunately, our history is more
4 confrontational than it is collaborative. But again,
5 these projects have created spaces where, especially from
6 a technical standpoint, we can work together and be
7 successful.

8 And I think that's really important to lift that
9 up to show that, in fact, we are all here for the same
10 thing. And when we work together, we're -- as in most
11 scenarios, when we work together, we're ever so much
12 stronger than we're working at odds with each other. So
13 we hope that this work will inform and breakdown some of
14 those barriers to our ability to continue to work across
15 the Board with our sister agencies. Well, we're not
16 actually an agency, so I shouldn't say it that way, but...

17 Last, but not least, I want to call out both our
18 partners at Tracking California, without whom this
19 wouldn't have happened. They came together early on in
20 our first CAG grant with our 17 organizations and spent a
21 whole day with us developing this plan back in 2019 that
22 we're still operating today. It allowed us to come
23 together around nominating committees or communities,
24 excuse me, in the San Joaquin Valley for selection early
25 on, and has stayed with that ever since. And because of

1 that, our community-based organizations have been able to
2 get together and agree on scoring metrics for our
3 communities and identify all the different needs of these
4 communities and then work together to make sure that each
5 community is raised appropriately, and in a timely
6 fashion, and that those who aren't chosen actually have
7 some assets to fall back on, which again we are creating
8 on the fly with this grant funding. So I don't want to
9 continue to go on and on about, you know, how great it is
10 to get money. Obviously, we all know that.

11 The last thing I wanted to highlight here is the
12 importance of collaboration with our community-based
13 partners. I look to my friend Luis Olmedo back 15 years
14 ago or more, who was kind enough to invite me to one of
15 his events down there and talk about what he was creating
16 and show it off. And that inspired me and others in the
17 valley so much that we felt we just needed to bring it
18 here. And he has been a constant source of information
19 and support throughout that period.

20 And again, I come back to the CARB staff and
21 Board members, who again we've called on time and time
22 again who've stepped up for us and provided the resources
23 that we need, and especially the information and the
24 introductions that we needed.

25 This money -- I want to reflect on Luis's comment

1 briefly. With this funding, we have -- it has been an
2 economic driver in our communities. We can directly point
3 this funding to jobs that have been created both within
4 and outside our organizations. It's a remarkable thing
5 when you can see something that you've developed result in
6 a job for somebody else that is not only for today but for
7 the future. We think that that's a core part of this
8 program that needs to be elevated and expanded, and it is
9 one of the most difficult parts of the program to bring
10 forward.

11 So because of these grants, the group that's
12 working on this that started out with probably five or six
13 folks working on it across the whole region, now has a
14 group between Nayamin's team, and mine, and the other 15
15 organizations, I would say that they have tripled in size
16 as well. And again, a lot more people employed there.

17 So with that, I'll go ahead and close and
18 encourage CARB to continue this work. We need to find a
19 way to create even more equity in this process. I think
20 the strength in the San Joaquin and with that steering
21 committee has been we've helped all of our partners to
22 write their own grants when they want to, provide those
23 resources to them, and then when they can't, add their
24 work into ours and support it in that fashion.

25 So I think, you know, CARB could learn from that,

1 pass it around, and figure out how to work in that fashion
2 with others. I think some of the reporting requirements
3 in the grant make it very difficult for many of our
4 partners to be able to write these proposals and bend
5 them. I think we need to work on that as well. I
6 understand CARB is under audit for various things at
7 various moments. One was just called out. The thing that
8 audits bring is they certainly bring things to light that
9 you want to know about disparities, but they also bring to
10 light that the auditors felt, and we're feeling this
11 round, that the accounting and the reporting for these
12 grants was not as stringent as it needed to be. Reporting
13 on grants like this is already a heavy lift for our
14 organization.

15 And my colleague and I, and Nayamin, and a few
16 others, we come from backgrounds where we've had to do
17 this work in our careers. But for those who haven't, this
18 is a huge lift. So that causes people to not apply or if
19 they try to apply, it's obvious their grants won't be
20 selected, because again they don't have that ability to
21 discuss and show that they can report on these grants, and
22 hold the funding, and make sure it's spent where -- that
23 they can document it's being spent where it needs to be
24 spent.

25 So I would encourage CARB to develop some kind of

1 internal process and support for communities that would
2 help them, train them, you know, give them that skill set,
3 help them gain that skill set for themselves that would
4 allow them to successfully compete in these processes and
5 run these programs.

6 And I think that's been a critical problem
7 throughout. And again, which is why we still find
8 ourselves writing, you know, other parts of the project in
9 that weren't things that we thought we needed, but we knew
10 or partner did up in say Stanislaus, you know, 80 miles
11 away, and we're going to make that happen for them. You
12 know, we're going to make sure that's lifted, funded, and
13 that they're going to be funded, so that they can continue
14 to do the great work that they do.

15 So that -- if I was going to ask for anything for
16 the future, that internal capacity at CARB to support
17 these folks who are trying to develop these proposals, not
18 just develop them, but also be able to vend them, to be
19 able to operate them in a way that CARB requires for a
20 successful grantee, and to put that on paper in a way that
21 CARB can use and say to their attorneys and their finance
22 department, look, these folks are perfect.

23 DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE FLETCHER: Kevin
24 (inaudible). It's Chanell. Sorry.

25 KEVIN HAMILTON: So that's about it. I'll leave

1 it there.

2 DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER FLETCHER: Okay. There
3 we go.

4 KEVIN HAMILTON: Thank you for your time.

5 DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER FLETCHER: Thank you,
6 Kevin, so much.

7 (Laughter.)

8 KEVIN HAMILTON: Sorry, was someone trying to
9 talk?

10 (Laughter.)

11 DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER FLETCHER: It was
12 just -- it was Chanell. I was saying thank you, Kevin. I
13 just wanted to make sure we gave time to the other people
14 after you too.

15 KEVIN HAMILTON: Oh, okay. Sure. Sure. Well,
16 you should have put somebody in the corner to kick me or
17 something.

18 (Laughter.)

19 OEJ ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM MANAGER AFSHAN:
20 Thank you, Kevin.

21 The last speaker for today is Ms. Sarah Bliss of
22 Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians.

23 SARAH BLISS: Oh, thank you. Are you able to
24 hear me?

25 OEJ ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM MANAGER AFSHAN:

1 Yes, we can.

2 SARAH BLISS: Perfect. Thank you.

3 My name is Sarah Bliss. I am the Tribal Programs
4 Manager for the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians.
5 I oversee both the cultural and our EPA department. So
6 you'll see some of that influence in my talk today. So
7 the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians is a
8 federally recognized tribe of Chemehuevi descent located
9 in Southern California near the City of Coachella around
10 17 miles northwest of the Salton Sea. The Coachella
11 Valley communities, including the tribe, are concerned
12 that the exposed playa will increase air pollution from
13 wind blown dust.

14 With the help of the Community Air Grants
15 Program, the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians
16 have built an air quality monitoring station as a first
17 step towards developing an air monitoring program. The
18 tribal air monitoring project, initiated in 2018, aims to
19 PM pollutants and continues -- aims to measure PM
20 pollutants and share -- and share data with real-time
21 quality air data available to tribal communities -- air
22 quality data available to tribal members and the
23 community. The tribe hopes to raise awareness about the
24 potential issues caused by the Salton Sea and other
25 sources of emissions in the area.

1 Tribal Chairman Darrell Mike states, "The tribe
2 has had a long-term goal of developing an air monitoring
3 program and this funding has helped build that capacity.
4 We are excited to have our air station up and running, and
5 to share information that can be used to improve the
6 health of the community".

7 So this project will con -- will allow us to
8 continue to run our air monitoring station and continue
9 gathering this data that provides so much real-time
10 results to the community. We have been able to go to the
11 community in our many outreach and educational events and
12 connect with professionals also. We have used modern
13 programs and methods, such as Esri story map and data from
14 the air station to provide -- to provide things that the
15 community is able to actually visualize and see how air
16 pollution -- air pollution in a meaningful way.

17 So this is a unique project that's on the Cabazon
18 Indian Reservation but operated by the Twenty-Nine Palms
19 Band of Mission Indians Tribal EPA staff. This is a
20 unique collaboration with two tribes. Tribal communities
21 have disproportionately been impacted and this unique
22 program, which supports tribal and disadvantaged
23 communities.

24 The Salton Sea is one of the -- oh, the Salton
25 Sea is one of the most polluted lakes in the state with

1 polluted air, copious amounts of dust making it hard to
2 breathe, and contaminated waters, multiple tribal
3 communities are associated with the Salton Sea. These
4 communities have deep cultural, spiritual, and historical
5 ties to the region. Tribal communities are connected to
6 the land. And throughout the historical justice --
7 injustices of colonial -- colonizers who greatly changed
8 the environment.

9 Some populations have the ability to move away
10 from polluted lands. However, for tribal communities, the
11 ties to their reservation boundaries and traditional
12 lands, this would be out of the question and would cause
13 even deeper wounds of historical trauma and injustices.

14 We hope that this program will have continued
15 support and funding so that we can take this data that we
16 gathered and share to help reverse the impacts from air
17 pollution, so that future generations will be able to
18 experience the land in a healthy and balanced way, like
19 the tribes have stewarded for time immemorial.

20 We look forward to continuing growing the program
21 and deeply appreciate the support of the community air
22 grants program. Still as my colleagues have pointed out,
23 there is much work to do. Help us meet the challenges of
24 our disadvantaged communities.

25 (Spoke in native language.) Thank you.

1 OEJ ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM MANAGER AFSHAN:

2 Back to you, Chair Randolph.

3 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you so much.

4 Let's go to public comment on this item. I will
5 ask the Board Clerk to call public commenters.

6 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Yes. Thank you, Chair.
7 We currently have three people with their hands raised to
8 speak at this time.

9 If you wish to verbally comment on this Board
10 item, please raise your hand in Zoom or dial star nine
11 now. And as just a reminder, if you would like to give
12 you comment Spanish, please indicate so at the beginning
13 of your testimony. You will time will be doubled to allow
14 for consecutive translation.

15 Our first speaker will be Ector Olivares, and
16 Cynthia Mackey. Ector, I have activated your microphone.
17 You can unmute and begin.

18 ECTOR OLIVARES: Hello. My name is Ector
19 Olivares and I am the Program Manager for Catholic
20 Charities Diocese of Stockton in the Environmental Justice
21 Program. And first of all, I'd like to thank the Board
22 for this award and continuing to work with the Stockton
23 community's AB 617 process. I'd like to commend the Board
24 for recognizing that in order to change past environmental
25 injustices and reverse past decades of pollution takes

1 more than a single grant to make that happen.

2 Systems change, especially those systems that
3 have been deeply embedded into our social structure can
4 take years if not decades to change. This funding awarded
5 to the Catholic Charities Environmental Justice Program
6 will allow our organization to continue its work to
7 address environmental racism and organize community
8 members to be empowered to have a voice in what happens in
9 their city that directly affects theirs and their
10 children's health.

11 For far too long the most vulnerable and
12 impoverished members of Stockton are forced to live with
13 poor air quality and the health conditions that result
14 from it. This funding project is to promote civic
15 engagement advocacy that builds community capacity. This
16 grant will continue and expand the community engagement
17 work of Stockton's AB 617 process for another two years.
18 The project team will leverage existing community
19 relationships to address community level air quality
20 concerns, increase quotable participation, increase
21 resident ownership of local projects, and improve their
22 understanding of AB 617 -- Stockton's AB 617 CERP program.

23 But specifically before I go, I'd like to thank
24 those at CARB that would -- that were instrumental in
25 assisting us with all our projects, our grant work, and

1 are continuing to work with our local community. First of
2 all, I'd like to thank Trish Johnson and Natalie Spiegel,
3 Helen[SIC] Rhim, Linda Cedillo, and Skott Wall for all
4 their work they assisted us with and -- in our local
5 community. And thank you, Board, again for the time and
6 the opportunity to speak out. And we appreciate the work
7 and the funding that we've received from the program.

8 Thank you.

9 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

10 Our next speaker will Cynthia Mackey. After
11 Cynthia will be a phone number ending in 433.

12 Cynthia, I have activated your microphone, you
13 can unmute and begin.

14 CYNTHIA MACKEY: Thank you. Can you hear me?

15 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Yes, we can.

16 CYNTHIA MACKEY: Thank you. My name is Cynthia
17 Mackey, founder of Winning Strategies in Oakland,
18 providing web, mobile, and digital marketing strategy for
19 small businesses and community initiatives.

20 Thank you, legislators, for recognizing the
21 unique issues to AB 617 communities, first of all. I have
22 participated in many efforts towards closing the digital
23 divide for residents who have limited to poor internet
24 access, including an advisory board member for tech
25 exchange here in Oakland, and instruction on using

1 internet for hundreds of micro businesses.

2 I have been engaged by the California emerging
3 technology fund to facilitate collaboration between
4 regional broadband consortia, digital equity CBOs, and AB
5 617 communities. I have read all of the AB 617 community
6 plans and there is not one mention to digital inclusion or
7 digital equity in those plans that I could find.

8 In addition, the recent AB 2722 illustrates the
9 role remote work is anticipated to play in reducing
10 greenhouse gas emissions in the state. Telehealth is
11 another option that can reduce vehicle miles driven and
12 more.

13 However, remote work can inadvertently become its
14 own digital red-line if the AB 617 communities do not have
15 Internet access in a digital equity plan leaving many
16 communities out of the ability to participate in methods
17 to reduce GHG emissions in their communities.

18 None of the community air grants are supporting
19 digital empowerment for the community for citizen science.
20 It's incomprehensible that given the long-term efforts of
21 the Digital Equity Coalition and CETF, and now the
22 introduction of AB 2722, that CARB would not make it a
23 priority. Expanding broadband access within these
24 communities is essential toward long-term air quality and
25 GHG emission reduction.

1 CETF has limited resources and cannot do this
2 work alone, especially given the mission and the
3 responsibility of CARB in the world of air quality and
4 fighting climate change. CARB must get their staff to
5 pursue digital equity as part and parcel of equity and
6 environmental justice, the stated priorities of the CARB
7 Chair, and members.

8 Thank you so much for the work you have done so
9 far and hearing my testimony.

10 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

11 Phone number ending in 433, please state your
12 name for the record and then you can begin your comment.

13 HARVEY EDER: Yes. Good morning. Am I being
14 heard?

15 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Yes, you are.

16 HARVEY EDER: Okay. My name is Harvey Eder. I'm
17 founder, director of the Public Solar Power Coalition, 45
18 years of ago, and so speaking for myself and for PSPC and
19 like-minded folk.

20 One think that was brought to mind that as -- I
21 think it was Mr. Hamilton, Kevin Hamilton, he said that
22 we've got to get different ways of thinking about equity,
23 and -- in these communities and in general, okay. We
24 worked -- we had the first local job in solar education in
25 1977-78 in Santa Cruz, California, after teaching solar at

1 the university in '76, and installing recycled material at
2 the 40-acre organic farm there, okay?

3 We ended up being capped by Sylvia Siegel of
4 TURN, all right? She wanted to take the money through
5 conservation programs with PG&E and bring it down into our
6 community. We had about 20 people working in energy
7 efficiency and what not, and also we're educating about
8 solar.

9 So we worked in the first solar proceeding, \$182
10 million providing financing solar transition, okay. We
11 brought in the concept working with CALSIEA and what not
12 and TURN of -- that there's an equity problem, taxing to
13 the rate base, and extending the -- and antitrust,
14 extending the IOUs, monopolies, and solar and solar
15 financing, et cetera. Still a problem.

16 We brought this up at the -- to the California
17 Supreme Court to the first Rose Bird the first woman
18 headed of the California Supreme Court and got her support
19 on this, all right? Here's the deal, we were consultants
20 to Commissioner Grimes, first Black commissioner at PUC,
21 did the low-income solar equity program, the 10 percent,
22 the 18 million. And the idea -- the concept was to
23 leverage all of these different programs and committees.
24 DOE was just formed in 77. And then to put out -- to
25 leverage it and to get it into equity vertically and

1 horizontally and integrated into solar, renewable,
2 sustainable industry for manufacturing production into,
3 you know, installation, maintenance --

4 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thirty seconds remaining.

5 HARVEY EDER: -- and recycling. Okay.

6 This was never -- that was ignored by the PUC.
7 Also, we went to all these meetings. We talked about
8 co-ops. The fellow Catholic Charities. They're -- the
9 fifth largest company in Spain was Mondragon and it's
10 worker-owned co-ops -- hundreds of co-ops. Microsoft and
11 GE are working with GM. Okay. We brought this to 617
12 communities. We got some information people. We got
13 nothing. We also talked about bringing in Tesla and BYD
14 and having the State --

15 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you, Harvey. That
16 concludes your time. Thank you.

17 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Our final speaker with
18 their hand raised for this item is Richard Polanco.
19 Richard, I have activated your microphone. You can unmute
20 and begin.

21 RICHARD POLANCO: Thank you. Good morning. And
22 I appreciate the opportunity to address you all. I
23 represent the California Emerging Technology Fund. My
24 name is Richard Polanco. I had the honor of serving 16
25 years in the California Legislature. The California

1 Emerging Technology Fund was created by statute with the
2 goal of closing the digital divide. We had been in the
3 forefront in convening, and creating, and supporting the
4 Digital Equity Coalition, the Honorable former State
5 Senator Martha Escutia is a founding director of CETF.

6 For more than a decade, under the leadership of
7 Sunne McPeak, CETF has provided input to CARB regarding
8 broadband as a green strategy and the relationship between
9 access to high-speed internet service and the ability to
10 reduce vehicle trips to improve air quality and health
11 fight climate change.

12 We are here once again to urge CARB to integrate
13 digital inclusion in all strategies and programs to reduce
14 air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. The
15 disadvantaged communities identified by CARB by priority
16 attention, especially AB 617 communities, are the most
17 digital disadvantaged.

18 The author of AB 617, Assemblywoman Cristina
19 Garcia, recently communicated to you that it is vital for
20 CARB staff to join forces with experienced CBOs and
21 stakeholders to get online all residents in digital
22 disadvantaged communities. We commend the Chairman
23 Randolph and all the Board members for making
24 environmental justice and equity your priorities.
25 However, both only can be fully achieved by incorporating

1 digital equity and empowering residents with internet
2 access and digital tools.

3 I want to close by asking that as you move
4 forward, you give serious consideration to convening a
5 meeting with all the stakeholders as it relates to the
6 discussion on how we can incorporate digital included --
7 inclusion into your planning process. Thank you for your
8 time and we appreciate the opportunity to address you.

9 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

10 We do have one more hand raised in Zoom and that
11 would be Lonnie M. Lonnie, you can unmute and begin.

12 LONNIE MASON: Good morning. Can you hear me?

13 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Yes, we can.

14 LONNIE MASON: Yes. Good morning. Thank you for
15 this process and appreciate it. My name is Lonnie Mason.
16 I'm actually the Executive Director of First Generation
17 Environmental Health and Economic Development there in the
18 Bayview-Hunters Point community.

19 Just to piggyback off a little bit for some of
20 the speakers previously and also Richard, in regards to
21 the Black community receiving funding and getting
22 assistance when it comes to CBOs, you know, small CBO
23 grass root organizations, this is not happening. They
24 continue to be left out in the funding process. They're
25 not given a fair assessment, you know, when it comes to

1 the funding. Also, with First Generation, First
2 Generation didn't receive any help until just recently,
3 but the appointment has been made to help in the process.

4 What Kevin Hamilton was talking about, this is
5 something that has been -- that's been talked about for
6 many of years, that particular process. That's nothing
7 new, but it has not happened. We look forward to that
8 happening when you can help those undeserved disadvantaged
9 communities, especially in the black community assistance
10 when it comes to receiving funding. There's organizations
11 throughout the Bay Area that receive funding without an
12 application process period. It's happened.

13 But here in the Bay Area, we just can't look at
14 Oakland as the one. We have Vallejo, we have Richmond,
15 and we have the other one. I'm trying to think -- Rodeo.
16 We have Rodeo. So these are small organizations that need
17 help, that needs assistance, you know, not just Oakland,
18 but, you know, here in the Bayview-Hunters Point
19 community.

20 And I had a chance to listen to that audit. And
21 I'm waiting, you know, for the process to begin in areas
22 such as these small disadvantaged communities that are
23 basically based in predominantly in Black communities that
24 are not receiving the assistance that they deserve.

25 And so all we ask for is a fair assessment.

1 Please provide us the assistance that is needed, so that
2 we may be able to help the people in our community benefit
3 from this process.

4 Thank you.

5 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

6 Chair, that concludes our commenters for the
7 item.

8 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you.

9 I'll ask if my fellow Board members have any
10 questions or comments they would like to make. You can
11 raise your hand in Zoom.

12 Senator Leyva.

13 SENATOR LEYVA: Thank you Madam Chair. And I
14 want to say thank you to all of the presenters. I know I
15 learned a lot from all of them and I took some notes on
16 things we're doing right, things that we can do better.
17 But I also just want to say I think this is the third year
18 of this program, and I really love the concept of the
19 program, and I do think we're doing a lot of good things
20 with the program, and it is oversubscribed, so we need
21 that darn Legislature to give more money, which I think we
22 could probably do. You have a pretty pro-CARB
23 Legislature. Everyone thinks that we are doing good work
24 and can do even better work.

25 So I just -- I just want to say to the folks that

1 are frustrated, thank you for letting us know what is
2 working, what's not working, but also to us as CARB Board
3 members and staff, this is the way we change communities.
4 Programs like this is how we get our communities up to
5 where they need to be. Many times, cities don't vote to
6 fund these kinds of programs, counties don't vote to fund
7 these kind of programs. So I think this is the third
8 year, I think we're just going to continue to get better.
9 And I just want to encourage us as a Board to continue to
10 dig in, try to find more money, and this is really how
11 we're going to help our disadvantaged communities.

12 So thank you, Madam Chair.

13 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you.

14 Supervisor Vargas.

15 BOARD MEMBER VARGAS: Thank you, Chair. And so
16 first let me just say thank you. I wanted to thank the
17 CARB team for all the work on this program and for
18 connecting our communities. And I also wanted to say
19 thank you to all of the folks that joined us today to do
20 public comment and for their very thorough recommendations
21 and information. I'm very appreciative and I also took a
22 lot of notes, Senator Leyva as well.

23 I know this program has helped and will continue
24 to provide tremendous support for our community partners
25 and agencies on the ground. I have to say that I have

1 seen firsthand how some of the organizations, particularly
2 in San Diego, that are going to be receiving some of these
3 funds today have been doing a lot of this work without
4 these funds for many, many years. But without them, we
5 wouldn't be here today doing the work that the community
6 has for so long needed.

7 And so they've been reaching out to residents of
8 our environmental justice front-line communities for
9 years, and in San Diego, and in the rest of the state. I
10 know it's not easy and it's only through funding like this
11 I think that helps them to ensure that they can continue
12 to organize, engage, and uplift the community voices on
13 air quality and public health.

14 And as I mentioned, I think this is the kind of
15 work that our San Diego partners are continuing to uplift.
16 And I think that AB 617 -- the AB 617 program and the work
17 that they're doing is important. I want to make sure that
18 this opportunity to say that I want to thank the
19 Environmental Health Coalition for everything that they've
20 done, particularly in San Diego, to continue to work with
21 the Portside Community, because without them, things
22 have -- would have not been where they're at right now in
23 San Diego particularly. And to Casa Familiar for
24 uplifting the air quality issues of our binational border
25 crossing and our -- the daily impacts of our communities

1 that host border crossings and the impacts to binational
2 citizens, individuals, and families that cross the border
3 every day.

4 And these organizations just have been fantastic.
5 And I'm happy to hear the San Diego City College
6 Foundation for their engagement on issues of community air
7 quality. And so I'm really looking forward to all of them
8 and really proud to support this program -- proud that the
9 program that this supports and looking forward to future
10 discussions on AB 617 implementation. And I heard loud
11 and clear the recommendations from the public as well.

12 So thank you again for the opportunity to, you
13 know, mention some of these comments that I'm excited
14 about to continue the work that we're going to be doing
15 together.

16 Thank you, Chair.

17 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you.

18 Board Member De La Torre.

19 BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: Thank you. I just
20 have a very brief comment. If you'll recall, about two
21 weeks ago when we did our AB 617 new communities, the
22 community of La Vina spoke quite a bit that day asking for
23 help. And I just wanted to flag and acknowledge that they
24 receive funding in this package for monitoring in La Vina.
25 So to the community of La Vina, thank you for your

1 patience and I'm glad that we are helping to give you what
2 you need to improve your air quality in that community.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you.

5 Board Member Hurt.

6 BOARD MEMBER HURT: Thank you, Chair.

7 I also want to start off thanking the public
8 speakers. And I want to thank our Executive Officer Corey
9 for starting this item with the main reason for this
10 program, which is communities of color and low-income
11 communities are most burdened as a result of a long
12 history of structural and environmental racism, poverty,
13 poor land use decisions, and disinvestment in our
14 communities.

15 I don't think we can say this enough. It is
16 essential to right these wrongs by reinvestment in these
17 communities. And I so appreciate how hard the staff is
18 working to make racial equity and environmental justice
19 more than just a stated priority. I want the public to
20 know that I've heard a real effort to reevaluate, improve
21 with all the lessons that we've learned. So I just want
22 to hit on a couple of comments, some of which were in our
23 public comments.

24 One, our stated goal is to reimagine AB 617 and
25 expand to other communities to get them on the path of AB

1 617 work. These air grants are a perfect opportunity for
2 seed funding in other communities. As Board Member Hector
3 De La Torre spoke to, there are communities that we can
4 start placing and reaching out to. I hope we can figure a
5 creative way to do more than just put the call for
6 projects out and use our traditional outreach methods, but
7 really deeply engage in struggling communities with deep
8 outreach directly to Black and Brown folks to apply.

9 For example, in the Bay Area, Clean Cars 4 All
10 incentive program, we identified underrepresentation of
11 Black and Latinx grantees. And so we really need to move
12 forward by connecting with let's say EVNoire or
13 faith-based organizations. It's causing us to dig deeper
14 and I think we need to dig deeper too with the selection
15 of grantees and reaching out, as was stated earlier, Black
16 communities. And I can think of many organizations that
17 if we reach out to them, they would help us find folks who
18 can use this money and it can go very far.

19 The other thing that I wanted to bring forward,
20 and someone mentioned, is the digital divide. It's a real
21 thing. And I think there are probably many needy
22 appropriate applicants that may never know about CARB and
23 this air grant opportunity. How do they put applications
24 in? I'm glad to hear applications have been streamlined.
25 That is an absolute must. But we have to figure out in

1 this digital world how do we get communities to
2 participate and what is the equity tool we use in these
3 applications.

4 So again, I'm very thankful for all the work the
5 staff has done. I want to thank all the applicants and
6 those who were grantees. But we do have more work to do
7 when it comes to the equity tools that we use and also
8 getting out further to more organizations.

9 Thank you, Chair.

10 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you.

11 Dr. Pacheco-Werner.

12 BOARD MEMBER PACHECO-WERNER: Yes. Thank you,
13 Chair. Thank you, staff, and thank you to all of the
14 speakers today. I want to take this opportunity to kind
15 of have this conversation about -- and I know that there
16 are more in-depth conversations happening. But when we
17 talk about our plan, when I talk to staff particularly
18 about the fact that two of the organizations that are
19 African American lead organizations in the San Joaquin
20 Valley that I knew were applying didn't complete the
21 application. You know, staff did inform me that there's
22 plans for having more technical assistance and all of
23 that.

24 However, now hearing the comments and knowing
25 that these plans have sort of been in the works, I'd like

1 to understand a little bit more about what is the exact
2 timeline that we're talking about here in terms of putting
3 some of that into practice? And so I heard things like
4 technical assistance to help people complete the
5 applications, targeted outreach to make sure that we hit
6 on those populations, those CBOs that haven't been past
7 recipients.

8 However, as I'm having that -- those -- you know,
9 as I'd like those questions to be answered, I do also
10 think that there's a broader question about the role of
11 air grants in communities and particularly with, you know,
12 repeat recipients. A lot of the stated goal was around
13 the capacity building and I think that it's also hard to
14 say, well, we built capacity, you know, now goodbye, you
15 know, to the past recipients, because we need -- we need
16 the money for new recipients, because, of course, limited
17 funds, right?

18 So what are thoughts about, you know, how we
19 think about sort of sustaining the capacity that's been
20 built at the same time as we're making funds available to
21 new communities to participate in this very important
22 program that really is sort of the entry point into so
23 much of the participation that that's needed -- the public
24 participation that's needed at CARB for numerous
25 decision-making processes.

1 So I'm just -- I'm wondering is there space for a
2 tier -- tiered system, is there space for how we integrate
3 some of the folks that have been -- have their capacity
4 built into some other programmatic aspect of CARB or even
5 other partner agencies? I'm just concerned, because I do
6 want more orgs to participate. And also, how do we make
7 what we've built with these CBOs sustainable too. So
8 thank you.

9 CHAIR RANDOLPH: I'll ask Chancell Fletcher to
10 respond to that question.

11 DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER FLETCHER: Thank you,
12 Chair. Thank you, Dr. Pacheco-Werner for bringing that
13 up. I think one of the things that I will say as I still
14 am. I said it last year in February and then our Program
15 Manager, Ambreen Afshan, started in July. And so I think
16 for the first round -- or for us at least it's the first
17 round. It's actually the third round of community air
18 grants, what we wanted to do was make sure that we really
19 focus on that goal of streamlining and getting the grants
20 out, and really reducing the timeline.

21 And so that's kind of what we focused on. And we
22 did do some partnership with like CalEPA, for example, to
23 think about how can we leverage the work that our --
24 they're already doing that we're doing in terms of grants,
25 and trying to expand who we're talking to in our outreach.

1 The good thing is is that we've done this first
2 round. And I wanted to just say that our next round for
3 grants is going to be this summer. And so what we're
4 really trying to do and we're only trying to think about
5 all the things that we've mentioned I think in the
6 briefings that we had, particularly around providing
7 technical assistance, thinking about more robust outreach
8 options, thinking about how we're partnering with, I
9 think, grant programs in doing some of that outreach, so
10 we're leveraging, I think, and not critiquing communities.

11 All of those things is the work that we're trying
12 to do and we're planning to do for the round that's coming
13 up actually this summer. And then I was going to actually
14 kick it over to Ambreen, I think, to share kind of a
15 little bit more specifics, so there's some clear action
16 items that we're already thinking about doing to make sure
17 that we're really being more robust, one, in terms of our
18 outreach, building on the lessons learned, and the
19 expertise that we've already seen in the grants.

20 OEJ ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM MANAGER AFSHAN:

21 Thank you, Chanell. And I heard Board Member
22 Pacheco-Werner mentioned a tiered approach. And that's
23 exactly what we are doing. We are starting with the
24 lowest hanging fruit, in terms of based on the resources
25 with what we can do now and what we can kick into the next

1 cycle.

2 So one thing we realize would be important and
3 necessary for us to do the program debriefs for the
4 applicants to let them know how their applications can be
5 improved for what piece of the puzzle was not up to par
6 and where they can add more information to become
7 successful candidates, for -- so this time around for the
8 first time, that's what we are doing.

9 For the candidates who were not successful in
10 securing funding, we are providing them assistance and
11 debriefs in terms of improving their applications, because
12 we are aware we have \$10 million available where we be
13 working on the solicitation. That is one piece of the
14 puzzle or lowest hanging fruit we thought we can start
15 now.

16 And then the other piece of the puzzle is looking
17 at the solicitation and scoring criteria and then seeing
18 what is absolutely necessary for us under the terms and
19 conditions. So we are critically looking at our request
20 for application. And you have heard from some of our
21 applicants that initially the application was 86 -- or the
22 request for applications, we were publicizing were 80
23 pages long.

24 We looked critically, based on what is absolutely
25 necessary for us to be there, to shorten those pages, so

1 it's not as resource intensive.

2 So currently, it's 25 pages. We are still
3 looking into if there are any other pieces of the puzzle
4 which are not needed, so we can synthesize that
5 information, and also provide the templates which is a
6 term like plug and play, that where communities, they just
7 look at those templates and provide information.

8 The other piece we are looking into is rather
9 than just having pages and pages of information where
10 people they're not sure that how much information we need,
11 we can customize and provide more direction on -- please
12 provide 500 words or -- so it's not like they have to
13 worry about all that information, just summaries. So this
14 is another piece we are looking at.

15 One last piece, and would be -- it would need --
16 which would need a little bit more research is technical
17 assistance. We are very much interested in providing
18 technical assistance, whether it's through a third party.
19 But because all those communities needs are different, and
20 we don't want to do a cookie cutter approach, where
21 somebody coming in and providing the same services.

22 So we are looking at it very critically, in terms
23 of who will have that capability where they can keep the
24 methods consistent, but cater it to the communities, or
25 regional needs, or local needs of the communities and

1 provide the needed support.

2 And that will take a bit more time, but all those
3 pieces, along with looking at the scoring criteria to make
4 sure we are providing clear direction and some scores in a
5 way where new applicants are encouraged to apply in the
6 future.

7 Thank you.

8 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you.

9 Vice Chair Berg.

10 VICE CHAIR BERG: Thank you very much, Chair.

11 Thank you, Board Member Pacheco-Werner. I really
12 think that one of the key points you made, and I would
13 like to just chime in and follow up a little bit, is the
14 fact that the need is so great. There's no question about
15 it. All the needs that have broughten -- have been
16 brought before us today. And I really want to thank the
17 communities that came and testified. It was so meaningful
18 to me and I want to thank you for that.

19 But all these needs are so great. At the end of
20 the day, we have \$10 million. So we do need to reach out
21 to these other communities. We do need to bring them in,
22 but then that money has to be taken or divided out. We
23 have \$10 million dollars, and that, I believe, was Board
24 Member Pacheco-Werner's point is how do we think about in
25 a limited fund? And that got me thinking that then

1 Executive Officer from South Coast Air Quality Management
2 District Barry Wallerstein when we got the Prop 1B money,
3 which was very influential for the Truck and Bus Rule,
4 started talking about all of our funding as a portfolio.

5 And when we think about the various funding
6 mechanisms we have through GGRF, through the Community
7 Grants, and others, it would be helpful for us to look at
8 these as a portfolio not in an individual bucket, because
9 all the things that we're talking about, other programs
10 are talking about them as well, and we need to leverage,
11 and we need to help these communities to leverage these
12 programs. And as Kevin Hamilton very aptly points out,
13 the amount of money that we are giving these communities
14 is minuscule. It's very small compared to what the need
15 is and the need that the system created through creating
16 groups of impoverished communities through systemic
17 racism.

18 And we need to figure out I think a more holistic
19 way to bring these pots of money and maybe designate to be
20 able to help the most needy getting them into other pots
21 of money. I don't know. But I'm just saying that I
22 believe that Dr. Pacheco-Werner's point of how are we
23 thinking about all of our limited funds and leveraging
24 them, we really need to figure out how one plus one equals
25 100.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you.

3 I want to express my appreciation to staff for
4 bringing this agenda item forward, because, you know,
5 these -- this is a program that, you know, staff has the
6 ability to implement on their own, but taking a moment to
7 share with us the -- some examples of the successful
8 applicants, some of the amazing, you know, citizen
9 science, and programming that's happening with regard to
10 these funds gives us a really good opportunity to step
11 back, take a look at how the program is being built, and
12 how it's functioning in the real world, and having an
13 opportunity to have a dialogue about ways to improve, and
14 hearing directly from applicants and -- in how they are
15 experiencing the program in both the positive aspects and
16 the aspects that we need to work on in the future is a
17 really important way to improve and engage the Board in
18 this work.

19 So I really appreciate the opportunity to have
20 this discussion and hear some of the suggestions from my
21 colleagues about how to improve the program and to have
22 the opportunity to express appreciation for the staff
23 members and their hard work on the program and the
24 organizations and their hard work in presenting the
25 applications and implementing this essential on-the-ground

1 community work.

2 So I believe that is it for this item. I really
3 want to thank everyone for their engagement on this. And
4 we did open public comment yesterday, so our meeting is
5 now adjourned.

6 Thank you.

7 (Thereupon the Air Resources Board meeting
8 adjourned at 10:24 a.m.)

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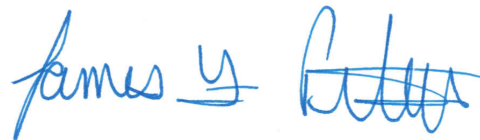
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That I am a disinterested person herein; that the foregoing California Air Resources Board meeting was reported in shorthand by me, James F. Peters, a Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of California, and was thereafter transcribed, under my direction, by computer-assisted transcription;

I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for any of the parties to said meeting nor in any way interested in the outcome of said meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 13th day of March, 2022.



JAMES F. PETERS, CSR
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