APPEARANCES

BOARD MEMBERS:
Liane Randolph, Chair
Sandra Berg, Vice Chair
John Balmes, PhD
Hector De La Torre
John Eisenhut
Senator Dean Florez
Gideon Kracov
Tania Pacheco-Werner, PhD
Barbara Riordan
Supervisor Phil Serna
Dan Sperling, PhD
Diane Takvorian

STAFF:
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
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
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Ellen Peter, Chief Counsel

Sonya Collier, Staff Air Pollution Specialist, Research Division

Cristina Echeverria, Air Pollution Specialist, Sustainable Transportation and Communities Division

Julia Luongo, Air Pollution Specialist, Office of Community Air Protection (OCAP)

Abigail May, Senior Attorney, Legal Office

Brian Moore, Manager, Community Planning Section, OCAP

Liana Nuñez, Air Pollution Specialist, OCAP

Deldi Reyes, Division Chief, OCAP

Todd Sax, Chief, Enforcement Division

Erika Trinidad, Air Pollution Specialist, OCAP

Victoria Villa, Air Pollution Specialist, Air Quality Planning Science Division

ALSO PRESENT:

Gustavo Aguirre, Jr., Central California Environmental Justice Network

Cynthia Babich, Del Amo Action Committee

Angie Balderas

Veronica Eady, Bay Area Air Quality Management District

Catherine Garoupa White, Central Valley Air Quality Coalition

Margaret Gordon, West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project
APPEARANCES CONTINUED

ALSO PRESENT:

Kevin Hamilton, Central California Asthma Collaborative
Kathryn Higgins, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Moses Huerta
Bill La Marr, California Alliance of Small Business Associations
Mauro Libre
Jessica Olson, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
Adrian Rehn
Cynthia Pinto-Cabrera, Central Valley Air Quality Coalition
Laura Rosenberger-Haider
Paulo Torrado, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Los Angeles
LaDonna Williams, All Positives Possible
Christine Wolfe, California Council for Environmental And Economic Balance
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CHAIR RANDOLPH: I'll call the May 19th, 2022 California Air Resources Board to order.

Will the Board Clerk please call the roll.

BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Dr. Balmes.

Mr. De La Torre?

BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: Here.

BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Mr. Eisenhut?

BOARD MEMBER EISENHUT: Here.

BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Senator Florez?

BOARD MEMBER FLOREZ: Here.

BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Assemblymember Garcia?

Ms. Hurt?

Mr. Kracov?

BOARD MEMBER KRACOV: Here.

BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Senator Leyva?

Dr. Pacheco-Werner?

Mrs. Riordan?

BOARD MEMBER RIORDAN: Here.

BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Supervisor Serna?

BOARD MEMBER SERNA: Here.

BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Professor Sperling?

BOARD MEMBER SPERLING: Here.

BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Ms. Takvorian?

BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Here.
BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Supervisor Vargas?
Vice Chair Berg?

VICE CHAIR BERG: Here.

BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Chair Randolph?
CHAIR RANDOLPH: Here.

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

(Technical Difficulties.)

CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. We apologize for these brief technical difficulties, but we are back online. And I will begin with a few housekeeping items.

We are conducting today's meeting in person as well as offering remote options for public participation both by phone and by Zoom. Anyone who wishes to testify on a Board item in person should fill out a request to speak card available in the foyer and turn it into a Board assistant prior to the commencement of the item.

If you are participating remotely, you will raise your hand in Zoom or dials start nine if calling in by phone. The clerk will provide further details regarding how public participation will work in a moment.

For safety reasons, please note the emergency exit to the rear of the room through the lobby. In the event of a fire alarm, we are required to evacuate this room and immediately exit the building through the front
entrance, when the all-clear signal is given. We will
return to the auditorium and resume the hearing.

A closed captioning feature is available for
those of you who are joining us in the Zoom environment.
In order to turn on subtitles, please look for a button
labeled "CC" at the bottom of the Zoom window, as shown in
the example on the screen now. Everyone should speak
clearly and from a quiet location whether you are joining
us in Zoom or calling in by phone.

Interpretation services will be provided today in
Spanish if you are joining us using the zoom. There is a
button labeled "Interpretation" on the Zoom screen. Click
on that interpretation button and select Spanish to hear
the meeting in Spanish.

If you are joining us here in person and would
like to listen to the meeting in Spanish, please notify a
Board assistant and they will provide you with further
instructions. I want to remind all of our speakers to
speak slowly and pause intermittently to allow the
interpreters the opportunity to accurately interpret your
comment.

(Interpreter translated in Spanish)

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

BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you, Chair
Randolph. Good morning, everyone. My name is Katie Estabrook and I'm going to be calling on the commenters who are joining us remotely in Zoom and my colleague Lindsay Garcia will be calling on commenters who have signed up to speak and are joining us here in the room.

I will provide information on how participation will be organized for those of you who are joining us in Zoom or calling in. So if you are joining us remotely and wish to make a verbal comment on one of the Board items, you will need to be using Zoom webinar or calling in by phone. If you are currently watching the webcast on CAL-SPAN, but you wish to comment remotely, please register for the Zoom webinar or call in. Information for both can be found on the public agenda for today's meeting.

To make a verbal comment, we will be using the raise hand feature in Zoom. If you wish to speak on a Board item, please virtually raise your hand as soon as the item has begun to let us know that you wish to speak. To do this, if you are using a computer or tablet, there is a raise hand button. If you are calling on the phone, dial star nine to raise your hand. Even if you previously indicated which item you wish to speak on when you registered for the Zoom webinar, you must raise your hand at the beginning of the item so that you can be added to
the queue and your chance to speak will not be skipped.

If you are giving your verbal comment in Spanish
and require an interpreter's assistance, please indicate
so at the beginning of your testimony and our translator
will assist you. During your comment, please pause after
each sentence to allow for the interpreter to translate
your comment into English. When the comment period
starts, the order of commenters will be determined by who
raises their hand first. I will call each commenter by
name and will activate each commenter's audio when it is
their turn to speak.

For those calling in by phone, I will identify
you by the last three digits of your phone number. We
will not show a list of commenters. However, I will be
announcing the next three or so commenters in the queue,
so you are ready to testify and know who is coming up
next. Please note that you will not appear by video
during your testimony.

I would also like to remind everyone to please
state your name for the record before you speak. This is
especially important for those who are calling in by
phone. There will be a time limit for each commenter.
The normal time is three minutes, though this could change
at the Chair's discretion. During public testimony, you
will see a timer on the screen. For calling in by phone,
we will run the timer and let you know when you have 30
seconds left and when your time is up. If you require
Spanish interpretation for your comment, your time will be
doubled.

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

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

CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Thank you.

The first item on the agenda is Item number
22-7-1, which is an update on CARB's racial equity and
diversity efforts. If you are here with us in the room
and wish to comment on this item, please fill out a
request to speak card as soon as possible and submit it to
a Board assistant. If you are joining us remotely and
wish to comment on this item, please click the raise hand
button or dial star nine now. We will call on both
in-person and remote commenters when we get to the public
comment portion of this item.

As Board Chair, one of my priorities is
supporting CARB's efforts to advance racial equity and environmental justice, both internally and externally. We know that low-income communities of color are disproportionately impacted by climate change and exposed to harmful levels of air pollution, and we know the role that discriminatory practices, such as redlining, have played in creating these injustices.

It's important for government leaders seeking to advance racial and social justice to first recognize and understand how our own policies and practices could directly or indirectly perpetuate systemic racism. We must work together to develop and implement policies that move us all toward a more equitable and just future.

Environmental justice activists have been calling on CARB for years to better integrate environmental justice into our work. In 2020, black employees at CARB demonstrated great leadership when they put together the letter and action plan for racial change at CARB, which called upon CARB to look internally to address deeply rooted inequities within our ranks.

The internal and external call for change led to the Board's adoption of Resolution 20-33 in October of 2020, the fall before I became Chair, which declared the Board's commitment to racial equity and social justice. We know this focus on justice must span all aspects of how
we live, work, and engage with each other. Most importantly, it must result in meaningful change that advances racial equity and addresses environmental justice.

Under the leadership of Deputy Executive Officer Chanell Fletcher and her staff, CARB has developed a vision of racial equity and environmental justice that envisions a future where all Californians breathe healthy and clean air, and race no longer predicts exposure to poor air quality or disproportionate burdens from climate change.

To implement this vision, CARB has developed an organizational model of change, which has been informed by the Government Alliance of Racial Equity known as GARE. This model of change includes three steps, normalize, organize, and operationalize. This model of change, which you will hear more about today, will continue to shape and coordinate CARB's internal and external efforts.

Today, we hear an update from staff on the racial equity and diversity efforts that have occurred since the adoption of Resolution 20-33. And I also want to note the leadership of Supervisor Serna in developing that resolution in October of 2020.

This item is informational and the Board will not be taking formal action today, but I look forward to the
Ms. Fletcher, will you please introduce the item.

(Thereupon a slide presentation.)

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER FLETCHER: Thank you, Chair Randolph. As you mentioned, CARB's Board Resolution 20-33 acknowledges that impacts from air pollutants and greenhouse gases disproportionately affect communities of color.

CARB has made significant strides to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. However, California's ongoing pollution challenges are particularly stark in low-income communities of color. We know that the air quality and climate improvements we've seen over the years are still not shared by all. This is a legacy of structural and institutional racism.

CARB understands that environmental justice communities continue to suffer disproportionately because of historic racial and environmental injustices and remains committed to reducing the disproportionate exposure to air pollutants and emissions for residents. Our mission and the vision Chair Randolph shared today elevates the need to reduce air pollution and emissions where socioeconomic and racial disparities are most pronounced by advancing racial equity and addressing...
environmental justice in all that we do.

Racial equity and environmental justice are more than just a stated value and priority for us. We commit to racial equity and environmental justice as a way of doing business. Clean air and reduce emissions in every community is our goal. We also commit to using our existing authorities and resources to address environmental injustices and racial inequities.

As the Deputy Executive Officer of Environmental Justice, I oversee CARB's Office of Environmental Justice and Office of Community Air Protection. The Office of Environmental Justice manages the AB 617 community air grants, supports the AB 32 Environmental Justice Advisory Committee and leads Cal -- CARB's California-Mexico border work.

You will hear today how the Office of Environmental Justice is working closely with others to integrate environmental justice and racial equity more deeply throughout CARB. The Office of Community Air Protection, referred to as OCAP, leads the implementation of AB 617, focused on reducing emissions and exposure in disproportionately impacted communities.

You will hear an informational item from OCAP later today on its efforts to update the statewide strategy to reduce emissions in emission-burdened
communities and to reset the program to bring benefits to more communities. You will also hear how an approach to equity drove the development of the People's Blueprint and its role in the update of the statewide strategy.

CARB's efforts are founded on a shared racial equity framework, which is a set of concepts to guide all of our work to advance racial equity. The framework describes the critical role of government in addressing racial inequity, why we lead with race, the difference between equity and equality, and why we need to elevate efforts to address institutional and structural racism.

The framework also describes the model of organizational change that has been informed by GARE. This model is used in hundreds of State -- on hundreds of State and local jurisdictions across the United States. The model of change helps us to communicate our vision to advance racial equity and environmental justice, build a shared foundation through the CARB racial equity framework, and normalize a focus on racial equity through formal training and informal capacity building.

We are building our own capacity through a train-the-trainer model to deliver a six-hour curriculum called advancing racial equity at CalEPA to the entire CARB workforce. Additionally, the 90-day challenge at CARB provides an information -- informal opportunity for a
curated self-guided journey of learning more about racism and how to address it.

Building our internal capacity is part of organizing, another phase in our model of change. We have formed workgroups focused on equity principles, community engagement and capacity building. These workgroups, along with our close coordination with the Diversity and Racial Equity Task Force support internal organizing to become an anti-racist organization. Being anti-racist means we take an affirmative approach to dismantling those policies and practices that may be inadvertently deepening disparities.

CARB's soon to be created Office of Racial Equity will bring more focus to this work. The office will oversee CARB's efforts to advance racial equity in all its policies, programs, and regulations. Operationalizing racial equity is a critical phase in this change model. In part, this means using a racial equity lens as we develop and implement regulations and policies.

Committing to advance racial equity means acknowledging we cannot do this work in silos or on our own. We hope to partner with other State and local jurisdictions that are similarly committed to advancing racial equity and to partner with communities who have for too long borne the brunt of environmental racism.

We know we cannot do this work alone. Through
efforts like GARE, we are learning from other jurisdictions committed to racial equity. We are also informed by engagement with external partners and communities. For example, CARB is learning about how to apply a racial equity lens to our work. This means asking questions, such as who benefits, and who is burdened by our decisions, and how do we track progress.

We plan to engage with equity experts, communities, and other State and local jurisdictions that are using racial equity tools this year as we develop this effort, and over time improve implementation.

We plan to train the CARB workforce to explore using the tool and learn from that experience. And we plan to come to you, the Board and the public, in 2023 with an informational item about our use of the racial equity lens and in the interim work with others to learn more.

As called for in the model of change, being transparent about our intent and process helps build accountability and supports acting with urgency. This is the first of what we hope is regular updates that we will bring to you and the public in our continued effort to advance racial equity. These efforts are occurring among all CARB divisions and the Office of Environmental Justice is helping to coordinate them. Today, we will be hearing
from multiple staff on these efforts.

And as I shared, we're hoping to provide regular updates going forward.

In terms of our goals today -- you can go to the next slide.

(Thereupon a slide presentation.)

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER FLETCHER: We're still figuring out the kinks here, so don't worry about it.

(Laughter.)

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER FLETCHER: So in terms of our goals today, we want to share CARB's model of change, which I walked through already and has really been informed by the work of GARE. Part of what we're doing today is we're also going to host a staff panel that's going to highlight the work around racial equity that is happening across the agency and then we would love to hear from the Board and the public.

One of the things that I also want to emphasize that our Chair has already mentioned is that our goal is really to show how we're undertaking -- how the efforts that we're undertaking is going to help us implement the Board resolution. We understand that when the resolution was adopted, there were some concerns from members of the public around transparency and accountability.

The resolution really was an effort for the Board
to provide direction to the staff. And as we the staff are starting to implement this, we do want to make sure that we are continuing to come back to the public to provide that transparency and accountability. And also I think we want to make sure that we're building more collaboration through these regular updates on this effort.

To kick off this Board update, we will watch a short video by Procter and Gamble called, "The Look".

(Thereupon a video was played.)

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER FLETCHER: Thank you so much for playing the video. This video does a great job of reminding us that we all have biases. For too many African Americans, specifically African American men, these biases reinforce societies harsh view of their humanity and personhood. For example, when we see Black people, do we see a person worthy of respect, protection, success, and opportunity or do the looks, stairs, actions, and scowls Black people receive when navigating public life reinforce the narrative that Black people are criminal or worse.

Some of us have never experienced this look, while others experience as a part of their daily lives. At CARB, we've take a powerful training on implicit bias and are now looking at our hiring practices to reduce the
impact of implicit bias. And this is just the start, as we know that implicit bias is difficult to root out. This is why this work is also about looking at our organization and building capacity to dismantle institutional racism. This means we need to examine our policies, practices, and decisions to understand if they may be inadvertently perpetuating negative impacts, and we need to have public forums like this to ensure there's accountability on our efforts.

Now, we will watch a video from Ugo Eke-Simmons, one of the co-chairs of CARB's Diversity and Racial Equity Task Force.

(Thereupon a video was played.)

TTD AIR RESOURCES ENGINEER EKE-SIMMONS: Good afternoon, Chair Randolph and members of the Board. I'm here today to share with you why I believe CARB needs a vision and plan for racial equity and environmental justice.

According to the Governmental Alliance and Race and Equity, racial equity is realized when race can no longer be used to predict life outcomes and outcomes for all groups are improved. Taking that a step further to define racial equity in the workplace, a racially equitable workplace is one where an employee's race does not impact their career growth, potential, this
assignments they're given or have access to, or how they are viewed or treated.

Everyone knows racism is wrong, but not everyone acknowledges that racial equity is important and must be actively work toward. Having a vision for racial equity at CARB will change what is still an abstract concept for some into something concrete.

An action plan for racial equity will build upon the vision outlining clear steps for how racial equity will be achieved and making it clear how employees of color should be treated in the workplace. Most, if not all of us, have read the letter and action plan for racial change at CARB written by a group of concerned Black employees back in 2020.

The stories and the letter highlight inequities experienced by Black employees and drive home the reality of systemic racism at CARB. The action plan provides a list of 10 areas where CARB can improve along with detailed lists of actions to be taken in each area. This action plan provides a strong foundation that can and should be built upon moving forward. Many of the stories in the letter and action plan resonate with me because I've either seen them in action or experienced them myself during the 12 years I have spent at CARB.

However, I have been encouraged to see racial
equity become a priority at CARB over the last two years and look forward to seeing how the work we have done and continue to do will be translated into action in the future.

In addition to the letter an action plan, data from the 2020 CalEPA racial equity survey show that employees are ready to engage in racial equity work, but they need more tools to do so and desire more communication on equity efforts already underway within the agency.

The survey data also showed that perceptions of the progress CARB has made in regard to equity vary significantly by race and ethnicity with the use of Black employees often being significantly different than White Latino employees.

In general, higher percentages of Black employees who responded to the survey disagreed with statements about division- and organization-wide equity efforts compared to other racial and ethnic groups. These survey results, along with the letter and action plan from Black employees, underscore the need for an agency-wide vision and action plan for racial equity, an integral part of which will be finding ways to center the perspectives of the most marginalized groups.

Having such a vision and action plan will improve
workplace culture, increase employee retention, and foster a diverse and inclusive workforce while all employees feel valued. When we translate the racial equity work we're doing inside CARB into our external efforts, we can achieve environmental justice.

A vision and action plan for environmental justice will make us at CARB better public servants and will include concrete ways of making environmental justice issues tangible for CARB employees, helping us ensure that our projects, programs, policies, and regulations are developed with environmental justice issues at the forefront.

The large challenges we face in air quality and climate change necessitate having diverse bodies working together inside and outside the organization to ensure equitable health and environmental outcomes for all Californians. We have to be intentional in partnering with communities to make amends for past harms and ensure that past mistakes aren't repeated.

(End of video.)

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER FLETCHER: Thank you.

--o0o--

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER FLETCHER: As I shared earlier, we will have a staff panel so Board and members of the public can hear directly from different levels in
the organization on why this work is essential and what is currently happening in the agency.

I will turn it over to our staff to introduce themselves starting with Sonya.

**RD STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST COLLIER:** Hello, Chair Randolph and members of the Board. My name is Sonya Collier. I work in the Research Division and I'm also here to represent the Diversity and Racial Equity Task Force.

**AQPSD AIR RESOURCES ENGINEER VILLA:** Good afternoon. My name is Victoria Villa and I am with the Air Quality and Planning Division and I'm a DaRE Task Force member.

**STCD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST ECHEVERRIA:** Hi, everybody. My name is Cristina Echeverria Palencia. I work in the Sustainable Transportation and Communities Division and I also serve as the trainer for our advancing racial equity training at CalEPA.

**OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST TRINIDAD:** Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Erika Trinidad. I use she/her/hers pronouns. I'm in the Office of Community Air Protection in the Community Assessment Section and I have been working on developing racial equity tools. Thank you.

**DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER FLETCHER:** Thank you all
for the introductions. As I shared previously and the Chair also shared, CARB is using the GARE model of change, which you can see on the slide, normalize, organize, and operationalize. I want to make clear that these phrases are not -- these three phases are not sequential and the model is not linear, and this work is iterative.

Today, we're going to start off with the efforts CARB is undertaking to normalize racial equity. So as I mentioned before, normalize means what are we doing today, what are we -- what are we doing to work towards accountability by sharing our progress so far, how are we operating with urgency with a common understanding, and really thinking about the role of government in advancing racial equity, why we lead with race, and understanding the different levels of racism.

As I mentioned before, we have documents these ideas in CARB's draft racial equity framework as a foundation to guide this focused planning. Our diversity and racial equity task force has also done a lot of work on this front.

Sonya, can you kick us off?

---o0o---

RD STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST COLLIER: Thank you so much. Yes.

So I'm going to start off by introducing what the
Diversity and Racial Equity Task Force is. The Diversity and Racial Equity Task Force, or DaRE, was created in July of 2020 partially in response to the letter and action plan for racial change put together by Black CARB employees. DaRE strives to address, explore, educate, learn about, and respond to the diversity and inclusion needed to be an organization that serves all Californians. The objective of the task force is to develop and advise CARB's Executive Office on recommendations to substantially increase the diversity and racial equity of CARB's workforce at every level of the organization and address biased systems and policies that have sustained to divide across races, gender, and other factors.

The task force reflects the diversity that we aspire for in the organization and includes members from both our Northern and Southern California offices, as well as staff from multiple divisions, job classifications, identities and sociodemographic groups.

This diverse set of CARB employees meets regularly to discuss changes needed to make CARB an inclusive workplace where all staff feel that they are valued and belong. The discussions that occur within the task force are non-hierarchical. In other words, we leave our titles at the door allowing for all voices to be heard.
The task force is currently examining barriers to diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging in various areas affecting employees, including the hiring and recruitment process, and workplace culture. The task force is also working on a future vision for CARB and imagining what it would look like as an anti-racist organization in order to set goals, priorities, and establish a plan of action.

Diversity alone is not the goal of the task force, rather the goal is to promote equity, inclusion, and belonging so that all employees feel valued and respected, regardless of their race, their background, ability, gender identity or job classification.

Given that our individual social, economic, and cultural identities shape and influence our experiences and perspectives, CARB recognizes that the organization does its best work by ensuring diversity in our workforce across the various dimensions of social, cultural, and racial identity, and by practicing inclusivity in how we work with one another.

Finally, this work is essential, because it is the right thing to do, regardless of how it impacts the organization as a whole. All CARB employees deserve to feel included and that they belong here.

--o0o--
RD STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST COLLIER: One of the first tasks of the DaRE Task Force was to provide implicit bias training to all CARB employees. We invited Dr. Bryant T. Marks of the National Training Institute on Race and Equity at Morehouse College to host training sessions for all staff. The training was mandatory for all.

One of the key messages from Dr. Marks was that if you are human, you have implicit bias. This message set the stage for all of us to be open to having more difficult conversations moving forward, particularly around racial equity.

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RD STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST COLLIER: One of DaRE's important tasks is to provide useful resources for CARB staff. In our effort to create a common understanding through shared language, we assembled a comprehensive glossary of terms for racial equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging. We developed this glossary by leveraging existing glossaries, in particular the ones shared by the California Department of Public Health and by adding terms from trainings and tools from the Government Alliance on Race and Equity, or GARE. We also added terms relevant to the specific work we do at CARB. This glossary is not intended to provide any
binding definitions that apply to CARB's work. And depending on the context, other statutory or regulatory definitions may apply. We will continue to be updated as appropriate over time.

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RD STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST COLLIER: DaRE has also been active in celebrating heritage months and elevating the voices of CARB staff from a diversity of demographic groups and backgrounds. The list on the left illustrates the various heritage month celebrations DaRE has organized actions around.

Those actions have included panel discussions, where CARB staff share their stories and experiences. We've also had educational all-hands communications, resources, and special guest speakers.

Most recently for Women's History month, we invited the women of the Board to speak to CARB staff all about their personal stories and the barriers they faced on their professional and personal journeys. These types of events and panel discussions in particular have elevated the voices of staff and highlighted our shared challenges and triumphs.

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RD STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST COLLIER: As part of furthering our shared understanding around racial
equity and continuing our education on this topic, DaRE has hosted a 90-day challenge two years in a row. The challenge kicks off each February as part of Black History Month. We provide a list of eight types of resources, including books, movies, videos, episodes, podcasts, web-based resources, prompts, and training.

Staff who participate in the challenge can choose among the various resources and decide which formats and topics are of interest. After completing the challenge, participating staff can opt to write a reflection on what they learned. Throughout the 90-day challenge, we send words of encouragement, hold engagement events with discussion breakout groups, and prompts, and host a chat room where staff can add to the list of resources and discuss what they've learned.

I'm going to turn the mic over to Victoria Villa, who will share more on her personal experience with the challenge.

AQPSD AIR RESOURCES ENGINEER VILLA: Thank you, Sonya. Board members, thank you for the opportunity to reflect on some of the lessons I learned through the 90-day challenge that resonated the loudest with me. As you may know, one of the invaluable tools the 90-day challenge provided staff with was guidance on racial equity conversations.
The challenge acknowledges that becoming aware of the racial inequities in normalizing conversations regarding them is key as we work together to advance racial equity within our agency and with our community stakeholders.

I'll begin by describing one way I believe the challenge is helping CARB normalize racial equity internally. The challenge highlighted that CARB recognizes that each employee's unique experiences, perspectives, and viewpoints add value to our ability to effectively meet our duties.

The intent in this statement is to create and inclusive workplace where all staff feel a sense of belonging. One component of this is respecting each staff member's cultural identity, creating safe space in which staff does not feel forced at adjust their vernacular in an effort to assimilate. Knowing that staff are undergoing this challenge alongside me provided me with the freedom to confidently and proudly embrace my cultural identity and confidently say, "I am Latina", instead of, "I am Latina", to proudly pronounce my last name as Villa(vee-ya) instead of Villa(vil-a).

When staff feels welcome and are part of a work culture that celebrates and acknowledges them for who they are, it can then help free them of any burden they may
feel to assimilate. The can instead focus on creating and delivering the best possible service and technical assistance to our community stakeholders.

We can also apply the lessons learned from the challenge to our interactions with community stakeholders. The challenge has reinforced the importance of using the racial equity tools at our disposal to help us ensure we view our work through a racial equity lens. Please allow me to elaborate on how I can apply this to my direct line of work.

I am part of the team that develops the emission inventories for AB 617 communities, which serve as a baseline to inform future program actions. My team and I can apply the lessons learned through this in past year's challenges by continuing to demonstrate to community stakeholders that we aim to enter community meetings with positive intentions and authenticity.

To accomplish this, we will continue to provide community stakeholders with access to meeting materials, in my case the community level inventories and corresponding educational materials, through different mediums designed to reach each unique community. Before presenting our work, we must continue to highlight that we seek a partnership with community stakeholders.

We can acknowledge that our understanding of
their communities may be limited. And as such, we may not
fully understand the sources of concern within their
community. While we may use the best available data to
us, they are the true community experts here and we turn
to them for their input to refine the emissions
inventories.

The guidance provided through the challenge
demonstrates that collaboration can truly be effective
when staff and community stakeholders enter meetings with
an open mind, start from a place of mutual respect, and
practice active listening.

We need to be opening to hearing community
stakeholder's concerns and addressing any questions they
may have. We need to empower them with the resources they
need in order -- in order for them to feel a sense of
community ownership in the process. When we practice
results-based accountability, we can improve our community
engagement and help address the health disparities across
the state.

While I've learned a great deal during the 90-day
challenge, I understand that this is not just a
three-month learning period. It's an ongoing personal and
agency-wide effort consisting of exploring, educating,
learning, and responding to our diversity and inclusion
needs that will help us ensure that we continue to be an
effective organization to serve all Californians.

Thank you.

And with that, I return the lectern to Chanell.

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DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER FLETCHER: Thank you, Sonya and Victoria.

Before I go to our next panel question, I would be remiss if I didn't mention two important people when we're talking about the work of DaRE. So you've heard from two of the DaRE co-chairs. You heard from Ugo and Sonya. One person that is not here, but that was pivotal to this effort is Edna Murphy. She's our Deputy of Internal Operations and one of the co-chairs of DaRE and has been a huge advocate and champion. So I want to acknowledge that, and that in the future we will make sure to have this where Edna is here.

The other person that I want to acknowledge is sitting right next to me is Rajinder Sahota. So she was one of the first co-chairs of DaRE and really worked closely with Edna and our DaRE team on a number of the efforts that we have talked about today. So I just wanted to acknowledge you Rajinder and say thank you.

I also want to go back to this. It's my next prompt question. And this is for all of our panelists. We heard a lot around what I think is happening around
Normalizing from DaRE. Are there other things that you would like to see?

And anyone can jump in on that.

RD STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST COLLIER: And I can being. So this is Sonya Collier from DaRE.

To improve participation in the various efforts to normalize the conversation around racial equity, we suggest that management send a really clear message that they are behind these efforts and to make space to encourage everyone's participation.

I'll pass it on to the next person.

STCD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST ECHEVERRIA: I can go next. Well, I wanted to highlight two pieces that we identified -- two pieces of this conversation that we identified that we'd really like to see normalized that haven't been as current in our conversations. One, we recommend interrogating what internal barriers we hold that keep us from more deeply engaging with racial justice work and seek out support in dismantling them.

This includes having a systematic approach to identifying challenges, opportunities, lessons learned, and ways management and staff can and will approach the work differently next time with genuine curiosity.

Two, acknowledge emotional barriers. Racial equity is an emotional undertaking and we need to be
prepared for the inevitable discomfort and fear that comes 
from trying something new and create a work culture that 
honors this component of the work and eases that fear that 
can sometimes hold us back.

This also includes acknowledging and respecting 
the emotional labor that this work places on our peers 
with direct lived experience especially. And this is 
because they are often on the front lines as receivers of 
racism and environmental justice, and can really speak to 
these points with a lot of nuance and a lot of efficacy.

Thank you.

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER FLETCHER: Thank you, 
Sonya and Cristina.

Now, we're shifting to the organize phase of the 
model of change. So as I shared previously, organizing 
means we're building our organizational capacity, so that 
that is kind of establishing this soon to be created 
Office of Racial Equity, as we were directed to do via the 
resolution. It also means partnering with other 
organizations and stakeholders, community-based 
organizations, an community leaders.

I briefly referenced our train-the-trainer model. 
Cristina did as well. You'll hear more about this as 
another example of building our own capacity.

So Cristina, I'll kick it over to you to share
more about organizing at CARB.

STCD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST ECHEVERRIA:

Absolutely. Thank you for this question. First, I want to start off and say that where I am speaking today, the work I'm sharing is led by a collective of staff within my Division the Sustainable Transportation and Communities Division, which we abbreviate to STCD.

We've co-created our response and I'd like to take a moment to thank in particular Emma Tome, Lana Wong, Seth Yund, and Lisa Chiladakis -- Chiladakis for their hands-on support in preparing this update for you.

I'll start by discussing the racial equity training and what that looks like within my Division and then share a few key efforts within the Division to move forward practices, policies, and outcomes that are more equitable.

Okay. So let's start with this training. The advancing racial equity at CalEPA training uses a train-the-trainer model. And that means that we call -- we use what call -- we call principle trainers to certify other trainers. And by doing that, we're able to build capacity for peer learning and support to put to action the training's lessons. I serve as a principal trainer. And that means that I draw on my lived and learned experiences to train folks throughout CARB and then will
train others to do that same thing.

So my Division, again STCD, is one of the first divisions to offer dedicated training sessions for our staff to ensure that we can quickly begin implementing the racial equity tools in the curriculum. Trainings are mandatory but are highly encouraged for all staff and management with leadership encouraging the staff to retake the training whenever possible.

My management has supported my role by exploring ways to make space in my workload to conduct these trainings and serve as a resource more broadly. I must stress here that leadership support is and will continue to be critical in this progress. I'll directly state what I'm familiar -- what I'm sure many familiar with racial equity are probably thinking, which is that trainings are not a magic wand that you wave to enact change. Certainly, they are not. This isn't something that escapes us. And we seek to regard these trainings not as an endpoint but as a tool and as a mechanism for setting a tone. The training helps to cultivate a skill set that we expect staff and leadership to both learn and actively, thoroughly, and consistently use. Also, it is a resource to support them in rising to that expectation.

The training is a fundamental organizing component as we move towards operationalizing racial
equity within our Division and beyond. And this will include for our Division developing a division-wide racial equity action plan beginning in 2023. So in addition to participating in this racial equity training, we at STD also have division-specific efforts in place to advance equity in our day-to-day work.

And one key example of this is our staff-led equity work group. And this was established early in 2020 predating many other agency-wide efforts. The meeting serves as a hub and does a few pretty cool key things. One, it facilitates co-learning from a wide range of perspectives that we all bring to the work of staff; two, it helps us identify opportunities to coordinate among programs within the Division; and then three, it helps us coordinate beyond the Division to learn about and inform equity initiatives across the agency.

The work group structure and priorities continually adapt and shift as our capacity to understand equity becomes increasingly nuanced. I'll also note that at least two other divisions across CARB have voiced interest in developing their own versions of the equity work group, which we are beyond eager to support in any way that we can.

So in 2021, our Division also organized division-wide all hands equity workshops and created
discussion groups. In these -- through these mechanisms, all of STCD staff are asked to collaborate and identify ways that equity could be advanced through our work. The next critical phase will be to operationalize these efforts to ensure that these organizing steps yield concrete results.

So with that said, consideration for equitable outcomes has already resulted in headway on a few key efforts that we'd like to share with you all. Staff is currently developing the 2022 SB 150 report, which every four years assesses progress meeting regional greenhouse gas reduction targets for cars and light-duty trucks under SB 375. In the 2022 report, staff will be including additional metrics of analysis to better understand travel trends in low income and disadvantaged communities relative to regional and statewide averages, as well as a deeper analysis of housing trends that will have particular implications for low income Americans -- Californians.

This work will help CARB understand which vehicle mile traveled and greenhouse gas reduction strategies could address inequities and allow us to see how those trends change over time. A draft of the report will be release in the coming weeks for public review and comment, along with a data dashboard that will continue to track
and update these metrics over time.

Next, the proposed Advanced Clean Cars II regulations coming to the Board next month, so look out for that, build on decades of progress reducing vehicle emissions. If adopted, it will require auto manufacturers to increase sales of light-duty zero-emission vehicles to 100 percent by 2035, while cleaning up conventional passenger cars and light trucks until then.

The proposal includes performance and durability requirements for new zero-emission vehicles that could support more reliable zero-emission vehicles coming to you to be used -- to used vehicle markets, that encourage automakers to provide reduced priced zero-emission vehicles -- oh sorry, which would increase zero-emission vehicle access to all low-income levels -- to all income levels.

The proposal also creates new compliance options that encourages automakers to provide reduced price zero-emission vehicles for community mobility programs, produce more affordable zero-emission vehicles, and retain new zero-emission vehicles in California to support the State's financial assistance programs.

This element of the proposal is first of its kind -- is a first-of-its-kind effort to use CARB's Clean
Car Regulations to encourage automakers to take direct action to advance equity and environmental justice in the manufacturer and sale of vehicles.

I also want to talk about California climate investments. So California climate investments, the initiative that puts Cap-and-Trade dollars to work supporting the state's transition to low carbon and a more equitable future as a core focus on providing benefits to disadvantaged communities and low-income communities and households.

To date, over 50 percent of these funds are benefiting these groups and we work actively with our partners to identify opportunities to improve access to funding in achieving greater benefits.

One recent example is the triennial investment plan, which was submitted to the Legislature in January and recognizes the need for complementary strategies to accompany incentive funding, such as greater flexibility for program funds to support community engagement and reduce barriers to participation. We're also considering what new tools and resources could help agencies and the public advance these shared goals.

So we want to underscore all of these updates with the acknowledgement that our efforts to advance equity are the results of the actions and engaged network
of public stakeholders who consistently push us to rise and do better.

In the spirit of this, we'd like to highlight an example. Staff working on building decarbonization are grateful for the time and effort that various stakeholder organizations have contributed to sharing recommendations with CARB.

Notably, the Building Energy Equity and Power Coalition, known as the BEEP Coalition, conducted listening sessions and shared their findings, and has, alongside organizations like CEJA, SAGE, and LEAN shared invaluable insights and recommendations. Our conversations with stakeholders encourage us to reflect more deeply on how we conduct effective engagement work. And we know that these efforts have only just begun and we appreciate your sustained commitment to building better processes in support of more equitable policy designs and outcomes.

Thank you.

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER FLETCHER: Thank you so much Cristina.

I want to open this up to all the panelists, as we're talking about organizing. Are there other things that you think that CARB should be doing?

And anyone can jump in on this.
RD STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST COLLIER: Thank you. This is Sonya again from the Diversity and Racial Equity Task Force. And we do have a few recommendations that are organized.

To start, we suggest that we continue to mitigate impacts of implicit bias and reduce any barriers to enhance workforce diversity in recruiting, hiring, and promotional practices. We also suggest that CARB continue to provide training such as racial equity and implicit bias training and establish a common code of conduct. You know, we should continue to put an equity lens on all CARB programs, ensure all equity efforts are coordinated. And we should track data and progress, and improve and expand upon data currently collected, including recruitment, hiring, promotional, and retention, and survey CARB staff on a regular basis.

Finally, we would suggest to prioritize programs that address racial equity and make programs available internally to CARB staff, including discussions, lectures and additional training that can positively impact workplace culture and support diversity.

Thank you. I'll pass it on to the next panelist.

STCD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST ECHEVERRIA: Hi.
I'm back. Hello.

(Laughter)
STCD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST ECHEVERRIA: The short answer is that there's lots we can do, which can be overwhelming, but also is exciting, because that means that we a lot of room to grow and a lot of things that we can explore.

I wanted to build on the recommendation that Sonya made earlier around hiring and job expectations. And so we propose, as a recommendation for organizing, refining those hiring practices and job expectations, and that includes valuing and seeking out knowledge and experience address racial and environmental justice, including lived experience and community building experience.

We also recommend working with each other, which I know does not sound revolutionary, but oftentimes can be. Create space for staff within CARB and across other agencies to come together and learn from one another. Sharing successful strategies and lessons learned early and often will ultimately go a really long way in alleviating the time commitment we place on our underserved public stakeholders.

We need to support strong leadership. Enable and reward leadership for entrusting staff to lead and take accountability for working directly with stakeholders and for creating opportunities for dialogue and mutual
learning. Equip managers with tools and training to intentionally create workplace culture and highlight ways staff manager teams can effectively work together to transform our sense of what is possible from our work.

The fourth recommendation here, provide resources. Recognize that staff need time and resources to learn and use racial equity tools. Make sure there's adequate time built into project timelines to accommodate this important work. This requires a thoughtful assessment of how to create time, whether that be through reprioritizing, automating tasks when possible, or asking for additional staff.

We also need to prioritize time for collective decision making that assesses how to actualize new ideas for advancing equity. This requires that managers and staff together analyze barriers and opportunities to ensure that decisions are made based on the experience and perspectives of several individuals across differing levels of power, seniority, and personal experience.

Next one. We have to refrain risk. This is a really big one. Our work is about protecting the public from risks and harm due to exposure to pollution and climate change. To better accomplish our goals, we are working towards engaging community -- communities more deeply and meaningfully. This is hard work and actually
comes with many risks, including the risk of stoking fear that is based off of decades of harm and distrust and the risk of imperfect execution, among many others.

To make progress in this work, we must practice resilience in the face of this -- of these risks and understand and learn from what at times may feel like negative experiences and support each other as well as our communities.

Ultimately, we need to remember that our biggest risk is failing to do everything within our power to support our most marginalized and underserved neighbors.

Thank you.

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER FLETCHER: Thank, Cristina.

Now, we're going to be shifting into the operationalize phase of the model. So kind of as I shared before, operationalize means that we're not just talking about racism or taking training, because I think as Cristina noted, right, training is not the magic wand. We are using what we learn to really change the way that we work.

So, for example, CARB is already a data-driven organization, but I do believe that we need to become more intentional about using that data to better understand how our programs and regulations are benefiting Californians.
We also must use a racial equity tool, such as the racial equity assessment lens, which has been developed by a cross-divisional team led by our Office of Community Air Protection, also known as OCAP.

So Erika, I will turn it over to you to share how CARB is starting to operationalize equity.

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OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST TRINIDAD: Thank you, Chanell and thank you Chair Randolph and members of the Board, and the folks with us here for sharing space and discussing our efforts to advance racial equity at CARB. I also wanted to thank Sonya, Victoria, and Cristina for sharing with us the invaluable work you all are doing with and for us.

Apart from what my colleagues have shared, in my brief two years as CARB staff, I have observed many efforts put forth by Division to uplift equity and environmental justice. Some of these efforts include the Research Division's new chapter in their triennial plan outlining a commitment to begin the process to operationalize racial equity and social justice in research.

For the Transportation and Toxics Division, who launched a series of listening sessions, for example, in the railyard emissions listening session, staff turned to
the community to ask how has living or working near a
railyard impacted you? What has your experience been?
How can we, as CARB staff, help to address your concern?
Other programs at CARB have begun to utilize listening
sessions alongside their public workshops to provide an
opportunity for the public to share with staff their
questions, their thoughts, their experiences, and any
suggestions they might want to share.

There are so many more examples of how individual
programs and divisions express commitment to equity and
justice across the different stages of normalize,
organize, and operationalize. We've heard some of it
today. I would like to share an effort to operationalize
racial equity through the development of a racial equity
tool called the Racial Equity Assessment Lens, or REAL,
creating and implementing racial equity tools, mechanize
the practice of meaningful consideration of racial equity
impacts in alignment with the CARB model of change, goals,
and vision for environmental justice.

Earlier, Chanell mentioned that one of the first
steps is to normalize, in which the development of a
shared and collective vision and understanding of racial
equity is central. The racial equity assessment lens,
which is currently being developed, not only acknowledges
how staff across divisions engage with racial equity, but
intends to provide a shared process on how to apply a racial equity lens and perform a racial equity analysis, in integrating it into the design, planning, development and implementation of our programs, our policies, our regulations, and decision making happening at CARB.

The development of this racial equity tool sprouted from many sources, including the 2020 letter from Black employees, which imparted a hope that the words they shared would encourage deep reflection, growth, and meaningful transformation concerning the culture that we have here. This was followed by the Board's adoption of resolution 2033 in October of 2020, a commitment to racial equity and social justice.

As Chanell mentioned, the racial equity assessment lens is being developed by a cross-divisional team with members from across many of CARB's programs and divisions. It has been a pleasure and an honor to work with these folks.

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OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST TRINIDAD: So moving forward, let's go over the tool itself. What is the Racial Equity Assessment Lens. REAL is being designed to be a serious of questions that when answered provides an analytic process and method to deeply engage with and consider racial equity in relation to a specific action.
REAL would aim to ensure that CARB actions achieve what is intended and do not create or deepen inequity, including in communities of concern who historically or currently experience disproportionate burdens.

It is important to engage with REAL as both a tool and a process that will continue to evolve with use. After all, our achievement of racial equity is in our sustained and ongoing commitment to racial equity.

Currently, the Racial Equity Assessment Lens, which is in development is composed of six sections that follows an initial screening.

The screening would be used to determine if there are any potential racial, equity, or other equity issues that might affect certain communities due to a specific CARB action. This screening asks is REAL applicable?

We begin with Section 1, the proposal.

Intentional focus on outcomes and the end goal will help to ensure that the impact plan is the impact realized. Section 1 asks how will racial equity be considered at the beginning of the process? Does their action have specific goals concerning equity? And how will the action align, whether in its process or outcomes, with CARB's racial equity and environmental justice goals?

Section 2 is engaging communities of concern.
Section 2 asks are we meaningfully engaging with communities that may be directly impacted or have specific interest in this action or issue?

   Like the listening sessions I mentioned earlier, Section 2 asks if we have sought information about the factors or circumstances that produce or perpetuate inequities relevant to the action from those who have direct experience with the issue?

   Moving forward to Section 3, data and analyses. This focuses on what the data can tell us about how the action impacts equity and can help determine whether modifications are necessary to avoid disparate impacts that could otherwise be caused by the action. Section 3 asks what does the data tell us and do we have the data we need to perform a meaningful racial equity analysis, and if not, what are we missing? Section 3 asks and emphasizes that we must have disaggregated data and we must interrogate our relationship with data both historically and presently.

   Section 4 is impacts. Impacts assessing how a regulation or action can be shaped to prevent or mitigate inequitable outcomes by asking who will benefit and who will be burdened? How are these being defined? Section 4 also emphasizes the consulting data or literature alone is not enough and is insufficient in fully understanding the
impacts of an action and the context of the action. Section 4 asks how can communities be engaged in assessing the impacts of an action, are -- and are there any potential unintended consequences associated.

Moving forward to Section 5 is implementation. Section 5 asks were we able to achieve our intended goals and outcomes set forth in our proposal, and if not, has changed?.

Finally Section 6, accountability and communication. This section asks how will we track, evaluate, and report on the impacts and consequences the outcomes of the proposal on our specific groups, what metrics are we using, and what strategies. Section 6 asks how will you communicate internally and externally about implementation and accountability? How will you partner -- continue to partner, communicate with and, deepen relationships with communities during implementation? After all, any of our work in racial equity or regarding equity is healing work.

As we continue to develop REAL -- thank you.

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OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST TRINIDAD: As we continue to develop REAL, we are committed to leveraging the myriad expertise and projects available across different divisions. We hope to develop illustrative
examples of real world applications of the Racial Equity Assessment Lens by partnering with programs at CARB to collect feedback and refine the current draft. We are also deeply invested in the thoughtful design and planning for external engagement.

The REAL development work group continues to build capacity through training where each member, such as myself, has participated in the Advancing Racial Equity at CalEPA training. The Racial Equity Assessment Lens concept was also shared in our May annual rulemaking training as part of the environmental justice portion for all staff involved in the regulatory process. And finally, REAL is just one tool in a blooming ecosystem of interconnected effort at CARB.

Chanell, you mentioned this in a previous hearing and it has really remained with me. You asked how do we change and how do we transform? You also acknowledged that although this process takes time, we are committed. That resonated deeply with me as just one staff person with the pleasure and privilege of working with you, and Deldi, and everyone else at CARB to find our own meaningful expression of racial equity and environmental justice. I hope what I have shared with you today directly responds to affirms these sentiments.

Thank you.
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER FLETCHER: Thank you, Erika so much. I want to ask this question to everyone on our panelist -- or on our panel. Because after have talk about operationalizing and the work that we're doing on the REAL, I'd love to hear where do you see CARB in the future and what does it look like for CARB to be an anti-racist organization?

And again, anyone can jump in.

RD STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST COLLIER: Hi. This is Sonya again from DaRE. And I'm really excited to provide a response to a question like that. And this is the response that we came up with as a group in our discussions within DaRE.

So an anti-racist CARB will not only celebrate diversity, it must also promote and practice equity, and address past inequities and injustices. It should improve upward advancement and professional growth for all groups and ensure that all employees and stakeholders feel included, welcome, heard, and valued.

An anti-racist CARB has diverse leadership and staff that are all comfortable applying racial equity tools and can identify individual, institutional, and structural racism.

An anti-racist CARB will continue to advocate for the empowerment of California's most vulnerable
communities who suffer disproportionately high levels of air pollution and adverse health effects. We are also data driven and assess progress in real-time. We continually identify persistent biases and barriers and reevaluate the effectiveness of CARB's strategies and policies. People come and go at CARB. And operationalizing racial equity work means that we create lasting change that stays even when we are gone.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our vision for a future anti-racist CARB. I'll pass it on to the next panelist.

STCD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST ECHEVERRIA: Okay. So when I picture an organization -- or really any organization as anti-racist organization, I envision two key components. Anti-racism must be embedded in our processes systematically and within each of us as a process of growing our self-awareness, empathy, and accountability both within our organization and with our communities?

At the process level, we would systematically expect that projects plan -- that project planning would include explanations of when these or other equity tools would be used, not as an extra component but as a central one. Our need to embed and prioritize racial equity would be so intuitive that we would instinctively notice its
absence.

At the empathetic level, we would intuitively understand that working towards equity is not merely about learning the right words to say or even the right processes to follow. It is learning to see and feel what our state’s most vulnerable and marginalized see and feel and using the immense power we enjoy in State service to address and repair harmful systems.

Ultimately, this requires a deep culture shift and one that I hope to see CARB take on with the urgency, dedication, and care that it deserves.

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST TRINIDAD: Thank you so much, Channell. Thank you, Cristina. Thank you Sonya.

I want to echo what Cristina recommended earlier about dialogue and mutual learning. My recommendation is to advocate for humility and shared spaces to connect with one another. This is not work that can be done in isolation and these spaces not only offer an opportunity to learn from one another, but if cultivated, and if these spaces are nourished provide a space for staff to reflect and grow together collectively as an organization and institution.

Similar to the necessary first step in a shared knowledge and shared language, we must also have
empathetic shared spaces to use this language and this knowledge, one that is built on humility and mutual understanding. Racial equity work is rooted in love and these spaces would afford us that.

Thank you.

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER FLETCHER: So I want to say thank you, thank you, thank you to all of the panelists. I can't thank enough words of gratitude on that front. As I shared in the beginning, I'll just repeating, this is what I hope is the first of many kind of regular updates on the work that we're doing. Collaboration is going to be key on this front. And I want to elevate a point that I think Cristina had made really around that collaboration both I think with other divisions in CARB as well as other agencies. If I didn't mention the role that our Mobile Source Control Division has had in terms of operating a number of our equity-focused programs, including our incentives, and really thinking about how we're embedding equity into that and I think with the community, my apologies. And I want to note that for all of you as well.

The other thing that I do want to say, and this is a bit -- it's a bit off script, but it's a little bit of gratitude on this front to everyone here. I just really want to thank, I think, the team that helped to
pull this together. So I have to call out Ambreen Afshan Ambreen. She's not here. She's our program manager of Office of Environmental Justice. She was huge on this front. My Chief of OCAP, Deldi Reyes. She was just huge. All of our panelists, and I think Abigail May, our legal, just again I think just really moved so hard and our BARCU team, which was just like extremely impressive. So I want to thank them.

I really have to thank the Chair, Richard, who's not here, but kind of here in my head, and our executive office team. So one of the things is is that I started at CARB a year and a half go. And I think just to be really transparent, and this is a bit off script, it's very easy to hire a Black women and give her like a big title, and then give them very little resources, and no role in the program, and have them be a token. And that has not been my experience at CARB at all. And that's because, one, I think all of these deputies have really invited me into their programs. I think our Chair, Richard, have been huge in saying we need your voice in this. Board members have been really persistent and awesome on that front as well.

And I think there's just been a number of -- I mean, I won't list all of them out, community organizations, environmental justice advocates who have
really just welcomed me, and partnered with me, and partnered with our team to make this happen. And again, I thank that panelists and the staff work behind the scenes. So I just want to say that this is the first of many, but I have a lot of gratitude for not being a token. And I think that's a lot to do with everyone in this room. So thank you all very, very much. 

And with that, I will turn it back over to you, Chair.

CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you so much, Chanell. (Applause.)

CHAIR RANDOLPH: I -- that was a great presentation that applause was, you know, really deserved. I mean the panelists, the discussion was really great. And, Chanell, your work in pulling all this together and continuing to lead this effort is amazing. And I just wanted to lift up a point Cristina made about the emotional toll that all this takes and how important it is to remember that, and reflect that, and appreciate deeply the work that our staff is doing. So I just wanted to make sure to take a moment for that.

And then I will open it up to my colleagues for questions for Chanell or our panelists.

BOARD MEMBER SERNA: Madam Chair.

CHAIR RANDOLPH: Oh, Supervisor Serna.
BOARD MEMBER SERNA: Thank you, Chair.

Well, first, I just want to express my sincerest gratitude to Chanell and her team and the DaRE panelists, and all of DaRE, for what I think is a very thoughtful, necessarily detailed, not just presentation, but probably more importantly series of recommendations for the Board to consider and for our executive leadership to consider here at CARB.

I did want to just kind of underscore and clarify, again as the principal drafter of the resolution back in the fall of 2020 Resolution 20-33 that's been made referenced here several times this afternoon, that -- that resolution, just to be clear, was intended to reflect many things. But some of the more important aspects of the exercise and the document was to basically acknowledge that we -- we have a challenge, we have a problem in front of us. And as the governance for this agency is the appointed leadership of this agency, I think we necessarily had to put down on paper what our value set as relative to racial equity and social justice, acknowledging very clearly and transparently what the challenges, and shortfalls, and need for change is that all of us up here, along with our executive leadership, need to address with obviously the structured help of a team like DaRE.
And it was also supposed to be again the
beginning, not the end. That was -- the very first time
in the weeks and months after the tragedy of the George
Floyd murder, which held a massive mirror up to our entire
community, and by that I mean our nation. And I think it
was all on our minds certainly. And that together with,
of course, the bold and courageous letter from CARB's
Black employees, really culminated in I think all of us up
here realizing that we have to change and we have to be
change agents unto ourselves, but we can't do it alone.
And again, reflecting back on what we just heard, I think
as that resolution was the beginning, this is the
substantive progress hearing what we did this morning.

So again, I just want to thank everyone. Chanell
and Madam Chair, I'm really very heartened to hear what I
did this afternoon, like I think all of us are.

Thank you.

CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you.

I think Board Member Takvorian was next.

BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Thank you, all, very,
very much. I -- I want to say that I really want to
harken back and appreciate the leadership and the courage
of the Black staff who really started all of what you've
now presented to us and started this process in motion
that lead to the resolution that the Board has adopted.
And I want to appreciate Supervisor Serna for his leadership in helping the Board put together that resolution -- or leading the Board to put together that resolution, so that we would have something in concrete that the leadership of the organization could look back on and that we hope inspires you to say this is the path that the leadership really wants to be on.

I hope that as part of your work, you're continuously examining that -- that resolution and holding us accountable for -- for the actions that we take and for the resources that we should be part of providing, so that your work can be successful. So I think it's -- you know, it's all of us together that need to be in this to -- in order to make it successful.

I really appreciated getting to know all of you. I feel like your testimony was really candid, and courageous, and explicit. And I think that's what -- that's what you're saying about the conversations that really need to happen in order for us to address institutional and structural racism.

And Victoria, I particularly identified as you -- as you talked about your experience with bias. And I had a similar experience of my own name, which I was pronouncing -- I had very much wanted my name to Takvorian. It's Takvorian. And it wasn't until I went to
Armenia and I were around people who looked and sounded like me that they were like — you know, like what are you even saying? So I understand how we all internalize that and the damage that that can do for all of us.

I also appreciate the link to the EJ communities and the integration of the understanding of the harm that not only does it cause here in the workplace, but what it can cause in the community and what — how those are related. So I really, really appreciate that.

I think when we look at the operational -- operationalized section, it's really important for us to have explicit -- explicit measures of success that — and I note that in the vision, it's described as not an action plan, so I -- but I think you all talked about lots of actions that need to be taken. So I'm hoping that we can really make our work more measurable and really look at how we -- how we move it forward in a way that we can look back on and really see the successes as we -- as we move forward. I have no doubt that we can be successful, but I think we've got to measure it, as Chanell you were talking about, that we're a data driven organization. So let's take a look at this from a data perspective as well. So any thoughts about that, I'd be very interested in hearing more from all of you about that. Thank you so, so much.

Appreciate it.
CHAIR RANDOLPH: Mrs. Riordan.

BOARD MEMBER RIORDAN: Thank you.

And to those of you who participated today and you did a wonderful job. And I salute all of the work that you have done and will do. This is but a beginning, I'm sure.

I want to talk just a little bit about the internal side of this presentation. I think it's very important, and I think you touched on it, the training that needs to happen again and again as new hires come on. I mean, when we think about how CARB changes - some people retire, we hire replacements - those people very much need initially to hear what you have worked on and what your programs are. I think that's so important for continuity through the years if you really want to make CARB successful in this presentation that's -- that's before us.

The other thing I wanted to sort of highlight, again internally more than externally, gender equality. I think we need to look at that and respect that, and be comfortable with that, because those of us who have over the years been a part of government, gender has really played a key role and sometimes being overlooked for different positions. And so I would encourage you to make gender somewhat more starred there in terms of action and,
you know, comfort level. And I think that your programs
that you have outlined for this is just -- your programs
are wonderful and thank you very much for all of your
work.

CHAIR RANDOLPH: Board Member De La Torre.

BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: Thank you.

And I want to apologize. At some points I was
making some comments, because I got cut, and I was trying
to deal with all of that. So I apologize while you guys
were speaking, sometimes I was dealing with that.

CHAIR RANDOLPH: How did you cut yourself on the
dais?

BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: On my --

(Laughter.)

CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay.

BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: I won't be filing an
OSHA complaint.

(Laughter.)

BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: But thank you. I want
to thank all of you -- each of you for your presentations.
I -- clearly, a lot of work is going on institutionally
behind the scenes. We don't see it, because, you know, we
show up once a month, so -- but I did want to say that I
do see it when I meet with staff and I have conversations
with staff about policy issues, because these issues come
up. They didn't 10 years ago. They do now. There is thinking, there is talking about how do we address these issues from a policy perspective. And that all comes from the work that you're describing here today.

I also thought it's a little timely for our institution for our organization, because I was just looking at headlines. And this is Wells Fargo. This is not CARB. I want to be very, very, very, very clear. Wells Fargo, they conducted fake interviews with candidates of color to make its diversity efforts look more impressive on paper. They would bring in -- after they decided who they wanted to hire, they would bring in people of color to interview them after the fact -- after they'd already picked the person they wanted, just to make -- check off that box. This again Wells Fargo, not us.

But that stuff goes on out there. And we've seen it, you know, very visibly in the NFL. And so this work that you're describing, that you're talking about is so important, because you would think that kind of stuff doesn't happen, but it does. And I don't -- I know it doesn't happen here. So that's one extreme on this spectrum.

We are building up, as I said, this awareness, this incorporation of these ideas into what we're doing.
I am very, very proud of how far we've come. I recall early on the first big EJ issue we had was adopting CalEnviroScreen. And you'll recall there was a lot of racial connotations to that and I live in a CalEnviroScreen top 10 community. And people were telling us all kinds of stuff. It was -- it was a really bizarre conversation where race was very much embedded in the arguments that were being made at that time. That was about 10 years ago.

And then finally, this is not to minimize the racial component, poverty. And this isn't for our staff hopefully, but -- but in our policymaking. Poverty is under appreciated in what we do here. I would love to find a way to incorporate the impact on low-income people, regardless of ethnicity, in what we do here.

Because I think in many cases, the environmental justice issues that we're talking about, it's the -- it's the communities, regardless of ethnicity, that are poor. And they're being walloped in any number of ways. One out of every three Californians is on Medi-Cal. That tells you where we are in terms of income in this state. And so, I really would like to see -- I'm not -- I completely accept and praise everything you're doing and we've got to keep doing what we're doing, but there's this other unspoken thing that we need to incorporate into our
thinking and our policymaking.

    Thank you.

CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner.

BOARD MEMBER PACHECO-WERNER: Thank you, Chair, and thank you to everyone. I really appreciate both -- you know, the leadership of everyone who's doing the heavy lifting, and thinking about this, and thinking about the next steps, and, you know, taking on the, as the Chair said, the emotional work that's involved in it.

One of the very first documents that I read coming onto this Board was the letter and action plan that was written. And I think, you know, I just really want to circle back to that. One of the quotes that they had in there cover is if you make conditions better for the Black people around you, you will inevitably make them better for everyone else.

    And, you know, for me I'd like to -- to see how we're using that letter as also a North Star and a part of our North Star of where we're going. So, you know, I'd -- I'd really like to see how we're creating a culture of listening to the Black -- Black people and Black stories, and then how we're measuring those Black voices being valued, as was pointed out in that letter. I'd like to see how we are creating a culture of allyship specifically
for the Black employees at CARB. And I'd like to see how, you know, that sort of circle back to the Black employees to see if they are seeing that cultural change happen. Because I think that we can have wonderful metrics -- I do cultural work -- cross-cultural work for a living as well, and -- but if we're not coming back to the root of the problem, sometimes we'll miss where we were trying to go in the first place. And I think intentionality about centering Black people, Black lives is important in this discussion, because it does necessitate having the hardest of conversations. And if we can have the hardest of conversations, we can have other conversations as well.

And so -- and I do -- I would like to say that I second the recommendation that Sonya brought up around a code of conduct. I think that that's very important. That provides a concrete step not just for staff but for all of us, which really speaks to my last point, which is that I think that we should have plans about our role as a Board as well. Maybe you can come up with that or we can come up with that, but I think that we have a role in this too and we need to figure out how we grow as well and see ourselves as part of this journey with you.

Thank you.

CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. I'm going to call on another couple of Board members. And then I've been sort
of making a list of some of the kind follow-up requests.

Dr. Balmes is next.

BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Thank you, Chair. And I also apologize for missing the first part of the discussion presentation. I actually had an eye procedure this morning. Everything went fine.

And I don't want to repeat everything -- the really I think impactful comments of my fellow Board members. I agree with everything that has been said and especially going back to the courage of our Black employees, I guess in the summer of 2020.

But where I think I can add something to the conversation is just remind us in addition to the courage of our Black employees and the steps that have followed, we also have been engaged with communities of color -- low-income communities of color through the AB 617 process. And I think that's really helped to drive -- maybe this was discussed before I came, so I apologize. But it's helped to drive at all levels from board to leadership, to staff, you know, when we have to engage with those communities, we have to bring cultural humility.

And as Ms. Margaret has, you know, definitely bashed into my brain, that training is -- there's training necessary for all of us to be able to do that interaction
with local communities in a culturally humble way. And I think we've made great progress since I've been on the Board, but especially in the last couple of years, both because of the courage of our Black employees and because with AB 617 we've had to engage with communities.

I'm going to say this, because she's going to be leaving the Board soon, I especially would give an example of Sandy Berg, she's always been a very compassionate and humble person. But she, through the process of approving CERPs, Sandy is like just an incredible voice for the Board, which I appreciate.

So I just feel like we have to keep going with AB 617 for multiple reasons, but part of it is just to get a better focus through all levels of the agency with regard to equity and social justice.

And I want to give a shout-out to Sonya, because her presentation I think you were talking about we needed real data, and there's the REAL -- I don't know if you were talking about the Racial Equity Assessment Lens, but I really liked, you know, as a data-driven person in my career, that -- and Ms. Takvorian also said this, we need to have data to show that we're making progress. We can't just, you know, have conversations where, you know, we think we're doing well. And so I really hope that the REAL tool, which is in process, you know, achieves the
impact that we all want it to have. But I came in when I
think Sonya was presenting and I really appreciated the
presentation.

Thank you.

CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you.

Vice Chair Berg.

VICE CHAIR BERG: Well, thank you very much. And
I also -- my fellow Board members have just summed up so
well and I won't also repeat. But, you know, I want to go
back to "The Look". That was so powerful. And what I was
thinking as I was watching that, quite frankly, becoming
emotional myself, I hope I never lose that emotionality,
that tearing up, that anybody is treated that way. And so
on that, the only thing I'd like to follow us is really
thank you, Board Member Pacheco-Werner, I love the idea of
a role for us. And I -- I would hope that we could
encourage that we want to be here for each of you. Your
courage, you're the ones that are on the front lines, and
so an allyship. And how could we do that though by being
allowed to leave what would be perceived as our seat of
power to really participate. And so I would like to
encourage that and thank you for bringing that up.


It takes a lot of courage to participate, but then it
takes a lot of courage to come and explain it to us. And
so thank you for that, we know it's not easy, we know we're not perfect. We know we fall short all the time. And so please let us know how we can encourage to lift up and for us to get better as well.

Thank you.

CHAIR RANDOLPH: Board Member Kracov.

BOARD MEMBER KRACOV: Yeah. A lot of humility that goes into this and appreciate that, Vice Chair. We've all made a lot of mistakes and have a lot to learn. So I want to thank all the presenters, Ms. Eke-Simmons, Ms. Collier, Ms. Villa, Dr. Echeverria Palencia, Ms. Trinidad. Really appreciate this. And, of course, the Black employees who spoke up and started all of this off, you know, not just for presenting today, you know, but for doing this work.

You know, this work is really hard. It's really touchy. It can be very difficult to maintain momentum over time. You know, sometimes you're and sometimes you're completely demoralized. So, you know, thank you for this. I think this should be interactive, so I'll ask you a question through the Chair. I know the Chair is putting these together. But maybe following up on the comments of my fellow Board members, you know, what would you like to see the Board do? You know, what role do you sort of see for the Board in these efforts? I'd like to
hear that from our panelists today, but I know the
questions will come in a second, and they're being
organized by the Chair. You know, also, I know we are
trying to develop and Office of Racial Equity. I'd like
maybe an update, if we can, on where we are with that
again through the Chair.

So, you know, this work also can't be successful
without our leadership, the executive leadership, of any
organization that's going through this work. And we're
going through the same work right now at the South Coast,
through Dr. Heard-Johnson is leading those efforts there.

So I do want to also thank Mr. Corey, Ms.
Fletcher, you know, Ms. Sahota. This work cannot be
successful without support and openmindedness from the
leadership of the organization. You know, of course, that
includes the Board. You know, you put it here from Dr.
Hooks, that "Support can be occasional. It can be given
and just as easily withdrawn. Solidarity requires
sustained ongoing commitment".

So I was really heartened by what Ms. Fletcher
said giving us her perspective on where things are. And,
you know, I do hope that the leadership of this
organization continues to really meaningfully sustain this
work. And I also appreciate you coming to the Board and
the commitment, from what I'm hearing, to give us regular
updates on the work, following up, of course, on what Supervisor Serna did, who I know took the labor of drafting the resolution in the first place.

And I appreciate the approach here. There's a lot of work to do. I think we call it, you know, normalizing and organizing before you get to operationalizing. There's a lot of work that has to be done, you know, laying that foundation, you know, to build the house.

But operationalizing it is where we need to be. You know, that is the goal. And I think each one of you spoke to that at the end of the presentation today. So operationalizing it, you know, from my experience, the best practice is a written plan in writing.

Now, I know that we're, you know, attempting to draft an equity framework right now. And it's says -- I've seen some of the drafts -- that each -- where are my notes. It says that the Executive Officer or each of the different sections is to develop their own Division-specific plans. And it says that in addition to be intentional, we must be driven by the data. Other Board members picked up on this. Measurements must take place at two levels, first to measure the success of specific programmatic and policy changes - and I'm talking internally here mostly - and developing baselines, set
goals, and measure progress towards those goals, from my understanding, including, you know, the Board's goals and the Board's role.

Now, if you can't create that plan over night, you have, to again, you know, put that foundation. But I'm looking forward to seeing that written plan. I'm expecting to see that written plan and learning how the Board can engage in it, along with these updates, so that we can measure our progress and hold all of ourselves accountable to this work.

You know, so in conclusion, when they look back at these efforts, that they can say this agency did it right, that we did it with the best practices and that we set an example in State government, because I know it's very hard, you know, on how to do it right. So, you know, thank you for doing this, in addition to all the other work you're doing just trying to do your jobs day to day. I know this is difficult, but want to support you in that work, and want to be able to hold ourselves accountable to it.

So thank you.

CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Thank you.

I'll just sort of summarize some of the questions that I heard and then I'm going to give an editorial comment about the Board's role. So, you know, one of the
questions was data, how were we thinking about data and tracking our work, how are we really maintaining focus on our Black employees who were the ones who stood up at the beginning, and a little bit more detail maybe about the Office of Racial Equity and how it's being structured, and then the role for the Board.

And so, I mean, I think the -- as I think about the role of the Board, I mean, I think it's sort of looking back at the -- at the resolution and -- and making sure we do what we committed to do as part of the resolution, providing the leadership and the resources that are needed for Chanell to continue to do this work and for all the employees to continue to do this work, you know, one of the things I think is really important is to communicate that we want this work to be recognized as, you know, part of the normal work of employees and not something extra.

And so I think being -- you know, showing that leadership and that clear direction that this work is critical. It's a critical part of our mission as an agency and should continue, and to provide support to employees for that. I also think it's important to trust the work that Chanell is doing her -- in her role as Deputy Executive Officer, and, you know, managing the resources that she has, and -- and the work with her team,
and other employees, and taking her lead on what are the right next steps, and -- in sort of the day-to-day work in -- in making this resolution and our intentions a reality.

So that's kind of my sort of perspective. And I would love to hear the perspective of Chanell and the rest of our panelists on those points. And if they need to be repeated, let me know.

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER FLETCHER: Well, I just want to say that this has been a -- just a great conversation. So thank you, thank you, thank you.

I will turn it over to our panelists if they have initial responses that they want to share and then I'm happy to kind of do a wrap-up at the end.

RD STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST COLLIHER: Yeah. Thank you for the opportunity to respond. I think there's several points I want to try get to.

In terms of the role of the Board, one -- one great place to start is for you all to also take the Advancing Racial Equity training. That would be a wonderful place to start. And for all of management to do that training and to do it continuously. And I do take the point seriously that new people coming into CARB need to be trained and understand. But the people who've been at CARB for a long time also need to be continually
trained and better understand what the role -- like the role that we have in the organization to advance racial equity really is.

You know, we still have to this day microaggressions happening in the workplace. We still have a lot of white fragility around these difficult conversations. And so that -- we have to continually work on those things moving forward. I also wanted to touch a little bit on the question of gender and making sure we have gender equity. That is certainly important, but we all have to put a lens of intersectionality on it, because a lot of diversity efforts tend to uplift white women at a disproportionate rate than over women of color. So we have to keep that intersectionally -- intersectionality lens in mind as we, you know, work on gender equity in the workplace.

I think that's a good place for me to hand it off to the other panelists. Oh, no. Sorry. One quick other thing with gender is we also have to acknowledge that we have gender diversity at CARB. There's people who are non-binary, who are transgender. I'm non-binary. My pronouns are they/them. So uplifting that as well is really important to make sure that we respect people for who they are and trust who they say they are. So that's another thing I wanted to quickly touch on.
So now I will turn it over to my other panelists.

Thank you.

AQPSD AIR RESOURCES ENGINEER VILLA: Thank you.

I want to say I absolutely love the idea of Board Member Pacheco-Werner that you proposed about being involved. I can't tell you how much it mean to have you and the other women of the Board engage with us, with staff, and share your personal experiences during Women's History Month. So I would love to see more of that type of involvement from the Board.

I want to echo a little bit on what Sonya said about all the Board members going through the same staff that training are. That would be -- I believe that that could be so beneficial.

And the last comment is that just knowing that you want to participate and actively showing us that you want to participate by doing stuff like the training, it's powerful from a staff point of view to see that our upper management, our Executive Officer, our Board members want to be involved. That inspires us and has that spirit for us to keep on doing what we're doing.

So thank you.

STCD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST ECHEVERRIA: Hello again. I might be a bit of a mess with this one, because I feel like I have a million thoughts that I want to kind
say in response to all these great questions. I want to echo what Sonya said about intersectionality. And I think that one thing to remember is when -- when we're looking at who is leading a lot of these movements around, you know, Black liberation, around indigenous autonomy, about immigrant rights. I used to be an immigrant rights organizer. So often it is queer folks and women. And so when we are looking at these movements for guidance, looking at these movements for direction, we need to acknowledge that a lot of our communities are much more ahead than a lot of our organizations are. And there is built in intersectionality there and we need to be able to recognize it, and uplift it, and be able to kind of know that this is a shortcoming that we're still trying to figure out, but that there are plenty of really amazing examples to look at.

And so I wanted to note that. And I think a lot of my answers are -- I'd like to highlight a few ways in how I'm not potentially the correct person to answer some of these questions and some thoughts that I have around who might be or how we might go about that.

So with respect to data, I think that there is data in terms of how we are doing internally, but also how we are doing externally. How are we interfacing with the world. And I think internally, we can come with a lot of
metrics. But in terms of how we are doing as far as impact with the world around us, that would be something that I would love to hear from our public stakeholders. What are the equity metrics that are going to mean something to you, what are the equity metrics that you want to see us make progress on, because ultimately, they're going to be what's most effective and what would it look like to -- to invite some thoughts around that, and to invite advice on that in a responsible way.

And so I -- I highlight that as a way to say, you know, I have many own thoughts, and, you know, we can be homies --

(Laughter.)

STCD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST ECHEVERRIA: -- we can -- we can talk, and I can tell you my thoughts. But ultimately, I don't want to share my thoughts with aloud, because I think that we need a much richer collection of voices in order to be able to have something substantial there.

Similarly with how we're focusing on Black employees, I think that that's a question for them. And I think that there -- there needs to be a real serious understanding of -- and kind of like analysis of what it means when we -- when we lose Black employees, or when Black employees tell us that they are going through
something, how do we take all of those concerns, anonymize them to not penalize, and then put those into a larger framework that then we can -- we can make some progress through. So again, that one I feel not super qualified for, but I have some thoughts around, you know, who might be.

In terms of the role of the Board, I think two things that we need is interrogation followed by solidarity. And so when -- when work comes before you, I think that there is a responsibility on your end to really feel like you have done everything to feel confident with the concepts of equity and the tools that are available, so that you can effectively interrogate us and we can interrogate each other.

Interrogate, I was talking to my Division Chief about how interrogate can sound really aggressive, but also interrogate can be from a real place of love, a real place from curiosity, a real place of collaboration. And then once we come up with those solutions, standing in solidarity with that and being able to really acknowledge all of the nuance that has led to a final decision.

I found myself asking when I was trying to develop recommendations, you know, what -- what role does the Board have what recommendations are actionable, what is useful, what ultimately will make your job easier and
our experience better when we draft tease recommendations?

And it was confusing. It very much was. And so, Dr. Pacheco-Werner, I really liked what you have to say around that, not just because you look like a very good friend of mine, but I thought that it was really, really insightful. And I really liked that that's something that you were thinking of, because I think that if there is a way to clearly communicate that to staff, it allows us to develop recommendations and say here are recommendations that we need to handle internally, here are recommendations where we need support. And then you can again interrogate that and then stand in solidarity with those recommendations once we arrive at something that can be useful and meaningful, right?

Second, we need to clear -- we need a clear line of communication. We -- it's -- it's hard to know what -- what to kind of say or not say in these spaces, and when the appropriate time is to have some of these conversations, and how do we, as staff, have clear pathways to communicate needs to the Board, to communicate places where we'd like to more effectively work in collaboration with you all.

And I think that this could be something like internally some kind of process where we're able to crowdsource some areas where we'd really like to see
support, so that then you all can see a condensed version of that and know what some of the priorities from the staff side are with us being folks that regularly interact with stakeholders, a lot of staff, you know.

And so I -- I bring this all back to then the answer for engaging with the Board, I want to emphasize, should be a crowdsourced answer. I had two weeks to put together my little very long spiel for you all. And I used that time collaborating with the staff in my Division. We did a collective process where I tried to get as many staff perspectives, as many eyeballs on these talking points as I could to make sure that I was providing recommendations that could feel authentic and could feel really reflective of the experience of staff.

And so I reiterate that the reason I don't feel qualified to answer these questions is because I'd really like to see us establish some processes to answer all of these questions in a away where everybody is able to weigh in and everybody is able to have this clear line of communication that right now today has been given to four of us, but it only gives you a little glimpse of all of that we have to contribute to you all.

So I'm not sure how satisfying that answer is. Hopefully, a little bit useful, and thank you for listening to my rant.
(Laughter.)

CHAIR RANDOLPH: So we have -- oh, Erika, I'm sorry. Go ahead.

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST TRINIDAD: No, it's okay. Torn between being so appreciative and devastated to go and share my one point after you.

(Laughter.)

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST TRINIDAD: But actually my points that I wanted to share Cristina touched upon a little bit and it's about data. You know, data and measurement I think at the very core of it is an act of care and it's an act of tending. We measure what we care about, but kind of connect to what Cristina shared. I think that we have a real and super cool opportunity to reimagine what's possible for our data collection methods, and how we designate what we measure, and how that process goes.

I think that it would be revolutionary for us to think of models where we are in partnership with our public, you know, stakeholders, our communities, our friends in developing those metrics and developing the vision for what we should be measuring, because after all, outside of this group, and outside of this room, outside of our agency, and this multitude expertise that every single person at CARB has, there is also, you know, like...
Cristina mentioned, this opportunity for a richer conversation. And I think when we talk about data, for example, in relation to the racial equity assessment lens, and when we talk about data when it comes to measuring outcomes for advancing racial equity, there is a real opportunity for us to directly connect with folks who the data is their lives. It's the lived experience of living as a Black or Brown person. So I think that that would be wonderful. Thank you.

CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you.

I would like to go to public comment now and then maybe we can do a wrap-up. Once we have a chance to hear from the public. So I will have the Board Clerk call for the commenters.

BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Yes. Thank you, Chair. We currently have four people with their hands raised in Zoom to comment. So if you would like to make a comment on this item, please raise your hand or dial star nine, if you're calling in by phone.

Our first few commenters are Mauro Libre, LaDonna Williams, and Catherine Garoupa White.

So, Mauro, I will activate your microphone and then you can unmute yourself and begin.

MAURO LIBRE: Thank you for this time. My understanding of the resolution is that the end goal is
for CARB to better serve the public by creating a workforce that is representative of all Californians framed through an equity lens. Let me state the obvious, not all Black, or Brown, or Asians, or White folks are the same. In fact, each of these groups have names for folks that they believe have betrayed their community. During Vietnam, we had Hanoi Jane, for example. In Mexico, they have malinche or vendido. For some Black folks it's the brother with the whip.

My community is an AB 617 community in a district led by a Latino, whose key staff are Latino, and whose board includes well-positioned Latinos including the chair. However, the AB 617 boundaries sit directly across the street from a dense community of monolingual Spanish speakers, A title 5 facility, a Macy's distribution center, and industrial park. My initial -- the initial proposal didn't even include a secondary industrial park surrounded by low-income, high-density housing also mostly monolingual Latinos as well.

I've seen air districts and other governmental agencies bring Black and Brown folks into, let's say, the AB 617 process, who advocates would say spent most of their time with their foot on the neck of other Black and Brown folks. The inequities continue there despite POC leadership in positions.
I heard a song recently about slavery. A Black man was singing about the brother with the whip who sold him onto the slave ship. It was not done out of poverty or need according to the song, for they were already wealthy. So please take note, a person of any ethnicity who is more driven by ambition than kindness and honesty is likely to expand any divide between CARB and the most marginalized communities. I once told a room full of angry Latinos that I preferred a kindhearted White person up on the dais or in charge than a person of color driven by self-interest. As you can imagine, they wanted to beat me up, but the Latino advocates there protected me and said I was just being honest. Ironically, I was defending the governmental makeup of a board.

One could argue that your response to the resolution has already cost you some CARB staff well capacitated to achieving your end goal of serving -- of better serving all Californians. The same folks you empower to instill equity could also stifle the voices of other people of color or those advocating for them.

Regardless of how many people of color you hire, even the kind ones can be indoctrinated to the oppressive top-down approach that still reigns within government agencies. This is history -- this is centuries of history of systemic racism across the globe.
And thank you very much for allowing me to share my truth to you guys.

BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

Our next speaker is going to be LaDonna Williams. LaDonna, I have activated your microphone. You can unmute and begin.

LaDONNA WILLIAMS: Yes. Good afternoon. LaDonna Williams, All Positives Possible.

I've only got three minutes to do it, so I'm going to be talking fast.

Please correct the record. It was July 22nd, 2020 that community brought these issues forward. And it was I, LaDonna Williams, All Positives Possible, that made comments about the mistreatment of Black community women in the community who were being harassed because of their advocacy. Then -- and so that was July 22nd.

September 4th is when then EJ executive Ms. Veronica Eady wrote that anonymous letter for employees. Now, back it up. When I brought these issues forward, I didn't only speak on behalf of Black women in the community being harassed, because we have numerous Black women from Sacramento, to Vallejo, to San Francisco down there in the peninsula, to all the way to Monterey that's been harassed for their advocacy.

I also then pointed to CARB to look within and
how they are also treating their Black women employees within. And sure enough, I was on point. Ms. Eady wrote that anonymous letter. Others -- Black employees joined in. You all are patting yourselves on the back, which you should, for the current work, but reflect accurate history. It was the mistreatment of Black women. And I think Ms. -- all I could see is "co-Werner", because the screen is -- was distorted, so I can't see her whole name. But thank you for bringing people back to the original intent of this resolution that I challenged you all. Look over and listen to that hearing. I challenged you to do a resolution that we challenged the Air District, BAAQMD, to do and they met the challenge and then we brought it to you all.

So as you're bringing in all these other populations and interests, which is always the case when we bring up issues that are particularly affecting Black people, it gets derailed. Everything else gets added in. CARB must address, as a priority, the issues in the mistreatment, and the continued mistreatment, and inequities when it comes to Black folks. Give community credit. Credit -- community started this effort. And when I started this effort, CARB did not reach back and include me in these efforts. You included us by funding us in other aspects, but on this issue, you did not. You
must backtrack, include us in this process, because this Resolution 20-33 does not include community input.

And we should also have input in how you operate on the inside. So let's narrow this focus back. Bring it back to Black. Let's start again with this. I'm not saying start over and reinvent the wheel, but let's start over with the proper focus of who this was about, which was Black women, and Black folks, and the mistreatment. Let's start there, then we can add all in this other. But you're doing a disservice by glossing over the fact that this focus started with Black community women, Black women within the agency, and let's address that issue. And I welcome the invite from here on to be part of these processes.

Thank you.

BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

Catherine Garoupa White is our next speaker. And then after Catherine will be Moses Huerta, and then we'll go to a commenter here in the room.

Catherine, you can unmute and begin.

DR. CATHERINE GAROUPA WHITE: Good afternoon.

This is Catherine Garoupa White, Executive Director with the Central Valley Air Quality Coalition, or CVAQ.

Since 2003, CVAQ has advocated for a reduction of air pollution and climate gases from the largest sources
in the San Joaquin Valley with prioritization of immediate
protections and reductions in communities of color and
low-income communities. Thank you to community leaders
and CARB staff for ensuring attention to these issues and
agree that history cannot be forgotten.

We urge CARB to do even more to center equity and
justice in all its programs and initiatives. While the
agency is held up as a leader in setting environmental
policies, we all know that deep injustices exist in
California. And those inequities are mirrored within
CARB's programs and operations.

An equity-centered approach recognizes systemic
root causes of injustice related to race, class, gender,
immigration status and other identities as your staff
spoke to. An intersectional approach is absolutely
needed. And as a White woman of privilege working within
the environmental justice movement, positionality is just
one approach that I use for maintaining awareness of power
dynamics.

Equity involves trying to understand and give
people what they need for full and healthy lives. And
CARB's plans and programs fundamentally influence people's
exposure to air pollution and the technology choices for
meeting clean air and climate goals. I can't help but
reflect on how the collective and collaborative process
that your staff described not only mirrors how CVAQ operates as a coalition and builds consensus, but it also echoes requests from the Environmental Justice Advisory Committee for the 2022 Scoping Plan to move towards a co-design process.

A robust EJ Program at CARB is critical for integration of equity and racial justice. CVAQ members have advocated for many years for a permanent Environmental Justice Advisory Committee as well as creation of an equitably staffed and resourced EJ Division at CARB. The Office of Environmental Justice at CARB needs staffing and infrastructure to ensure integration of equity into all of CARB's divisions, programs, research, and related initiatives to shift organizational culture.

We applaud the Office of Environmental Justice staff and leadership of Deputy Executive Officer Fletcher for current efforts and urge the Board to support additional resources and attention to operate -- operationalizing racial equity within the agency and in all your programs and initiatives.

Thank you.

BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

Moses Huerta, you can unmute and begin.

MOSES HUERTA: Thank you. Good afternoon, Chair and Board members. Thank you for the -- again for the
opportunity to speak with you on this matter.

I wanted to share that as you go forward and actually identifying the racial inclusivity, I went through this experience. I worked at a major corporation who did make an effort to engage employees and start addressing the issues of diversity and bringing these other voices of minorities.

It was challenging and -- but it was fruitful. It's to the point where we were able to have in the major corp -- in the company its first female CEO. And at that same time, she then championed the first Black female CEO in that time. It was a low -- long road, but they were able to accomplish that.

And in that aspect, in having the conversation open, it will yield definitely a lot of results. And to our subject here, as far as rate -- environmental justice and the tools, and having that ability to reach out, you're hear -- you hearing my voice via Zoom is a tool that you can add and speaking also as well to the data driven. The fact that I'm able to speak with you from here, that I'm able to, as other members of the community, can I reach out is an excellent example of you hearing my voice from this environmental disadvantaged community.

So I want to encourage you work and continue to build off on this, because it will yield benefits. And
then not only as you address the issues that were spoken
to today, but will also help myself and my community to
move forward the environmental justice in addressing the
issues that we have in hand.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to speak
with you today.

BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Than you.
Okay. I will now turn it over to Board Clerk
Lindsay Garcia to call on our commenters here in the room.

BOARD CLERK GARCIA: Thank you.
We have one in-person commenter who wishes to
speak at this time.

Angie Balderas.

ANGIE BALDERAS: Hello. All right. Good
afternoon, everyone. My name is Angie Balderas. I'm a
community member here in the IE, especially in San
Bernardino. I'm also the co-host for AB 617 San
Bernardino and Muscoy.

Cristina, Chanell, Sonya, and Erika, I hope I
pronounced your names right. Thank you to the panel. To
the Board members, thank you for your input. I know to
change infrastructure within any governing board, State
agency is frustrating and it takes a lot. CARB -- CARB
must make this internal and external infrastructure
community centered and always uplifting community in the
process.

So some questions I do have for you. Do they have -- do you all have community members as advisors on this DaRE program? I believe CARB has access to experts within the AB 617 CSC members. So how are you working alongside community in bringing these experts into this process, whether it's internal, because that overflows to the external part.

I don't want you all to forget if you work -- if your work is not community centered - this -- this is beyond checking boxes - then your work will never be up -- will never uplift equity, and be sustainable, and do -- and will not do right, especially by Black and Brown communities.

To the Black and Brown staff, I know it's hard. And the fact that we have to do this work and -- it's a burden and we should not have to do this work. And it falls on us all the time to lead the way. So thank you.

But, like I've always said before, let's not talk about it, let's be about it. And bring community into these DaRE programs, into the process of your infrastructure with inside your organization will benefit not only CARB, but the community that you work with. And you so by say that you're working alongside for and you are here for, then -- then you all need to accessible to
them.

And like I said, AB 617 you have a lot of community members there. Awesome folks. And I'm not just saying that because I'm part of the AB 617, but, yeah. So I am here, if you all need me. And let's get this work done and make sure we full force.

Thank you.

BOARD CLERK GARCIA: Thank you. That concludes the in-person commenters for this item.

CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Thank you.

Does Deputy Executive officer Fletcher have any closing words?

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER FLETCHER: Wow. I do have a couple. I want to say a shout-out, thank you Angie. Yeah, a reminder of why don't talk about it. Just don't talk about -- don't just talk about it, be about it.

A couple of just like closing -- closing thoughts on a couple of points that kind of got raised around being data driven. A couple of things that I will say. One is that I want to acknowledge, the materials that we shared with Board members, those are also on our website. So if you go to our equity page and you look at the resources, you can see all of those there. I say that, because we did a survey in 2020, and that's the survey that Ugo had referenced in her talking points, where we all -- where we
did kind of create that baseline of understanding. And that goes by demographic, right? So it's ethnicity demographic, where we created a baseline of understanding where we are at currently in 2020.

Our plan is to regularly update that survey. So we're hoping to do it next year. Somebody raised forward, so it's not CARB doing it. It's actually an external organization that's doing that survey and to release that out to again to show what kind of changes are we seeing on this front.

The other piece that I will say with the REAL, the Racial Equity Assessment Lens, I think one of the things that Erika shared is that, one, we do not want to create these efforts in a silo. And I think -- to the point that I think Angie, that LoDonna, and other people are raising, we can't do this alone. So there is, I think, you know, planned very robust, kind of like community engagement effort that we kind of put our thinking through, talking to, and that actually even came out of a critique that we received from Ms. Margaret through kind of our AB 617 work, right? So we're taking those critiques that we're hearing in AB 617, in different programs and thinking about how do we start to operationalize it.

The questions that they're asking in that data
it's going to come through our reg process -- our regulation as well as different forums. And part of it is to start to capture that and to see to the shift. And so I think we can start to capture that as well, at least in the data front.

There's definitely more there, but I wanted to at least pick up those two pieces. I did want to say that I think and -- and when we're talking about the role of the Board, I mean, I think part of this panel, right -- and again, I hear and understand like kind of what Cristina was saying, like, right, we're only four people. And there are so many divisions and so many staff that want to be in this place talking. And so I just wanted to emphasize part of what we're trying to do is humanize this conversation, right? Because so often it's like, oh, CARB staff, right? Like, I say that myself sometimes.

But we are human people. Like we are humans, right? We are doing this work. It can be exhausting. It's labor intensive, especially if you are Black or a person of color doing it.

And I do think we're starting to think about, well, what does it look like for us to organize ourselves to have those conversations. And we've already been trying out some different forums and ways to engage the Board on different efforts ongoing. And so I think we can
continue to explore those and think about how we can continue to have that conversation, because part of what I do appreciate and love is the thought partnership. And I thank the expertise that each Board member brings to this.

I did want to say that as we're thinking about the work that we're talking about, I think it's really, really fundamental that we actually have a shared understanding of what racial equity is and what we are trying to do before we jump into some kind of plan. I think -- I talked about being tokenized at the very beginning, right? So I'll end with what makes me nervous is developing something without shared understanding, because then we aren't seeing a real culture shift, right, because people don't necessarily know.

And so that's what a lot of our efforts that we talked about today are is like how do we build that shared understanding? How do we start to make sure that it's integrated throughout, so that it's not just like certain, you know, like Transportation and Toxics Division, right? Like, certain divisions are doing a ton of work. We want to see that across the board. And I think that's one of our big priorities.

But I think the next one will be, right, is like even as we're creating that planning effort, how are we doing it in a way where again, right, it's not just CARB
staff in that effort, but we're doing it in partnership with community in respect for their time, expertise, and capacity, and also building up on all the efforts happening across the agency. So it’s going to be a more robust effort over time.

But I think part of what I want to make sure we're doing as we're talking about that, is that we're really again coming to the Board providing that direction, so that it's clear where we're going, where we're at. And I want to make sure that we have that for the public as well in terms of transparency and accountability.

My last, last, last point is going to be a lot of these efforts I think that the trend that I've noticed is that because CARB is such an agency that we want to -- we want to do our best, right? We don't tend to actually release draft documents, until, you know, we've gotten it right. And part of what we're doing here is a little bit of shifting that, right? Like we released a lot of documents that are still very much in draft form, because we didn't want to bring anything big to the public or to the Board.

And part of what we wanted was to have this initial conversation with Board members and then to think about, well, how we continue this conversation with communities. So I welcome the com -- the comments that we
heard today. I mean, most people have like my phone or email. But I think I would love to continue those conversations and think about again how are we making sure that this is really being informed by, and driven by, and built on the expertise of communities.

So thank you so much.

CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. Thank you so much.

I'm going to -- we are going to have open public comment at the end of the meeting tomorrow, but I thought I might want to give folks an opportunity if they wanted to, if they were on now and not planning to attend, or in here in the room and not planning to attend tomorrow, if you want to make public comment now, that's fine. You can only do it once though. So you can do it either today or tomorrow.

So I will pause for a moment just to see if there are any hands up, and -- okay. We have -- we will go ahead and start public comment. And Board Clerk, go ahead and call.

BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: All right. We have two people with their hands raised in Zoom. And the first is LaDonna Williams and the second is Moses Huerta that.

So LaDonna, you can unmute and begin.

LaDONNA WILLIAMS: Yes. LaDonna Williams, again.

All Positives Possible. And for the sake of being
repetitive, please bear with me. But trying to get in our comments in these three minutes is nerve-racking. What I want to make clear, if it wasn't, was that this community letter by All Positives Possible was presented July 22nd, 2020, that then got a response from your EJ Executive Unit, which was then Ms. Veronica Eady. That was September 4th, 2020. And then, if I'm not mistaken, it was Board Member Serna who drafted that resolution that was the request of community October 2020. Those were the issues that, in my opinion and I believe others, because we've been requesting these sort of actions within CARB to address these issues, started this whole process. It is not to take away from current efforts. But if we are talking about effectively making change and positive change, first, we must start with an accurate record of how we got to where we are.

Someone had mentioned the clean cars initiative or clean transportation. That's a perfect example of all of this talk and where things have not changed. I know we'll have an opportunity to address I believe hopefully if they don't witch it over to tomorrow, AB 617. We are an AB 617 community. We serve AB 617 communities. And what we have seen consistently across the Board is the continuing inequities and this structure that is set up to where our historically disadvantaged, long-term exposed,
high-risk communities are forced to beg for funding and support through white structured NGOs, non-governmental organizations, who profess to serve our communities.

Yet, when you look at the data and the -- even the current data, they are falling short, failing us miserably. That I believe Senator Steven Bradford pointed to, that's why he called you poverty pimps. And it has continued with this current structure.

We understand -- we've been meeting with these administrators and we want to work and are committed to working with CARB to close these gaps and change these negative systems that you have in place. However, we continue to suffer and lack the resources needed while you guys figure it out. We understand it takes time, but it's already been 400 years for many of us. We must begin to prioritize African American, Black American communities, who have suffered and continue to suffer the most through these processes.

I thank you for the time.

BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

Okay. Moses Huerta, you can unmute and begin.

MOSES HUERTA: Thank you. And again my name is Moses Huerta, a resident in the City of Paramount. And I just wanted to -- in the open comment to -- in both AB 617 and elsewhere in the diversity issues in the conversation
we had today, I just wanted to publicly thank you, Board, for participating in the -- coming out to visit and the tour to not only add to this work that we're building on. And I really appreciate that it was -- it was an experience that I think will yield benefits, not only from that perspective, but staff, and hopefully with Board members, but also as a community member was energizing, and to see, and hear you in person as we progress to that region to keep moving forward the conversation of environmental justice. We do have a lot of work to do and a lot of barriers that we need to break down to really move the conversation forward.

But on a personal, I really am extremely appreciate of everyone that was supportive in the event and look forward to continuing that, and that -- in any way, shape, or form, because it will be beneficial and -- as we talk about collecting information and data, and just hearing the firsthand experiences will yield many results. Again, thank you again for the opportunity to speak with you. Thank you.

BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you. We have a phone number ending in 528. I will announce you -- since you won't be able to see the timer, I will let you know when you have 30 minutes -- or 30 seconds remaining and when your time is up. Please state your name for the
record and you may begin.

LAURA ROSENBERGER HAIDER: My name is Laura Rosenberger Haider. And I think the bills that passed recently have just made it impossible to live a sustainable lifestyle in California, because I was going to go for all -- all sole -- all electric, and -- and plus some -- my own a hundred percent renewable solar panel and Batter charger, plus all those good things you wanted myself, because the incentives to rooftop solar really didn't do very well lately. We're not getting the incentives we need for poor people to put rooftop solar on their homes. And the thing is I have -- if all else fails -- well, first of all, I'm not commuting to work. I decided I'm not going to commute long distances to work. I'm going to go only when bicycling -- this is -- if I can't find a job, I can't find a job.

And I really wish there was like a job swap, where you can -- if someone is working further away could trade with some -- trade jobs with somebody else to get closer to where they live. But the -- the biggest problem is, well, if everyone is going to go live in the woods and live a sustainable lifestyle, and forage my own herbs out there, and grow -- maybe grow something, some vegetables or something -- nutritious vegetables, if I could -- and I think -- well, they're chasing everyone out of the parks
right now. There's no people, I guess, allowed -- the homeless people allowed to live there any more. And that's back-up sustain -- it's really sustainable. It's better that people live in the park rather than commute to the park. That is people getting to drive all the way out to the park to enjoy nature, but they can't live with nature. And then they're going to put them in probably the cheapest home, or put them in some kind of apartment, which is not their lifestyle with all kinds of synthetic chemicals, with -- in the middle of the city with no nature, no vegetation. At least, they should be given a yard with a garden in it at least, if they're giving houses -- giving -- the states can give whatever they have, and they're only building this kind of apartments in the city. That's all lately.

And, you know, it's all booked up this WWOOF project, where people live on an organic farm and help grow the vegetables in exchange for free rent and free food. It's a great program, but they're all booked up right now, and -- and they really need to expand a little bit.

And. All right. I guess that's all.

Thank you. Thanks.

BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

Chair that concludes the open commenters.
CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. Thank you. The Board will be taking a break and starting the AB 617 item at 4 this afternoon.

Thank you.

(Off record: 2:33 p.m.)

(Thereupon a recess was taken.)

(On record: 4:01 p.m.)

CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. Welcome back to the Air Resources Board meeting this afternoon. I'm going to go back through some of our basic information for those who are just joining us.

We are conducting today's meeting in person as well as offering remote options for public participation both by phone and in Zoom. Anyone who wishes to testify on a Board item in person should fill out a request-to-speak card available in the foyer and turn it into a Board assistant prior to the commencement of the item.

If you are participating remotely, you will raise your hand in Zoom or dial star nine, if you are calling in by phone. For safety reasons, please note the emergency exit to the rear of the room through the lobby. In the event of a fire alarm, we are required to evacuate this room and immediately exit the building through the front entrance. When the all-clear sign is given, we will
return to the auditorium and resume the hearing.

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

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone to speak clearly and from a quiet location, whether you are joining us in zoom or by phone. Interpretation services will be provided today in Spanish. If you are joining us using Zoom, there is a button labeled "Interpretation" on the Zoom screen. Click on that interpretation button and select Spanish to hear the meeting in Spanish. If you are joining us here in person and would like to listen to the meeting in Spanish, please notify a Board assistant and they will provide you with further instructions.

I want to remind all of our speakers to speak slowly and pause intermittently to allow the interpreters the opportunity to accurately interpret your comments.

(Interpreter translated in Spanish)

CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. We are now ready to move on to the last item on today's agenda, which is Item number 22-7-2, an informational update on the Assembly Bill 617 Community Air Protection Program statewide.
strategy. If you are here with us in the room and wish to comment on this item, please fill out a request-to-speak card as soon as possible and submit it to the Board assistant. If you are joining us remotely and wish to comment on this item, please click the raise hand button or dial star nine now. We will call on both in-person and remote commenters when we get to the public comment portion of the item.

CARB established the Community Air Protection Program in response to Assembly Bill 617, a first-of-its-kind air quality program that seeks to address air pollution disparities at the local level through close partnerships with communities, air districts, and other stakeholders, including affected sources.

To date, CARB has selected 17 communities into the program over the past four years. In that time, working closely with other government agencies, community partners, and affected industry, we have come to better understand the challenges this program faces and are committed to working together toward more effective and equitable implementation of the program.

Today's informational update includes a representative panel of AB 617 Consultation Group members. The Consultation Group is charged with guiding the
implementation of the AB 617 Program. The panel will
share suggestions and reflections on our efforts to bring
clean air to more communities and the upcoming revision to
the AB 617 statewide strategy, which is also referred to
as the program blueprint.

Deputy Executive Officer Chanell Fletcher would
you please introduce the item.

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER FLETCHER: Thank you,
Chair Randolph. Earlier today, the Board heard an update
about efforts across CARB to operationalize racial equity
in our work. As we shared earlier, our vision for racial
equity is a future where race no longer predicts poor air
quality. CARB views this vision as a commitment applying
to all of our programs. The purpose of AB 617 to address
the disproportionate air pollution burden suffered by
disadvantaged communities is rooted in the goal to advance
equity and address environmental justice.

AB 617 called on CARB to deliver a new model for
reducing air pollution exposure and emissions that centers
community priorities. Over the past four years of program
implementation, we have learned much about what it takes
to authentically engage with communities with the goal of
improving air quality at the local level. Learning how to
co-design solutions with districts and communities is one
of those lessons.
Another lesson is that collaborate planning with many stakeholders takes time and resources. Every year, the number of communities in the program has increased, yet funding for implementation remains flat. This funding challenge is part of what is driving the program reset that you'll hear about this evening.

In February, we heard your support for increasing funding for this program. We also heard your direction that we need to find other ways to bring benefits to more communities without relying on increased funding. That is why 2022 is a transformational year for this program. Our primary focus is to apply learning from AB 716 to the re – to reset the program to better deliver on our commitment to all disadvantaged communities throughout the state.

A big step in this transformation is our commitment to better incorporate equity into the program and into the upcoming revision to the AB 617 statewide strategy, also referred to as the Program Blueprint. To address this, we supported the drafting of the People's Blueprint by providing facilitation and technical writing support to a small group of environmental justice and community leaders within the Consultation Group.

The People's Blueprint lifts up recom -- recommended changes to the Program Blueprint that would
better empower community leaders, improve governance of
the community steering committees, and apply a racial
equity lens to the work of achieving emissions and
exposure reductions in disproportionately impacted
communities.

Today, we will hear from a panel of Consultation
Group members, some of whom were involved in drafting the
People's Blueprint to share perspectives and insights on
this document and how it can inform the revision of the
Program Blueprint.

After our Consultation Group panel, staff will
discuss the upcoming process to revise the Program
Blueprint, including community engagement and outreach
opportunities to work together in developing other models
to support community-focused strategies and better serve
more deserving communities.

It's going to take a diverse and imaginative
group of voices to help reset this program to benefit more
overburdened communities. Success requires close
partnership with all stakeholders, if we are to better
serve more disadvantaged communities and realize the goals
of AB 617.

I will now ask Liliana Nuñez of our Office of
Community Air Protection to share some background about
the development of the People's Blueprint and introduce
our panel for today's discussion. Following the panel, we will hear from Julio Luongo from our Office of Community Air Protection, who will present the upcoming program revision process.

Liliana.

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thank you, Ms. Fletcher. Good afternoon, Chair and -- Randolph and members of the Board. Before we begin our presentation, we'd like to start with a video that shares community perspectives on what it's like to live in areas overburdened by air pollution.

(Thereupon a video was played.)

(Transcript of video.)

KEVIN RUANO HERNANDEZ: How can you really uplift these voices and like really like capture these, you know, community members' voices, these underrepresented community members who've, you know, been in the community for so long and haven't really had a -- you know, a word on the table, you know, despite if they're pro, you know, industry, or they're activists, like they -- their voices are -- like deserve to be on the table.

Another thing is just really prioritizing listening as the first step, listening to community voices and really just listening to those who are underrepresented. And so I just want to emphasize that,
and that's one of the things that I brought to my co-chairs, and like the Committee as well just like focusing how do we uplift these underrepresented voices in our -- in our community.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: My grandma still lives in Richmond, a lot of my friends and family. My mom still lives, you know, in Richmond. So it just -- like I say, man, I -- like I feel like my -- my family have no choice. They walk outside. They paid all their tax money, their -- you know, their tax dollars. They work every day. They work hard just to get ahead in life, but, you know, all to be, you know, trumped by this -- this multi-million dollar company that's -- that's not really for us. You know, it's -- it's -- it's no just us, it's just us, you know. There's no justice. It's just us. And so that's kind of what like I've been -- like my mindset about how Chevron and just, you know, even the justice system and all this other stuff that we -- that we're faced with is like, look, man, you all are not helping. You're hindering us and we need you all help more than what you're all doing. And you're all looking at the way that like you want to look at it to help us and it's not helping us, because our kids are still, you know, facing all these different problems, all these different birth defects and just growing up with all these different
ailments. And, you know -- and there's stuff that we need to -- if we got out of Richmond and we moved -- removed Chevron out of Richmond, I think it would help us a lot more. We would lose money, but I think in the long run our health is more important than money.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We just didn't realize what it was until we actually were taught that, oh, that's pollution that you're breathing in every day.

JHAMERE HOWARD: If you were to look at it contextually on the bigger picture of how it impacts your life, how it impacts your brain, your lung development, your brain development, your children, your -- you know, it just takes days, years, months off your life. And that's definitely important in regards to understanding how air pollution impacts your life and it's just not a story that's been told nationwide.

GABRIELA GARCIA: The impact of Allenco brought a lot of health issues to my family and to my neighbors. A lot of nose bleeds, lots of headaches. In other regions, it's out in the fields somewhere, but this is like down the street from hundreds of families.

DONTE WOODS: Community members have told me very, very, sad stories about how their life has been changed of their health conditions.

ASHLEY HERNANDEZ: I was one of those kids that
was growing up in this area with low heart palpitations and always bleeding from my nose. I never knew that I had the symptoms of living in a community that was overburdened by big oil. But the truth is that many of our residents don't know that they're dealing with the symptoms of environmental injustice in their lives.

JENNIFER FLORES: Conway Homes is 436 units. Our challenges -- our biggest challenge is getting to the grocery store. We don't have a safe street to get there and most of us don't have cars. We don't have that many choices either. We only have Food For Less, which is in Weston Ranch. From here it's south along that wall that we have. And it -- it's Manthey Road. Manthey Road does not have any lighting. It does not have any stop signs. It does not have any sidewalks. It does not have any shade.

So we have to share the road with the cars and that's a challenge. Especially the women with small children, they have to make sure that they don't run out -- run into the streets. We have the Van Buskirk golf course. Right now it's closed, because they can't maintain it.

So every once in a while, there will be a fire. People just tend to go in the park and start fires, maybe it be the children. I don't know, but we have a fear that
we're going to be the next Paradise and it's going to put all our houses in danger. It's going to be our health in danger. We had the pallet fire out in Boggs Tract I think it was. That was another one. It was -- it was scary. All that wind blew down here. It -- we're downwind from there. So everything that happens in Boggs Tract comes down this way.

What originally brought me to AB 617 was Washington School. My son goes to Washington School out in Boggs Tract. I know they made some changes, but there's still a lot of exhaust, a lot of industry around that area. And it concerns me that my children are out there in the hot sun running a mile, so that concerns me. It's -- to me, it's going to be future health problems. Most all -- all the residents have asthma. Their kids have asthma. They have inhalers, yeah, most of them.

DARRYL MOLINA SARMIENTO: I'm Darryl Molina Sarmiento and I'm the Executive Director of Communities for a Better Environment. When Chevron exploded in 2012, it sent thousands of people to the hospital in Richmond and in the surrounding communities. My father-in-law told me we can't do anything about it. That's a real reaction for so many people.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I worked in the emergency
in that time. Okay. And I don't -- you know, they're seeing people. Yes, you had people who would come in and weren't really sick. But then you see those people who are and you see my co-workers who I like love dearly trying to like make people feel better. And it's all because of greed. Fuck that. Sorry. Hmm-um. That's -- yeah, it hurts, because I saw somebody like running, like couldn't keep like the vomit in their mouths and just running towards the bathroom. Like -- you're just like what can you do for them. You're in a hospital. You're trying to help them. There's all these people who were truly sick and what are the long-term effects of that. And to see it, and to know that it's because you just want make to hella money. You're poisoning us. That's bullshit.

ISABEL ALVARENGA: My name is Isabel Alvarenga and I'm 18 years old. This house is really special to me, because even though it's really small, for us it's like really homey and I have my family with me. But when we move in here, I did not know there was a refinery close to us.

(Spoke in Spanish.)

ISABEL ALVARENGA: I did not know that this refinery was actually Polluting my lungs, my family, my health. It was affecting my health. It was making a big
impact.

(Spoke in Spanish.)

ISABEL ALVARENGA: In 2013, my mom was diagnosed what cancer, stage 3 breast cancer.

(Spoke in Spanish.)

ISABEL ALVARENGA: I did not know what cancer was. As a 13-year old, I went on Google and I found out that like you can possibly die. And every single day, this is the constant fear. It's stress. I'm just afraid that I won't make it to like my 30s, if I don't do anything about this.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How many of you all have somebody in your family with asthma?

(Hands raised.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How many of you all have dealt with cancer in your family?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Bronchitis?

(Hands raised.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Headaches?

(Hands raised.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Nose bleeds?

(Hands raised.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Scratchy throats?

(Hands raised.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Nausea?
(Hands raised.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We are the physical representation of that data. What's a sensitive area or sensitive receptor that has oil drilling in your community?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The church.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The church.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Where they gather and they pray, there's an oil drilling in their parking lot.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So right where you pray, you have an oil drilling site.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hospitals.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hospitals, yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The irony of having oil drilling sites next to a hospital.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: True

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's no that great, right.

The emissions coming from oil drilling sites are not creating healthy people.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: In 2018, a couple of CBE youth members did a study with USC, which is a private university focusing on particulate matter in our communities. Particulate matter is substances that are in the air, but we can't see them, because they're really, really small. The scientists told us that the average
could go up to 30. But when I saw the numbers, my highest one went up to 120. 75, 76, 76, 77.

In Wilmington, these oil drilling sites are in backyards. It's really scary. Like five minutes away from my house and they operate for 24 hours every day.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: West Oakland has long been impacted by industrial-, port-, and traffic-related air pollution. Its majority African American residents endure poor health, in part due to exposure to these emissions. When compared to other areas within Alameda County, West Oakland residents face a disproportionate health burden.

Community knowledge and the technical analysis show that air pollution in West Oakland can vary by neighborhood and block by block.

MARGARET GORDON: But you've got to have a voice, and leadership, and also understand all the technical engagement that is needed to be able to have that communication with the agencies, the businesses, the academia.

GLADYS LIMÓN: And because we cannot prove that this particular cancer was caused by this particular chemical from this specific refinery, we don't have accountability and residents are the ones who are paying for this.

DARRYL MOLINA SARMIENTO: You open your garage,
right there is an oil drilling site. You're washing your
dishes. Right there is an oil drilling site. You're at
church, in the parking lot there's an oil drilling site.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is that oil drilling
disproportionately impacts low income communities of
color. In short, this is a health crisis and an
environmental injustice.

CHARLES TYRONE REED: This is our community.
This is our community and we have to fight for our
community. And so to fight means to be active, it means
to be knowledgeable, it means to be forceful, it means to
be strategic, but it also means being a part of the
solution instead of a part of the problem.

(End of transcript.)

(Thereupon the video concluded.)

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thank you
for playing the video.

So first, we'd like to thank all of the people
and organizations listed on the slide that's about to come
up.

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OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thank you.
So I want to thank all of the people and the organizations
listed here that granted permission to use their footage
for the community perspective video.
You may remember Kevin Ruano Hernandez, the first person in the video, who speak with you on October 28th and his message about the importance of listening. This week some of you got the opportunity to tour Long Beach, Paramount, and Maywood with community members to hear directly from them about their experiences. This video is another way to hear from communities in other areas of the State. And we saw a range of voices describe the realities of living with environmental injustice many times unknowingly.

So on a personal note, the story that Isabel Alvarenga from Communities for a Better Environment shared really resonates with me. I grew up in South Gate. It's in the southeast LA community. And I just remember how heart broken I was when I realized that the industrial facilities in the Alameda corridor just three blocks from my home that seemed so normal weren't just unsightly, but they were exposing me and my community to harmful pollutants.

So the video ends with a powerful call to action by Charles Tyrone Reed. And I just want to express thanks again to all of the contributors for sharing their perspectives and their work.

Next slide, please.

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OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: So today, we will be providing an informational update on the Assembly Bill 617 statewide strategy revision, also referred to as the update to the Program Blueprint.

After providing some background on today's discussion topics, we'll hear from a representative panel of AB 617 Consultation Group members as they share perspectives and insights gained from experiences with the Community Air Protection Program and their participation with the -- in the Consultation Group. We'll also hear about the People's Blueprint, which was drafted by a number of environmental justice and community leaders that are part of the Consultation Group.

We will then present plans for the revision of the Program Blueprint, including a draft outline of the Blueprint 2.0 along with two guest speakers and -- oh, sorry. And along with two guest speakers, we will present ideas to reenvision the program to bring benefits to more disproportionately impacted communities.

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OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: AB 617 calls for a statewide strategy to reduce emissions in communities affected by a high cumulative exposure burden. The statewide strategy is documented in the Community Air Protection Blueprint and it's meant to guide the statewide
work towards achieving environmental justice in communities historically and disproportionately impacted by air pollution.

This statutory charge is a powerful directive that our implementation of AB 617 should not be limited to only those communities that are selected for community emissions reduction programs and community air monitoring plans.

Today's presentation is centered in the recognition that selected communities -- that these selected communities critical efforts also can act as models to generate lessons learned, to highlight promising engagement practices, and emissions and exposure reduction strategies so that we can expand those benefits to hundreds -- to the hundreds of communities affected by a high cumulative exposure burden.

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OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: As we're revising the statewide strategy, which includes ways to reset the program to expand benefits to eligible communities, we look to our four pillars of the Community Air Protection Program. At the foundation, it's partnering and collaboration with communities, community based organizations, air districts, and industry. We continue to work on building relationships and trust, and
we will strive to have a meaningful robust engagement throughout the process. You will hear from the Consultation Group panel as they share thoughts on the new direction of the program and how it can be informed by the People's Blueprint.

Our second pillar is to better understand a community's history, concerns and priorities. It's important to create opportunities to listen and understand the community's priorities that are informed by their lived experiences and to build a shared understanding by combining the community's expertise with data and emissions inventory -- with data-like emissions inventory and air monitoring.

Our third pillar is leveraging our regulatory authority. While CARB and the air districts have not received any significant new regulatory authority over emissions sources through AB 617, we know that we can use our existing authorities to better support communities. And later, we will hear about how our Enforcement Division is doing just that in partnership with community members.

Our fourth pillar is building capacity. This includes building our own capacity through training on structural racism and in community engagement. Capacity building for communities includes funding for community air grants and incentives programs and we'll hear from one
of the community air grantees about how they're using their air grant to write their own local emissions reduction plan.

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OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: So let's take a moment to see where the program is today. Over the last four years, 17 communities across the state have been selected by this Board to develop a community emissions reduction plan, and/or a community air monitoring plan, commonly referred to a CERPs and CAMPs respectively. These are highly burdened communities and represent a diverse mix of urban and rural areas, geographic size, population density, and air pollution concerns. Eleven of the communities have CERPs have already been developed in partnership with community steering committees, CSCs. And 11 of those CERPs -- yeah, they were already adopted by the air district and approved by the CARB Board.

There are three CERPs from the year three selection that will be considered by the air district and then the CARB Board later this year or early next year. All communities are working on both CAMPs and CERPs except for West Oakland and East Oakland communities, which were selected to work on the CERP only and the South Sacramento Florin community was selected to develop an implement a CAMP only.
CARB annually receives reports from air districts on their CERP implementation progress and provides updates to the Board in an annual Board item update in the fall and in an annual implementation update memos. So what we have learned from work in these communities will inform the Blueprint 2.0 and other strategies we identify to serve more communities.

Next, I'd like to provide some highlights from the 2021 report.

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OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Many of the topics in the annual update on AB 617 implementation memo are actually reflected in today's presentation. So I'll just focus on these few that highlight creative and meaningful community strategies to reduce emissions and exposure to air pollution with a focus on direct benefits to residents.

Many communities have made school air filtration systems a priority within their community boundaries. And this will result in immediate exposure reductions for students and staff as some of the most heavily impacted schools in the state.

In Shafter to overcome hurdles with the lawn and garden equipment replacement programs, the community and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
streamlined the lawn and garden equipment replacement program through a clean green yard machine trade in event that successfully replaced 150 gas-powered mowers with electric models all in one day.

Also in the Central Valley, South Central Fresno -- also in the Central Valley, South Central Fresno community members prioritized a truck rerouting study to identify changes that could be -- that could reduce resident exposure to heavy-duty truck emissions.

With air district leadership, the steering committee established a truck reroute subcommittee to engage the City of Fresno during study development. And at the direction of community members, UC Merced health researchers were also brought on board to assess how changes in exposure will impact the health of South Central Fresno residents.

Through a participatory budgeting process, the Southeast Los Angeles community steering committee prioritized $5 million of incentive funds to deploy zero-emission yard trucks in the community. This incentive program will be implemented by the South Coast Air Quality Management District reducing harmful emissions from older diesel-powered trucks.

And we will continue to uplift progress identified through and the annual reports. And we're
working with -- together with air districts to better
align the ways that progress is reported. And also, we
will begin a practice of creating opportunities for AB 617
communities and air districts to share in their own words
the progress that they are making and the lessons they
would like to lift up by inviting them to speak at future
AB 617 related Board items.

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OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: AB 617
calls for CARB to consult with the Scientific Review
Panel, the air districts, the Office of Environmental
Health Hazard Assessment, environmental justice
organizations, affected industry, and other interested
stakeholders in developing a statewide strategy to reduce
emissions of toxic air contaminants and criteria air
pollutants in communities affected by a high cumulative
exposure burden.

As a forum for that consultation, in January
2018, CARB convened the AB 617 Consultation Group chaired
by CARB Board Member Dr. John Balmes. And recently, CARB
Board Member Davina Hurt has also joined the group as a
co-chair. As a reminder, the statewide strategy, also
known as the Blueprint, was adopted by the CARB Board in
September 2018. And AB 617 requires that it be updated
every five years.
In early 2020, just after one and a half years of using the Blueprint as guidance for implementation of AB 617, the Consultation Group recognized the gaps and the space for improvement and began discussing potential updates to the blueprint through an ad hoc working group. In the next slide, I'll introduce the product that was borne from this process.

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OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: From the Blueprint Ad Hoc Working Group, a writers group primarily made up of environmental justice leaders from the AB 617 Consultation Group stepped forward to draft the People's Blueprint for Community Air Protection. The People's Blueprint represents the writers group's vision for how to apply a lens of equity and environmental justice as we partner with community members in the work of achieving emissions and exposure reductions in disproportionately impacted communities through the upcoming Blueprint 2.0.

CARB's leadership committed to supporting the Blueprint Ad Hoc Working Group, and later the writer's group with the technical assistance through a third-party facilitator, and working, and writing support contract with Carter and Company.

The People's Blueprint is a starting point for
review, discussion, and comment by the full Consultation Group on updates to CARB's Program Blueprint. Since September 2021, the Consultation Group has been methodically reviewing the People's Blueprint chapter by chapter, as the discussions by the entire Consultation Group will significantly inform updates to the Program Blueprint with a renewed and increased focus on equity and principles -- a renewed focus on equity and principles of environmental justice to achieve the goals and requirements of the law.

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OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Before we start the panel discussion, I'll turn it over to our Deputy Executive Officer Chanell Fletcher.

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER FLETCHER: Thank you. Liliana. I just wanted to make sure -- earlier, there were a couple of statements that were in -- that were incorrect and so I just wanted give Veronica Eady an opportunity to correct the record. So Veronica, I will turn it over to you.

VERONICA EADY: Thank you, Chanell. I heard that your had a really interesting presentation this morning about equity work going on at CARB and it sounds like you all have embraced it and our very ambitious in achieving your goals.
There was a letter that you all will remember from a number of people across the agency who collaborated to talk about their experiences at CARB. And I just wanted to make it clear that there were many collaborators from across the agency, most of whom chose to remain anonymous. And so since they are anonymous, I want to make sure that they get credit for the hard work that they put into that letter. So Chanell, thank you for making that space for the correction.

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER FLETCHER: Of course. And I will turn it back over to you, Liliana, for the panel.

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thank you. Okay. So now it's time to hear directly from our Consultation Group Panel on their ideas for how we can bring benefits to more disproportionately burdened communities in the state and what we should consider as we revise the statewide strategy.

Panel, thank you for being here. We have with us today two panelists via Zoom and five in person. Would you like to introduce yourselves, Ms. Margaret, and then we'll go down the line.

MARGARET GORDON: Hello. Ms. Ms. Margaret Gordon, West Oakland Environmental Indicators, co-partner -- let me say it back. Ms. Margaret Gordon,
co-founder and the co-director for the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project. And we were the first group -- first community that went directly to an action plan on the AB 617.

I want to go straight to the word of reset, because the word reset means a lot of different things that has not been addressed throughout this process that's been ongoing for the last four years and also to talk about -- also bring to a point of the elephant in the room about the Consultation Group. The elephant in the room about the Consultation Group is that has come a place to -- to confront or complain about air districts. This is not the place. There is -- that is not the place for the Consultation Group, but there do need a place where people can go complain about how air districts or air district staff, contractors, whoever else make the community feel disadvantaged or being racist -- openly racist or not doing environmental justice processes.

That -- that is one of the biggest things I'm going to add to the Blueprint. There's no place where you can come to say, hey, this air district, this staff has not been treating us fairly. That has to be really lifted up.

And you can't have a reset button until you start addressing all those flaws of many of the air district
staff up and down the state don't know -- first don't have a relationship, they have no trust, they have had problems, and there's not -- there is nothing set in stone of how to remedy some of the conflicts of the past. And until we have that -- having a reset button just add more -- we add more friction to a -- to a -- to a -- to an issue of trust and relationship building.

So I know I mixed up a lot of things here, but it's also saying you cannot just give people money, give them the money, tell the air districts, hey, you're supposed to work with these people, and there's no foundation. No foundation.

So -- and then you're supposed to be able to trust them that they're going to go and follow the -- the true meaning of what AB 617 is supposed to be about. It's not happening. It's not happening from some people. And so resetting a button is a -- is going to me will add on more problems, if we don't have the correct process, procedures, knowledge, people who are honest, know how to understand, and put environmental justice, community engagement at the top of the forefront of this proc -- of this -- of this thing called AB 617. It's not -- you're just adding on.

And then also, I want to get down to looking at permitting and developments in these communities. You --
there's -- who is addressing that when we -- when our communities see that our local government is still treating us -- treating us unfairly. Where do we go? Because it's not -- right now, there's no partnership right here, right now, since the beginning. Where is the -- when is the California State Attorney being involved in this? Where is the Civil Rights piece inside of this?

There's a lot of things that are still missing, if you all want to talk about reset, because you're not going to get community to want to buy-in doing this and they still see racism. There's still a racism issue here. And that CARB -- you all do not have the power to tell the air districts when they're out of compliance. Some of these air districts are out of compliance. They spend money -- spend money where they want to based on their projects and the community don't have a voice for that.

So when we talk about this reset button, I think you do better -- have a better, bigger picture on how you'll make these past corrections and people feel as though they can trust and have relationships within their own process -- within their own process. That they have spent time, sweat, tears, whatever, to be at these places.

And I just do not see that -- that is not being perceived and the issue of resetting. And when you start
talking about equity, if the people have not had no 
orientation, education, no practice of doing that, how are 
you going to reset the button for something we set -- set 
to do a reset?

So it's clearly -- it's clearly -- this is not 
really thought out very well to me. You tell me about a 
reset and we know we still have all these problems 
locally, internally to some of the air districts, and the 
community is not really trusting some of the staff when 
they start -- start -- just talk -- talk about what is the 
geographic boundaries that should be included for a -- for 
a fight, there's a lot of other work to be doing before 
you start using that word reset.

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thank you, 
Ms. Margaret.

Veronica, did you already introduce yourself?

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Great.

We're just -- we're -- yeah, we can just introduce -- 
introductions and then we can start with the questions 
after.

VERONICA EADY: I'm Veronica Eady. I know many 
of you know me. I am the Senior Deputy Executive Officer 
of Policy and Equity at the Bay Area Air Quality 
Management District. So that includes our AB 617 work. I 
do want to acknowledge the years that I spent at the
California Air Resources Board working on AB 617 and helping to build the foundation of it. So it's really great to be able to be at the Air District, have this perspective, and see how the program is evolving.

GUSTAVO AGUIRRE, JR.: How's it going, everyone. Good evening. My name is Gustavo Aguirre, Jr. I'm with Central California Environmental Justice Network. I'm the Director for Kern County. I'm also a member of the AB 617 steering committee for Shafter and also the community co-lead for the AB 617 in Arvin and Lamont.

Pleasure to be here.

JESSICA OLSON: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Jessica Olson. I'm the Director of Community Strategies and Resources with the San Joaquin Valley Air District. And I've been working on the 617 program since we started getting going in 2018. So happy to be here and thank you for having me.

CHRISTINE WOLFE: Good evening. I'm Christine Wolfe with the California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance. Thank you for having me tonight.

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: And then we have two panelists via Zoom.

Kathryn.

BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: It looks like you're muted, Kathryn.
KATHRYN HIGGINS: Okay.

BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: There we go.

KATHRYN HIGGINS: Okay.

BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Yes, we can.

KATHRYN HIGGINS: Okay. Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Kathryn Higgins and I'm the Director of the Community Air Programs and South Coast AQMD. First of all, I want to thank CARB's leadership for convening this Panel and for facilitating this discussion. Ms. Margaret set it off with -- at a high note there, so I am looking forward to engaging in discussions. I've had the opportunity to work the program for a few years now, but I'm no stranger to communities that are impacted as I reside in South Los Angeles, and so also have been with the air quality management district for -- approaching 34 years now. So I have quite a bit of ex -- lived experience in the community, but also working with the important work that we do here at South Coast AQMD. So thank you for the opportunity to be here.

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thanks, Kathryn.

Paula.

PAULA TORRADO: Hi. Hi, Liana. Thank you for the opportunity to be here today. My name is Paula Torrado Plazas. And I am the manager of Health and
Environment Programs at Physicians for Social Responsibility, Los Angeles. And I have been at PSR-LA for over a little bit of three -- more than three years working in South Los Angeles implementing our community air protection grant through the AB 617 work, building capacity, and education, and awareness around AB 617 and pollution directly with communities in South LA.

And I'm also a PSR-LA representative -- representative in the co-leadership model of the South LA AB 617 community steering committee, which is led in collaboration with two other community based organizations to scope what's in -- what's clean air and in collaboration with the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Thank you.

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Great. Thank you. I think that's everyone. So we have three questions that we would like to discuss with the panelists. And I'll read each question and call on panelists to share their ideas. After we discuss the questions with the panelists, the Board will have the opportunity to ask our panel any clarifying questions.

So over the last four years we've learned that there are many limitations with the current model that focuses on community selection and air district convened...
community steering committees. The Board has directed staff to reimagine the program to bring benefits to more communities statewide that are eligible but not -- have not been formally selected for CAMPs or CERPs.

Later in the presentation, you'll hear staff's initial ideas, but first we'd like to hear from the Consultation Group members as they have had firsthand experience in implementing AB 617 through this model.

Panel, the first question for you is what should CARB consider as alternative strategies to the current approach of air district convened community steering committees and what are other ways to elevate lessons learned from the program so far to bring benefits to more communities?

Jess, could you start us off?

JESSICA OLSON: Absolutely happy too.

First off, I just want to start with I think in terms of understanding what we can do in other communities, we have to start by highlighting really the benefits that this limited selection has allowed for the selected communities and at least speaking for the Valley, the four selected communities. We have allocated specifically in these three — soon to be fourth, coming to your Board in the fall — CERPs over $110 million specifically for incentive programs to benefit these
In addition to several enforcement, and regulatory, and partnership, and outreach measures, and to implement each one of those measures in a truly community-driven process. It takes that trust building and that relationship building that was spoken of earlier.

In doing so and especially as we've evolved in understanding how to work better with communities, we have established subcommittees and agenda-setting meetings. We call residents one on one. We move projects forward by involving community members in selecting contractors to work on a truck reroute study, be involved in developing a communities events to pass out lawn mowers. All of this is to say that this focused effort and the focused significant resources we've been afforded is the best way we found to do what we've been doing in these communities. We wouldn't have really the ability to do so, if we had more than these four, especially at least with the resources we have.

So how do we elevate what we have, right? There's more -- there's dozens of communities just in the valley, of course, across the State that need these resources. And so what we've found and what we definitely want to move toward, at least in the valley, is to try to understand how some of the community-identified projects, and in particular in these communities, and by that I mean
the ones that are beyond the typical cap-incentive guidelines. It's beyond Moyer, beyond Prop 1B. It's really projects that hit at the heart of what communities are interested in doing. How do we get those to other committees?

Because as of right now, if we wanted to spend at least CAP incentive funding, we can't. That's not really within the guidelines. But how do we get into these communities and try to understand how we can do that. And one of the ways, and I know you'll hear it later in a panel, so I'll save some time, but is to partner with community groups that are doing that work. CCAC, who you'll hear from later, is doing that work, getting in these communities that aren't being selected and trying to understand what their concerns are.

Actually, CARB staff recently met with a community that hasn't been elected in La Vina. You've heard from the before and you've heard from the district. That's a very important community. And while I'm sure their concerns revolve around heavy-duty trucks as well, many of their concerns weren't related to the CAP incentive guidelines. They're about almond harvesting, and about dust in their community, and about pesticides, right?

And so these are the things we do have district
programs for, we do have funding for, and we do want to get in the communities and try to leverage the lessons we've learned in Shafter in doing those exact programs, and get those into those communities. So we think that's a start and to partner with community groups that are doing that work. But certainly, again, the resources that have been there so far haven't really allowed us and won't allow us to do the same, you know, ten subcommittees per CSC that we've been doing so far.

So we look forward to that continued partnership. And certainly, of course, from everyone else on the panel's ideas on how we can really continue to work in these other communities.

So thank you, Liliana.

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thanks, Jess.

Gus.

GUSTAVO AGUIRRE, JR.: Yeah. Thank you.

So, you know, I think along the lines of what Jessica was stating, there has been a lot of growth that has happened, you know, since AB 617 day one, right, when we came together and showed the communities and now, you know, diving into year three. And one of the very first conversations that residents had was like how is this scalable, right? How can we scale this to other
communities, to smaller communities, to, you know, communities that are not cities, that are unincorporated areas, right?

With this nature behind it of being so competitive, right, if taking bus loads of folks to Sacramento, taking, you know, letters of support, what other alternatives were available to residents, right, and community members that didn't have that -- that support from other organizations or didn't have connections to Sacramento, right, or to the Valley Air District. And very early on some of the conversations that residents were having was well, you know, once year one goes, it goes kind of -- is approved and hits the ground running, you know, then year two we'll start looking at what are the different strategies that these communities are really looking for and striving for, right, along the lines of like what is preexisting already at the Valley Air District, and we know could reduce emissions, but also when are the solutions that residents are thinking of that could be beneficial region-wide, right?

And so one of the things was making sure that we look at all -- have, you know, technical expertise in the community and at these districts to look at what are the top strategies across the valley CERPs, right? What are all the strategies? What are the top five or 10
strategies that these residents are looking at to amplify in these communities and how can residents work with the Valley District to make sure that this is happening in these other communities, right?

And so in -- you know, in Kern County, there's a lot of oil and gas, right? We produce 75 percent of California's oil and gas. And so there's a lot of activities of, you know, oil and gas drilling, of flaring, storage tanks leaking, right? And so that was something that was very common in Shafter, something that was very common in South Kern, right?

And so, you know, the Valley Air District is looking at even amending rules, right, valley-wide. Like the flare rule, right, was one of the very first things that we tackled at the Valley Air District in year one, right? And that's going to get -- that's going to have a ripple effect to other communities that are in the same situation, right?

And so it's looking at those strategies that we believe are -- that really interconnect the communities in the San Joaquin Valley that are major issues, right. And some communities the issues are refineries. In other commune -- in other Central Valley communities, the issues are CAFOs and dairies, and other communities are, you know, fence line pesticide applications that happen right
across the street. So it's very diverse the assessment of
needs that are needed in our communities. But I think
it's really looking at the strategy that residents have
talked about over and over again, right?

I'm not sure how much meetings we've had where
residents are like we've already talked about this, right?
But it's those things that we've talked about so many
times that are amplified that I think the Air District is
now taking a look and saying, okay, well, if, you know, La
Vina is not an AB 617 community, what are we doing in
these other communities that could be beneficial to La
Vina, to Matheny Tract, to Firebaugh, to all these
different communities in the Central Valley.

And so I really think it's taking like those
lessons learned from community development -- or from the
community to really develop this more sustainable approach
instead of having like communities fight against each
other to bring resources to this community, right?

And so those are kind of some my thoughts there.

Thank you.

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thanks,
Gus. And we'll go to our Zoom participants.

Paula.

PAULA TORRADO: Thank you, Liliana. And so what
I -- what I wanted to say is a little bit what Gustavo

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touched on. And I think before I get on to -- on that, I wanted to sort of mention that in order to address the urgency and the scale of the -- that environmental justice communities are facing every day, because of pollution burden, the reset issue of AB 617 is that we need to start focusing on the outcomes, which is tangible emissions reductions. And we can't get there if we don't build a process that is trustworthy, that is cross-agency, sectoral, community driven, and that is in the spirit of building collaboration.

But I think that in order to get there, as an alternative to the model that currently exists of selecting different communities for the -- for the CERP or the CAMP, I think that we need to start giving -- or AB 617 needs to start giving the community the power and the power decision-making for creating its own steering committee to give them time and give the communities the time, and the process, and the resources to build their own process, to come together, to deepen and build relationships in a way that -- that builds trust.

And I think, one, the timeline is very strenuous and extractive to get there in the pace that we need it. But I do think it's important to mention that agencies need to both step back and step back -- step up for this process and let the communities come together and support
not just technically but with the resources and -- yeah, and the technical support, so that we can start co-learning and co-designing together. And so co-leaders or community-based organizations don't feel like we're sort of giving feedback and input, but that we're equal partners in the process. And I know that's part of the nuances and the lessons learned of the process, but I think that's something that needs to be said in terms of the reset. Yeah, just -- just giving the communities the opportunity to power build, and organize, and given the resources to do that.

And then another thing is this -- this is around the sort of sector-based approach that PSR-LA has advocated for as a fix for AB 617 that sort of talks about how we can give the resources, and the best practices, and lessons learned to address the inherent competitive nature of 617, because there are many environmental justice communities that need air quality improvements and yet not all of them have been selected and will take a long time for those to be selected.

So to address that, we need to sort of start looking at sector-based approaches with a community approach to regulation, where polluting sources that are common or in different communities can be addressed in streamlined -- in a streamlined format, so like
refineries, dry cleaners, auto body shops, how do we start addressing these sectors in a statewide -- with a statewide approach and with a community-led approach that would determine how to prioritize sectors, develop priorities, as well as helping determine the framework for implementing best practices, implementing just transition pilot projects.

I think that's something that we're trying to innovate in South LA is trying to see how we can push for a more proactive -- a proactive approach towards enforcement and compliance that brings in that collaboration with community, the regulated industry businesses, and the -- and the districts.

And I think that approach of sector-based, community-based approach to -- to the CERP can lead to regional and even statewide benefits. And I think that's a little bit of what Gustavo was saying. But I think that's important along with giving the opportunity to the communities to come together and build their own version of the steering committee and reflection of what the community historical work is, their needs are, because at the end, it's the communities who knows best about what -- what the changes -- what the changes are.

Thank you.

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thanks,
Paula.

Kathryn.

KATHRYN HIGGINS: Yeah. Thank you, Liliana.

So I'm going to just approach this from a process perspective and to start out by saying that sometimes you have to go slow in order to go fast. The reality that we're all facing is that this is a new program. It requires air districts, you know, agencies, community members to come together for the very first time. And so we're all, you know, stepping up to what we're called to do, but it's challenging. There are adjustments that are required, and we have different beliefs on how to achieve success for the program.

But we have to take a step back and look at fundamentally, you know, what -- what might be causing or really bringing about the change -- the challenge to the program. And that is that first of all, we can all agree that this is not a perfect process and there's opportunity for improvement to provide more value and flexibility that communities are different. So there's never going to be a one-size-fits-all resolution.

However, when we take a step back and we look at the model and the structure that is in place, a lot of our challenges are stemming from the fact that this is a very resource intensive program. It requires trust building.
It requires a lot to take place in a 12-month time frame, which is significantly condensed for the level of engagement that is required by AB 617.

So this is one of the root causes that I think has taken a tremendous toll on air district staff, as well as community members. So agreeing with many of the EJ representatives. You know, Paula we've worked with quite closely with South LA. Ms. Margaret, I don't disagree with many of the things that you've mentioned. And I, too, want to address the elephant in the room, which I see again as partially the condensed time frame. We all have a heavy lift with this program, but I'll just say a two-year time frame, for example, would allow us all to focus on refining a couple of things in the CSC model.

One, it would allow us to do a much better job in establishing community member readiness and education about AB 617. This could be provided in the form of workshops, you know, classes, but also supplementing education sessions with some sort of a manual or user-friendly toolkit. You know I want to get to some practical tools that we can use to help the process.

There are, I believe, opportunities for the Air District to do things differently, as there are for our community members to do differently, and that includes environmental organizations as well.
And so I think to deal with, I think, the structure that we're all working under right now, one of the key things of importance is setting expectations for what's to come, and what's required on behalf of community members and air districts in order to develop versus implement CAMPs and CERPs.

This is where the frustration really comes into play, where there's not a -- an anticipation of -- and a knowledge of what's to be expected. And that's where the challenges and frustrations play out.

So I just want to offer that as, you know, an opportunity for us to, again, take a step back. And I say that, because in the South Coast, we took a pause in South Los Angeles in developing that CERP. And it gave us a chance to go back internally, look at how we're communicating with our community. And we have now this first community that has co-leads. It gave us a chance to go back and really look at how we were communicating, how we were presenting information. And we transitioned, during that pause, to more a perspective of listening and learning.

But what we -- what we grapple with is where that listening then -- where the air district can be given an opportunity and the bandwidth to also share information about our expertise, which is what I think community
members need as we develop the CERPs and CAMPs. So I want
to offer just an opportunity to talk about that again
as -- as a fundamental, you know, challenge in the
program, the time frame, and the stress, and the burden
that that puts upon the process.

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thank you,
Kathryn.

Ms. Margaret.

MARGARET GORDON: This word reset is stuck in my
head right now. And with the reset and what has never --
has never been really addressed is how do we locally deal
with permitting, enforcement, and compliance. That's
another elephant in the room when it comes down to
communities -- our communities, our AB 617, and on the
local level, who is the -- who is doing that, when we
know -- when you know and we know that enforcement,
permitting, and compliance is not being really truly dealt
with and -- around the issues of the public health and
emission reduction.

For instance, we have -- an where I live, I'm
right in the middle of the AB 617 community for West
Oakland. A block away from my house, the City allowed a
track parking facility. It took us two years. Two years
for getting an injunction or referee through the city to
remove that parking truck facility.
But if we had had joint -- there's been -- had been some kind of a joint authority between California Air Resources Board, the State attorney and understanding that -- of the impacts -- already understood the impacts of this community. Permitting -- the Permitting Department of the City of Oakland would never gave that owner or that business able to park trucks in the neighborhood.

So there's still a missing -- there's missing links and closing gaps when it comes down to really looking at the fine-tuning -- fine-tuning these things that still implement -- impact our communities, even as we're doing these -- doing these emission reductions. We still have to deal -- still somebody got to deal with permitting, enforcement, and compliance.

And the last thing in relationship to the Consultation Group, we don't have a newsletter. We do not send out what we have done, or didn't do, or need to be doing from the different sites. We have no way really communicating with each other on a regular basis of what their stories are, and what their -- so I'm also -- I would like to recommend that -- that some kind of newsletter be developed for Consultation Group, so we can -- we can have some form of communication. They know -- people don't know what we've been doing at these
meetings for the last -- for three years now.

I've been saying that for almost three years. So this is a new day that we need -- if we're going to reset, let's have more communication, so people can understand what this -- what is AB 617, the who is doing what work, how they're doing the work, how they -- what has been successes, what is the lessons learned, what has been -- how to resolve conflicts, something. But we need to have a much better communication system.

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thank you, Ms. Margaret.

Veronica, and then we'll have Christine close out the panel.

VERONICA EADY: Yeah. I've heard some really great things from my colleagues here and on video. So it's led me to think of a couple of things -- many things, and I'll try to make sense of it.

First -- and Gus I'm going to attribute this to you, but I'm not sure it if was you. But I think that it would be really helpful if, as you think about the Blueprint 2.0 think about how you can capture stories -- successful stories. And what made me think about that, it was either you Gus or it was a video talking about the -- the truck routing -- rerouting study.

I was at CARB from the beginning of that. And it
wasn't easy, you know, for the community and for the air district to be able to convince the city -- I hope I'm saying that right -- to do this truck rerouting study. That's a wonderful success and it would be really helpful as we bring more and more new communities on, as we're working our communities, knowing what some of these strategies have been across the state, which ones were successful, and how they were able to be successful, or what hiccups to avoid.

So I think that that would be really helpful. Another thing that we've been thinking about at Bay Area and we just haven't really had the capacity to implement it fully is that we've been thinking about putting together something, and I'm going to call it a starter kit, but that is not what we're going to call it -- that's the working name -- but tools and resources that we can share with communities that are not yet formally designated, so that they have the resources that they need to be able to do the work before they get designated. So that might be relying on air districts to do modeling or collecting data. It could be doing relationship building and outreach in the communities.

And so I think that something like that -- you know, as I said, we're going to work on it in our air district. But if the Consultation Group say were -- was
interested in doing something like that, I think that that would be really helpful to a number of communities that are still on the waiting list that we haven't gotten to to kind of tee off of what Paula was talking about.

I think -- jessica, I think you talked about incentive money. And one of the things that we've -- I talked about at a Consultation Group is participatory budgeting. And our steering committees, we also have a community advisory council at the Air District. They're all very interested in doing participatory budgeting. We have not done that, certainly not with our incentive money yet. And I think that it is a natural fit for the community directed projects that they go through a participatory budgeting process. And so we could like encourage the air districts. And I know that a number of air districts have already been doing these community-directed projects. We have not at Bay Area yet, but I think that there is another opportunity to put the community in the lead in spending our 617 money.

And then one thing that I just wanted to touch on is that kind of this overarching thing that for air districts, and CARB, and other regulators to share power with communities is something new and it's something that creates a feeling of discomfort, I know, for many of us -- for many of our staff. I think that that discomfort is a
good thing and we need to look at why we're feeling this discomfort and helping us get -- using it to help us get to the next step.

We undertook this work saying that we wanted to upset the status quo. And so if we're doing that, then it's by nature going to be uncomfortable.

Some of the things that AB 617 unfortunately is not able to reach is, for example, we have designated communities. And in the Bay Area we're getting ready to go into East Oakland. I think it was CARB that had a workshop when AB 617 was first passed. And I can't remember if it was probably in 2017 -- in the fall of 2017. I was still at the Air District and I was on a panel. I was sitting next to Greg Nudd who works at the Air District. And Greg leans over and whispered to me, you know, we just announced today that we permitted this crematorium in East Oakland.

And it was -- I shouldn't have been surprised by it, but, you know, he identified for me at that very moment one of the problems with AB 617. We're trying to reduce emissions, but at least in our air -- our air district, we're still permitting in those communities. And so we need to take a look at it and look at our -- look at our rules and amend our rules where needed, so that we're able to really reduce emissions without
increasing them, you know, in our daily business
So I just wanted to throw those few things out.
And I'll stop there for now.
OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thank you, Veronica.
CHRISTINE WOLFE: Well, I'll just say from, you know, industry's perspective we want to recognize that, you know, this has really been a transformative process for how communities engage with air district policy. And so from that perspective, I think we should all recognize that 617 has been a significant success from that perspective. We had the -- I think it feels different for all of us in terms of how air district policy is being made and will continue to be made for the foreseeable future.

And so we certainly support communities being at the -- at the center of this program. But no matter who's administering the program, it's important to make sure that there are clear and open channels of communication with all stakeholders, including affected sources in industry. And any model should really create the opportunity to bring different parties to the table to come to solution.

I think that that's what this sort of fundamental piece of this program is about and we want to find
creative ways and new ways to work together as partners to
do that. And again, no matter who's administering the
Program, it's important that we have oversight over how
funding is used, transparency, and that we incorporate
some of the really good recommendations on governance that
the People's Blueprint has brought forward and take some
of those lessons learned from the CSCs and incorporate
them into the new programs.

I think the conversation that we've just had has
also highlighted that as part of the Blueprint revision,
you know, we need to have an explicit discussion about
program outcomes. And what the timeline and the resources
are to achieve those outcomes.

You know, AB 617 didn't change CARB or District
authorities. And we are focused on achieving emissions
reductions. And I think we've seen the timeline and the
expense for how difficult it is to achieve -- achieve
those. And there has been successes and I think we need
to be focused on, you know, bringing those successes to
new communities and seeing where those have happened. But
certainly understanding the resource challenges that we
already have, focusing on the legislative mandate and
emission reductions first and exposure reductions in these
communities is, you know, where we need to continue to
work on, because we're just at the beginning of this
OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thanks, so much. I think everyone provided really great responses. I'm going to just kind of throw some things out there that I heard. Really uplifting and communicating the lessons learned and the successful stories of all of the community steering committees and the CERPs and the CAMPs.

And then we also heard that we need more time to build relationships and trust. And then trying to build community emission reduction programs on top of that, the timelines are very short. We heard suggestions for sector based solutions or region-wide solutions, participatory budgeting and incentives how those could be leveraged to bring more benefits. And then leaning into the discomfort that agencies have as they're learning to share power.

Anything else?

All right. Let's see. Cool.

We will -- so many of the ideas that are shared from this panel for the basis for the program reset -- or the reenvisioning, which is essentially our effort to expand the program benefits to more communities by applying lessons learned and developing additional actions given the existing funding.

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OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: So we want
to ensure that as we embark on the reenvisioning of the program and developing of the Blueprint 2.0, we're doing so through a process based on meaningful engagement that is inclusive of all stakeholder groups. We have plans to have facilitated outreach and engagement as part of the process, but panelists we'd love to hear from you.

As CARB turns to updating the Program Blueprint, which will include strategies to reset the program, what should we do or not could to ensure a meaningful process. In your role as a member of the Consultation Group, how should CARB support the group most if -- to most effectively fulfill its role. And a reminder, the Consultation Group's primary role is to consult with CARB to inform the statewide strategy, the Program Blueprint.

Veronica.

VERONICA EADY: Sure. And I am not sure that I saw the second part of this -- the question, so I might ask you. But for the first part of the question and about the Blueprint, you know, as we've been meeting -- the Consultation Group has been meeting, we've been talking about the People's Blueprint, we've been pulling out sections, and reviewing them, I've really been thinking about if the People's Blueprint is kind of a parallel process, and just -- not just, but it's another document that communities and others working in AB 617 can use, you
know, what is its role? And I've really been struggling with that.

You know, there's been a lot of hard work that's gone into the People's Blueprint, and, you know, I think that the writing team in Harder and Company did a really terrific job. So one of the things that I was thinking is that as we do bring on new communities, and as we are trying to build capacity, both for the communities and for us, one thing that we might be able to do, and I've asked our team in East Oakland to do this, is to share the People's Blueprint with the steering committee, so that they have this document as a resource and they can decide how they want to use it. So that was one thing that I -- that I thought and I wanted to encourage other air districts and other communities to do that.

Liliana, what was the second part of the question?

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: The second part. So in your role as a member of the Consultation Group, how should CARB support the group to most effectively fulfill its role, which is to consult with CARB to inform the statewide strategy.

VERONICA EADY: Thank you.

Well, there's been a lot of change I feel like at the Consultation Group. I know that Deldi and you all
have tried to take a step back and think about what the role of the Consultation Group is and also have these planning sessions, so that the Consultation Group members have the opportunity to shape the agenda. I think that that's really important and I think that's a really great step, regardless of, you know, how many people can out of their, you know, busy day come and participate in those sessions. I think it's the right thing to do.

I know that you all have raised the question of what is the role of the Consultation Group. And I think that that's a really good conversation to have among the members of the Consultation Group. I think it would be useful also to talk to communities and steering committees who -- many of whom may not even know that there is a Consultation Group and talk to them about what kinds of needs do they need out of that type of a resource.

The other thing that I'll say about the Consultation Group before I pass -- pass the mic on is that, you know, here we are in 2022. We are five years into the program, four years into the program, and I think that it's time for us to start thinking about program evaluation. You know, we're getting ready to move into that, you know, implementation phase for those communities that were the first communities to complete CERPs. So I think it's important to think about program evaluation and
laying out, you know, that kind of a vision, how have we done and what more do we need to do?

I think that that's a really good role. And I have to give a shout-out to Martha Dina Argüello at PSR-LA, because she has for quite some time in talking about quantification, she's talked a lot about health. In my head, you know, I'm thinking about quantification of emission reductions and can we really quantify that?

I think that working through some of those questions, maybe the easier one is program evaluation. I think that that might be a good role for the Consultation Group.


JESSICA OLSON: Certainly. Thank you.

I just -- I want to echo a lot of what Veronica just mentioned, certainly I think having everyone at the table on the Consultation Working Group, especially at least all of the communities that have been selected. There's lots to share. Gustavo touched earlier, every single community just in the Valley, and certainly across the state, have different perspectives. And we want to make sure that the Consultation Group represents everyone. So I don't know if that's like a change in the membership or at least in addition to the membership to make sure
every single community is represented.

Just kind of to the first part of the question, kind of broader maybe than the Consultation Group, particularly about making sure CARB ensures a meaningful process is a little bit to -- someone mentioned it earlier and it might have been you Christine, making sure everyone is at the table for critical conversations. And in particular, air districts are at the table when there's conversations perhaps between CARB and community members about air district type things.

Speaking a little bit to the report before you today about enforcement, there's been a lot of great work by the community members to make sure that all of our CERPs include strict enforcement measures, increased inspection frequency, a variety of other things for surveillance and a variety of other regulatory measures. Gustavo mentioned one of many.

And so when there's conversations between groups -- and we appreciate CARB's willingness or desire on the staff part to build trust between community members, and to have those discussions, and we just ask that the districts also be involved in those conversations, building trust, but excluding the district from those conversations is maybe not moving quite in the right direction. So it's something I just want to
highlight as something we so appreciate about CARB staff, so appreciate about the meaningful process that they're creating here and want to just encourage, whether it's part of a Blueprint update or just an overall sort of principle we use to guide this process, that all the right people are at the right table, including Consultation Group and then district conversations.

Thank you.

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thank you.

Ms. Margaret.

MARGARET GORDON: Well, there's two things that I see that the People's Blueprint is not addressing and that we should have. In the original blueprint, and what I'm calling this second edition is the People's Blueprint was how the EJ communities was part of drafting, which did not happen in the first edition of the People's Blueprint.

All right. So one of the things that's missing, and I don't know if it's this or Department or Division, we need to have some place where conflicts, complaints, and civil rights is being addressed. And that's not being -- that's not inside of the blueprint. And then the second part, we need to have a place where you'd go for permitting -- about permitting -- permits, enforcement and compliance, where do you go for that? Those things are missing in AB 617.
And how do you achieve those things -- how do you address those things and do emission reductions simultaneously. There needs to be something that's either showing that there is this transformation into this or there needs to be a whole new -- new division that's out of CARB and look at this for AB 617 sites.

So there's -- so there's a mixed bag here I know I'm talking about, but those things need to be addressed.

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thank you, Ms. Margaret.

Paula.

PAULA TORRADO: Yeah. Thank you. I just wanted to add a few other points, because Veronica triggered my thought processing. I think one thing not to do and not to carry over in the -- in the Program Blueprint is to sort of like not -- yes, the process is important and it has -- you know, the lessons -- the lessons learned of the process has led us to know what to do and what not to do. But I think beyond that, it's just sort of refocusing on the goal of 617 is that we need emissions reductions -- tangible emissions reductions. And the key to meaningful engagement, it's real commitment to reducing emissions, to get to the goal of the program. And that's how we get people engage in the if, they know that the expectation of this is to achieve reducing pollution burden in
disadvantaged communities to goal of 617 again.

And because the process is an equal process seat at the table, the extractive work, and groups being exploited, the -- you know, all of these things, we need to start thinking about how do we achieve that. I think that's important to naming the program blueprint. I'd like to stop engaging -- community engagement by counting widgets as indicators of success and we need to start -- because we can't keep meeting and meeting, and never listen and never change.

And I think that's important to mention for what Veronica was saying is that we need to develop specific indicators of success that are actually tied to emissions reductions and front load them as early actions. And I think that's important in the use of health metrics, what is the reporting going to look like, what is the enforcement going to look like, and how many years will we achieve attainment or -- or the Clean Air Act, or beyond the Clear Air Act, because we want to get to more prevention -- preventive measures. And that's what this platform could allow innovation towards achieving that, yeah, cleaner air in our communities.

And so that's -- that's one thing I wanted to mention. And then the last thing is that I think in order to achieve that, because we need to stop gauging community
success as -- community engagement as success is to -- and
over the process to environmental justice, to the
community groups, to the community leaders, and support
them with -- and the agencies can support them with
resources, technical assistance and whatever it is needed,
but really hand over the process to EJ communities and
leaders.

   Thank you.

   OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thanks,
Paula.

   Gus.

   GUSTAVO AGUIRRE, JR.: Yeah. Thank you so much.
I think a few thoughts that I have here is going back to
Ms. Margaret's thoughts on like how disconnected AB 617 is
in between each of the CSCs. I think one thing that this
Consultation Group could really take advantage of is like
making sure like we centralize all the CERPs that are, you
know, happening along the state.

   You know, it was not until like later in year
three that we found out that the CERP in Imperial had
exactly what we were looking for, you know, in Shafter,
and Arvin, and Lamont along some agricultural practices
right.

   And if we would have seen that sooner, we would
have been able to maybe implement that in our CERP, talk
to residents, right? They had the same concept, but maybe were just not capturing it equally, right? And so I think one thing that should -- I think the Consultation Group could really be better at is making sure that we're all connected and we know what each -- each one of us is doing. And again, streamlining like all the different State CERPs, right, in creating the centralized kind of system of what's going on, right?

I know there's workings for like -- like a clearinghouse, right, of all the different BARCT technologies that 617 is part of and can be a part of, but I think also at the statewide level with the Consultation Group is looking at all the different measures and -- in the CERP.

Another thing is like this like essence of interagency collaboration. I think that's super key in making sure that there's a successful CERP and implementation in our communities. You know, the previous Director of DPR and the current Director DPR both were instrumental in coming down to the community, getting to know the residents, working with the agricultural industry their representatives, right? And it was a very -- a very like Purposeful and meaningful engagement, right, that brought someone that is directly not connected to air quality and air relations per se and bringing them into
this process, right? That directly there was a nexus between, you know, gasified -- pesticide applications and exposure to communities, right?

And so I think that interagency collaboration is something also that could -- that would be very beneficial. And, yeah, I think when we look at the blueprint -- the People's Blueprint that was written, and I think in this third question, we could elaborate a little bit more, but I definitely think like the -- the sense of governance, right, of how the actual process started from the bringing and kind of worked going now, right, and the progress that it's made, but also the hiccups along the way, right, maybe haven't been clarified and addressed, but a lot of them have been, right?

And so how we keep a clear channel of communication between the stakeholders that are part of the CSCs and then the -- us folks that are on the Consultation Group and many -- a lot of us are like obviously in 617 programming in one way or another. So I think those are some of my thoughts.

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thanks, Gus.

Christine.

CHRISTINE WOLFE: Well, I'd also agree with Veronica's suggestion about looking at program evaluation
and how we measure success. I think that that's easier to do for quantitative data, looking at emissions reductions and understanding sort of where we've seen success on that front, and, you know, what emissions are going to be reduced, and then moving forward what future emission reductions might look like, because we know that some of those are going to take time.

But harder to understand I think how we measure success of other things that funding goes -- 617 funding goes to like training, capacity building, information sharing, developing some of these resources. And I think, you know, we want that to be successful and we want that underlay program success. And maybe early investment in those kinds of trainings and CARB taking on developing some statewide training could be helpful and a more cost effective way to use the resources to sort of get -- raise all ships and bring all communities along as we focus on, you know, emission reduction success. I think the other thing that we need to look at as part of revising the blueprint is, you know, needing to be clear again about what we can accomplish and who's going to be engaged. And I can talk a little bit more about, you know, what -- bringing industry along and effective sources.

But I do think that having a full regulatory process and engagement for revising the Blueprint that
engages with big and small sources, as well as communities across the state is going to be really important, but that it's not just the traditionally regulated sources that are very familiar with air district programs that come, you know, into play with 617 programs. It's also a lot of the smaller sources and other businesses that might not be as familiar but that are also very interested and engaged in being part of their communities.

And so hopefully we can take some of the good examples of where we've seen that work and best practices, and I think folks have talked about that a little bit so far, and highlight those best practices in the blueprint, so that other communities can see, you know, how they can get engaged.

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thanks, Christine.

Kathryn.

KATHRYN HIGGINS: Yes. Part of the downside is this coming at the rear end to answer these questions and provide input is that a lot of what, you know, we would echo as things that CARB should do and keeping the Blueprint has already been stated. But I just want to emphasize that providing clearly defined roles for stakeholders and members of the Consultation Group is vital.
You know, we're implementing within our communities, and as we've had meetings with the Consultation Group, you know, it is the undefined roles, the lack of setting expectations for each partner, that's what really contributes to unrealistic expectations, inefficiency, conflicts, and, you know, often circular discussions. So while, you know, we do need to find a way to obviously put program evaluation in place, and measure success, and share that success, you know, it's pretty clear as, you know, we have consultation meetings that some of the sticking points really prevent us from moving forward. You know, they have become bottlenecks.

So as we, you know, continue to have discussions, it's really important to clarify those roles. It's very important to clearly identify where we have made accomplishments and uplift successes, so that then we can move forward in establishing a path toward really identifying again program successes, really determine -- in both qualitative and quantitative successes, and really bringing the community along with us. Because while we are focused on emissions reductions, we're focused on reducing impact to community in terms of health impacts, we really need to make sure that the community is along with us in terms of understanding the vital role that they play in this process.
And so we -- the leadership at the consultation level have to really model what we're asking to be carried out as community members, CSC, and air districts work together. We've got to start at the consultation level.

And so I think there -- it's really vital for CARB to, you know, as we work together to establish a model to be able to do that. And without clearly identifying the roles, without clearing identifying terms for uniform application, such as participatory budgeting, such as capacity building, which I've mentioned in prior meetings, we have to understand what that means to all of us and have again uniform application. Otherwise we walk away from the table, and we have our own perspectives, we have our own agendas I'll say, each leading to what we think is the success of the program, but we've got to be unified in how that's carried out.

So one of the things that I'll offer is for the Consultation Group, if CARB were to have say ad hoc, you know, groups consisting of stakeholders from across, you know, each of the groups to really take on problem solving for various topics are -- not the low-hanging topics, but those that really bring a lot of angst to the program, that might be something that we could put in place, work together, so that when we have continuing consultation meetings, especially as we're coming up to developing the
Program Blueprint, that we have really engaged with one another on a -- on a granular level and not the surface, you know, approach to, you know, developing the Blueprint, and really taking the lessons learned, uplifting the voices of community members, putting the training programs in place that require us to really sit, and hear, and listen to one another, because we have very much, I think, been engaged in a process where there's communication to and at our partners, but not really actively engaging and listening for understanding, listening for where we have overlaps, and alignment, in order for us to move forward.

And again, I'll echo that there's no one size that fits all. So whatever models that are put in place and whatever is captured in the Program Blueprint really needs to allow that flexibility. So those are -- those are just a couple of mechanisms that CARB could put in place to build upon those lessons learned.

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thanks so much, panel.

Some of the things we heard, we really need clarity in -- on the roles, the Consultation Group. We need to set expectations and goals, evaluation of the program, and we need to really have a shared understanding. Also com -- and metrics of success in that evaluation. And community engagement is not a measure of
success.

So let's see. Let's move on --

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OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: -- to the last question. As I mentioned -- as mentioned earlier, we've been discussing the People's Blueprint in the Consultation Group bimonthly meetings, since late last year. And the discussion regarding the concepts in the People's Blueprint will significantly inform the development of the Blueprint 2.0.

So we've already heard a few examples of what the things that the People's Blueprint, that the Consultation Group would like to life up, but what should CARB carry over from the People's Blueprint into the Blueprint 2.0, or what needs to be revised.

Ms. Margaret.

MARGARET GORDON: Go to the next person.

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Okay. I was hoping to get a writer's -- I think you're the only writer's group.

Okay. Let's see. Gus.

GUSTAVO AGUIRRE, JR.: Sure. Thank you again.

I think, you know, out of everything that is in the People's Blueprint and I've had, you know, the pleasure of reading it, I don't know it as much as I did,
you know, the first Blueprint. But I think if we were to take away two things that really resonated with me and really resonated, when we kind of did an overview, with some residents of like, you know, the previous Blueprint versus the new Blueprint, and I think two of the things that came out was participatory budgeting. But it's something that you'll probably hear a lot tonight. But there's really the sense of like AB 617 when it first, you know, was coined, someone referenced it, and it might have been Ms. Nichols, that it was a down payment to environmental justice communities, right?

And so summarize it as really okay, like if there -- if this is really a down payment for environmental communities, then we should have a say in where this capital goes to, right, where this capital should be invested.

And so I think, you know, we -- we have done -- we, our organization, has worked with a lot of other organizations that have worked in other capacities, like, you know, county budgets, city budgets, grand master plans, park plans, right, where we've also talked about participatory budgeting, right, and how residents really have a say or could have a say in how these large capital investments could benefit their community, right, given the appropriate counseling from these residents to these
air districts.

So I think that's something that very much resonates with residents this ability to have not more power right, but to have some power and some say in where these capital -- where this capital of AB 617 could be invested in, right, whether it's preexisting programs that already exist, right, like Carl Moyer, or whether it's new -- new strategies, right, of emission -- achieving reducing emissions in communities, right?

And I think the other part that we've seen in People's Blueprint really is this -- I believe it's chapter 4 around governance, right, on the procedures and the process of how we move forward, and how government detracts with communities, right, especially communities that oftentimes don't get the time of day, right, that like -- like they have been recently, right?

And so I think one thing that 617 has done is really amplify it and gave -- provided space for these communities to really kind of come, you know, to shine and share the concerns of maybe, you know, being left out of certain processes otherwise, right? And so I really think that this -- in the sense of governance is really making sure that community-based solutions and community measures really make the forefront of these programs, right?

And, I mean, Jessica could -- we've been together
since day one in AB 617 Shafter till now, right? We're
doing South Kern. And I think a lot of the kind of
interconnection between a lot of this is that residents
oftentimes come with solutions, come with strategies that
are not exactly already the niche of the air districts or
the State, right, but they're very revolutionary ideas.
They're very much forward thinking kind of very
progressive ideas that could -- if implemented, could
bring a lot of change to these communities, right?

And so out of everything in the People's
Blueprint, two of the things that I see that should
definitely be carryover should be emphasized and should be
honored is this participatory budgeting process is more
of -- very much more meaningful and in the sense of more
distributed equity and governance in that.

Thank you.

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thanks for
that, Gus.

Kathryn.

KATHRYN HIGGINS: Thank you. I had to find my
unmute button.

Things that should be carried over I think, you
know, from the People's Blueprint, it's important to
maintain a call to reset the program through an equity
lens. That is going to require some core training and,
you know, opportunities for peer learning as mentioned
that will be on governance, on stakeholder roles, on
competing priorities, for example. Also, training on what
are -- what are the authorities, legal and statutory
authorities, of air agencies.

We've heard time and time in many discussions
that there's an expectation for AB 617 to be the solution
for environmental challenges and even beyond air that have
existed for quite a long time. So there is a definite
need to provide clarification on, again, what are
organizational authorities by statute, and also how to be
able to make -- how to capture those best practices. I
think that is echoed throughout the People's Blueprint.

So that gets at also conflict resolution, that
that is really going to be, I think, the sticking point
not only within CSCs, but also as we continue with the
Consultation Group discussions, you know, how do we
resolve conflicts. Of course, the People's Blueprint
right now mentions that there are lots of conventional
ways of addressing air pollution that have not been
successful. But how we discuss and identify innovative
and creative sort of out-of-the-box ways to move forward,
that is going to require conflict resolution strategies to
be in place.

I think it's been echoed and it's been, I think,
repeated, or mentioned by air districts, over the time
that CARB developing sort of a best practice handbook that
can be -- that can capture, you know, all of the lessons
learned, so that we are not as partners, all of us
throughout the state, sort of separately identifying
lessons learned and best practices, but there should be a
uniform, you know, sort of statewide depository where
newer communities, as they come onboard, can see best
practices that should be echoed.

And areas I think for revision that are currently
in the blueprint, I think we have to address - and I think
Christine on this earlier - who is considered members
of -- or participants in -- in CSCs with regard to not
only the community members, environmental justice
organizations, but also perhaps, you know, with industry.
You know, that has been sort of a sticking point in many
of our communities. And to the extent that our rulemaking
processes outside of the CSC requires public comment and
input from industries, involving industries early on in
the process to develop a relationship with business
owners, you know, that there's an opportunity to shortcut
or condense, you know, a lot of the friction that may play
out in rulemaking processes, there's an opportunity there
to invite industry reps, that can -- that are contributing
to air burdens, to the table for good faith effort and
dialogue towards solutions. So that is one area that we would look to have the Blueprint be reconsidered or revisioned that -- that's outlined in the current People's Blueprint.

And I'm going to stop there, because I think we're -- I don't want to take away time from the other panelists.

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thank you, Kathryn.

Shall we go to Christine.

CHRISTINE WOLFE: Sure. And, yeah, I think there are a lot of really good suggestions in the Blueprint, particularly around the governance recommendations, which are extremely well thought out and definitely a missing piece in the original Blueprint that I think will help us all get through the process a little bit easier. And, you know, as Kathryn just mentioned, we'd certainly like to have the Blueprint consider how industry can be at the able. I know it's a lot to ask as community groups to build trust with industry. I know it's been hard on us with the regulators. But maybe we can work within the Consultation Group to determine what best practices for industry participation look like and incorporate those into the Blueprint revision.

The other thing that was mentioned in the
People's Blueprint I think in spirit, but that we really wanted to reemphasize is that quantitative and qualitative data should be treated as two sides of the same coin with neither being treated with greater or lesser importance. You know, lived experience should certainly guide -- you know, identify issues in communities. And monitoring data should underlie solution finding.

And I know that there might be occasions where solutions arise -- conflicts arise between those, and so we need to be bringing data to the table and sort of airing that out, so that we can have honest conversations about, you know, what solutions might look like, and then focusing implementation on measuring progress, so that we make sure that the solutions that are selected continue to reduce emissions and exposures over time.

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thanks, Christine.

PAULA TORRADO: Thank you. I think a lot was mentioned, but I think the most critical parts for the People's -- for the -- from the People's Blueprint that needs to be carried over it's the co-learning, the co-design piece around the -- also as part of the prep -- preparation and readiness. I think that's really important to what I was speaking to earlier my point
around letting communities come together first. I think that's really key to build trust and to just be part of the process.

And second is the participatory budgeting. I think that needs to be strengthened and ensuring that there are accountability layers around that, not just for the community steering committee, in terms of participation, but also on the side of their regulatory agencies and the districts on how the money is being spent. And I think it needs to be expanded in terms of what are the metrics and the evaluation, yeah, indicators around how the money is being spent to make sure that there's transparency in the process.

And then around that same piece of budgeting is maybe as we're looking into more participatory budgeting processes to ensure that that's also tied with emissions reductions. I know I'm getting back to the same point, but that's the goal of 617. So how do we require, and incentivize an implementation of funding that it can be allocated to the development of enforcement plans. So how do we require fees for permits and violations to be reinvested back directly to the impacted communities in coordination with the local steering committees. I think that's also part that can be strengthened in the participatory budgeting piece of the People's Blueprint.
that can be carried over in the Program Blueprint.

And then lastly, I guess I'll repeat myself in translating best practices, BACT and BARCT classifications, sector-based approach that can help streamline regulatory efforts all throughout different communities. I think that's something that needs to be highlighted and strengthened in the Program Blueprint.

Thank you.

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OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thank you.


JESSICA OLSON: Thank you. Participatory budgeting. I was going to say something similar, but I think it's -- it's important to understand that -- one of the things Gus and I talk about a lot is perception is everything. And so we as an air district have actually evolved. Every single CERP we've had now three years, three different kind of sets of CERPs we've developed. And we've changed each time how we involve the community in developing the incentives budget. And every time, we're -- you know, the community is participating, and they're driving and growing, but we're really -- we've been so intentional, especially this past CERP development process with Arvin-Lamont to try to drive to maybe a tool.

And we worked with the community co-leads. We
developed a tool that, even to Paula's point, is about community members individually on their own tool with assistance if they wanted it, but not assistance if they didn't want it, adjusting the budget for every single CERP measure, understanding how that affected emissions, understanding how that overall affects the CERP, building it really from the ground up with community. And so those are some of the best practices we've learned and we've evolved from. But I think with the Consultation Group and with the Blueprint, we really have an opportunity to all come to the table and try to understand what is the community's perception of participatory budgeting, because that's really the key is does the community feel like they're a part of that solution.

Similarly, just what all of my colleagues have said, training is important. And I think Kathryn said something similar about like a clearinghouse or a repository of best practice training that everyone -- maybe like a baseline. It's almost like a requirement that certain trainings have to be taken before starting this process.

And then finally, it's sort of been mentioned, but I'd just kind of elevate really understanding and making sure that the Blueprint has not just metrics that are both qualitative and quantitative, that we try to
flesh out a little bit more, but really a more consistent way that we report out metrics, even in reports -- even across the district our own CERPs, kind of talk a little bit about allocation and emissions reductions slightly different from CERP to CERP.

And certainly as you look across the state or even look at CARB resources, it's different. And it's something that CARB is working closely with us on. And I just want to elevate that I really do think the Blueprint should have a requirement that CERPs report out a very specific way, in terms of certainly qualitative -- or -- yeah, quantitative, but of course qualitative as well, and that the annual reports that come before you, we can look apples to apples from CERP to CERP. I'm not sure that's actually possible right now when you kind of look at the way that they're reported.

But I just want end by saying thank you to the Blueprint writers' group. It such an impressive document that they put together. I saw all of the different iterations. And just there's so many other lessons to elevate, that those were the three I wanted to highlight.

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thank you.

VERONICA EADY: Yeah, I -- I have two points here, maybe two and a half.
One is that it's really interesting to hear from my air district colleagues about just the evolution of how we implement the program and how our relationships with our community stakeholders have evolved. It's really exciting. And, you know, we're going through the same thing as we move the program community to community.

And to maybe Christine's point and Kathryn's in terms of how we involve industry. For Bay Area, it has really varied from community to community. So we have, you know, West Oakland, where industry is on the steering committee. We have Richmond where industry is on the steering committee, but they don't get any votes. It's varied from community to community. And I think it would be really helpful to capture that, so that other air districts, other regions, and steering committee members can share that and use it as a resource.

The one thing that I'm going to say and I'm going to echo Ms. Margaret, especially since you passed on it, is to talk about Title 6 and Federal Civil Rights Act. We are all as federal -- as recipients of federal funding required by law to -- or prohibited by law from implementing our programs in a way that creates a disparate impact. What a great way to open the new Blueprint 2.0. I mean, there's a reason why we need AB 617 and it's because of disparate impacts. And so I think
that this is a really good opportunity to kind of use Title 6 to frame the blueprint and what we're trying to achieve in the Blueprint, and then maybe kind of bookend it, because one thing that the Blueprint could do is create a checklist or questions that we should be asking to ensure that we're not violating Title 6. So kind of avoiding that back end getting a Title 6 complaint against us and creating the tools, so that we can ask the right questions and we don't need to get there.

So lot's of great comments from everybody else.

So I will just stop there.

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thank you.

Ms. Margaret, did you want to --

MARGARET GORDON: No. I'm going to yield to my other EJ people who haven't -- sitting here haven't spoke.

These are

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Oh, sure.

Well, they're going to have a different panel.

Okay. So we heard a lot about participatory budgeting. It's a big chapter. Governance chapter including conflict resolution. And one of the revisions that we heard about is industry participation and how it varies even within one district.

So, let's see. I think that is it. And Chair Randolph, I'm wondering if there are any questions you or
other Board members would like to ask.

CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Thank you very much. All right. My colleagues what questions for the panelists do you have?

Do you want to raise your hand or get my attention otherwise. I have -- I have a question, but other people can go first.


BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: You go.

(Laughter.)

CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. I think this is -- this is a question for the district representatives primarily, which gets to the question of how has the formal process of AB 617 and the existence of community steering committees changed the way districts interact with communities on non-CSC issues, right? I mean, is it -- has it informed how you do your work on a -- on a regular basis? And, of course, if any or panelists want to express some thoughts about it, I'm not saying only district, but I'm particularly interested in the district representatives.

KATHRYN HIGGINS: I can start.

VERONICA EADY: Oh, does Kathryn want to go first?

KATHRYN HIGGINS: Yes, I can start. So for South
Coast, it's definitely -- this process has definitely sort of expanded and enriched the relationship with community members. We have community liaisons with South Coast that are assigned to each of our community steering committees. And so beyond AB 617 matters or issues, that relationship has afforded them now the comfort level to just, you know, reach out either directory, be it phone calls, be it email to inquire about other air quality issues, be there nuisances in the community. That did not exist prior to AB 617. And so those are the types of things, the benefits from this program, that are essential, you know, to -- to the CSC process, and to the CAMP, and the CERP. It's the relationships that were not in place that normally would have come through perhaps our public affairs department or perhaps only in a rulemaking process.

But to the extent that our community members now know us in a more relational way and that the -- the needle of trust has at least moved a little bit, right, to be able to reach out and contact them. So that's a tremendous benefit of the program. That's what we're seeing here in South Coast.

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thanks, Kathryn.

Veronica.
VERONICA EADY: Sure. Yeah. One thing is that -- so we have this -- our steering committee in Richmond is a Brown Act steering committee. And so it's required us to comply with the Brown Act Law. And I don't want to say that it was an outgrowth of Richmond, because I think that, you know, Jack Broadbent, our former APCO had been thinking about this, but we did create a community advisory council. And it's a Brown Act committee that functions very similar to the way our Board functions and it's across the nine Bay Area counties.

Ms. Margaret is one of the co-chairs. And it's been -- I have to say my -- my colleagues have been really anxious and eager to get their questions about environmental justice and equity to the CAC, so that they can learn from the CAC. And so that's one thing that I -- I have to say that I feel like AB 617 sort of accelerated the creation of that body.

The other thing that I will say is that it has made our Enforcement Division very, very popular. Everybody wants to know about enforcement in their communities. And one of our CAC members is talking about changing how we do enforcement, so it's not just based on complaints and then that's the end of community involvement, but really to make enforcement a collaborative process.
And hopefully -- hopefully I'm teeing up Todd Sax for later --

(Laughter.)

VERONICA EADY: -- so that I can steal some of his techniques.

But anyway, those are couple of things coming out of AB 617.

JESSICA OLSON: I'll add just strictly process-wise at the air district, and it's really with the resources we've added, we've expanded our internal bilingual team. We have, just in our outreach team alone that interacts of course with 617 and all of the various meetings and subcommittee meetings we have, have six bilingual representatives who have just very close relationships with the community members we regularly interact with on the committees. But that has certainly expanded now that we have those resources to anyone that calls and interacts with us. Any events that we go out and do, we just have more resources to kind of start from that equity standpoint from folks that don't maybe normally have access to some of the materials or some of the interactions that folks who can speak English might have with the District.

In addition to that, we've just had so many more opportunities through our regular rulemaking and
enforcement processes to include communities and just more
contacts with community groups that we've met through this
process, that work in more than just 617 communities.
Every community group that's sitting up here I know, you
know, does that. And so just those connections that we've
built, and those relationships, and some of them, you
know, took years in the making to build that trust have
allowed us to leverage their existing resources and work
in those communities as well.

CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. Thank you.

Board Member Takvorian.

BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Thank you, Chair.

I knew that you should go first, because that was
a great question --
(Laughter.)

BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: -- and really responded
to some of the things I was thinking about. It's so great
to see all of you here and thank you so much for all the
work that you're doing today and that you've done some of
you for decades. So really, really appreciate that.

And I also want to say thank you to whoever
thought about putting these two items on today's agenda,
because they fit so perfectly together that we're talking
courageously about structural and institutional racism as
it applies for CARB staff, for our EJ communities. And
within the 617 program, it's really the challenge of our lives of -- you know, of so many lives.

So I think it's really important. And what I'm observing is that you're talking about changing the culture of the operations of the districts really. And what I loved about the question that you just asked and the responses is that there's real progress in -- in that regard and that there's things that are happening that never happened before. And so it seems like that's a good path for us to be on.

The question that I'm also hearing, however, is where is the real change? And while it's great for everyone to be talking with each other more directly to be building trust, as we should have been doing for all these years had we not been struggling with these institutional challenges and barriers, okay, we're doing it now. But 617, in my view, shouldn't be a special program. It shouldn't be transitory. It should be based into the districts' operations, into CARB's operations.

And what worries me is that we're still talking about 617 as a program as communities. That's not what's happening here. I mean, this has been decades in the making. So how do we -- how do we bake it in? And to me hearing what you've all said -- and I'm -- you can tell me if I'm not hearing this correctly, but what I would
interpret is when we talk about participatory budgeting, for instance - Gustavo, I know you talked about that and Veronica you did too - to me it has to be participatory budgeting for the entire district budget.

I mean, the incentives program and the 617 programs are a part of that. But if we don't change how the districts operate and change what the priorities are, then that's just going to keep being this piece that is -- is great, but it doesn't -- but we don't have it across all EJ communities across the state either. So we really need to think about where the priorities are and where the money goes, and not just in this one box. It's the whole box. It's the box of the district and it's box of the State of California and CARB, I think.

And I think the other thing that you, Veronica, said, and that actually I had notes from that seminar or that convening that happened in September and Cristina Garcia said the same thing, the district rules have to change. And I think Ms. Margaret said it that it's not -- it's the district rules, it's the city's rules, it's the county's rules. All of this integration that we're doing in the CERPs, we have to get some authority around that, so that we can't make these bad land use decisions that perpetuate illness and death in our communities.

And then the last thing I guess I want to say is
I feel like the -- if we -- if we don't really look at the ways in which these changes -- well, I think it's related to, Gustavo, what you said about what are the commonalities across the communities, and is that -- CARB's -- my question is is that CARB's responsibility then to look at where those commonalities are and should we be struggling with those on a district-by-district basis or should we be lifting those up to CARB and -- or to the Legislature to say, okay, these are things that are affecting lots of communities. And so how do we deal with those rather than leaving them -- just thrusting them all on communities?

So there's some questions in there as well as some opinion, but would love your thoughts on that -- on any of that.

GUSTAVO AGUIRRE, JR.: This is -- I'd like to quickly reply. Yeah, I think like you said it at the very beginning like this changing of culture, right? I think my very first interaction with the air district were 2013 and '14. And man, like it left a very sour taste in my mouth, you know, like those very early on interactions. Now, they're very different. Like I could -- I could sit here and tell you guys that they're very different now, right, just in the nature of the people that work there, the leadership that has changed. There's been tons of
changes, right?

And so there has been, you know, these baby steps in the air district to change it like totally shift the culture on how they address the responsibility to the community, right? When we -- our organization, along with many other organizations here in the state, operate community based reporting platforms. So we have like a direct nexus to community members and their disconnect with regulatory agencies, right? And so we serve as this -- as this broker, if you will, between communities and regulatory agencies.

And when we first started doing these reports, environmental justice reports to the district, it was more along the lines of like, well, you know, how do you know what that smell is associated to or like are -- you know, are you an engineer, or like how do you have access to, you know, air sampling information? Now, it's pretty much like, oh, okay, you know, thank you for the report. We'll be out there, you know. And oftentimes, it's a very quick response time, right, versus, you know, eight years ago.

And so I think there has -- and I think AB 617 has accelerated that kind of notion of building relationship and capacity between the air districts, and not only like environmental justice organizations, but community leaders, right? Like community leaders are very
like you see them, you know them, right? You feel kind of their energy. And the air district has taken upon that to build relationship with those community leaders, right? And so there's that shift of difference that we see.

BOARD MEMBER KRACOV: That's why we put you between the two districts.

(Laughter.)

GUSTAVO AGUIRRE, JR.: Right. And they think like this -- this other approach of -- this other part of the conversation of like a region by region or district by district approach versus a statewide, I think it would be more -- yeah, I do think the air districts do need to take a very purposeful like insight of like, okay, this is what our people are telling us, right, the people that we represent. But then also it is the responsibility of the State to then step up, right, and say okay, this is what -- this is the commonality we're seeing of all the CERPs that we've approved, right?

And so I do think it's a -- like a two tier approach, right. Like the air districts do need to take their responsibility and the State also does need to take their responsibility and kind of aggregating all those. And then not only aggregating it, but then messaging that and visualizing that for residents and then making those -- ultimately, making those changes in their
program.

CHAIR RANDOLPH: Any other questions for Board members.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner.

BOARD MEMBER PACHECO-WERNER: Yeah. Thank you. And just thank you for all of your input. I want to bring it back to the very first comment during the introductions about trust building as part of this reset. And I know that some of the things will probably end up in the Blueprint, you know, hopefully in some of the documents around the reset.

But, you know, if you could just from your experience -- and I know you'd -- some of you identified concrete things like, you know, having a place for conflict resolution. But what is one strategy that you really see for us really needing to employ to work on that trust building? And I think about it in the context of the actors that -- that are on these bodies right, the air districts, the community members, CARB, and industry. If you have one strategy that you'd like to offer, I think that would be really helpful for me in trying to understand how to help move forward, you know, your suggestions as well.

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Jess, was that --
JESSICA OLSON: I was, but I already spoke. So if someone wants go first, I will defer to them. And I'm happy to -- okay.

GUSTAVO AGUIRRE, JR.: Go.

JESSICA OLSON: Okay. All right. Well, thank you. I don't know if I can point to one Dr. Pacheco-Werner. For us, a couple of things have been really successful. One is that we've -- my team is actually a relatively new team. We just established it about a year ago. We sort of evolved in how we approached 617. And so the Community Strategies and Resources team is small but might.

But really a lot of the work done on our teams are across the different types of groups that some of the incentive folks have different relationships with the communities. Some of the outreach folks that I mentioned earlier do. And so really trying to connect with community members and find the folks at the district who are those connections. It's not always, you know, getting just one email from our main email person. And that's the way we connect with community, but it's -- you know what, I talked with this one person the other day. You know what, I gave her my cell phone number. I'm texting with her. I'm offering help. I'm calling members and saying did you get that email? Would you like me to walk you
through that?

We do that every single day for all 100 and plus community members, particularly for our resident members. And so we've found -- it took time and we've found that that's helped us build trust certainly. And then I think, too, offering other ways to connect with us. Some folks maybe that trust isn't directly there or that comfort level isn't there, so we call our co-leads and we ask them what residents are saying. We -- our facilitators have offered to be sort of the conduit.

And so as long as the communication is happening, we're okay with them, you know, not being comfortable. We just want to make sure that they have a comfortable space that they can share. And offering kind of just different opportunities for that has been really successful for us.

VERONICA EADY: I'll just add something that popped into my head. On occasion, there is -- it's really important for our board members to step in and give us support. And so, for example, there was a community that is not one of our AB 617 communities, but it's a high-priority community. We hope to nominate it at some point. And there was a lot of disagreement in the community about who is the community, and who leads the communities? And we sort of stuck our foot in that. And a particular group told us that they didn't want to work
with us any more. They were taking a break from us. They
didn't want to have anything to do with AB 617.

And as you can imagine, we were devastated.
There was really no path forward. And then in briefing
one of our Board members, he said let me take care of
that. And the next thing I new, I had a meeting with
this -- with this group that we really wanted to work
with. And so he was amazingly effective, but the other
thing that I'll say kind of related to that is that in
order to work with this community, we really were forced
to hang up our previous models in the other communities.

Our community engagement team had been leading AB
617, that team and our Planning and Climate team, and they
said we don't want to work with you. We want to work with
enforcement. And another big shocker, because there's a
lot that goes into AB 617 that is -- enforcement is key,
but there's a lot that goes into building structures and
figuring out how meetings are going to run.

And so we've really had to be on our toes. We've
had to be really flexible. They then said that they would
work with one person who was not in enforcement who had
been helping us in some of the other communities. So, so
far, we're on this path to reconciliation. We're not a
hundred percent there yet, but our Board member played a
really critical role. And I think that -- I'm not sure
how the other air districts work, but I just want to put that out there for the districts and for -- and community folks that, you know, there -- there is this role that could be really key.

BOARD MEMBER BALMES: I bet I know the community.

(Laughter.)

CHAIR RANDOLPH: So, Kathryn, go ahead.

BOARD MEMBER KRACOV: Kathryn, please make no comments on us South Coast Board members, okay?

(Laughter.)

KATHRYN HIGGINS: Okay. I'll strike that one.

One of the things that has not been mentioned, a specific challenge that we dealt with in South Coast is COVID-19. Our newest community, you know, South Los Angeles, we started -- we initiated the entire process while we were, you know, going through restrictions with COVID-19.

So that has presented challenges that we haven't otherwise had with our other five communities. The vast majority of community members we have never seen. There are staff members who've been onboarded at our agency and we've never seen them in person. Yet, we have had the highest numbers of attendees recently across all communities. And I would say with either -- with the South Los Angeles community, because of staff putting
forth a tremendous effort to reach out and maintain contact with our community members through whatever tools that we have, be there phone calls, phone banking on the part of our co-leads, phone banking with staff.

We recently had a couple of virtual office hours for community members just to come in, hop on, ask us questions, dialogue, in an environment that is, you know, comfortable, relatively speaking. It's still virtual, but comfortable. We also have had a couple of in-person meet and greets to be able to, you know, make ourselves available just to see, you know, and have a face-to-face interaction. We appreciate that the last one that we had that CARB staff joined us. So thankful for having them to come and participate.

Another thing I'd like to echo is in terms of doing things in a way that is prompting relationship building is looking through the lens of good intentions. And that's something that I think if it were to be practiced by community members, by air district, and that would kind of take away the level of defensiveness and kind of the distrust that automatically is part of this program, that we have to go through, you know, in order to even start building the programs and educating.

So that's fundamental I think and something that we've embraced and thinking that it's playing out in South
Coast. Also, just in terms of showing real support to move the needle forward is looking at legislative actions that are in place. You know, we've got -- there is two Assembly bills that directly tie to this program, one is AB -- Assembly Bill 2141 authored by Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia. And that creates -- aiming to create some sustainable funding for the program. And that's really been at the heart, you know, part of the challenge of the program. Also, Assembly Bill 1749, which extends the time -- proposing to extend the time frame from one to two years. So those are the sort of, you know, real concrete changes that we need to, you know, look at and support. So hopefully those bills are successful.

And then lastly, I'll say making a commitment to adjust expectations, as we learn. That is really where the opportunity for growth, relationship building takes place, because while we all want to and need to track the accomplishments in terms of emissions reductions for the program, really this is -- we're dealing with people. This is the first time we are require -- we're coming together, you know, air agencies, and other regulatory representatives with community members. So it's -- it's a learning experience. And so we just to adjust expectations as we learn. And that is really going to be fundamental to the success of the entire program.
MARGARET GORDON: Oh. I can give an example for West Oakland Environmental Indicators how we developed a partnership agreement with Bay Area Air Quality before there was AB 617. Our first realistic project that we done with the Air District engineering staff was to do a truck count survey. And they supported us in shaping, framing, and structuring the count -- the counting of the trucks. They supported us being out on the street with us, counting these trucks. And then when the document was being wrote about, we participated in wordsmithing it, putting our stories in what happened there.

So the -- one of the key things that has made West Oakland Environmental Indicators really stay engaged with Bay Area Air Quality, that we have all these years, because we've been having back and forth with Bay Area Air Quality before like I said before AB 617, that we had a lot of interaction, a lot of interaction on different types of events, initiatives, planning, processes, especially around the port, the maritime and -- the maritime air improvement plan. We did another thing with the port around the air filtration of trucks and the air district they supported us.

Then we did a process with them around what was community engagement. When the city and the port refused to sit with us that we had to file a Title 6 complaint
against the city and the port. So we have done those things with those -- those type of events to build the trust and relationships as an organ -- as a community-based organization.

And then when we started doing our citizen science, they were our participant in our process also. So one of the things that really needs to happen is how do you achieve -- achieve that trust and -- trust and those relationships by doing projects together and being in co-leadership with the process. Not you do as I say do, no. We will -- we will brainstorm together. We will shape it, frame it, and structure it in such a way that it made room at the table for everybody to facilitate the process to get the information. So that's -- you know, that's something that we've done. And also when we did our truck route, we implemented our truck route with the City of Oakland, Bay Area Air Quality was sitting at the table with us.

So you have to start -- you know, again it's like Gus just said, you have to take these baby steps. And some people are fearful of taking baby steps with community. I mean, some of us really -- yeah, some of us done want to work with you all -- work with the District, but sometimes if you have the right people of being supportive of the things that the community wants, you can
get the right outcome.

CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you.

I think we should probably move on to our next panel, because we have the opportunity to talk about a lot of other great issues under this -- the -- under -- I'm not going to call it this program. I was about to call it this program.

(Laughter.)

CHAIR RANDOLPH: So -- so Liliana, I'll kick it back to you.

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thank you so much to the panel for their valuable perspectives and the Board members for their thoughtful questions.

Actually -- okay. Got it. All right.

So this discussion today and future discussions with the entire consultation group will undoubtedly assist CARB staff's development of the Blueprint 2.0 through a meaningful process that centers environmental justice and equity. So I'll now hand it over to my colleague Julia Luongo to walk us through what we've -- we have ahead in the Program Blueprint revision process.

Julia.

CHAIR RANDOLPH: And if I could just take a moment to thank so much the panelists that were on this first panel. I mean, it was -- it was a great discussion.
(Applause)

CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Julia.

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST LUONGO: Thank you.

Thanks, Liliana. Thank you, panel.

And I'll just give it a second for the presentation to come up.

(Thereupon a slide presentation.)

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST LUONGO: Great.

So we first want to touch on all the elements influencing the next version of the Blueprint, what we're calling Blueprint 2.0 and what CARB is striving for in this next version. As we just heard from our panel, the People's Blueprint puts forth numerous lessons and recommendations for incorporating equity into the next blueprint. We also have a number of other inputs into the next Blueprint including from the Consultation Group from public engagement, from our Board, from lessons learned across the program, and from community and air district partners, as well as the racial equity assessment lens in development that was discussed earlier in today's Board meeting.

We've also heard that the next Blueprint should be concise, written in plain language, and structured in a way that helps users easily find, understand, and use information about protecting air quality in their
community. We hope that the Blueprint becomes a
step-by-step guide that is relied on by all those engaged
in this program

Now, let's review the time for development of
Blueprint 2.0

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OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST LUONGO: The
Consultation Group is currently in the process of
collectively reviewing the People's Blueprint and is
expected to complete their review this summer. We've also
opened a docket to receive public comment on the People's
Blueprint. So we encourage folks to submit comments to
share their thoughts with us.

These reflections on the People's Blueprint are
an important input into the Blueprint revision process.
In a moment, we will share our draft outline of the
Blueprint 2.0.

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OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST LUONGO: This draft
has also been posted on our website. This outline is a
starting point and guide for the discussions we will
engage in this summer. Later this summer, CARB will
engage with community partners, air districts, business,
and other State and local agencies to learn what is and is
not working about the current Blueprint document.
In the fall, we will host facilitated engagement opportunities focused on how the program can be reimagined to support more communities. This is reimagining is what we are calling program reset.

By winter, CARB expects to have released the draft Blueprint 2.0 and we will host workshops and encourage public comment on that draft document. Based on those comments, we will revise Blueprint 2.0 in spring 2023 and get it ready for finalizing by performing a CEQA analysis and working on document accessibility and translation.

We expect to post a final draft in summer of 2023 and will have the Board action on the Blueprint 2.0 before September 2023, the deadline by law to update the statewide strategy. We understand that this is a long process ahead, but we want to start early and use our time wisely to achieve robust public engagement throughout the entire process, incorporate equity, and build consensus and coalition around possibly new concepts for how this program could be implemented to benefit more communities statewide.

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OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST LUONGO: Here, we present a draft blueprint -- a draft outline of Blueprint 2.0. This outline is intended to provide an initial high
level guide of topics for ongoing discussion and public engagement throughout the Blueprint revision process. We are only providing the highest level of section heading, because much of this content will be shaped and informed by engagement opportunities later this year.

However, we want this outline to give structure to those conversations and to signal our intent to make this next version clearer and in plain language, so that someone viewing this outline would know which section contains the information they're looking for.

We strive to meet the call set forth in the People's Blueprint that states quote, "Bottom line, information must be community friendly.

There are a number of concepts from the People's Blueprint that are reflected in this outline. As we heard in the Board item earlier today, we are committed to operationalizing equity and environmental justice. And we see it as the guiding principle of this program, and therefore we aim to set that foundation at the start of the document.

We wish to highlight opportunities for participatory budgeting, as well as readiness, and capacity building guidance for engaging in this program. We also wish to highlight examples and models of partnerships, co-leaderships, and meaningful engagement,
and additional guidance on steering committee membership and governance including charters and conflict resolution.

We also wish to include information on building the technical capacity to engage in emission reduction and planning as well as guidance on tracking results to support effective implementation. These are just some of the many concepts in the People's Blueprint that are reflected in the outline, and that we believe have a place in Blueprint 2.0.

The People's Blueprint is focused on the current implementation model of community selection and air district convened steering committees. But as we will discuss in the following slides, we have a need to reimagine our implementation model to deliver benefits to more communities given flat funding for implementation.

Our hope is that by documenting Blueprint 2.0 in the style of a step-by-step guide, we can bring more clarity to elements of the program available to not formally selected communities and flexibility for incorporation of new approaches identified during our public engagement on the Blueprint revision.

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OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST LUONGO: BY now, you've heard us use the word "reset" a number of times. But what is program reset and why are we doing it?
We heard earlier in the presentation a reminder of the goal of AB 617, quote, "to reduce emissions of toxic air contaminants and criteria air pollutants in communities affected by a high cumulative exposure burden".

We have learned in these first four years of implementing the program that the community steering committee model is resource intensive and that flat funding is not allowing for the program's benefits to reach many eligible communities. By resetting the program and considering new or updated implementation approaches through the process of rewriting the program's guidance document, the Program Blueprint, we have an opportunity to rethink how we can better deliver on the promise of AB 617. And that accountability is built into the law through the requirement to update the statewide strategy every five years. This is our opportunity to take lessons learned, success, challenges, and insights from everyone involved in the program to improve its implementation for the next five years.

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OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST LUONGO: We recognize though that we have made 11-year commitments to our 17 currently selected communities in the program. We and air districts are committed to ensure the
implementation of the strategies in those CERPs. That will not change. The level of investment we are seeing in many of the communities that are implementing their strategies is impressive and we will continue to keep learning from those 17 communities. That learning will feed into improving our program and finding solutions to model across the state.

And as resources allow if some air districts wish to continue to add more air district convened steering committees, we support that. However, because of resource limitations, we are also committed to identifying new ways to support more communities in this program and to working together to reimagine what that looks like and documenting that in Blueprint 2.0.

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OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST LUONGO: As we mentioned in the timeline slide, we will use the rest of this year for engagement with all stakeholders to find new ways and models to support more communities in this program as we draft the update to the Blueprint.

To get that conversation started, we wanted to share some initial ideas for delivering benefits in different ways than through the current model. Those ideas include community air grants, community focused enforcement, and the use of statewide incentive programs.
OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST LUONGO: The first idea involves AB 617 community air grants. These grants fund projects that provide support for California community based organizations and tribes. Their purpose is to fund community driven efforts to reduce exposure in communities most impacted by air pollution.

Grantees do not have to be located solely in a formally selected AB 617 community. Rather, these grants fund projects in disadvantaged communities throughout the state.

These grants can help awardees deepen their participation in the AB 617 process, as well as build capacity within communities to become active partners to identify, evaluate, and ultimately reduce air pollution and exposure to harmful emissions in their communities.

Through AB 617, communities around the state are working together to develop and implement new strategies to measure air pollution and reduce health impacts. While this is currently implemented through formal selection and the air district convened community steering committee model, community air grants provide the opportunity to do this work in a new way, to support community partnerships in development of emission reduction strategies with CARB and air districts as partners and implementers.
And we are already seeing this model in motion.

So now, I'd like to invite Kevin Hamilton from Central California Asthma Collaborative to share the exciting work that he and other valley-based coalitions are doing in the San Joaquin Valley.

Kevin.

KEVIN HAMILTON: Thank you.

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KEVIN HAMILTON: And good afternoon members of the Board, Chair Randolph. A couple of comments. And again, thank you for inviting me to be here tonight. It seems like a tradition to come to Riverside for me too once a year, otherwise I would never come here. So I appreciate that opportunity and I get to learn a lot more about the community. And today I had lunch at a awesome barbecue restaurant that's right next to our hotel. So thank you for that as well. It was awesome. Great greens. Oh, my God. Thank you. So -- and catfish to die for. Just letting you know. Well, we're eating the same food. Seriously.

Anyway, moving on from the menu.

A couple of comments specific to this -- I hear you, brother.

(Laughter.)

KEVIN HAMILTON: -- this conversation -- I
actually hear you too -- that, you know, starting with the word reset, that in my world at least and, you know, I've been at it quite a while now, reset is very sudden and startling and can be used to great effect to get rid of all the problems, and then, you know, you kind of start from scratch again, which is very cool. I love to reset my phone now and then to give it a break, let it kind of get rid of the trash I've left in there or mistakes I've made.

I'm more of a fan of evolution, to be quite honest with you. You know, being a man of science and medicine, for me, evolution, you know, is a response to a failure to adapt to a changing environment, right? It can be slow and it can be dramatic as well. It offers you options. You know, given the conversation this afternoon, I feel like there is a lot of good stuff that has been developing. And a reset for me would -- would be because none of it existed before 617. So where is that reset? Reset is always to a point though, right? You're resetting to a date, to a something, or you're resetting it all.

So I think it's important that we intentionally decide if it's a reset, what's that date? What is it that we're getting rid of, because now it's gone. Once you reset things, it's really hard to get them back. They
went away with the reset, right?

So there's almost nothing that's happened in this process. And I've been in it since day one, including working on the original legislation. I sit on the Fresno steering committee. I am an alternate on both Shafter and Arvin-Lamont, and I consult for the EJ members of the Stockton CSC. So I think I know this process pretty well inside and out. And there is nothing that I would just casually throw away. There are many things that I would like to evolve and we are and are evolving.

And I am shocked by the pace of that evolution at times. It's not everything we want yet, but it's sure moving finally in the right direction. It took some time. Four years ago at this time, I was sitting in front of an Assembly Committee arguing about boundaries for the very first three communities chosen. That's not very long in my world and look where we are today, seventeen communities.

And our Air District, I don't know about others, but for the last two, they've gone in four, five, six months ahead of time to those communities to start to have that boundary discussion prior to starting meetings and building the CSC. That would have never happened before. So is everything all great, peaches and cream, or whatever kind of dessert you like, no, but we're certainly starting
to get to the entrée now.

This food thing keeps creeping in. You notice that.

(Laughter.)

KEVIN HAMILTON: It's been a long time since lunch for all of us, right?

So the other thing I want to make sure that I mentioned before we go into this is I want to give credit to people who won't be directly mentioned in here, and that's Tom Helme from Valley Improvement Projects, Baldwin Moy from Madera Coalition for Justice and Community -- for Community Coalition for Justice, El Quinto Sol De America, and especially recognizing one of my heroes Isabel Arroyo, who was taken from us way too soon here just a couple of weeks ago, a devastating blow to the Eastern Tulare County efforts in this area. And thanking Central California Environmental Justice Network for picking up the flag there and keeping it going and helping them to get back on their feet again to jump back in.

Can we -- we have our first part of the slide show here. So way back in 2016, you see the highlighted organizations there. We decided to get together and stop being pushed around and used as a parachuting point for universities and others and form the San Joaquin Valley environmental justice -- or San Joaquin Valley
environmental steering committee. So -- I keep saying that. I'm so sorry. So the EJ collaborative. I'm so excited about the steering committee, I can't wait to get to that point.

So that collaborative is CCEJN and Central Valley Air Quality Coalition. Gustavo, as you know, is part of CCEJN. The idea again was that we would work together to better our valley. We were three of only four organizations in the valley that actually works in all eight counties.

So and we would meet with and work with our fellow community based organizations and sister organizations across the valley to bring us all together around the various issues that we feel are critical. So after forming the collaborative, we began convening regular meetings of EJ organizations across the valley to ensure the advantages brought by AB 617.

Well, that's interesting. Has somebody got a hearing aid or -- ah, the door.

VICE CHAIR BERG: Well, we apologize. We're getting used to the alarm system.

KEVIN HAMILTON: Not a problem, Sandy.

VICE CHAIR BERG: So sorry, Kevin.

KEVIN HAMILTON: We're all learning every minute, right?
And I realized the available -- these great assets that we're being -- become available to low-income and disadvantaged communities in the San Joaquin Valley.

So the Collaborative actually wrote the very first AB 617 community air grant, but that was to the Air District, and that was to -- to work with these CBO partners to hold meetings in all eight -- eight counties with the district to decide how to spend the Carl Moyer AQIP funding, which was where the first tranche of money for AB 617 went, and demonstrate that, in fact, community residents were interested in that and they had really good ideas about how that should happen and where that money should be spent. And many of those ideas were translated into actual investments in those communities in reducing ICE-powered vehicles and stationary sources. So pretty cool stuff.

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KEVIN HAMILTON: Ah, there we go. So as I mentioned, the Collaborative has participated in and supported residents in each of the four CAPP communities in the San Joaquin Valley and we work closely with the Air District and CARB to ensure that resident voices are included in the air monitoring and emission reduction plans and that the CERP strategies identified by the CSC and approved by CARB are actually implemented.
And so again, this has been a long path. I really feel it illustrated how different each community can be and the knowledge that lies in these communities. And the difficult part is how do we surface that knowledge and then actualize it. And I think that's the process that has, if nothing else, slowed this thing down.

The second thing that slowed it down significant is money. Now, is it a flat budget. We're here learning that, in fact, the money and the way that it's set up to run is overemphasized in some ways, and that will be clear here soon. However, when the money comes out, the fighting starts, right? And so unintentionally, that's -- that's been happening. And it also limits decision-making. So you feel like I only have enough money to do those things, because I'm only looking at the 617 money, instead of looking at all the incentives and all the money that's available to do this kind of work in these -- all of our communities, not just these communities.

So taken all -- but again, I think it was brought up by Board Member Takvorian how -- what a surprise that you said that.

(Laughter.)

KEVIN HAMILTON: You saw me just smiling when you said, wow, the way districts budget all of their money,
CARB budgets its money, should become a participatory process with the communities that money will be spent in. Now, that of course would bring industry to the table, because they'll be affected as well, but that approach is very different than the one that happens right now, where small groups of people make really big decisions about a huge amount of money and most of those are located in the Legislature and not on this Board, by the way, just saying.

So the next -- next slide, please.

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KEVIN HAMILTON: Sorry. I should be letting you know.

So unfortunately, the AB 617 community selection process - and bear with me, I'm using technology to read notes for the first time ever, so -- while well intended is cumbersome and unintentionally pits communities, and in some cases, community based organizations who advocate for these communities against one another.

And in an effort to expand 617 to communities that were not selected for CAPP, the collaborative created community steering committees in three disadvantaged communities, in Stanislaus, Madera, and Tulare counties. The collaborative and its local CBO partners then followed a process similar to CAPP CSCs that included education
about air pollution sources, input from CSC members about
local air pollution concerns, identifying locations in the
community to set up air monitors, and developing
culturally appropriate outreach materials to inform
broader -- the broader community, and finally identifying
in this next phase, local mitigation strategies and
working with the Air District to implement an informal
CERP.

So it's a big job. We started on this work with
the very first CAG grant, where we created what you saw in
that first list a new group of people, which is the San
Joaquin Valley AB 617 environmental justice steering
committee. That group represents 17 community-based
organizations that either work in or as part of the valley
and they meet every month for four years since then.

Come on now. There we go.

So -- next slide, please.

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KEVIN HAMILTON: So we needed to develop and
implement the CERPs, right, that are informed by these
local strategies. So in this next process, the
Collaborative will facilitate and review, as we move into
these three communities by the bay -- and let me say a
couple things about these communities. Stanislaus County,
where Valley Improvement Projects was our community-based
and is our community-based partner there. This is a group that they work with. These are communities that they organize. We started with South Modesto only. That has now stretched to Grayson, Crows Landing, Ceres, Turlock, and Newman.

What happened was the word got out, And as soon as the word got out that this was a meeting that community residents could join from anywhere in the area - and how did that get out, by the way - we started putting air monitors on the ground and asking people if we could put a PM2.5 monitor in their community center, or at their home, or at their school. And word got out and people started asking questions.

And the next thing you know, Tom had a group of 30 people in the room who represented many of these small more isolated communities, some large, some small. So people are interested. And what we were excited about is, wow, we're not just doing one community now, now we're doing a region of a county, right, a significant slice of that county with a number of small communities.

So our task there again in Madera was the same. And it's a smaller place, so not as many communities. But again, MCCJ has been working there for almost 35 years. So they had these relationships and they do bring these community members, including members from La Vina into
that conversation.

And so, again as you heard, some of these communities don't see air pollution as their principle problem, but they were interested in, wow, could I get somebody to actually monitor what I think is the problem in my community, like pesticides. That resulted in us working with CARB here recently to submit, and I don't know if we got the money or not - you could tell me - a project where we would actually participate with them to put monitors on the ground to monitor pesticides and VOCs in La Vina, and see, you know, if we can learn anything, because the one thing that came through in all of this is people want to know. So where can they go to get information about what the partic -- especially particulate matter, which is probably the most threatening and the most local of all pollutions, right. PM2.5 is a local phenomenon. Ozone can be very regional. It's unusual for PM2.5, unless it's a wildfire, to get more regional. And if it -- even if it is, because of the way it moves, it comes and then it goes. Whereas local PM emitted from a stack that's operating every day is there every day. So that's the difference.

And so we felt like, well, how do we learn this? We start deploying air monitors. And through our CAG grants, we were able to buy about 80 of them and start
residents telling us where they wanted them to go. We put them there, hook them up to WiFi, and create a network that you'll see at the end of this slide show.

We had a lot of help there. Some folks from up in Berkeley, the Air District who actually gave us 20 more monitors, and then allowed, along with CARB, to collate -- co-locate those monitors at the regulatory sites, so we could calibrate ours, and then we calibrated our own, because we can do that. We have the skill set in our shop. And it was interesting to us that the Air District still could not calibrate its own monitors. It's not a slam. It just is a fact. And so because that's not their role, right?

So once we have the information -- and those monitors have been on the ground for a year and a half now, now we're at this point where I can say this, that we'll facilitate the review of mitigation strategies adopted by the CAPP CSCs to identify relevant options and modify them as needed to address local air pollution issues.

However because these CERPs that we're going now are created outside the formal 617 process, they lack the funding available for the CAPP communities, and therefore must take advantage of the existing incentive programs and enforcement of existing regulations and develop
partnerships -- their own partnerships with local, regional and other agencies to identify and leverage existing assets. The CSC will also -- these CSCs will also identify community-based solutions to address local air pollution concerns in partnership with local CBOs, business, schools, and other stakeholders.

What's the Air District doing here?

Well, the Air District has agreed to work collaboratively with the CSCs. Now, I did not say they'd come in and say we're going to set up a steering, did I. I said the steering committee is already there. It's already been operating. They lead this process from day one. So now, the Air District is invited in and CARB is invited in as a partner in this process, not as -- and -- and unfortunately, whether we all like it or not, when an agency steps in the room, especially at the beginning, it's automatically seen as the boss or as somebody with power. So we're trying to avoid that as much as possible, and, you know, put that into the community's hands, that they're your guest, so you can kick them out really if you don't want them to be here, and we can still figure out how to move this thing forward. And we think that that's a critical piece.

So the district APCO has agreed to work collaboratively with these CSCs and CARB I know has as
well - I'm sorry. I didn't get it in here - to ensure relevant incentive resources and available funding are identified and then made available to these CERPs to move on to an implementation phase.

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KEVIN HAMILTON: So moving on to the next slide. One of the things that we had to create that didn't exist was an air monitoring network. So we created SJVAir.com. So SJVAir.com holds all of the PurpleAir monitors in the valley, all of the regulatory monitors in the valley as well, and a couple of other monitors that we were able to get APIs for and put in there.

As you can see, it pretty much covers the valley, but it still has huge gaps in it, not as many gaps as the regulatory system does, but it's -- it's petty well locked in, especially along the 99, which, of course, is one of the major sources of particulate pollution.

So setting that up was no mean feat. Taking care of it is no mean feat either, I can tell you. So we've been doing that now for almost three years, since we started setting it up. And these monitors are everywhere. But the point is they are in these neighborhoods, where people want them to be. What have we learned from that? We should have put the monitors up first. We spent a lot of time educating people about air pollution and air pollution.
pollution sources, but the first thing they wanted to know is, well, how much of it is around me? And the reality is, I can't answer that question. I can give you a -- you, know the really well intentioned real-time air advisory network, but that monitor may be 30 miles away from you. And if that PM source is two blocks away, that PM is never going to reach that monitor there. We know that. I mean, that's just the way physics works, right?

So we need to give you something that you can look at and at least get it, as a reference, and say, well, it looks like this one is high right here. Air District, can you come in and check that for us? And that's what they've agreed to do. So we think that's the way to go.

We've even went one step further, because we realized again that these monitors need to be there first in our -- our second CAG grant, we also got money to buy a beta attenuation monitor or BAM, right? So we're working with -- worked with Delano Union School District to put it at one of their schools and then surround it with a network of 10 PurpleAir monitors and then treat that as the calibration point. And again, that was calibrated with CARB's monies actually and continues. And now we have calibration algorithms for year round in the valley that no one else has that are local in nature and that are
automatically calibrating this monitoring system as it
moves through.

We pulled out some of those. We have a slide
show on that, if you're ever interested in seeing it, but
we agreed that some of those slides might be really
technical for this particular meeting, so we theft them
out, but we're happy to demonstrate how -- how strong that
data is. We're not claiming that it's regulatory level,
but it will pattern right on top of it, I guarantee you
that.

So this is something that residents can look at
and take with them when they call and say this is a
problem. Why am I seeing this monitor by my school do
this? We liked it so much that we're replicating it in
our CAG 3 technical grant - there's a lot of acronyms and
things here - that we'll put another one of these monitors
at Los Banos Union School District.

Now, the interesting thing there is Los Banos
heard about us, reached out to us and said can I get one
of those? And we said absolutely. So they signed a
letter of commitment on our CAG grant that they would
absolutely have us install a BAM at their school and we
will surround that again by a network this time of 20
PurpleAir monitors, which we will expand out further
around there and fill in the gap that you see there
between Modesto and Fresno -- Madera and Fresno that still exists.

So we need to start filling in these gaps, right, in these neighborhoods, not willy-nilly out in the country, but -- and I get it, they will be biased toward that neighborhood, which is why they can't be used for regulatory purposes, right, because they're local, but that's the idea here. So -- and again, I already started saying this, but I do want to -- I'm telling you about this community air monitoring network that we've done. And again, residents can sign up for this. Unlike similar websites and low cost monitors on SJV, low cost monitors on SJVAir are calibrated from co-location sites across the valley, as I said.

Let's go to the next slide.

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KEVIN HAMILTON: We've just got -- yeah, one -- I don't know maybe one or two more to torture you with. But -- so as you can see, our partnership with CARB and the air districts is fundamental to our ability to provide accurate PM2.5 data to residents in these DACs. The triangles outlined in blue indicate PM2.5 regulatory monitors, where we've co-located a low-cost monitor. So you see how many of those triangles there are. This was what we used to call yeoman's work. And full credit to my
co-director Tim Tyner and his air monitoring team, because these guys -- I mean, they're out here in these neighborhoods, setting these things up, fixing them when something happens, and there's only two of them.

(Laughter.)

KEVIN HAMILTON: So, you know, you got what you got.

So again, the algorithms are automatically applied to the nearest low cost monitor. And the green triangle outlined in black indicates a co-located BAM in Delano that's operated by the Collaborative funded by the CAG grant. And the clear triangle outlined in black indicates a second co-located BAM. And again, that's the one we'll be installing in Los Banos. We've all got a -- we've also got a request now from Kings Union School, which is in eastern Fresno County, who would like to -- so sorry. Yeah. Going to try to wrap it up. It was the pencil and don't take your pad thing that slowed me down.

(Laughter.)

KEVIN HAMILTON: But, you know -- sorry. You shouldn't have sent that.

But -- and so we -- we're going to put a second BAM -- that will be our third there. We need to put one up by Stockton. We just don't have the money.
KEVIN HAMILTON: This is the Delano setup that we have that exists right now that's on that bigger map that we showed you and you can see where the original monitor -- the BAM is right in the middle of town.

So, next slide.

KEVIN HAMILTON: So the cool thing about this is it works for wildfire as well. And, in fact, we got the idea from our wildfire resilience project and adaptation. We thought, wow, wouldn't this be great if, when wildfires are happening, residents could sign up through this website and pick the monitors in their neighborhood. And the local CBOs help residents do this by the way, if they can't handle the tech. And then they're going to get warnings. They're going to get notices. If the air is unhealthy in that neighborhood, its going to come up from that monitor, so they can decide what kind of outdoor behavior or responses they want to make to that pollution.

Now, it works for wildfires and it works, of course, because the valley has a lot of actual particulate pollution on a daily basis for about 80 or 90 days a year, which by the way is better than the 200 and some we had 20 years ago, but still too many.
So this has been working for us. We're working with the Air District to integrate this real time SJVAir data into the RAAN program. They've committed to doing that. Samir brought that to his board in the last month's board meeting, which I thought was a really bold move and went really well. Two realties in one thing there.

So that's about it. Last slide, please.

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KEVIN HAMILTON: This is us. That's our new logo, by the way - the old one was blue CCAC - if you haven't seen it before. So I hope you like it. I did. That's why we have it.

And I'm open to any questions you might have. Thank you. Sorry if I kind of went on a bit there, but hey, this is a really cool project. We've got a one-hour presentation on this I'd love to share with you, if you're interested or individually, okay? Just let me know.

We'll get Tim to do it, by the way. He's more succinct than me. Not as funny though.

(Laughter.)

BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Probably less focused on food

CHAIR RANDOLPH: I was about to say and less food oriented.

(Laughter.)
KEVIN HAMILTON: Less focused on food. I don't know, food -- yeah. Tim is food -- and by the way, if you're looking for a wine consult, Tim Tyner or Scott, he's your, so...

CHAIR RANDOLPH: So do we want to do questions after each presenter or questions all at the end? What's --

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST LUONGO: All at the end.

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER CHANELL: I think we'll wait till the end.

CHAIR RANDOLPH: At the end. Okay. Great.

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST LUONGO: Thank you, Kevin.

Great. All right. So the next program reset idea we'd like to introduce is community-focused enforcement. And I'd like to invite Todd Sax, Chief of our Enforcement Division to speak on these efforts.

Todd.

ENFORCEMENT DIVISION CHIEF SAX: Thanks. And I'll get through my part actually pretty quickly.

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ENFORCEMENT DIVISION CHIEF SAX: So to improve our enforcement work, we're starting to work more directly with community groups. We're trying to build
collaborative approaches where you work as a team with communities to listen and understand their concerns, and then work together to solve problems. It's not something that requires a lot of process.

Sorry. Mask was in the way.

It's not something that requires a lot of process. It does require work. It requires time. And it requires it on the both -- on the part of both our staff and the communities we're working with. So that's something we have to be cognizant of and figure out how to, you know, support communities as they go through this process of working on it.

So we've started building these relationships and projects in several communities focused on a mixture of mobile and stationary source issues that the communities have identified. One of these communities is Del Amo with the Del Amo Action Committee and their lead Cynthia Babich sitting to my right. The Del Amo community is a mixed use community with heavy industry and warehouses located in -- adjacent to homes, apartments, and parks. Cynthia is here to describe her perspective on how her community is working to address their challenges.

CYNTHIA BABICH: Thank you, Todd. And thank you to the Board. It's been many years since I've been in front of the Board. And I think it was maybe 20 years ago
when the early action measures were being brought up and I was just so disgusted by the process and the lack of anybody wanting to pick the low-hanging fruit, that I basically disengaged.

I'm here now today because of the relationships and some of the partnerships that I've built with some of the agency staff. Especially, I would like to call out Deldi who for decades has been somebody that EJ communities can trust, and Todd as well, as a very stand-up, excellent representative of the agency who truly gets it.

So as Todd mentioned, I'm Cynthia Babich. I'm the coordinator of the Los Angeles Environmental Justice Network and the founder and director of the Del Amo Action Committee, who's been working on legacy Superfund sites and hazardous waste sites for 30 years. We are grassroots.

The Del Amo area sits on top of the toxic remains of a World War II industrial complex. We are located in unincorporated Harbor Gateway between the cities of Torrance, West Carson, Gardena, and Harbor City. A place where land-use planning has historically collided.

CalEnviroScreen has ranked our community focus area, which is about a mile radius around our community in the top 20 percent of the most pollution-burdened communities.
Our focus area -- and I hope that you all received the handout of our excerpts, because it actually shows when area we're speaking to. Our focus area has two federal Superfund sites, Del Amo and Montrose, one State designated Superfund site, Armco Land Reclamation called Royal Boulevard, Jones Chemical, a grandfathered chlorine transfer station, the Torrance/Mobil Refinery - which I think they've renamed now - Dow Chemical Plastics manufacturing plant, 405 and 110 freeways, several landfills, and has several cancer causing chemicals such as benzene, TCE, DDT, and others in the air, soil, and groundwater beneath our homes.

Our early work focused on Superfund sites and waste directly in our yards and homes. One effort in 1997 led to the first-of-its-kind private buyout by the responsible parties for the Del Amo site, Shell, Dow, and the U.S. government, of 27 homes adjacent to the waste pits creating a buffer zone between the remaining community.

This agreement called for the buyout area to be designated as an 8.5 acre park. Our first priority was to envision a precautionary park due to deep concerns about residual contamination that was documented through community science, elevating community fears of children playing on the site people would not live on. This led us
into a 16-year battle over an additional foot of soil to cover the site entirely. This is what was acceptable to the community, those who would be using the park. An agreement was made in 2018 to do so allowing us to support the park buildout.

Soon after this, while finalizing park plans at the park site, we looked up in the area behind the park and east of the Del Amo waste pits, which had been vacant for decades was filled with trucks and hodgepodge building material.

There are now huge stockpiles adjacent to our homes along the Del Amo alley, which divides the City and the County of Los Angeles planning areas. We formally requested the county board of supervisors to do a community-specific plan for our area of -- in unincorporated LA County as that it was apparent that without a plan, development would continue to be and remain incompatible to the environmental justice communities they were embedded onto.

Too much money denied. It feels like we're being studied to death. Do we just give you up? Then another incompatible land use was cited in the community by-right city planning. Farmer Brothers warehouses, a 200,000 square foot warehouse in the community since the 1950s was replaced by a 500,000 square foot mega warehouse almost
overnight in an expedited process where a warehouse equals warehouse. By-right, end of discussion, fast track.

In response, we repeated our 2010 ground truthing effort. Found no changes in already identified toxic sites. We did observe more trucking facilities and warehouses, which reaffirmed that out of control placement of incompatible land use continues. The first community driven land use plan I ever saw was from Diane Takvorian's group. And the vision of that plan stuck with me and added to our confidence in our abilities to put to pen and paper what changes we needed.

We decided to do our own community vision plan in 2019. We began by collaborating with the public health department, local and State agencies, and planners to learn about land use, general plans, and political attempts to balance land use incompatibility like Clean Up Green Up, a city buffer zone area, a green zone, the county buffer zones area. And then the county sustainability plan. This is a plan that's been referred to by agencies as pie in the sky. Great ideas, but deemed unattainable.

These attempts fall short with no real viable plan in place to attain environmental justice in the communities they have been mandated to protect. We are concerned that Los Angeles does not have the capacity to
change the way planning has been done for decades.
Planning is still very revenue focused. All about the money. We believe that change must be community driven. We have the biggest stake in the outcomes. We discovered the Florence-Fire Stone community specific plan, a planning area very similar to our area. We used it as a blueprint. Communities leaving a bread crumb path for others to follow. We began assembling our plan and our new understanding of land use, recent ground truthing data, and a sense of urgency as the warehouses and trucking facilities continue to multiply.

While creating the vision plan, we learned a lot about our area and the laws that were designed to protect our vulnerable community, but they were not. Even though we met the designated criteria for CARB's AB 617, CalEnviroScreen designated us as an SB 535 disadvantaged community and AB 1550 to ensure Cap-and-Trade funds are allocated to disadvantaged communities, as well as State legislate -- legislature SB 1000 to consider EJ in land use decision-making.

None of these designations protected us from once again another incompatible land use, the ECI warehouse, being built with 62 mitigations, 62. Some things just do not go together. There is a lack of capacity for the Los Angeles County to implement EJ policies to protect us.
They remain geared to permit, permit, permit. Multi-agency collaboratives could help build their capacity in areas where they lack environmental justice expertise. Setting up these could be a game changer.

Through collaborations with the Coalition for Clean Air and CARB, we did a truck study and a health survey in 2021, which is currently being analyzed and will represent real information about our community for the very first time. We learned a lot developing and implementing studies with many stakeholders in a collaborative, transparent, community-led process.

Sorry.

An unexpected problem along truck routes was noise and vibration complaints. Foundations and walls are cracking and the noise is very stressful. We are currently working to understand what is happening, so it can be addressed.

And I want to say off my notes when Todd came to me and talked about this new tracks that CARB was going to try to do with AB 617 and the community started engaging and this noise and vibration issue came up, the reason that I agreed to work with Todd is he wanted to know more. He didn't tell us this is not our authority. And that's exactly the olive leaf that we were looking for.

We believe sharing our vision plan with agencies
and individuals makes us visible and shovel ready. Our enforcement collaborative, a co-led process with CARB, is restoring our community's faith in agencies, building our capacity, and we believe will help us decrease the air pollution and toxins in our community.

Funding for this vision planning, we actually requested a CARB SEP. We're still waiting for it. We did receive some CalEPA small grants funding, a small amount of money from the Center for Environmental, Health, and Justice and some money from the Rose Foundation for us to engage with our community as we put our vision down to paper.

We have built solid relationships with amazing individuals in these agencies, some over decades, which I mentioned earlier, who grasped the great need to reach the smaller grass communities like ours, who also carry and overwhelming toxic burden and cannot easily compete for resources that large networks can and do.

We should help to build their capacity to secure funds to work as a community to identify solutions that are best for us. Agencies should not make it ease to displace the voice of those communities at ground zero with mere advocates. We can speak for ourselves. Well intentioned programs like AB 617 are not necessarily good programs for all impacted communities.
How can things be done differently? We want to use our vision plan as a vehicle for change as we see is needed, doing something different. Community-led engagement is best for us, because we carry the institutional memory of the harms committed and must believe in solutions leading us forward to healthier neighborhoods. A collaborative process is not just for us, but for all unseen EJ communities like ours gasping for air. This is not rocket science. This is common sense protections.

Authority. The public health should have overarching authority. The assumptions that industries do not know the harms they are causing is just simply not true. When communities feel the need to rise, it is because of the failed process. Trust building is essential and it basically comes with people just being honest.

So thank you for the invitation to share our experiences.

OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST LUONGO: Thank you so much, Cynthia and Todd.

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OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST LUONGO: So for our final initial reset idea, we want to touch on statewide incentive programs. Incentives are funds that can
accelerate emissions reductions faster or beyond what regulations require. Many of the community-prioritized solutions found in adopted groups used incentive funding called Community Air Protection incentives, or CAP incentives. CAP incentive funds are also available for projects in communities outside of those formally selected for the AB 617 Program.

In fact, the CARB Board directed that at least 70 percent of funds be spent in disadvantaged communities and 80 percent be spent in low-income communities statewide. The types of projects available include traditional Carl Moyer projects with certain flexible -- flexibilities including covering more of the costs for some sources, like on-road trucks, control measures for hexavalent chromium plating baths, and zero-emission lawn and garden equipment and air filtration replacement as schools.

There's also an opportunity to use the CAP incentives to fund new and additional stationary source emissions reductions in those communities. So we want to encourage the broader use of CAP incentive funds in communities that have not yet been selected for the program.

CARB is committed to meaningful community engagement. And this includes updating the way we have traditionally reached out about incentive opportunities.
We have seen how effective it is for community members to shape the update of incentive programs through direct community involvement.

There's a multi-divisional effort to improve the way we engage with our communities. Our goal is to engage with communities in an equitable and accessible manner. First, we will be focused on identifying historic -- historically overlooked community stakeholders through data-driven methods, for example, demographically and geographically how are we missing?

Second, we want to reduce stakeholder fatigue by removing any barriers to their engagement with CARB. For example, our Mobile Source Control Division is establishing regular listening sessions where community stakeholders speak to us about the topics and incentive opportunities most important to them.

Third, we want to approach our communities holistically rather than doing so in a siloed approach. And we hope that these changes to our community engagement will result in long lasting relationships with our community stakeholders and help us achieve emissions reductions in communities affected by high cumulative exposure burdens.

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OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST LUONGO: The three
concept we just presented as well as the draft Blueprint 2.0 outline are a starting point for discussion on resetting the program during the engagement later this year. Near-term next steps in the Blueprint revision process include the completion of the Consultation group discussion on the People's Blueprint and we will be accepting public comment on the People's Blueprint through September 30th of this year.

We will be hosting engagement opportunities this summer and fall on the program reset and Blueprint revision, and we encourage folks to share their ideas with us. We will then take what is captured during that engagement to produce a draft Blueprint 2.0 by winter, and will host workshops and be accepting public comment on that draft document.

We want to thank our panel today or sharing viable -- valuable perspectives on how to improve this program going forward. We want to hear from all those involved in this program, so that diverse perspectives shape the next version of the Blueprint. We also want to continue learning from creative projects and partnerships like those shared by Kevin and Cynthia, as well as projects in our currently selected communities. These learnings will all contribute to shaping a program that brings benefits and solutions to more communities across
We look forward to engaging with all of you this summer and fall. And that concludes our staff presentation. Back to you, Chair Randolph.

CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Thank you. I want to open it up to my fellow Board members for any comments or questions of the panelists. And Board Member De La raised his hand earlier. Did he step away?

There he is.

(Laughter.)

BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: Thank you. Thank you very much both of you for your -- for your input on what I think is just one of the best things we've done. There's a lot of work to be done. We're working our way through it, but I'm going to say what I said numerous times, the -- the intent here was always, number one, to address issues at the local level, but number two to replicate success statewide, and we're seeing that. Some of the examples that you cited, Kevin, are that Todd's efforts on enforcement have been replicated, not just in 617 communities but in non-617 communities.

So we're going to keep plugging away at it. We're going to tweak it. We're going to make it better as we go along. But it is absolutely unique. There is nothing like this at this micro level on the planet. And
so that's what we have to -- you know, that has to be our North Star that we're doing this brand new thing. No one is doing it. No one has ever done it. And we're going to figure it out as we go along. But we're listening. We're trying to incorporate these ideas. I was talking to Gustavo earlier about the successes in Shafter. And that was tough to get started. And we're -- we're making great progress there. And we're just going to keep at it. We're not going to stop.

So thank you for your dedication. Thank you for coming back and engaging with us. We need that. I know the Harbor Gateway aware. It's just south of us. Florence-Firestone was in my assembly district, so I know that very well. And we're just going to keep plugging away, and obviously South Gate.

Thank you.

CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you.

Supervisor Serna.

BOARD MEMBER SERNA: Thank you, Chair, and thank you to our staff presenters and our guest speakers for I think a very detailed explanation of the progress to date. You know, this is -- this subject was teed up in the context of the many times this Board has referenced the fact that while the merit of programming associated with AB 617 is to be lauded and has tremendous merit, we know,
as Mr. De La Torre just mentioned, you know, it's unique in its attempt to bridge the inter -- or meet the intersecting intents of advancing social justice with cleaner and healthier air quality for folks that deserve it.

There still is that fundamental challenge that we have with, I think we'd all agree, the lack of commensurate funding to make it all it could be. And I'm not suggesting that funding is the be-all end-all to making sure that this is going to be successful in all cases. But I think -- at least at -- well, in my opinion, I think it's woefully underfunded. And we have examples of that certainly in the county that I represent.

I just have a question. I'm not sure who best to address it to. And perhaps it has been asked and answered. I don't know. But in an attempt to get creative about looking under every cushion here for -- for funding, have we looked at using community development block grants, CDBG funds, which are federal block grants that cities, and counties, and certain special districts and authorities can tap into? I know that the City and County of Sacramento certainly have a long history of using annually appropriated CDBG funds for capital improvements, and I believe some programming.

But because AB 617 obviously has a very direct
connection to, I think, advancing the same desires and policy intents as municipalities and counties, and in fact, if I'm not mistaken, most of the local air district representation in the state of California is comprised of local electeds that serve in those capacities that also serve on those local air districts. But it seems to me that if we haven't at least looked at the legal and administrative guideposts on the use CDBG funding, maybe now is the time to do that to complement, you know, all the other efforts to advocate at the State for more -- for State budget appropriations.

But certainly as a county supervisor, wearing that hat, I'd be very interested in knowing the answer to that. So perhaps at some point in the near future, if staff doesn't have the answer today, we can get a report back on the use of CDBG grant funding.

Thank you.

KEVIN HAMILTON: Supervisor Serna, I'd like to speak to that.

It's Kevin.

BOARD MEMBER SERNA: Yes

KEVIN HAMILTON: So in Fresno, in fact, one of our partners who leads a large coalition that I was very involved with for 10 years. I don't if you're familiar with the TCE's project place-based funding 14 communities.
One is Fresno, which is the most successful built the -- Building Healthy Communities Program there. That program leader, who is an amazing person, Sandra Celedon, is part of this process, she is working to bring Prop 65 money, which is parks money, right, and CDBG, and other funding to the table in this process at least in the Fresno area and intersecting those two things through, right now, a major update on our Measure C Transportation Plan --

(Phone ringing.)

KEVIN HAMILTON: And I turned that damn thing off, John. Fricken cursed here.

(Laughter.)

KEVIN HAMILTON: I actually said do not disturb and it doesn't listen to me.

Anyway --

BOARD MEMBER KRACOV: It needs a -- it needs a reset.

(Laughter.)

KEVIN HAMILTON: Yeah, it needs a reset. Than you. That needs to be reset. So, yes, in that case, because part of my job for 10 years was to run a health care for the homeless program in Fresno, I'm very familiar with that funding stream. But cities also jealously guard that money, and often have it spent years ahead as -- at
least in our area. I don't know, you know, in the county where you are, but --

BOARD MEMBER SERNA: No, it -- that is certainly the case. I've known it to be the case that we -- I would -- I would probably characterize it a little differently that we like to be, you know, very thoughtful about how we use the funding. But I will also tell you that at least the experience that I've had in Sacramento to date, you know, we've -- we've looked at, as a local air district, sitting on the local air district, the prospect of ratcheting up fees significantly that are administered by the local air district. And there's no political appetite, at least now, to do that on -- at the local air district, in part for 617 implementation.

But it seems to me that if we're not interested in doing that, then we ought to have an honest conversation at the board of supervisors level, the housing authority level, the City of Sacramento level about maybe using -- or roping off a certain portion of CDBG funding for something as important as protecting public health by way of cleaner air.

KEVIN HAMILTON: This is why we say local government agencies are critical partners in -- in this process. And we've been trying to bring them to the table all across the valley, mostly with success.
BOARD MEMBER SERNA: Thanks, Kevin.

KEVIN HAMILTON: The truck study that's being done in Fresno is a huge lift.

BOARD MEMBER SERNA: Thank you.

KEVIN HAMILTON: I did want to mention that you talked about chronicling earlier. The Central Valley Air Quality Coalition is our partner and they have been chronicling our work right along. And they're building a how-to binder, and in fact will be in every meeting as we build these new CERPs. I'm sorry. I forgot to mention that, but I thought it was important.

CHAIR RANDOLPH: That's a great idea.

Dr. Balmes is next.

BOARD MEMBER BALMES: I have a lot to say, given my interest in the success of AB 617, but I'll try to keep it brief to highlight, given the time.

And I wanted to go back to something that one of my most important mentors with regard to environmental justice, Ms. Margaret Gordon, said in her introduction. You know, there's really a tension between expanding the program -- and I agree with Mr. De La Torre that we really need to get beyond the designated AB 617, 17 communities, and then getting it right. And that tension doesn't go away just because we want it to go away. And, you know, I've been struggling with this getting it right for the
whole time that I've been on the Consultation Group. I just want to acknowledge that right off.

But mostly, I'm going to talk about where I thought there was some very interesting intersectionality among stakeholders -- between stakeholders that this presentation this afternoon highlighted for me, which I was really, you know, grateful for. So I didn't hear a whole lot of people saying anything against participatory budgeting and capacity building. That is a major step forward. Now, maybe the specific representative of local air districts that we had here were chosen, because they can buy into that. But wow, you know, that needs to be a fundamental part of the -- of going forward. And I'm really pleased that the -- the outline for the new Program Blueprint 2.0, you know, has a whole section on participatory budgeting.

And nobody seemed to be against training at multiple levels, cause I think Ms. Margaret is right, that there was a lot of frustration based on the fact that CARB staff, District staff, and Board members like me really needed to have a lot of training to really be effective with regard to engaging communities.

I also liked that both for Veronica Eady from an air district and Paula Torrado both said that emission reduction impacts need to be measured. I get asked this...
all the time by my colleagues around the country, who are interested in what we're doing. And they'll -- they'll say, well, have you measured whether there's been any improvement, in terms of reducing emissions. You know, and I always say, well, it's relatively early in the program. The CERPs are just starting to be implemented, but I do really think we have to have some concrete data about the accountability of these -- of the investments that supposedly being made in all these communities.

I also thought that Kathryn Higgins from an air district and Ms. Margaret both said we've got to figure out a way to have conflict resolution. Now, they may be coming at it from a different perspective in a way, but I think -- I agree with them. We have to get a -- we have to figure out a model where formerly antagonistic air district staff and EJ stakeholders, community representatives are working together. And, you know, I've got to throw in CARB there as well. You know, and yeah, it's -- I've been witnessing, as some other people like Kevin have been witnessing, the relative dysfunction of our discussions in the Consultation Group over, what is it, five years now?

We've been more focused on reviewing the People's Blueprint in the last, I don't know, six months. And that's been more productive in my view, you know, because
everybody, you know, wants to have a say in what the People's Blueprint -- what kind of input that's going to have with regard to the Program Blueprint that CARB will be writing.

But also, several people -- I'll just highlight Gus -- talked about how CERP measures could be shared at the Consultation Group level. That would be a useful way to use the Consultation Group work. Different CSCs could learn about what's been successful elsewhere. And really, communication between the CSCs, is -- I think would be a positive.

You know, we've worried about the consultation group being too unwieldy if we had, you know, 17, CSC representatives plus the other stakeholders, like the air districts and business. But I think having the consultation be a communication venue across CSCs is something I'd be interested in talking more about.

I also wanted to uplift what Christine Wolfe from CCEEB brought up about we can't forget about smaller businesses, which haven't really been represented and it may -- they may be represented at the CSC level, but not really at the Consultation Group level.

And, you know, both -- I've already said this, I got these notes all over the place. Stop me. But another area of intersection was best practices. And both Gus and
Kathryn highlighted that, that we have to get -- we have to have a -- some kind of compendium of best practices. And I don't think the People's Blueprint is -- is necessarily the best way to do that. It can highlight some important best practices, but it's not necessarily the way to transmit that across all our CSCs. But I also thought that Veronica's idea that the People's Blueprint -- the People's Blueprint could be disseminated to CSCs and they could use it as they see fit, in addition to the official Program Blueprint 2.0.

I think I'll stop there and let my fellow Board members chime in. But I was very energized by this presentation and discussion. As Kevin said, I think there's a lot that's been done. And, you know, we can -- we can talk about the bumps in the road and the fact that there's so much more to do, but look -- this presentation has really -- or set of presentations and discussions has really made me feel like we have made progress. And so it's got me more energized to go forward.

And I really want to thank all the presenters and all the staff that have -- and I want -- I want to give a special shout-out to Deldi and Liliana, and Julia. I think, you know, my working with OCAP especially over the last year has really been a, you know, productive relationship. And I'm looking forward -- I'm sorry she's
not here -- of Ms. Hurt, you know, joining me as a Board
member in the Consultation Group, so...

CHAIR RANDOLPH: Board Member Takvorian and then
Board Member Kracov.

BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Thank you.
And I think -- Board Member Kracov is staring at
me like be short, because I'm tired. Sorry.
(Laughter.)

BOARD MEMBER KRACOV: How dare you.
(Laughter.)

BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: It's like -- sorry.
BOARD MEMBER KRACOV: Speak your mind as always
of course.

BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: I will. I will and I
will be short. I really appreciate all of you and I -- I
appreciate the comments of my colleagues and agree just
about everything. I think Supervisor Serna was smart to
be talking about expanding funding, whether it's CDBG or
the funding that I think is coming from the federal
government for out communities. It's supposed to be
focused on our communities. We should figure out ways
of -- of really focusing it. And hopefully, CARB can help
with that.

I just want to speak just to the one point that
we've been talking about, and that is about how do we
expand the -- I'm going to call it the 617 approach to be on 617 communities. But I just want to say that the three of you represent having done that for decades. So we -- you all have been working way before 617 was a thing. And so I just want to thank you for that, but also say, you know, 617 is helping to give some empowerment in a way, maybe some strength to the work that you're doing. But I have no doubt that if we're looking at expanding 61 -- the 617 approach to communities that haven't been designated as such, that groups like yours have the ability to lead those kinds of projects.

But I wouldn't endorse that if you weren't given resources and authority. And I think that's the -- you know, the point that's going to be very, very difficult to get over. So if you want to flip it and community organization get to be the conveners and the districts can come to the table, and the city can come to the table, and CARB can come to the table, and we talk about it that way, and they're given the resources to do it, then okay, let's talk about it that way.

But I think to put community based organizations back to where they are, which is not empowered to make these decisions about land uses, as Margaret talked about and as Cynthia talked about, is just -- isn't -- is just exacerbating the problem.
So I don't want to be downer about this, but I want to be real, because many of us have been doing this for a very long time and we're smart, we know how to manage money, we know how to write legislation, and we could -- we could do this planning, as Cynthia talked about, but we need the authority to actually do it. And so if that doesn't get included in this plan to expand, then I -- I don't know how -- how that would work.

And I also want to say -- I guess Dr. Balmes left -- that that should be in the Blueprint as well. So if we're going to leave it with the districts, then their -- the direction to them has to be clear and the authority to the communities working with them has to be clear. So I think that's a big problem I think with 617 is that the authority isn't clear and how -- how these requirements, how the CERPs are being implemented, and what the penalties are for not implementing them is going to be something we all are challenged by.

But I have no doubt that folks like you and the ones that we've seen all day long can do this work. And we figure out ways to empower you to actually do it and have the authority to do it. So thank you.

KEVIN HAMILTON: Board Member Takvorian, just quickly responding to that, the desperation of residents for an official facilitator becomes really evident of
needing somebody like -- so how does that happen? Because they're meeting for such a longer period? Most of the cities and agencies meet with them once about an issue, maybe twice. But because this has gone on so long and the meetings have gone on for a year, year and a half, now we're really hearing the problems, but -- and they -- they bring everything. They unpack all their baggage.

And so they're desperate to have their other elected officials hear this and do something about it, but there's really no venue for that, unless they attend millions of city council meetings in a row, which are not constructed in ways that bring them in in a specific area like this.

So I think that's -- that's what I've really felt in these meetings. I mean, we're doing land use stuff. You know, we're bringing the cities to the table in these meetings, when they can't get those kind of results from just going to the city. I don't know what that -- well, I do kind of know what it says about our system of government at the local level at times, but that's -- that's critical. And so we need the districts still in this conversation.

I know that's not a popular thing to say, but in fact, we do, because they have -- they have stepped into that role and I give them credit for that, because they
take a lot of heat for it.

BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Yeah. No, they're real.
I wasn't trying to exclude the districts. I was just trying to see --

KEVIN HAMILTON: No, I didn't think you were.
I'm saying yeah absolutely.

BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Yeah.
KEVIN HAMILTON: I didn't meant to imply that at all. Yeah.

BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Yeah. No, I just want to be clear. I just think we have to -- if we're going to share power, then let's figure out what that really means. And to your point, I think that's where it met in the first place and that is land use is a powerful tool. So if land use had the level of authority to regulate pollution -- air pollution and other kinds of pollution, then that might be the place to do it. You'd do community plans and that brings health and -- holeness to communities, but it doesn't. So we all have to play. So thank you.

CHAIR RANDOLPH: Board Member Kracov.

BOARD MEMBER KRACOV: Yeah. So this has been a great discussion. I just want to thank everybody who's been here today. I could just call everybody out by name. You know, Cynthia, it's kind of weird to be up here with
you down there, but, you know, life is strange sometimes. And Gustavo, this is the first time I've met without masks on. I didn't even recognize you at first, because it's been such a weird few years.

It is actually inspiring. You're right, Dr. Balmes, it's been a long kind of grueling day here. But seeing all the talent, and all the commitment, and all the, you know, enthusiasm still, despite all the ups and downs, you know, from all the different presenters, and even folks who are working so hard on this who I know aren't here. You know, folks -- I'll just give a shout-out from the South Coast, Jesse Marquez, and Luis Olmedo and Comite Civico that do so much great work, both in the South Coast and really have changed the whole landscape in imperial. And now that you've walked back in the room, Dr. Balmes, too.

I mean, I'm looking here at this draft Blueprint with its 20 points. I mean, thank you, Dr. Balmes. This is a tremendous amount of work, you know, for, you know, a part-time Board member to be, you know, put --

BOARD MEMBER Balmes: (Inaudible.)

BOARD MEMBER Kracov: Yeah. Well, you know, again, I could call out everybody. So thank you, OCAP, too, and everybody who you've already called out by name, John.
So, you know, I do leave this actually feeling better than when I started, because of all the enthusiasm and ideas. I'm looking forward to seeing you finish this, I guess, Dr. Balms, all 20 points. And, you know, looking forward to seeing where we go with this, Ms. Reyes and gang, about the community air grants, community focused enforcement, and statewide incentive programs, if that's the evolution, or the reset, or the rethink that we're going in. And also just want to say it again, I don't want to forget the opportunity that we have with the annual reports. We're going to be looking at those pretty carefully to see what they say, particularly about some of the larger goals of the program.

You know, our work on the pesticide notification I think has really started to get that off the ground with sister agencies. And I think 617 does have a -- a -- was one of the -- was on of the reasons that that got instigated, so that's a positive.

And the last thing I'll say too, we talked about it before, is that the BACT and BARCT stuff, which also was a part of 617. Let's not forget about that either, as we're thinking about how to take this show on the road, even outside of the geographic areas of the 617 communities.

So I leave this, you know -- I'm enthusiastic
today. Although, it's been a long day and just appreciate everybody -- everyone of you who has come today, staff, the districts of course, and the community members.

CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. Thank you.

All right. We need to hear from our -- the members of the public, but I did want to read a brief note from Assemblymember Garcia, who wasn't able to join us today due to his legislative responsibilities, but it's very relevant to this conversation.

And so he says he's, "Happy to see the conversation surrounding the Community Air Protection Program". He says, "While I appreciate the additional $20 million identified in the May revise, that brings the total investment to $240 million in this year's budget, I introduced legislation this year...", -- we talked about this earlier -- "...to bring that total to a minimum of $300 million for the program.

"Additionally, Assemblymember Cristina Garcia and I carried a budget ask requesting a continuous appropriation for the Community Air Protection Program until 2030 in order to help achieve our original legislative goals. The program needs to be sustainable and able to expand to new communities, while continuing to tackle its central goal of allowing communities to improve their air quality. A program like this is time sensitive
and the more that we do to invest in the front end, the better we can tackle our community's air quality goals that will make strides in improving public health".

So that's what Assemblymember Garcia wanted to share.

I'll also just note I want to agree with a lot of what was said. And one -- one of the things I really appreciated about the panel was that there were so many specific suggestions. And one I really liked was Ms. Margaret's suggestion about the newsletter. And that goes to Dr. Balmes' point, where if there's sort of a continuous opportunity for updating and information sharing, so for people who can't make Consultation Group meetings or who -- activities of CSCs that aren't as engaged in the Consultation Group, that they can get a newsletter, and know what's on going, and know who to call and ask for more information.

Okay. I am now going to go to public comment. Board Clerk, will you please call the commenters.

BOARD CLERK GARCIA: Thank you. We currently have three remote commenters who wish to speak at this time. If you wish to verbally comment on this Board item, please raise your hand or dial star nine now. The first three speakers will be Cynthia Pinto-Cabrera, Bill La Marr, and Adrian Rehn.
Cynthia, I have activated your microphone. Please unmutate yourself and begin.

Cynthia?

If you could try dialing star six.

There you go.

CYNTHIA PINTO-CABRERA: Hello. Good evening, Chair, members of the Board. I'm Cynthia Pinto-Cabrera, policy assistant with the Central Valley Air Quality Coalition, or CVAQ.

CVAQ staff and many coalition partners participate in the AB 617 process, both in selected communities and through conducting outreach and monitoring activities in environmental justice communities and in the valley.

While the goal of the community air protection plan is laudable, planning and implementing -- planning and implementation in the San Joaquin Valley has had a lot of lessons and lack of trust and transparency, for example, the $5 million that was removed from the Stockton -- Stockton CERP budget.

Despite these challenges, CVAQ staff and partners have found ways to leverage conversations or taking a completely different approach to community air protection, like future plans to build on the collaborative work shared by Kevin Hamilton tonight to co-develop community
plans outside the official process, and working to develop an indoor air filtration pilot program in Stockton.

Among an important -- among many important priorities raised over the planning process in Stockton advocates and community members also asked for increased attention to heavy-duty diesel trucks, impacts, and initiated conversation with CARB's Enforcement Division, staff, about strategies like use of the Portable Emissions Acquisition System, or PEAQS, to find high emitting trucks.

Over the past several months CVAQ staff and Stockton partners have worked with Enforcement Division on staff -- Division staff on a collaborative project to assess where feasible address -- addresses -- where feasible address community impacts and concerns in South Stockton can be addressed, while sharing information about enforcement strategies like mobile source regulations, and tools like the PEAQS, and automated license plate readers.

In March, CARB Enforcement Staff participated in a series of workshops for youth advocates and community members in partnership with Little Manila -- Little Manila Rising, Edge Collaborative, and CVAQ. Enforcement Staff provided information on CARB's role in enforcing and cleaning up the air and hands-on demonstration of how these different technologies work and other equipment
works. CARB enforcement staff has also shared about opportunities to work at the Air Resources Board, to address pollution -- air pollution issues impacting the youth daily lives, are they long -- life-long valley resident and asthmatic.

It was great to learn about the work with -- about the work that CARB staff is doing to improve air quality within the valley. And we appreciate that the CARB Enforcement Division under -- the leadership of Todd Sax has overall been very receptive to community feedback and have invested in learning with community members and including community mem -- members experiences to improve outcomes which at -- the community air protection program is completely about.

Community engagement. And a community that's engaged in cross-disciplinary efforts are challenging work in applying --

BOARD CLERK GARCIA: Thank you, Cynthia.

CYNTHIA PINTO-CABRERA: -- learning and the work.

So overall just thank you for the -- for the work that CARB is doing. Thank you.

BOARD CLERK GARCIA: Thank you.

Bill La Marr, I have activated your microphone. Please unmute yourself and you can begin.

BILL LA MARR: Good evening, Chair Randolph and
Board members. I'm Bill La Marr. I'm the Executive Director of the California Alliance of Small Business Associations. Thank you for the opportunity to address the Board on this important topic.

Whether the future of the implementation of the program is successful largely depends on the changes you make to the Blueprint. Last November, CARB laid out a comprehensive program or process for public engagement on the Blueprint update, which include opportunities for input of the scope of the Blueprint, update public workshops, comment periods on draft language, and CEQA review. Alliance members support this process and believe it will lead to a more effective and efficient program especially after hearing the comments by the Consultation Group panel members.

We also agree with the statements made by the situ -- by the situation assessment report developed by CARB's Consensus and Collaboration Program of Sacramento State University. The assessment was based on seven interviews with Consultation Groups members and conducted in January of this year. We believe that the assessment contains useful insights and recommendations to help build cohesion within the group, including the shared sense of purpose, address tensions, and support Consultation Group members.
While we appreciate the time CARB has taken to focus on the community concerns and recommendations in the People's Blueprint, there are other aspects of the Program Blueprint that should be updated based on lessons learned over the first four plus years of the program implementation.

One example is the People's Blueprint does not address how the data from community air monitoring plans should be used to refine emission reduction measures in communities emission reduction plans. But these plans were developed from available regional data instead of community level data, which would show the attribution of emissions from sources within individual communities, rather than from the entire region.

That feedback mechanism is necessary to achieve the intent of the statute and to more effectively reduce to quant -- and quantify the cumulative emission burden in these communities. CARB has -- CARB has already taken steps to streamline the Blueprint update process in response to community concerns. We ask that you preserve the process that comes after the Consultation Group has thoroughly reviewed the People's Blueprint, so that all stakeholders have the time and a meaningful opportunity to contribute to the development of a more efficient and effective statewide implementation strategy.
Thank you.

BOARD CLERK GARCIA: Thank you.

Adrian Rehn, I have activated your microphone. Please unmute yourself and begin.

ADRIAN REHN: Good evening, Chair Randolph and Board members. Thank you for hosting this important conversation. My name is Adrian Rehn and my Organization Valley Vision was very active in advocating for Sacramento's initial designation as an AB 617 community. We're also a two-time community air grantee.

National media outlets consistently refer to AB 617 as the State of California's signature EJ law. And in Sacramento, it started conversations and brought together partners that would otherwise never be in a room together. And it's generated immense amounts of data within our air monitoring deserts. It was really inspiring to hear today about Kevin's work in the San Joaquin Valley.

With our air grant focused on North Sacramento and Oak Park, we've been able to place 18 low-cost air monitors in locations determined by residents, educated and engaged community members in four languages, held walking tours, and begun to analyze our data to see emerging block-by-block pollution disparities. And we've even developed one-page CERP outlines for each neighborhood that we're working in.
With our new air grant, we'll be piloting our participatory budgeting framework in implementing and emissions reduction pilot. And all of this has been done through that air grants program and with strong partnerships with residents, our air district, and advocates, but without yet being part of a formal AB 617 community.

So that being said, of course, we talked today about how the success of AB 617 is threatened by inequities, governance issues, and resource limitations. So we agree that a new resident-centered Blueprint is needed, substantially more funding from the Legislature, and to Director Serna's point, other sources is also required. And the use and distribution of those funds must be more flexible and equitable, but at the same time, our need in North Sacramento and Oak Park remains the same.

So, yes, a reset is needed, but it must not dilute the impact that communities expect from formalized recognition by CARB. So it's going to be a tough needle to thread, we acknowledge.

So tonight I ask that you do not forget about the continually supported communities who have been organizing, monitoring our air, and looking forward to a formal 617 designation for years now. Reimagining this
program should not mean diluting this program. And as AB
617 evolves, please remember the initial promise to our
state's most pollution burdened communities. We do look
forward to continuing to provide input into the next
iteration of the Blueprint.

Those are my comments. Thank you.

BOARD CLERK GARCIA: Thank you.

Madam Chair, that concludes the list of

commenters.

CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Thank you.

And since this is not an action item, we are
finished with our agenda for today and we are adjourning
until tomorrow morning at 9 a.m. here in the auditorium.

Thank you, everyone, and we'll see you tomorrow.

(Thereupon the Air Resources Board meeting
adjourned at 8:08 p.m.)
CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, JAMES F. PETERS, a Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of California, do hereby certify:

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

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 3rd day of June, 2022.

JAMES F. PETERS, CSR
Certified Shorthand Reporter
License No. 10063