

MEETING  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

ZOOM PLATFORM

MARY D. NICHOLS CAMPUS  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HEADQUARTERS  
HAAGEN-SMIT AUDITORIUM  
4001 IOWA AVENUE  
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2022

12:05 P.M.

JAMES F. PETERS, CSR  
CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER  
LICENSE NUMBER 10063

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

APPEARANCES CONTINUED

STAFF:

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 and 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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PROCEEDINGS

1  
2 CHAIR RANDOLPH: I'll call the May 19th, 2022  
3 California Air Resources Board to order.

4 Will the Board Clerk please call the roll.

5 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Dr. Balmes.

6 Mr. De La Torre?

7 BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: Here.

8 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Mr. Eisenhut?

9 BOARD MEMBER EISENHUT: Here.

10 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Senator Florez?

11 BOARD MEMBER FLOREZ: Here.

12 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Assemblymember Garcia?

13 Ms. Hurt?

14 Mr. Kracov?

15 BOARD MEMBER KRACOV: Here.

16 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Senator Leyva?

17 Dr. Pacheco-Werner?

18 Mrs. Riordan?

19 BOARD MEMBER RIORDAN: Here.

20 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Supervisor Serna?

21 BOARD MEMBER SERNA: Here.

22 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Professor Sperling?

23 BOARD MEMBER SPERLING: Here.

24 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Ms. Takvorian?

25 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Here.

1 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Supervisor Vargas?

2 Vice Chair Berg?

3 VICE CHAIR BERG: Here.

4 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Chair Randolph?

5 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Here.

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

8 (Technical Difficulties.)

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

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

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

22 For safety reasons, please note the emergency  
23 exit to the rear of the room through the lobby. In the  
24 event of a fire alarm, we are required to evacuate this  
25 room and immediately exit the building through the front

1 entrance, when the all-clear signal is given. We will  
2 return to the auditorium and resume the hearing.

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

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

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

22 (Interpreter translated in Spanish)

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

25 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you, Chair



1 Randolph. Good morning, everyone. My name is Katie  
2 Estabrook and I'm going to be calling on the commenters  
3 who are joining us remotely in Zoom and my colleague  
4 Lindsay Garcia will be calling on commenters who have  
5 signed up to speak and are joining us here in the room.

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

16 To make a verbal comment, we will be using the  
17 raise hand feature in Zoom. If you wish to speak on a  
18 Board item, please virtually raise your hand as soon as  
19 the item has begun to let us know that you wish to speak.  
20 To do this, if you are using a computer or tablet, there  
21 is a raise hand button. If you are calling on the phone,  
22 dial star nine to raise your hand. Even if you previously  
23 indicated which item you wish to speak on when you  
24 registered for the Zoom webinar, you must raise your hand  
25 at the beginning of the item so that you can be added to

1 the queue and your chance to speak will not be skipped.

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

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

19           I would also like to remind everyone to please  
20 state your name for the record before you speak. This is  
21 especially important for those who are calling in by  
22 phone. There will be a time limit for each commenter.  
23 The normal time is three minutes, though this could change  
24 at the Chair's discretion. During public testimony, you  
25 will see a timer on the screen. For calling in by phone,

1 we will run the timer and let you know when you have 30  
2 seconds left and when your time is up. If you require  
3 Spanish interpretation for your comment, your time will be  
4 doubled.

5 If you wish to submit a written comment today,  
6 please visit CARB's send-us-your-comments page or look at  
7 the public agenda on our webpage for links to these -- to  
8 send these documents electronically. Comments will be  
9 accepted on each item, until the Chair closes the item.  
10 If you experience any technical difficulties, please call  
11 (805)772-2715 and an IT person can assist you. This  
12 number is also noted on the public agenda.

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

14 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Thank you.

15 The first item on the agenda is Item number  
16 22-7-1, which is an update on CARB's racial equity and  
17 diversity efforts. If you are here with us in the room  
18 and wish to comment on this item, please fill out a  
19 request to speak card as soon as possible and submit it to  
20 a Board assistant. If you are joining us remotely and  
21 wish to comment on this item, please crick the raise hand  
22 button or dial star nine now. We will call on both  
23 in-person and remote commenters when we get to the public  
24 comment portion of this item.

25 As Board Chair, one of my priorities is

1 supporting CARB's efforts to advance racial equity and  
2 environmental justice, both internally and externally. We  
3 know that low-income communities of color are  
4 disproportionately impacted by climate change and exposed  
5 to harmful levels of air pollution, and we know the role  
6 that discriminatory practices, such as redlining, have  
7 played in creating these injustices.

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

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

21           The internal and external call for change led to  
22 the Board's adoption of Resolution 20-33 in October of  
23 2020, the fall before I became Chair, which declared the  
24 Board's commitment to racial equity and social justice.  
25 We know this focus on justice must span all aspects of how

1 we live, work, and engage with each other. Most  
2 importantly, it must result in meaningful change that  
3 advances racial equity and addresses environmental  
4 justice.

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

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

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

24 This item is informational and the Board will not  
25 be taking formal action today, but I look forward to the

1 discussion and guidance.

2 Ms. Fletcher, will you please introduce the item.

3 (Thereupon a slide presentation.)

4 DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER FLETCHER: Thank you,  
5 Chair Randolph. As you mentioned, CARB's Board Resolution  
6 20-33 acknowledges that impacts from air pollutants and  
7 greenhouse gases disproportionately affect communities of  
8 color.

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

17 CARB understands that environmental justice  
18 communities continue to suffer disproportionately because  
19 of historic racial and environmental injustices and  
20 remains committed to reducing the disproportionate  
21 exposure to air pollutants and emissions for residents.  
22 Our mission and the vision Chair Randolph shared today  
23 elevates the need to reduce air pollution and emissions  
24 where socioeconomic and racial disparities are most  
25 pronounced by advancing racial equity and addressing

1 environmental justice in all that we do.

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

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

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

23           You will hear an informational item from OCAP  
24 later today on its efforts to update the statewide  
25 strategy to reduce emissions in emission-burdened

1 communities and to reset the program to bring benefits to  
2 more communities. You will also hear how an approach to  
3 equity drove the development of the People's Blueprint and  
4 its role in the update of the statewide strategy.

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

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

21 We are building our own capacity through a  
22 train-the-trainer model to deliver a six-hour curriculum  
23 called advancing racial equity at CalEPA to the entire  
24 CARB workforce. Additionally, the 90-day challenge at  
25 CARB provides an information -- informal opportunity for a



1 curated self-guided journey of learning more about racism  
2 and how to address it.

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

12 CARB's soon to be created Office of Racial Equity  
13 will bring more focus to this work. The office will  
14 oversee CARB's efforts to advance racial equity in all its  
15 policies, programs, and regulations. Operationalizing  
16 racial equity is a critical phase in this change model.  
17 In part, this means using a racial equity lens as we  
18 develop and implement regulations and policies.  
19 Committing to advance racial equity means acknowledging we  
20 cannot do this work in silos or on our own. We hope to  
21 partner with other State and local jurisdictions that are  
22 similarly committed to advancing racial equity and to  
23 partner with communities who have for too long borne the  
24 brunt of environmental racism.

25 We know we cannot do this work alone. Through

1 efforts like GARE, we are learning from other  
2 jurisdictions committed to racial equity. We are also  
3 informed by engagement with external partners and  
4 communities. For example, CARB is learning about how to  
5 apply a racial equity lens to our work. This means asking  
6 questions, such as who benefits, and who is burdened by  
7 our decisions, and how do we track progress.

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

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

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

1 from multiple staff on these efforts.

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

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

6           (Thereupon a slide presentation.)

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

9           (Laughter.)

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

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

25          The resolution really was an effort for the Board

1 to provide direction to the staff. And as we the staff  
2 are starting to implement this, we do want to make sure  
3 that we are continuing to come back to the public to  
4 provide that transparency and accountability. And also I  
5 think we want to make sure that we're building more  
6 collaboration through these regular updates on this  
7 effort.

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

10 (Thereupon a video was played.)

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

22 Some of us have never experienced this look,  
23 while others experience as a part of their daily lives.  
24 At CARB, we've take a powerful training on implicit bias  
25 and are now looking at our hiring practices to reduce the

1 impact of implicit bias. And this is just the start, as  
2 we know that implicit bias is difficult to root out. This  
3 is why this work is also about looking at our organization  
4 and building capacity to dismantle institutional racism.  
5 This means we need to examine our policies, practices, and  
6 decisions to understand if they may be inadvertently  
7 perpetuating negative impacts, and we need to have public  
8 forums like this to ensure there's accountability on our  
9 efforts.

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

13 (Thereupon a video was played.)

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

19 According to the Governmental Alliance and Race  
20 and Equity, racial equity is realized when race can no  
21 longer be used to predict life outcomes and outcomes for  
22 all groups are improved. Taking that a step further to  
23 define racial equity in the workplace, a racially  
24 equitable workplace is one where an employee's race does  
25 not impact their career growth, potential, this

1 assignments they're given or have abscess to, or how they  
2 are viewed or treated.

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

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

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

25           However, I have been encouraged to see racial

1 equity become a priority at CARB over the last two years  
2 and look forward to seeing how the work we have done and  
3 continue to do will be translated into action in the  
4 future.

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

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

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

25           Having such a vision and action plan will improve

1 workplace culture, increase employee retention, and foster  
2 a diverse and inclusive workforce while all employees feel  
3 valued. When we translate the racial equity work we're  
4 doing inside CARB into our external efforts, we can  
5 achieve environmental justice.

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

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

20 (End of video.)

21 DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER FLETCHER: Thank you.

22 --o0o--

23 DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER FLETCHER: As I shared  
24 earlier, we will have a staff panel so Board and members  
25 of the public can hear directly from different levels in



1 the organization on why this work is essential and what is  
2 currently happening in the agency.

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

5 RD STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST COLLIER:

6 Hello, Chair Randolph and members of the Board.  
7 My name is Sonya Collier. I work in the Research Division  
8 and I'm also here to represent the Diversity and Racial  
9 Equity Task Force.

10 AQPSD AIR RESOURCES ENGINEER VILLA: Good

11 afternoon. My name is Victoria Villa and I am with the  
12 Air Quality and Planning Division and I'm a DaRE Task  
13 Force member.

14 STCD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST ECHEVERRIA: Hi,

15 everybody. My name is Cristina Echeverria Palencia. I  
16 work in the Sustainable Transportation and Communities  
17 Division and I also serve as the trainer for our advancing  
18 racial equity training at CalePA.

19 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST TRINIDAD: Good

20 afternoon, everyone. My name is Erika Trinidad. I use  
21 she/her/hers pronouns. I'm in the Office of Community Air  
22 Protection in the Community Assessment Section and I have  
23 been working on developing racial equity tools. Thank  
24 you.

25 DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER FLETCHER: Thank you all

1 for the introductions. As I shared previously and the  
2 Chair also shared, CARB is using the GARE model of change,  
3 which you can see on the slide, normalize, organize, and  
4 operationalize. I want to make clear that these phrases  
5 are not -- these three phases are not sequential and the  
6 model is not linear, and this work is iterative.

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

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

21 Sonya, can you kick us off?

22 --o0o--

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

25 So I'm going to start off by introducing what the

1 Diversity and Racial Equity Task Force is. The Diversity  
2 and Racial Equity Task Force, or DaRE, was created in July  
3 of 2020 partially in response to the letter and action  
4 plan for racial change put together by Black CARB  
5 employees. DaRE strives to address, explore, educate,  
6 learn about, and respond to the diversity and inclusion  
7 needed to be an organization that serves all Californians.  
8 The objective of the task force is to develop and advise  
9 CARB's Executive Office on recommendations to  
10 substantially increase the diversity and racial equity of  
11 CARB's workforce at every level of the organization and  
12 address biased systems and policies that have sustained to  
13 divide across races, gender, and other factors.

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

19           This diverse set of CARB employees meets  
20 regularly to discuss changes needed to make CARB an  
21 inclusive workplace where all staff feel that they are  
22 valued and belong. The discussions that occur within the  
23 task force are non-hierarchical. In other words, we leave  
24 our titles at the door allowing for all voices to be  
25 heard.

1           The task force is currently examining barriers to  
2 diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging in various  
3 areas affecting employees, including the hiring and  
4 recruitment process, and workplace culture. The task  
5 force is also working on a future vision for CARB and  
6 imagining what it would look like as an anti-racist  
7 organization in order to set goals, priorities, and  
8 establish a plan of action.

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

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

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

25                           --o0o--

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

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

13 --o0o--

14 RD STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST COLLIER: One  
15 of DaRE's important tasks is to provide useful resources  
16 for CARB staff. In our effort to create a common  
17 understanding through shared language, we assembled a  
18 comprehensive glossary of terms for racial equity,  
19 diversity, inclusion, and belonging. We developed this  
20 glossary by leveraging existing glossaries, in particular  
21 the ones shared by the California Department of Public  
22 Health and by adding terms from trainings and tools from  
23 the Government Alliance on Race and Equity, or GARE. We  
24 also added terms relevant to the specific work we do at  
25 CARB. This glossary is not intended to provide any

1 binding definitions that apply to CARB's work. And  
2 depending on the context, other statutory or regulatory  
3 definitions may apply. We will continue to be updated as  
4 appropriate over time.

5 --o0o--

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

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

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

23 --o0o--

24 RD STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST COLLIER: As  
25 part of furthering our shared understanding around racial

1 equity and continuing our education on this topic, DaRE  
2 has hosted a 90-day challenge two years in a row. The  
3 challenge kicks off each February as part of Black History  
4 Month. We provide a list of eight types of resources,  
5 including books, movies, videos, episodes, podcasts,  
6 web-based resources, prompts, and training.

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

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

19           AQPSD AIR RESOURCES ENGINEER VILLA: Thank you,  
20 Sonya. Board members, thank you for the opportunity to  
21 reflect on some of the lessons I learned through the  
22 90-day challenge that resonated the loudest with me. As  
23 you may know, one of the invaluable tools the 90-day  
24 challenge provided staff with was guidance on racial  
25 equity conversations.

1           The challenge acknowledges that becoming aware of  
2 the racial inequities in normalizing conversations  
3 regarding them is key as we work together to advance  
4 racial equity within our agency and with our community  
5 stakeholders.

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

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

23           When staff feels welcome and are part of a work  
24 culture that celebrates and acknowledges them for who they  
25 are, it can then help free them of any burden they may



1 feel to assimilate. The can instead focus on creating and  
2 delivering the best possible service and technical  
3 assistance to our community stakeholders.

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

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

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

25 We can acknowledge that our understanding of

1 their communities may be limited. And as such, we may not  
2 fully understand the sources of concern within their  
3 community. While we may use the best available data to  
4 us, they are the true community experts here and we turn  
5 to them for their input to refine the emissions  
6 inventories.

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

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

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

1 effective organization to serve all Californians.

2 Thank you.

3 And with that, I return the lectern to Chanell.

4 --o0o--

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

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

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

23 I also want to go back to this. It's my next  
24 prompt question. And this is for all of our panelists.  
25 We heard a lot around what I think is happening around

1 Normalizing from DaRE. Are there other things that you  
2 would like to see?

3 And anyone can jump in on that.

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

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

11 I'll pass it on to the next person.

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

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

24 Two, acknowledge emotional barriers. Racial  
25 equity is an emotional undertaking and we need to be

1 prepared for the inevitable discomfort and fear that comes  
2 from trying something new and create a work culture that  
3 honors this component of the work and eases that fear that  
4 can sometimes hold us back.

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

11           Thank you.

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

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

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

25           So Cristina, I'll kick it over to you to share

1 more about organizing at CARB.

2 STCD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST ECHEVERRIA:

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

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

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

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

1 train others to do that same thing.

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

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

24           The training is a fundamental organizing  
25 component as we move towards operationalizing racial

1 equity within our Division and beyond. And this will  
2 include for our Division developing a division-wide racial  
3 equity action plan beginning in 2023. So in addition to  
4 participating in this racial equity training, we at STD  
5 also have division-specific efforts in place to advance  
6 equity in our day-to-day work.

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

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

24           So in 2021, our Division also organized  
25 division-wide all hands equity workshops and created



1 discussion groups. In these -- through these mechanisms,  
2 all of STCD staff are asked to collaborate and identify  
3 ways that equity could be advanced through our work. The  
4 next critical phase will be to operationalize these  
5 efforts to ensure that these organizing steps yield  
6 concrete results.

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

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

1 and update these metrics over time.

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

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

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

24           This element of the proposal is first of its  
25 kind -- is a first-of-its-kind effort to use CARB's Clean

1 Car Regulations to encourage automakers to take direct  
2 action to advance equity and environmental justice in the  
3 manufacturer and sale of vehicles.

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

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

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

23 So we want to underscore all of these updates  
24 with the acknowledgement that our efforts to advance  
25 equity are the results of the actions and engaged network

1 of public stakeholders who consistently push us to rise  
2 and do better.

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

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

19 Thank you.

20 DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER FLETCHER: Thank you so  
21 much Cristina.

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

25 And anyone can jump in on this.

1 RD STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST COLLIER: Thank  
2 you. This is Sonya again from the Diversity and Racial  
3 Equity Task Force. And we do have a few recommendations  
4 that are organized.

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

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

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

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

25 (Laughter)

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

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

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

22           We need to support strong leadership. Enable and  
23 reward leadership for entrusting staff to lead and take  
24 accountability for working directly with stakeholders and  
25 for creating opportunities for dialogue and mutual

1 learning. Equip managers with tools and training to  
2 intentionally create workplace culture and highlight ways  
3 staff manager teams can effectively work together to  
4 transform our sense of what is possible from our work.

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

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

20           Next one. We have to refrain risk. This is a  
21 really big one. Our work is about protecting the public  
22 from risks and harm due to exposure to pollution and  
23 climate change. To better accomplish our goals, we are  
24 working towards engaging community -- communities more  
25 deeply and meaningfully. This is hard work and actually

1 comes with many risks, including the risk of stoking fear  
2 that is based off of decades of harm and distrust and the  
3 risk of imperfect execution, among many others.

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

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

12 Thank you.

13 DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER FLETCHER: Thank,  
14 Cristina.

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

22 So, for example, CARB is already a data-driven  
23 organization, but I do believe that we need to become more  
24 intentional about using that data to better understand how  
25 our programs and regulations are benefiting Californians.



1 We also must use a racial equity tool, such as the racial  
2 equity assessment lens, which has been developed by a  
3 cross-divisional team led by our Office of Community Air  
4 Protection, also known as OCAP.

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

7 --o0o--

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

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

23 For the Transportation and Toxics Division, who  
24 launched a series of listening sessions, for example, in  
25 the railyard emissions listening session, staff turned to

1 the community to ask how has living or working near a  
2 railyard impacted you? What has your experience been?  
3 How can we, as CARB staff, help to address your concern?  
4 Other programs at CARB have begun to utilize listening  
5 sessions alongside their public workshops to provide an  
6 opportunity for the public to share with staff their  
7 questions, their thoughts, their experiences, and any  
8 suggestions they might want to share.

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

20           Earlier, Chanell mentioned that one of the first  
21 steps is to normalize, in which the development of a  
22 shared and collective vision and understanding of racial  
23 equity is central. The racial equity assessment lens,  
24 which is currently being developed, not only acknowledges  
25 how staff across divisions engage with racial equity, but

1 intends to provide a shared process on how to apply a  
2 racial equity lens and perform a racial equity analysis,  
3 in integrating it into the design, planning, development  
4 and implementation of our programs, our policies, our  
5 regulations, and decision making happening at CARB.

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

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

19           --oOo--

20           OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST TRINIDAD: So  
21 moving forward, let's go over the tool itself. What is  
22 the Racial Equity Assessment Lens. REAL is being designed  
23 to be a serious of questions that when answered provides  
24 an analytic process and method to deeply engage with and  
25 consider racial equity in relation to a specific action.

1 REAL would aim to ensure that CARB actions  
2 achieve what is intended and do not create or deepen  
3 inequity, including in communities of concern who  
4 historically or currently experience disproportionate  
5 burdens.

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

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

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

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

25 Section 2 is engaging communities of concern.

1 Section 2 asks are we meaningfully engaging with  
2 communities that may be directly impacted or have specific  
3 interest in this action or issue?

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

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

20 Section 4 is impacts. Impacts assessing how a  
21 regulation or action can be shaped to prevent or mitigate  
22 inequitable outcomes by asking who will benefit and who  
23 will be burdened? How are these being defined? Section 4  
24 also emphasizes the consulting data or literature alone is  
25 not enough and is insufficient in fully understanding the

1 impacts of an action and the context of the action.  
2 Section 4 asks how can communities be engaged in assessing  
3 the impacts of an action, are -- and are there any  
4 potential unintended consequences associated.

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

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

20 As we continue to develop REAL -- thank you.

21 --o0o--

22 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST TRINIDAD: As we  
23 continue to develop REAL, we are committed to leveraging  
24 the myriad expertise and projects available across  
25 different divisions. We hope to develop illustrative

1 examples of real world applications of the Racial Equity  
2 Assessment Lens by partnering with programs at CARB to  
3 collect feedback and refine the current draft. We are  
4 also deeply invested in the thoughtful design and planning  
5 for external engagement.

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

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

25           Thank you.

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

8           And again, anyone can jump in.

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

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

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

24           An anti-racist CARB will continue to advocate for  
25 the empowerment of California's most vulnerable



1 communities who suffer disproportionately high levels of  
2 air pollution and adverse health effects. We are also  
3 data driven and assess progress in real-time. We  
4 continually identify persistent biases and barriers and  
5 reevaluate the effectiveness of CARB's strategies and  
6 policies. People come and go at CARB. And  
7 operationalizing racial equity work means that we create  
8 lasting change that stays even when we are gone.

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

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

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

1 absence.

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

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

12           OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST TRINIDAD: Thank  
13 you so much, Chanell. Thank you, Cristina. Thank you  
14 Sonya.

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

24           Similar to the necessary first step in a shared  
25 knowledge and shared language, we must also have

1 empathetic shared spaces to use this language and this  
2 knowledge, one that is built on humility and mutual  
3 understanding. Racial equity work is rooted in love and  
4 these spaces would afford us that.

5 Thank you.

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

22 The other thing that I do want to say, and this  
23 is a bit -- it's a bit off script, but it's a little bit  
24 of gratitude on this front to everyone here. I just  
25 really want to thank, I think, the team that helped to

1 pull this together. So I have to call out Ambreen Afshan  
2 Ambreen. She's not here. She's our program manager of  
3 Office of Environmental Justice. She was huge on this  
4 front. My Chief of OCAP, Deldi Reyes. She was just huge.  
5 All of our panelists, and I think Abigail May, our legal,  
6 just again I think just really moved so hard and our BARCU  
7 team, which was just like extremely impressive. So I want  
8 to thank them.

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

23 And I think there's just been a number of -- I  
24 mean, I won't list all of them out, community  
25 organizations, environmental justice advocates who have

1 really just welcomed me, and partnered with me, and  
2 partnered with our team to make this happen. And again, I  
3 thank that panelists and the staff work behind the scenes.

4 So I just want to say that this is the first of  
5 many, but I have a lot of gratitude for not being a token.  
6 And I think that's a lot to do with everyone in this room.  
7 So thank you all very, very much.

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

10 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you so much, Chanell.

11 (Applause.)

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

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

24 BOARD MEMBER SERNA: Madam Chair.

25 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Oh, Supervisor Serna.

1           BOARD MEMBER SERNA: Thank you, Chair.

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

9           I did want to just kind of underscore and  
10 clarify, again as the principal drafter of the resolution  
11 back in the fall of 2020 Resolution 20-33 that's been made  
12 referenced here several times this afternoon, that -- that  
13 resolution, just to be clear, was intended to reflect many  
14 things. But some of the more important aspects of the  
15 exercise and the document was to basically acknowledge  
16 that we -- we have a challenge, we have a problem in front  
17 of us. And as the governance for this agency is the  
18 appointed leadership of this agency, I think we  
19 necessarily had to put down on paper what our value set as  
20 relative to racial equity and social justice,  
21 acknowledging very clearly and transparently what the  
22 challenges, and shortfalls, and need for change is that all  
23 of us up here, along with our executive leadership, need  
24 to address with obviously the structured help of a team  
25 like DaRE.

1           And it was also supposed to be again the  
2 beginning, not the end. That was -- the very first time  
3 in the weeks and months after the tragedy of the George  
4 Floyd murder, which held a massive mirror up to our entire  
5 community, and by that I mean our nation. And I think it  
6 was all on our minds certainly. And that together with,  
7 of course, the bold and courageous letter from CARB's  
8 Black employees, really culminated in I think all of us up  
9 here realizing that we have to change and we have to be  
10 change agents unto ourselves, but we can't do it alone.  
11 And again, reflecting back on what we just heard, I think  
12 as that resolution was the beginning, this is the  
13 substantive progress hearing what we did this morning.

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

17           Thank you.

18           CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you.

19           I think Board Member Takvorian was next.

20           BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Thank you, all, very,  
21 very much. I -- I want to say that I really want to  
22 harken back and appreciate the leadership and the courage  
23 of the Black staff who really started all of what you've  
24 now presented to us and started this process in motion  
25 that lead to the resolution that the Board has adopted.

1 And I want to appreciate Supervisor Serna for his  
2 leadership in helping the Board put together that  
3 resolution -- or leading the Board to put together that  
4 resolution, so that we would have something in concrete  
5 that the leadership of the organization could look back on  
6 and that we hope inspires you to say this is the path that  
7 the leadership really wants to be on.

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

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

21 And Victoria, I particularly identified as you --  
22 as you talked about your experience with bias. And I had  
23 a similar experience of my own name, which I was  
24 pronouncing -- I had very much wanted my name to  
25 Takvorian. It's Takvorian. And it wasn't until I went to



1 Armenia and I was around people who looked and sounded  
2 like me that they were like -- you know, like what are you  
3 even saying? So I understand how we all internalize that  
4 and the damage that that can do for all of us.

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

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

25 Appreciate it.

1 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Mrs. Riordan.

2 BOARD MEMBER RIORDAN: Thank you.

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

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

18 The other thing I wanted to sort of highlight,  
19 again internally more than externally, gender equality. I  
20 think we need to look at that and respect that, and be  
21 comfortable with that, because those of us who have over  
22 the years been a part of government, gender has really  
23 played a key role and sometimes being overlooked for  
24 different positions. And so I would encourage you to make  
25 gender somewhat more starred there in terms of action and,

1 you know, comfort level. And I think that your programs  
2 that you have outlined for this is just -- your programs  
3 are wonderful and thank you very much for all of your  
4 work.

5 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Board Member De La Torre.

6 BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: Thank you.

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

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

13 BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: On my --

14 (Laughter.)

15 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay.

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

18 (Laughter.)

19 BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: But thank you. I want  
20 to thank all of you -- each of you for your presentations.  
21 I -- clearly, a lot of work is going on institutionally  
22 behind the scenes. We don't see it, because, you know, we  
23 show up once a month, so -- but I did want to say that I  
24 do see it when I meet with staff and I have conversations  
25 with staff about policy issues, because these issues come

1 up. They didn't 10 years ago. They do now. There is  
2 thinking, there is talking about how do we address these  
3 issues from a policy perspective. And that all comes from  
4 the work that you're describing here today.

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

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

24 We are building up, as I said, this awareness,  
25 this incorporation of these ideas into what we're doing.

1 I am very, very proud of how far we've come. I recall  
2 early on the first big EJ issue we had was adopting  
3 CalEnviroScreen. And you'll recall there was a lot of  
4 racial connotations to that and I live in a  
5 CalEnviroScreen top 10 community. And people were telling  
6 us all kinds of stuff. It was -- it was a really bizarre  
7 conversation where race was very much embedded in the  
8 arguments that were being made at that time. That was  
9 about 10 years ago.

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

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

1 thinking and our policymaking.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you.

4 Dr. Pacheco-Werner.

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

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

18 And, you know, for me I'd like to -- to see how  
19 we're using that letter as also a North Star and a part of  
20 our North Star of where we're going. So, you know, I'd --  
21 I'd really like to see how we're creating a culture of  
22 listening to the Black -- Black people and Black stories,  
23 and then how we're measuring those Black voices being  
24 valued, as was pointed out in that letter. I'd like to  
25 see how we are creating a culture of allyship specifically

1 for the Black employees at CARB. And I'd like to see how,  
2 you know, that sort of circle back to the Black employees  
3 to see if they are seeing that cultural change happen.  
4 Because I think that we can have wonderful metrics -- I do  
5 cultural work -- cross-cultural work for a living as well,  
6 and -- but if we're not coming back to the root of the  
7 problem, sometimes we'll miss where we were trying to go  
8 in the first place. And I think intentionality about  
9 centering Black people, Black lives is important in this  
10 discussion, because it does necessitate having the hardest  
11 of conversations. And if we can have the hardest of  
12 conversations, we can have other conversations as well.

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

23           Thank you.

24           CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. I'm going to call on  
25 another couple of Board members. And then I've been sort

1 of making a list of some of the kind follow-up requests.

2 Dr. Balmes is next.

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

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

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

23 And as Ms. Margaret has, you know, definitely  
24 bashed into my brain, that training is -- there's training  
25 necessary for all of us to be able to do that interaction



1 with local communities in a culturally humble way. And I  
2 think we've made great progress since I've been on the  
3 Board, but especially in the last couple of years, both  
4 because of the courage of our Black employees and because  
5 with AB 617 we've had to engage with communities.

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

12 So I just feel like we have to keep going with AB  
13 617 for multiple reasons, but part of it is just to get a  
14 better focus through all levels of the agency with regard  
15 to equity and social justice.

16 And I want to give a shout-out to Sonya, because  
17 her presentation I think you were talking about we needed  
18 real data, and there's the REAL -- I don't know if you  
19 were talking about the Racial Equity Assessment Lens, but  
20 I really liked, you know, as a data-driven person in my  
21 career, that -- and Ms. Takvorian also said this, we need  
22 to have data to show that we're making progress. We can't  
23 just, you know, have conversations where, you know, we  
24 think we're doing well. And so I really hope that the  
25 REAL tool, which is in process, you know, achieves the

1 impact that we all want it to have. But I came in when I  
2 think Sonya was presenting and I really appreciated the  
3 presentation.

4 Thank you.

5 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you.

6 Vice Chair Berg.

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

23 Congratulations. Absolutely. Very well done.  
24 It takes a lot of courage to participate, but then it  
25 takes a lot of courage to come and explain it to us. And

1 so thank you for that, we know it's not easy, we know  
2 we're not perfect. We know we fall short all the time.  
3 And so please let us know how we can encourage to lift up  
4 and for us to get better as well.

5 Thank you.

6 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Board Member Kracov.

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

16 You know, this work is really hard. It's really  
17 touchy. It can be very difficult to maintain momentum  
18 over time. You know, sometimes you're and sometimes  
19 you're completely demoralized. So, you know, thank you  
20 for this. I think this should be interactive, so I'll ask  
21 you a question through the Chair. I know the Chair is  
22 putting these together. But maybe following up on the  
23 comments of my fellow Board members, you know, what would  
24 you like to see the Board do? You know, what role do you  
25 sort of see for the Board in these efforts? I'd like to

1 hear that from our panelists today, but I know the  
2 questions will come in a second, and they're being  
3 organized by the Chair. You know, also, I know we are  
4 trying to develop an Office of Racial Equity. I'd like  
5 maybe an update, if we can, on where we are with that  
6 again through the Chair.

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

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

20           So I was really heartened by what Ms. Fletcher  
21 said giving us her perspective on where things are. And,  
22 you know, I do hope that the leadership of this  
23 organization continues to really meaningfully sustain this  
24 work. And I also appreciate you coming to the Board and  
25 the commitment, from what I'm hearing, to give us regular

1 updates on the work, following up, of course, on what  
2 Supervisor Serna did, who I know took the labor of  
3 drafting the resolution in the first place.

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

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

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

1 goals, and measure progress towards those goals, from my  
2 understanding, including, you know, the Board's goals and  
3 the Board's role.

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

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

21 So thank you.

22 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Thank you.

23 I'll just sort of summarize some of the questions  
24 that I heard and then I'm going to give an editorial  
25 comment about the Board's role. So, you know, one of the

1 questions was data, how were we thinking about data and  
2 tracking our work, how are we really maintaining focus on  
3 our Black employees who were the ones who stood up at the  
4 beginning, and a little bit more detail maybe about the  
5 Office of Racial Equity and how it's being structured, and  
6 then the role for the Board.

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

18           And so I think being -- you know, showing that  
19 leadership and that clear direction that this work is  
20 critical. It's a critical part of our mission as an  
21 agency and should continue, and to provide support to  
22 employees for that. I also think it's important to trust  
23 the work that Chanell is doing her -- in her role as  
24 Deputy Executive Officer, and, you know, managing the  
25 resources that she has, and -- and the work with her team,

1 and other employees, and taking her lead on what are the  
2 right next steps, and -- in sort of the day-to-day work  
3 in -- in making this resolution and our intentions a  
4 reality.

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

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

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

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

18           In terms of the role of the Board, one -- one  
19 great place to start is for you all to also take the  
20 Advancing Racial Equity training. That would be a  
21 wonderful place to start. And for all of management to do  
22 that training and to do it continuously. And I do take  
23 the point seriously that new people coming into CARB need  
24 to be trained and understand. But the people who've been  
25 at CARB for a long time also need to be continually



1 trained and better understand what the role -- like the  
2 role that we have in the organization to advance racial  
3 equity really is.

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

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

1           So now I will turn it over to my other panelists.  
2 Thank you.

3           AQPSD AIR RESOURCES ENGINEER VILLA: Thank you.  
4 I want to say I absolutely love the idea of Board Member  
5 Pacheco-Werner that you proposed about being involved. I  
6 can't tell you how much it mean to have you and the other  
7 women of the Board engage with us, with staff, and share  
8 your personal experiences during Women's History Month.  
9 So I would love to see more of that type of involvement  
10 from the Board.

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

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

22           So thank you.

23           STCD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST ECHEVERRIA: Hello  
24 again. I might be a bit of a mess with this one, because  
25 I feel like I have a million thoughts that I want to kind

1 say in response to all these great questions. I want to  
2 echo what Sonya said about intersectionality. And I think  
3 that one thing to remember is when -- when we're looking  
4 at who is leading a lot of these movements around, you  
5 know, Black liberation, around indigenous autonomy, about  
6 immigrant rights. I used to be an immigrant rights  
7 organizer. So often it is queer folks and women. And so  
8 when we are looking at these movements for guidance,  
9 looking at these movements for direction, we need to  
10 acknowledge that a lot of our communities are much more  
11 ahead than a lot of our organizations are. And there is  
12 built in intersectionality there and we need to be able to  
13 recognize it, and uplift it, and be able to kind of know  
14 that this is a shortcoming that we're still trying to  
15 figure out, but that there are plenty of really amazing  
16 examples to look at.

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

22 So with respect to data, I think that there is  
23 data in terms of how we are doing internally, but also how  
24 we are doing externally. How are we interfacing with the  
25 world. And I think internally, we can come with a lot of

1 metrics. But in terms of how we are doing as far as  
2 impact with the world around us, that would be something  
3 that I would love to hear from our public stakeholders.  
4 What are the equity metrics that are going to mean  
5 something to you, what are the equity metrics that you  
6 want to see us make progress on, because ultimately,  
7 they're going to be what's most effective and what would  
8 it look like to -- to invite some thoughts around that,  
9 and to invite advice on that in a responsible way.

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

13           (Laughter.)

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

20           Similarly with how we're focusing on Black  
21 employees, I think that that's a question for them. And I  
22 think that there -- there needs to be a real serious  
23 understanding of -- and kind of like analysis of what it  
24 means when we -- when we lose Black employees, or when  
25 Black employees tell us that they are going through

1 something, how do we take all of those concerns, anonymize  
2 them to not penalize, and then put those into a larger  
3 framework that then we can -- we can make some progress  
4 through. So again, that one I feel not super qualified  
5 for, but I have some thoughts around, you know, who might  
6 be.

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

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

22           I found myself asking when I was trying to  
23 develop recommendations, you know, what -- what role does  
24 the Board have what recommendations are actionable, what  
25 is useful, what ultimately will make your job easier and

1 our experience better when we draft tease recommendations?

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

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

23           And I think that this could be something like  
24 internally some kind of process where we're able to  
25 crowdsource some areas where we'd really like to see

1 support, so that then you all can see a condensed version  
2 of that and know what some of the priorities from the  
3 staff side are with us being folks that regularly interact  
4 with stakeholders, a lot of staff, you know.

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

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

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

1 (Laughter.)

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

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

7 (Laughter.)

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

18 I think that it would be revolutionary for us to  
19 think of models where we are in partnership with our  
20 public, you know, stakeholders, our communities, our  
21 friends in developing those metrics and developing the  
22 vision for what we should be measuring, because after all,  
23 outside of this group, and outside of this room, outside  
24 of our agency, and this multitude expertise that every  
25 single person at CARB has, there is also, you know, like



1 Cristina mentioned, this opportunity for a richer  
2 conversation. And I think when we talk about data, for  
3 example, in relation to the racial equity assessment lens,  
4 and when we talk about data when it comes to measuring  
5 outcomes for advancing racial equity, there is a real  
6 opportunity for us to directly connect with folks who the  
7 data is their lives. It's the lived experience of living  
8 as a Black or Brown person. So I think that that would be  
9 wonderful. Thank you.

10 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you.

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

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

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

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

24 MAURO LIBRE: Thank you for this time. My  
25 understanding of the resolution is that the end goal is

1 for CARB to better serve the public by creating a  
2 workforce that is representative of all Californians  
3 framed through an equity lens. Let me state the obvious,  
4 not all Black, or Brown, or Asians, or White folks are the  
5 same. In fact, each of these groups have names for folks  
6 that they believe have betrayed their community. During  
7 Vietnam, we had Hanoi Jane, for example. In Mexico, they  
8 have malinche or vendido. For some Black folks it's the  
9 brother with the whip.

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

20 I've seen air districts and other governmental  
21 agencies bring Black and Brown folks into, let's say, the  
22 AB 617 process, who advocates would say spent most of  
23 their time with their foot on the neck of other Black and  
24 Brown folks. The inequities continue there despite POC  
25 leadership in positions.

1           I heard a song recently about slavery. A Black  
2 man was singing about the brother with the whip who sold  
3 him onto the slave ship. It was not done out of poverty  
4 or need according to the song, for they were already  
5 wealthy. So please take note, a person of any ethnicity  
6 who is more driven by ambition than kindness and honesty  
7 is likely to expand any divide between CARB and the most  
8 marginalized communities. I once told a room full of  
9 angry Latinos that I preferred a kindhearted White person  
10 up on the dais or in charge than a person of color driven  
11 by self-interest. As you can imagine, they wanted to beat  
12 me up, but the Latino advocates there protected me and  
13 said I was just being honest. Ironically, I was defending  
14 the governmental makeup of a board.

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

21           Regardless of how many people of color you hire,  
22 even the kind ones can be indoctrinated to the oppressive  
23 top-down approach that still reigns within government  
24 agencies. This is history -- this is centuries of history  
25 of systemic racism across the globe.

1           And thank you very much for allowing me to share  
2 my truth to you guys.

3           BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

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

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

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

11           Please correct the record. It was July 22nd,  
12 2020 that community brought these issues forward. And it  
13 was I, LaDonna Williams, All Positives Possible, that made  
14 comments about the mistreatment of Black community women  
15 in the community who were being harassed because of their  
16 advocacy. Then -- and so that was July 22nd.

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

25           I also then pointed to CARB to look within and

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

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

1 must backtrack, include us in this process, because this  
2 Resolution 20-33 does not include community input.

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

15           Thank you.

16           BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

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

20           Catherine, you can unmute and begin.

21           DR. CATHERINE GAROUPA WHITE: Good afternoon.

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

24           Since 2003, CVAQ has advocated for a reduction of  
25 air pollution and climate gases from the largest sources

1 in the San Joaquin Valley with prioritization of immediate  
2 protections and reductions in communities of color and  
3 low-income communities. Thank you to community leaders  
4 and CARB staff for ensuring attention to these issues and  
5 agree that history cannot be forgotten.

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

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

20 Equity involves trying to understand and give  
21 people what they need for full and healthy lives. And  
22 CARB's plans and programs fundamentally influence people's  
23 exposure to air pollution and the technology choices for  
24 meeting clean air and climate goals. I can't help but  
25 reflect on how the collective and collaborative process

1 that your staff described not only mirrors how CVAQ  
2 operates as a coalition and builds consensus, but it also  
3 echoes requests from the Environmental Justice Advisory  
4 Committee for the 2022 Scoping Plan to move towards a  
5 co-design process.

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

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

21 Thank you.

22 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

23 Moses Huerta, you can unmute and begin.

24 MOSES HUERTA: Thank you. Good afternoon, Chair  
25 and Board members. Thank you for the -- again for the



1 opportunity to speak with you on this matter.

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

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

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

24 So I want to encourage you work and continue to  
25 build off on this, because it will yield benefits. And

1 then not only as you address the issues that were spoken  
2 to today, but will also help myself and my community to  
3 move forward the environmental justice in addressing the  
4 issues that we have in hand.

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

7           BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Than you.

8           Okay. I will now turn it over to Board Clerk  
9 Lindsay Garcia to call on our commenters here in the room.

10           BOARD CLERK GARCIA: Thank you.

11           We have one in-person commenter who wishes to  
12 speak at this time.

13           Angie Balderas.

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

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

1 process.

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

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

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

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

1 them.

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

7           Thank you.

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

10          CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Thank you.

11          Does Deputy Executive officer Fletcher have any  
12 closing words?

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

17          A couple of just like closing -- closing thoughts  
18 on a couple of points that kind of got raised around being  
19 data driven. A couple of things that I will say. One is  
20 that I want to acknowledge, the materials that we shared  
21 with Board members, those are also on our website. So if  
22 you go to our equity page and you look at the resources,  
23 you can see all of those there. I say that, because we  
24 did a survey in 2020, and that's the survey that Ugo had  
25 referenced in her talking points, where we all -- where we

1 did kind of create that baseline of understanding. And  
2 that goes by demographic, right? So it's ethnicity  
3 demographic, where we created a base line of understanding  
4 where we are at currently in 2020.

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

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

25 The questions that they're asking in that data

1 it's going to come through our reg process -- our  
2 regulation as well as different forums. And part of it is  
3 to start to capture that and to see to the shift. And so  
4 I think we can start to capture that as well, at least in  
5 the data front.

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

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

21           And I do think we're starting to think about,  
22 well, what does it look like for us to organize ourselves  
23 to have those conversations. And we've already been  
24 trying out some different forums and ways to engage the  
25 Board on different efforts ongoing. And so I think we can

1 continue to explore those and think about how we can  
2 continue to have that conversation, because part of what I  
3 do appreciate and love is the thought partnership. And I  
4 thank the expertise that each Board member brings to this.

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

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

23 But I think the next one will be, right, is like  
24 even as we're creating that planning effort, how are we  
25 doing it in a way where again, right, it's not just CARB

1 staff in that effort, but we're doing it in partnership  
2 with community in respect for their time, expertise, and  
3 capacity, and also building up on all the efforts  
4 happening across the agency. So it's going to be a more  
5 robust effort over time.

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

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

22 And part of what we wanted was to have this  
23 initial conversation with Board members and then to think  
24 about, well, how we continue this conversation with  
25 communities. So I welcome the com -- the comments that we



1 heard today. I mean, most people have like my phone or  
2 email. But I think I would love to continue those  
3 conversations and think about again how are we making sure  
4 that this is really being informed by, and driven by, and  
5 built on the expertise of communities.

6 So thank you so much.

7 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. Thank you so much.

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

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

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

23 So LaDonna, you can unmute and begin.

24 LaDONNA WILLIAMS: Yes. LaDonna Williams, again.  
25 All Positives Possible. And for the sake of being

1 repetitive, please bear with me. But trying to get in our  
2 comments in these three minutes is nerve-racking. What I  
3 want to make clear, if it wasn't, was that this community  
4 letter by All Positives Possible was presented July 22nd,  
5 2020, that then got a response from your EJ Executive  
6 Unit, which was then Ms. Veronica Eady. That was  
7 September 4th, 2020. And then, if I'm not mistaken, it  
8 was Board Member Serna who drafted that resolution that  
9 was the request of community October 2020. Those were the  
10 issues that, in my opinion and I believe others, because  
11 we've been requesting these sort of actions within CARB to  
12 address these issues, started this whole process. It is  
13 not to take away from current efforts. But if we are  
14 talking about effectively making change and positive  
15 change, first, we must start with an accurate record of  
16 how we got to where we are.

17           Someone had mentioned the clean cars initiative  
18 or clean transportation. That's a perfect example of all  
19 of this talk and where things have not changed. I know  
20 we'll have an opportunity to address I believe hopefully  
21 if they don't witch it over to tomorrow, AB 617. We are  
22 an AB 617 community. We serve AB 617 communities. And  
23 what we have seen consistently across the Board is the  
24 continuing inequities and this structure that is set up to  
25 where our historically disadvantaged, long-term exposed,

1 high-risk communities are forced to beg for funding and  
2 support through white structured NGOs, non-governmental  
3 organizations, who profess to serve our communities.

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

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

19           I thank you for the time.

20           BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

21           Okay. Moses Huerta, you can unmute and begin.

22           MOSES HUERTA: Thank you. And again my name is  
23 Moses Huerta, a resident in the City of Paramount. And I  
24 just wanted to -- in the open comment to -- in both AB 617  
25 and elsewhere in the diversity issues in the conversation

1 we had today, I just wanted to publicly thank you, Board,  
2 for participating in the -- coming out to visit and the  
3 tour to not only add to this work that we're building on.  
4 And I really appreciate that it was -- it was an  
5 experience that I think will yield ben -- benefits, not  
6 only from that perspective, but staff, and hopefully with  
7 Board members, but also as a community member was  
8 energizing, and to see, and hear you in person as we  
9 progress to that region to keep moving forward the  
10 conversation of environmental justice. We do have a lot  
11 of work to do and a lot of barriers that we need to break  
12 down to really move the conversation forward.

13 But on a personal, I really am extremely  
14 appreciate of everyone that was supportive in the event  
15 and look forward to continuing that, and that -- in any  
16 way, shape, or form, because it will be beneficial and --  
17 as we talk about collecting information and data, and just  
18 hearing the firsthand experiences will yield many results.

19 Again, thank you again for the opportunity to  
20 speak with you. Thank you.

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

1 record and you may begin.

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

17           And I really wish there was like a job swap,  
18 where you can -- if someone is working further away could  
19 trade with some -- trade jobs with somebody else to get  
20 closer to where they live. But the -- the biggest problem  
21 is, well, if everyone is going to go live in the woods and  
22 live a sustainable lifestyle, and forage my own herbs out  
23 there, and grow -- maybe grow something, some vegetables  
24 or something -- nutritious vegetables, if I could -- and I  
25 think -- well, they're chasing everyone out of the parks

1 right now. There's no people, I guess, allowed -- the  
2 homeless people allowed to live there any more. And  
3 that's back-up sustain -- it's really sustainable. It's  
4 better that people live in the park rather than commute to  
5 the park. That is people getting to drive all the way out  
6 to the park to enjoy nature, but they can't live with  
7 nature. And then they're going to put them in probably  
8 the cheapest home, or put them in some kind of apartment,  
9 which is not their lifestyle with all kinds of synthetic  
10 chemicals, with -- in the middle of the city with no  
11 nature, no vegetation. At least, they should be given a  
12 yard with a garden in it at least, if they're giving  
13 houses -- giving -- the states can give whatever they  
14 have, and they're only building this kind of apartments in  
15 the city. That's all lately.

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

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

23 Thank you. Thanks.

24 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

25 Chair that concludes the open commenters.

1 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. Thank you. The Board  
2 will be taking a break and starting the AB 617 item at 4  
3 this afternoon.

4 Thank you.

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

6 (Thereupon a recess was taken.)

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

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

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

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

1 return to the auditorium and resume the hearing.

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

7 I would like to take this opportunity to remind  
8 everyone to speak clearly and from a quiet location,  
9 whether you are joining us in zoom or by phone.

10 Interpretation services will be provided today in Spanish.  
11 If you are joining us using Zoom, there is a button  
12 labeled "Interpretation" on the Zoom screen. Click on  
13 that interpretation button and select Spanish to hear the  
14 meeting in Spanish. If you are joining us here in person  
15 and would like to listen to the meeting in Spanish, please  
16 notify a Board assistant and they will provide you with  
17 further instructions.

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

21 (Interpreter translated in Spanish)

22 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. We are now ready to move  
23 on to the last item on today's agenda, which is Item  
24 number 22-7-2, an informational update on the Assembly  
25 Bill 617 Community Air Protection Program statewide



1 strategy. If you are here with us in the room and wish to  
2 comment on this item, please fill out a request-to-speak  
3 card as soon as possible and submit it to the Board  
4 assistant. If are you joining us remotely and wish to  
5 comment on this item, please click the raise hand button  
6 or dial star nine now. We will call on both in-person and  
7 remote commenters when we get to the public comment  
8 portion of the item.

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

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

23 Today's informational update includes a  
24 representative panel of AB 617 Consultation Group members.  
25 The Consultation Group is charged with guiding the

1 implementation of the AB 617 Program. The panel will  
2 share suggestions and reflections on our efforts to bring  
3 clean air to more communities and the upcoming revision to  
4 the AB 617 statewide strategy, which is also referred to  
5 as the program blueprint.

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

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

18 AB 617 called on CARB to deliver a new model for  
19 reducing air pollution exposure and emissions that centers  
20 community priorities. Over the past four years of program  
21 implementation, we have learned much about what it takes  
22 to authentically engage with communities with the goal of  
23 improving air quality at the local level. Learning how to  
24 co-design solutions with districts and communities is one  
25 of those lessons.

1 Another lesson is that collaborate planning with  
2 many stakeholders takes time and resources. Every year,  
3 the number of communities in the program has increased,  
4 yet funding for implementation remains flat. This funding  
5 challenge is part of what is driving the program reset  
6 that you'll hear about this evening.

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

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

24 The People's Blueprint lifts up recom --  
25 recommended changes to the Program Blueprint that would

1 better empower community leaders, improve governance of  
2 the community steering committees, and apply a racial  
3 equity lens to the work of achieving emissions and  
4 exposure reductions in disproportionately impacted  
5 communities.

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

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

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

23 I will now ask Liliana Nuñez of our Office of  
24 Community Air Protection to share some background about  
25 the development of the People's Blueprint and introduce

1 our panel for today's discussion. Following the panel, we  
2 will hear from Julio Luongo from our Office of Community  
3 Air Protection, who will present the upcoming program  
4 revision process.

5 Liliana.

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

12 (Thereupon a video was played.)

13 (Transcript of video.)

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

22 Another thing is just really prioritizing  
23 listening as the first step, listening to community voices  
24 and really just listening to those who are  
25 underrepresented. And so I just want to emphasize that,

1 and that's one of the things that I brought to my  
2 co-chairs, and like the Committee as well just like  
3 focusing how do we uplift these underrepresented voices in  
4 our -- in our community.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: My grandma still lives in  
6 Richmond, a lot of my friends and family. My mom still  
7 lives, you know, in Richmond. So it just -- like I say,  
8 man, I -- like I feel like my -- my family have no choice.  
9 They walk outside. They paid all their tax money,  
10 their -- you know, their tax dollars. They work every  
11 day. They work hard just to get ahead in life, but, you  
12 know, all to be, you know, trumped by this -- this  
13 multi-million dollar company that's -- that's not really  
14 for us. You know, it's -- it's -- it's no just us, it's  
15 just us, you know. There's no justice. It's just us.  
16 And so that's kind of what like I've been -- like my  
17 mindset about how Chevron and just, you know, even the  
18 justice system and all this other stuff that we -- that  
19 we're faced with is like, look, man, you all are not  
20 helping. You're hindering us and we need you all help  
21 more than what you're all doing. And you're all looking  
22 at the way that like you want to look at it to help us and  
23 it's not helping us, because our kids are still, you know,  
24 facing all these different problems, all these different  
25 birth defects and just growing up with all these different

1 ailments. And, you know -- and there's stuff that we need  
2 to -- if we got out of Richmond and we moved -- removed  
3 Chevron out of Richmond, I think it would help us a lot  
4 more. We would lose money, but I think in the long run  
5 our health is more important than money.

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

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

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

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

25 ASHLEY HERNANDEZ: I was one of those kids that

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

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

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

23           So every once in a while, there will be a fire.  
24 People just tend to go in the park and start fires, maybe  
25 it be the children. I don't know, but we have a fear that



1 we're going to be the next Paradise and it's going to put  
2 all our houses in danger. It's going to be our health in  
3 danger. We had the pallet fire out in Boggs Tract I think  
4 it was. That was another one. It was -- it was scary.  
5 All that wind blew down here. It -- we're downwind from  
6 there. So everything that happens in Boggs Tract comes  
7 down this way.

8           What originally brought me to AB 617 was  
9 Washington School. My son goes to Washington School out  
10 in Boggs Tract. I know they made some changes, but  
11 there's still a lot of exhaust, a lot of industry around  
12 that area. And it concerns me that my children are out  
13 there in the hot sun running a mile, so that concerns me.

14           It's -- to me, it's going to be future health  
15 problems. Most all -- all the residents have asthma.  
16 Their kids have asthma. They have inhalers, yeah, most of  
17 them.

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

25           UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I worked in the emergency

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

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

22 (Spoke in Spanish.)

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

1 impact.

2 (Spoke in Spanish.)

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

5 (Spoke in Spanish.)

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

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

14 (Hands raised.)

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

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Bronchitis?

18 (Hands raised.)

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Headaches?

20 (Hands raised.)

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Nose bleeds?

22 (Hands raised.)

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Scratchy throats?

24 (Hands raised.)

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Nausea?

1 (Hands raised.)

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

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The church.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The church.

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

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

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hospitals.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hospitals, yeah.

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

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: True

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's no that great, right.  
18 The emissions coming from oil drilling sites are not  
19 creating healthy people.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: In 2018, a couple of CBE  
21 youth members did a study with USC, which is a private  
22 university focusing on particulate matter in our  
23 communities. Particulate matter is substances that are in  
24 the air, but we can't see them, because they're really,  
25 really small. The scientists told us that the average

1 could go up to 30. But when I saw the numbers, my highest  
2 one went up to 120. 75, 76, 76, 77.

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

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

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

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

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

25 DARRYL MOLINA SARMIENTO: You open your garage,

1 right there is an oil drilling site. You're washing your  
2 dishes. Right there is an oil drilling site. You're at  
3 church, in the parking lot there's an oil drilling site.

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

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

14 (End of transcript.)

15 (Thereupon the video concluded.)

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

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

21 --o0o--

22 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thank you.  
23 So I want to thank all of the people and the organizations  
24 listed here that granted permission to use their footage  
25 for the community perspective video.

1           You may remember Kevin Ruano Hernandez, the first  
2 person in the video, who speak with you on October 28th  
3 and his message about the importance of listening. This  
4 week some of you got the opportunity to tour Long Beach,  
5 Paramount, and Maywood with community members to hear  
6 directly from them about their experiences. This video is  
7 another way to hear from communities in other areas of the  
8 State. And we saw a range of voices describe the  
9 realities of living with environmental injustice many  
10 times unknowingly.

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

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

24           Next slide, please.

25                           --o0o--

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

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

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

20   --o0o--

21           OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: AB 617  
22 calls for a statewide strategy to reduce emissions in  
23 communities affected by a high cumulative exposure burden.  
24 The statewide strategy is documented in the Community Air  
25 Protection Blueprint and it's meant to guide the statewide



1 work towards achieving environmental justice in  
2 communities historically and disproportionately impacted  
3 by air pollution.

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

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

17 --o0o--

18 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: As we're  
19 revising the statewide strategy, which includes ways to  
20 reset the program to expand benefits to eligible  
21 communities, we look to our four pillars of the Community  
22 Air Protection Program. At the foundation, it's  
23 partnering and collaboration with communities, community  
24 based organizations, air districts, and industry. We  
25 continue to work on building relationships and trust, and

1 we will strive to have a meaningful robust engagement  
2 throughout the process. You will hear from the  
3 Consultation Group panel as they share thoughts on the new  
4 direction of the program and how it can be informed by the  
5 People's Blueprint.

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

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

21 Our fourth pillar is building capacity. This  
22 includes building our own capacity through training on  
23 structural racism and in community engagement. Capacity  
24 building for communities includes funding for community  
25 air grants and incentives programs and we'll hear from one

1 of the community air grantees about how they're using  
2 their air grant to write their own local emissions  
3 reduction plan.

4 --o0o--

5 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: So let's  
6 take a moment to see where the program is today. Over the  
7 last four years, 17 communities across the state have been  
8 selected by this Board to develop a community emissions  
9 reduction plan, and/or a community air monitoring plan,  
10 commonly referred to a CERPs and CAMPs respectively.  
11 These are highly burdened communities and represent a  
12 diverse mix of urban and rural areas, geographic size,  
13 population density, and air pollution concerns. Eleven of  
14 the communities have CERPs have already been developed in  
15 partnership with community steering committees, CSCs. And  
16 11 of those CERPs -- yeah, they were already adopted by  
17 the air district and approved by the CARB Board.

18 There are three CERPs from the year three  
19 selection that will be considered by the air district and  
20 then the CARB Board later this year or early next year.  
21 All communities are working on both CAMPs and CERPs except  
22 for West Oakland and East Oakland communities, which were  
23 selected to work on the CERP only and the South Sacramento  
24 Florin community was selected to develop an implement a  
25 CAMP only.

1 CARB annually receives reports from air districts  
2 on their CERP implementation progress and provides updates  
3 to the Board in an annual Board item update in the fall  
4 and in an annual implementation update memos. So what we  
5 have learned from work in these communities will inform  
6 the Blueprint 2.0 and other strategies we identify to  
7 serve more communities.

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

10 --o0o--

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

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

23 In Shafter to overcome hurdles with the lawn and  
24 garden equipment replacement programs, the community and  
25 the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

1 streamlined the lawn and garden equipment replacement  
2 program through a clean green yard machine trade in event  
3 that successfully replaced 150 gas-powered mowers with  
4 electric models all in one day.

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

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

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

24           And we will continue to uplift progress  
25 identified through and the annual reports. And we're

1 working with -- together with air districts to better  
2 align the ways that progress is reported. And also, we  
3 will begin a practice of creating opportunities for AB 617  
4 communities and air districts to share in their own words  
5 the progress that they are making and the lessons they  
6 would like to lift up by inviting them to speak at future  
7 AB 617 related Board items.

8 --o0o--

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

18 As a forum for that consultation, in January  
19 2018, CARB convened the AB 617 Consultation Group chaired  
20 by CARB Board Member Dr. John Balmes. And recently, CARB  
21 Board Member Davina Hurt has also joined the group as a  
22 co-chair. As a reminder, the statewide strategy, also  
23 known as the Blueprint, was adopted by the CARB Board in  
24 September 2018. And AB 617 requires that it be updated  
25 every five years.

1           In early 2020, just after one and a half years of  
2 using the Blueprint as guidance for implementation of AB  
3 617, the Consultation Group recognized the gaps and the  
4 space for improvement and began discussing potential  
5 updates to the blueprint through an ad hoc working group.  
6 In the next slide, I'll introduce the product that was  
7 borne from this process.

8                           --o0o--

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

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

25           The People's Blueprint is a starting point for

1 review, discussion, and comment by the full Consultation  
2 Group on updates to CARB's Program Blueprint. Since  
3 September 2021, the Consultation Group has been  
4 methodically reviewing the People's Blueprint chapter by  
5 chapter, as the discussions by the entire Consultation  
6 Group will significantly inform updates to the Program  
7 Blueprint with a renewed and increased focus on equity and  
8 principles -- a renewed focus on equity and principles of  
9 environmental justice to achieve the goals and  
10 requirements of the law.

11 --o0o--

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

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

21 VERONICA EADY: Thank you, Chanell. I heard that  
22 your had a really interesting presentation this morning  
23 about equity work going on at CARB and it sounds like you  
24 all have embraced it and our very ambitious in achieving  
25 your goals.



1           There was a letter that you all will remember  
2 from a number of people across the agency who collaborated  
3 to talk about their experiences at CARB. And I just  
4 wanted to make it clear that there were many collaborators  
5 from across the agency, most of whom chose to remain  
6 anonymous. And so since they are anonymous, I want to  
7 make sure that they get Credit for the hard work that they  
8 put into that letter. So Chanell, thank you for making  
9 that space for the correction.

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

13           OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thank you.

14           Okay. So now it's time to hear directly from our  
15 Consultation Group Panel on their ideas for how we can  
16 bring benefits to more disproportionately burdened  
17 communities in the state and what we should consider as we  
18 revise the statewide strategy.

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

23           MARGARET GORDON: Hello. Ms. Ms. Margaret  
24 Gordon, West Oakland Environmental Indicators,  
25 co-partner -- let me say it back. Ms. Margaret Gordon,

1 co-founder and the co-director for the West Oakland  
2 Environmental Indicators Project. And we were the first  
3 group -- first community that went directly to an action  
4 plan on the AB 617.

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

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

24 And you can't have a reset button until you start  
25 addressing all those flaws of many of the air district

1 staff up and down the state don't know -- first don't have  
2 a relationship, they have no trust, they have had  
3 problems, and there's not -- there is nothing set in stone  
4 of how to remedy some of the conflicts of the past. And  
5 until we have that -- having a reset button just add  
6 more -- we add more friction to a -- to a -- to a -- to a  
7 issue of trust and relationship building.

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

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

24           And then also, I want to get down to looking at  
25 permitting and developments in these communities. You --

1 there's -- who is addressing that when we -- when our  
2 communities see that our local government is still  
3 treating us -- treating us unfairly. Where do we go?  
4 Because it's not -- right now, there's no partnership  
5 right here, right now, since the beginning. Where  
6 is the -- when is the California State Attorney being  
7 involved in this? Where is the Civil Rights piece inside  
8 of this?

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

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

24           And I just do not see that -- that is not being  
25 perceived and the issue of resetting. And when you start

1 talking about equity, if the people have not had no  
2 orientation, education, no practice of doing that, how are  
3 you going to reset the button for something we set -- set  
4 to do a reset?

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

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

16           Veronica, did you already introduce yourself?

17           OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Great.  
18 We're just -- we're -- yeah, we can just introduce --  
19 introductions and then we can start with the questions  
20 after.

21           VERONICA EADY: I'm Veronica Eady. I know many  
22 of you know me. I am the Senior Deputy Executive Officer  
23 of Policy and Equity at the Bay Area Air Quality  
24 Management District. So that includes our AB 617 work. I  
25 do want to acknowledge the years that I spent at the

1 California Air Resources Board working on AB 617 and  
2 helping to build the foundation of it. So it's really  
3 great to be able to be at the Air District, have this  
4 perspective, and see how the program is evolving.

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

11 Pleasure to be here.

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

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

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

23 Kathryn.

24 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: It looks like you're  
25 muted, Kathryn.

1 KATHRYN HIGGINS: Okay.

2 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: There we go.

3 KATHRYN HIGGINS: Okay.

4 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Yes, we can.

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

20 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thanks,  
21 Kathryn.

22 Paula.

23 PAULA TORRADO: Hi. Hi, Liana. Thank you for  
24 the opportunity to be here today. My name is Paula  
25 Torrado Plazas. And I am the manager of Health and

1 Environment Programs at Physicians for Social  
2 Responsibility, Los Angeles. And I have been at PSR-LA  
3 for over a little bit of three -- more than three years  
4 working in South Los Angeles implementing our community  
5 air protection grant through the AB 617 work, building  
6 capacity, and education, and awareness around AB 617 and  
7 pollution directly with communities in South LA.

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

15           Thank you.

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

23           So over the last four years we've learned that  
24 there are many limitations with the current model that  
25 focuses on community selection and air district convened



1 community steering committees. The Board has directed  
2 staff to reimagine the program to bring benefits to more  
3 communities statewide that are eligible but not -- have  
4 not been formally selected for CAMPs or CERPs.

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

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

15 Jess, could you start us off?

16 JESSICA OLSON: Absolutely happy too.

17 First off, I just want to start with I think in  
18 terms of understanding what we can do in other  
19 communities, we have to start by highlighting really the  
20 benefits that this limited selection has allowed for the  
21 selected communities and at least speaking for the Valley,  
22 the four selected communities. We have allocated  
23 specifically in these three - soon to be fourth, coming to  
24 your Board in the fall - CERPs over \$110 million  
25 specifically for incentive programs to benefit these

1 communities. In addition to several enforcement, and  
2 regulatory, and partnership, and outreach measures, and to  
3 implement each one of those measures in a truly  
4 community-driven process. It takes that trust building  
5 and that relationship building that was spoken of earlier.

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

19 So how do we elevate what we have, right?  
20 There's more -- there's dozens of communities just in the  
21 valley, of course, across the State that need these  
22 resources. And so what we've found and what we definitely  
23 want to move toward, at least in the valley, is to try to  
24 understand how some of the community-identified projects,  
25 and in particular in these communities, and by that I mean

1 the ones that are beyond the typical cap-incentive  
2 guidelines. It's beyond Moyer, beyond Prop 1B. It's  
3 really projects that hit at the heart of what communities  
4 are interested in doing. How do we get those to other  
5 committees?

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

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

25           And so these are the things we do have district

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

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

14 So thank you, Lilibiana.

15 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thanks,  
16 Jess.

17 Gus.

18 GUSTAVO AGUIRRE, JR.: Yeah. Thank you.

19 So, you know, I think along the lines of what  
20 Jessica was stating, there has been a lot of growth that  
21 has happened, you know, since AB 617 day one, right, when  
22 we came together and showed the communities and now, you  
23 know, diving into year three. And one of the very first  
24 conversations that residents had was like how is this  
25 scalable, right? How can we scale this to other

1 communities, to smaller communities, to, you know,  
2 communities that are not cities, that are unincorporated  
3 areas, right?

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

21           And so one of the things was making sure that we  
22 look at all -- have, you know, technical expertise in the  
23 community and at these districts to look at what are the  
24 top strategies across the valley CERPs, right? What are  
25 all the strategies? What are the top five or 10

1 strategies that these residents are looking at to amplify  
2 in these communities and how can residents work with the  
3 Valley District to make sure that this is happening in  
4 these other communities, right?

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

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

19           And so it's looking at those strategies that we  
20 believe are -- that really interconnect the communities in  
21 the San Joaquin Valley that are major issues, right. And  
22 some communities the issues are refineries. In other  
23 commune -- in other Central Valley communities, the issues  
24 are CAFOs and dairies, and other communities are, you  
25 know, fence line pesticide applications that happen right

1 across the street. So it's very diverse the assessment of  
2 needs that are needed in our communities. But I think  
3 it's really looking at the strategy that residents have  
4 talked about over and over again, right?

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

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

19 And so those are kind of some my thoughts there.

20 Thank you.

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

23 Paula.

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

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

11 But I think that in order to get there, as an  
12 alternative to the model that currently exists of  
13 selecting different communities for the -- for the CERP or  
14 the CAMP, I think that we need to start giving -- or AB  
15 617 needs to start giving the community the power and the  
16 power decision-making for creating its own steering  
17 committee to give them time and give the communities the  
18 time, and the process, and the resources to build their  
19 own process, to come together, to deepen and build  
20 relationships in a way that -- that builds trust.

21 And I think, one, the timeline is very strenuous  
22 and extractive to get there in the pace that we need it.  
23 But I do think it's important to mention that agencies  
24 need to both step back and step back -- step up for this  
25 process and let the communities come together and support



1 not just technically but with the resources and -- yeah,  
2 and the technical support, so that we can start  
3 co-learning and co-designing together. And so co-leaders  
4 or community-based organizations don't feel like we're  
5 sort of giving feedback and input, but that we're equal  
6 partners in the process. And I know that's part of the  
7 nuances and the lessons learned of the process, but I  
8 think that's something that needs to be said in terms of  
9 the reset. Yeah, just -- just giving the communities the  
10 opportunity to power build, and organize, and given the  
11 resources to do that.

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

21           So to address that, we need to sort of start  
22 looking at sector-based approaches with a community  
23 approach to regulation, where polluting sources that are  
24 common or in different communities can be addressed in  
25 streamlined -- in a streamlined format, so like

1 refineries, dry cleaners, auto body shops, how do we start  
2 addressing these sectors in a statewide -- with a  
3 statewide approach and with a community-led approach that  
4 would determine how to prioritize sectors, develop  
5 priorities, as well as helping determine the framework for  
6 implementing best practices, implementing just transition  
7 pilot projects.

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

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

24 Thank you.

25 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thanks,

1 Paula.

2 Kathryn.

3 KATHRYN HIGGINS: Yeah. Thank you, Liliana.

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

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

22 However, when we take a step back and we look at  
23 the model and the structure that is in place, a lot of our  
24 challenges are stemming from the fact that this is a very  
25 resource intensive program. It requires trust building.

1 It requires a lot to take place in a 12-month time frame,  
2 which is significantly condensed for the level of  
3 engagement that is required by AB 617.

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

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

22           There are, I believe, opportunities for the Air  
23 District to do things differently, as there are for our  
24 community members to do differently, and that includes  
25 environmental organizations as well.

1           And so I think to deal with, I think, the  
2 structure that we're all working under right now, one of  
3 the key things of importance is setting expectations for  
4 what's to come, and what's required on behalf of community  
5 members and air districts in order to develop versus  
6 implement CAMPs and CERPs.

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

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

22           But what we -- what we grapple with is where that  
23 listening then -- where the air district can be given an  
24 opportunity and the bandwidth to also share information  
25 about our expertise, which is what I think community

1 members need as we develop the CERPs and CAMPs. So I want  
2 to offer just an opportunity to talk about that again  
3 as -- as a fundamental, you know, challenge in the  
4 program, the time frame, and the stress, and the burden  
5 that that puts upon the process.

6 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thank you,  
7 Kathryn.

8 Ms. Margaret.

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

20 For instance, we have -- an where I live, I'm  
21 right in the middle of the AB 617 community for West  
22 Oakland. A block away from my house, the City allowed a  
23 truck parking facility. It took us two years. Two years  
24 for getting an injunction or referee through the city to  
25 remove that parking truck facility.

1           But if we had had joint -- there's been -- had  
2 been some kind of a joint authority between California Air  
3 Resources Board, the State attorney and understanding  
4 that -- of the impacts -- already understood the impacts  
5 of this community. Permitting -- the Permitting  
6 Department of the City of Oakland would never gave that  
7 owner or that business able to park trucks in the  
8 neighborhood.

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

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

1 meetings for the last -- for three years now.

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

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

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

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

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

25 I was at CARB from the beginning of that. And it



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

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

23           And so I think that something like that -- you  
24 know, as I said, we're going to work on it in our air  
25 district. But if the Consultation Group say were -- was

1 interested in doing something like that, I think that that  
2 would be really helpful to a number of communities that  
3 are still on the waiting list that we haven't gotten to to  
4 kind of tee off of what Paula was talking about.

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

20 And then one thing that I just wanted to touch on  
21 is that kind of this overarching thing that for air  
22 districts, and CARB, and other regulators to share power  
23 with communities is something new and it's something that  
24 creates a feeling of discomfort, I know, for many of us --  
25 for many of our staff. I think that that discomfort is a

1 good thing and we need to look at why we're feeling this  
2 discomfort and helping us get -- using it to help us get  
3 to the next step.

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

7           Some of the things that AB 617 unfortunately is  
8 not able to reach is, for example, we have designated  
9 communities. And in the Bay Area we're getting ready to  
10 go into East Oakland. I think it was CARB that had a  
11 workshop when AB 617 was first passed. And I can't  
12 remember if it was probably in 2017 -- in the fall of  
13 2017. I was still at the Air District and I was on a  
14 panel. I was sitting next to Greg Nudd who works at the  
15 Air District. And Greg leans over and whispered to me,  
16 you know, we just announced today that we permitted this  
17 crematorium in East Oakland.

18           And it was -- I shouldn't have been surprised by  
19 it, but, you know, he identified for me at that very  
20 moment one of the problems with AB 617. We're trying to  
21 reduce emissions, but at least in our air -- our air  
22 district, we're still permitting in those communities.  
23 And so we need to take a look at it and look at our --  
24 look at our rules and amend our rules where needed, so  
25 that we're able to really reduce emissions without

1 increasing them, you know, in our daily business

2           So I just wanted to throw those few things out.

3 And I'll stop there for now.

4           OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thank you,  
5 Veronica.

6           CHRISTINE WOLFE: Well, I'll just say from, you  
7 know, industry's perspective we want to recognize that,  
8 you know, this has really been a transformative process  
9 for how communities engage with air district policy. And  
10 so from that perspective, I think we should all recognize  
11 that 617 has been a significant success from that  
12 perspective. We had the -- I think it feels different for  
13 all of us in terms of how air district policy is being  
14 made and will continue to be made for the foreseeable  
15 future.

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

24           I think that that's what this sort of fundamental  
25 piece of this program is about and we want to find

1 creative ways and new ways to work together as partners to  
2 do that. And again, no matter who's administering the  
3 Program, it's important that we have oversight over how  
4 funding is used, transparency, and that we incorporate  
5 some of the really good recommendations on governance that  
6 the People's Blueprint has brought forward and take some  
7 of those lessons learned from the CSCs and incorporate  
8 them into the new programs.

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

14 You know, AB 617 didn't change CARB or District  
15 authorities. And we are focused on achieving emissions  
16 reductions. And I think we've seen the timeline and the  
17 expense for how difficult it is to achieve -- achieve  
18 those. And there has been successes and I think we need  
19 to be focused on, you know, bringing those successes to  
20 new communities and seeing where those have happened. But  
21 certainly understanding the resource challenges that we  
22 already have, focusing on the legislative mandate and  
23 emission reductions first and exposure reductions in these  
24 communities is, you know, where we need to continue to  
25 work on, because we're just at the beginning of this

1 program.

2 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thanks, so  
3 much. I think everyone provided really great responses.  
4 I'm going to just kind of throw some things out there that  
5 I heard. Really uplifting and communicating the lessons  
6 learned and the successful stories of all of the community  
7 steering committees and the CERPs and the CAMPs.

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

16 Anything else?

17 All right. Let's see. Cool.

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

24 --o0o--

25 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: So we want

1 to ensure that as we embark on the reenvisioning of the  
2 program and developing of the Blueprint 2.0, we're doing  
3 so through a process based on meaningful engagement that  
4 is inclusive of all stakeholder groups. We have plans to  
5 have facilitated outreach and engagement as part of the  
6 process, but panelists we'd love to hear from you.

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

15           Veronica.

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

1 know, what is its role? And I've really been struggling  
2 with that.

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

16           Liliana, what was the second part of the  
17 question?

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

23           VERONICA EADY: Thank you.

24           Well, there's been a lot of change I feel like at  
25 the Consultation Group. I know that Deldi and you all



1 have tried to take a step back and think about what the  
2 role of the Consultation Group is and also have these  
3 planning sessions, so that the Consultation Group members  
4 have the opportunity to shape the agenda. I think that  
5 that's really important and I think that's a really great  
6 step, regardless of, you know, how many people can out of  
7 their, you know, busy day come and participate in those  
8 sessions. I think it's the right thing to do.

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

17 The other thing that I'll say about the  
18 Consultation Group before I pass -- pass the mic on is  
19 that, you know, here we are in 2022. We are five years  
20 into the program, four years into the program, and I think  
21 that it's time for us to start thinking about program  
22 evaluation. You know, we're getting ready to move into  
23 that, you know, implementation phase for those communities  
24 that were the first communities to complete CERPs. So I  
25 think it's important to think about program evaluation and

1 laying out, you know, that kind of a vision, how have we  
2 done and what more do we need to do?

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

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

13 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thank you.  
14 Jess.

15 JESSICA OLSON: Certainly. Thank you.

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

1 every single community is represented.

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

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

18 And so when there's conversations between  
19 groups -- and we appreciate CARB's willingness or desire  
20 on the staff part to build trust between community  
21 members, and to have those discussions, and we just ask  
22 that the districts also be involved in those  
23 conversations, building trust, but excluding the district  
24 from those conversations is maybe not moving quite in the  
25 right direction. So it's something I just want to

1 highlight as something we so appreciate about CARB staff,  
2 so appreciate about the meaningful process that they're  
3 creating here and want to just encourage, whether it's  
4 part of a Blueprint update or just an overall sort of  
5 principle we use to guide this process, that all the right  
6 people are at the right table, including Consultation  
7 Group and then district conversations.

8 Thank you.

9 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thank you.

10 Ms. Margaret.

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

17 All right. So one of the things that's missing,  
18 and I don't know if it's this or Department or Division,  
19 we need to have some place where conflicts, complaints,  
20 and civil rights is being addressed. And that's not  
21 being -- that's not inside of the blueprint. And then the  
22 second part, we need to have a place where you'd go for  
23 permitting -- about permitting -- permits, enforcement and  
24 compliance, where do you go for that? Those things are  
25 missing in AB 617.

1           And how do you achieve those things -- how do you  
2 address those things and do emission reductions  
3 simultaneously. There needs to be something that's either  
4 showing that there is this transformation into this or  
5 there needs to be a whole new -- new division that's out  
6 of CARB and look at this for AB 617 sites.

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

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

11           Paula.

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

1 disadvantaged communities to goal of 617 again.

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

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

23           And so that's -- that's one thing I wanted to  
24 mention. And then the last thing is that I think in order  
25 to achieve that, because we need to stop gauging community

1 success as -- community engagement as success is to -- and  
2 over the process to environmental justice, to the  
3 community groups, to the community leaders, and support  
4 them with -- and the agencies can support them with  
5 resources, technical assistance and whatever it is needed,  
6 but really hand over the process to EJ communities and  
7 leaders.

8 Thank you.

9 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thanks,  
10 Paula.

11 Gus.

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

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

24 And if we would have seen that sooner, we would  
25 have been able to maybe implement that in our CERP, talk

1 to residents, right? They had the same concept, but maybe  
2 were just not capturing it equally, right? And so I think  
3 one thing that should -- I think the Consultation Group  
4 could really be better at is making sure that we're all  
5 connected and we know what each -- each one of us is  
6 doing. And again, streamlining like all the different  
7 State CERPs, right, in creating the centralized kind of  
8 system of what's going on, right?

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

15 Another thing is like this like essence of  
16 interagency collaboration. I think that's super key in  
17 making sure that there's a successful CERP and  
18 implementation in our communities. You know, the previous  
19 Director of DPR and the current Director DPR both were  
20 instrumental in coming down to the community, getting to  
21 know the residents, working with the agricultural industry  
22 their representatives, right? And it was a very -- a very  
23 like Purposeful and meaningful engagement, right, that  
24 brought someone that is directly not connected to air  
25 quality and air relations per se and bringing them into



1 this process, right? That directly there was a nexus  
2 between, you know, gasified -- pesticide applications and  
3 exposure to communities, right?

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

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

21           OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thanks,  
22 Gus.

23           Christine.

24           CHRISTINE WOLFE: Well, I'd also agree with  
25 Veronica's suggestion about looking at program evaluation

1 and how we measure success. I think that that's easier to  
2 do for quantitative data, looking at emissions reductions  
3 and understanding sort of where we've seen success on that  
4 front, and, you know, what emissions are going to be  
5 reduced, and then moving forward what future emission  
6 reductions might look like, because we know that some of  
7 those are going to take time.

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

24           But I do think that having a full regulatory  
25 process and engagement for revising the Blueprint that

1 engages with big and small sources, as well as communities  
2 across the state is going to be really important, but that  
3 it's not just the traditionally regulated sources that are  
4 very familiar with air district programs that come, you  
5 know, into play with 617 programs. It's also a lot of the  
6 smaller sources and other businesses that might not be as  
7 familiar but that are also very interested and engaged in  
8 being part of their communities.

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

15           OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thanks,  
16 Christine.

17           Kathryn.

18           KATHRYN HIGGINS: Yes. Part of the downside is  
19 this coming at the rear end to answer these questions and  
20 provide input is that a lot of what, you know, we would  
21 echo as things that CARB should do and keeping the  
22 Blueprint has already been stated. But I just want to  
23 emphasize that providing clearly defined roles for  
24 stakeholders and members of the Consultation Group is  
25 vital.

1           You know, we're implementing within our  
2 communities, and as we've had meetings with the  
3 Consultation Group, you know, it is the undefined roles,  
4 the lack of setting expectations for each partner, that's  
5 what really contributes to unrealistic expectations,  
6 inefficiency, conflicts, and, you know, often circular  
7 discussions. So while, you know, we do need to find a way  
8 to obviously put program evaluation in place, and measure  
9 success, and share that success, you know, it's pretty  
10 clear as, you know, we have consultation meetings that  
11 some of the sticking points really prevent us from moving  
12 forward. You know, they have become bottlenecks.

13           So as we, you know, continue to have discussions,  
14 it's really important to clarify those roles. It's very  
15 important to clearly identify where we have made  
16 accomplish -- accomplishments and uplift successes, so  
17 that then we can move forward in establishing a path  
18 toward really identifying again program successes, really  
19 determine -- in both qualitative and quantitative  
20 successes, and really bringing the community along with  
21 us. Because while we are focused on emissions reductions,  
22 we're focused on reducing impact to community in terms of  
23 health impacts, we really need to make sure that the  
24 community is along with us in terms of understanding the  
25 vital role that they play in this process.

1           And so we -- the leadership at the consultation  
2 level have to really model what we're asking to be carried  
3 out as community members, CSC, and air districts work  
4 together. We've got to start at the consultation level.

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

17           So one of the things that I'll offer is for the  
18 Consultation Group, if CARB were to have say ad hoc, you  
19 know, groups consisting of stakeholders from across, you  
20 know, each of the groups to really take on problem solving  
21 for various topics are -- not the low-hanging topics, but  
22 those that really bring a lot of angst to the program,  
23 that might be something that we could put in place, work  
24 together, so that when we have continuing consultation  
25 meetings, especially as we're coming up to developing the

1 Program Blueprint, that we have really engaged with one  
2 another on a -- on a granular level and not the surface,  
3 you know, approach to, you know, developing the Blueprint,  
4 and really taking the lessons learned, uplifting the  
5 voices of community members, putting the training programs  
6 in place that require us to really sit, and hear, and  
7 listen to one another, because we have very much, I think,  
8 been engaged in a process where there's communication to  
9 and at our partners, but not really actively engaging and  
10 listening for understanding, listening for where we have  
11 overlaps, and alignment, in order for us to move forward.

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

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

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

1 success.

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

3 --o0o--

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

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

16 Ms. Margaret.

17 MARGARET GORDON: Go to the next person.

18 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Okay.

19 I was hoping to get a writer's -- I think you're  
20 the only writer's group.

21 Okay. Let's see. Gus.

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

23 I think, you know, out of everything that is in  
24 the People's Blueprint and I've had, you know, the  
25 pleasure of reading it, I don't know it as much as I did,

1 you know, the first Blueprint. But I think if we were to  
2 take away two things that really resonated with me and  
3 really resonated, when we kind of did an overview, with  
4 some residents of like, you know, the previous Blueprint  
5 versus the new Blueprint, and I think two of the things  
6 that came out was participatory budgeting. But it's  
7 something that you'll probably hear a lot tonight. But  
8 there's really the sense of like AB 617 when it first, you  
9 know, was coined, someone referenced it, and it might have  
10 been Ms. Nichols, that it was a down payment to  
11 environmental justice communities, right?

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

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



1 air districts.

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

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

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

25           And, I mean, Jessica could -- we've been together

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

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

16 Thank you.

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

19 Kathryn.

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

22 Things that should be carried over I think, you  
23 know, from the People's Blueprint, it's important to  
24 maintain a call to reset the program through an equity  
25 lens. That is going to require some core training and,

1 you know, opportunities for peer learning as mentioned  
2 that will be on governance, on stakeholder roles, on  
3 competing priorities, for example. Also, training on what  
4 are -- what are the authorities, legal and statutory  
5 authorities, of air agencies.

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

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

25 I think it's been echoed and it's been, I think,

1 repeated, or mentioned by air districts, over the time  
2 that CARB developing sort of a best practice handbook that  
3 can be -- that can capture, you know, all of the lessons  
4 learned, so that we are not as partners, all of us  
5 throughout the state, sort of separately identifying  
6 lessons learned and best practices, but there should be a  
7 uniform, you know, sort of statewide depository where  
8 newer communities, as they come onboard, can see best  
9 practices that should be echoed.

10           And areas I think for revision that are currently  
11 in the blueprint, I think we have to address - and I think  
12 Christine on this earlier - who is considered members  
13 of -- or participants in -- in CSCs with regard to not  
14 only the community members, environmental justice  
15 organizations, but also perhaps, you know, with industry.  
16 You know, that has been sort of a sticking point in many  
17 of our communities. And to the extent that our rulemaking  
18 processes outside of the CSC requires public comment and  
19 input from industries, involving industries early on in  
20 the process to develop a relationship with business  
21 owners, you know, that there's an opportunity to shortcut  
22 or condense, you know, a lot of the friction that may play  
23 out in rulemaking processes, there's an opportunity there  
24 to invite industry reps, that can -- that are contributing  
25 to air burdens, to the table for good faith effort and

1 dialogue towards solutions. So that is one area that we  
2 would look to have the Blueprint be reconsidered or  
3 revisioned that -- that's outlined in the current People's  
4 Blueprint.

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

8           OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thank you,  
9 Kathryn.

10           Shall we go to Christine.

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

25           The other thing that was mentioned in the

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

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

16           OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thanks,  
17 Christine.

18           Paula.

19           PAULA TORRADO: Thank you. I think a lot was  
20 mentioned, but I think the most critical parts for the  
21 People's -- for the -- from the People's Blueprint that  
22 needs to be carried over it's the co-learning, the  
23 co-design piece around the -- also as part of the prep --  
24 preparation and readiness. I think that's really  
25 important to what I was speaking to earlier my point

1 around letting communities come together first. I think  
2 that's really key to build trust and to just be part of  
3 the process.

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

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

1 that can be carried over in the Program Blueprint.

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

8 Thank you.

9 --o0o--

10 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thank you.

11 Okay. Jess.

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

25 And we worked with the community co-leads. We



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

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

22           And then finally, it's sort of been mentioned,  
23 but I'd just kind of elevate really understanding and  
24 making sure that the Blueprint has not just metrics that  
25 are both qualitative and quantitative, that we try to

1 flesh out a little bit more, but really a more consistent  
2 way that we report out metrics, even in reports -- even  
3 across the district our own CERPs, kind of talk a little  
4 bit about allocation and emissions reductions slightly  
5 different from CERP to CERP.

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

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

22           OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thank you.  
23           Veronica.

24           VERONICA EADY: Yeah, I -- I have two points  
25 here, maybe two and a half.

1           One is that it's really interesting to hear from  
2 my air district colleagues about just the evolution of how  
3 we implement the program and how our relationships with  
4 our community stakeholders have evolved. It's really  
5 exciting. And, you know, we're going through the same  
6 thing as we move the program community to community.

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

17           The one thing that I'm going to say and I'm going  
18 to echo Ms. Margaret, especially since you passed on it,  
19 is to talk about Title 6 and Federal Civil Rights Act. We  
20 are all as federal -- as recipients of federal funding  
21 required by law to -- or prohibited by law from  
22 implementing our programs in a way that creates a  
23 disparate impact. What a great way to open the new  
24 Blueprint 2.0. I mean, there's a reason why we need AB  
25 617 and it's because of disparate impacts. And so I think

1 that this is a really good opportunity to kind of use  
2 Title 6 to frame the blueprint and what we're trying to  
3 achieve in the Blueprint, and then maybe kind of bookend  
4 it, because one thing that the Blueprint could do is  
5 create a checklist or questions that we should be asking  
6 to ensure that we're not violating Title 6. So kind of  
7 avoiding that back end getting a Title 6 complaint against  
8 us and creating the tools, so that we can ask the right  
9 questions and we don't need to get there.

10 So lot's of great comments from everybody else.  
11 So I will just stop there.

12 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thank you.

13 Ms. Margaret, did you want to --

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

17 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Oh, sure.

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

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

24 So, let's see. I think that is it. And Chair  
25 Randolph, I'm wondering if there are any questions you or

1 other Board members would like to ask.

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

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

8 Okay. No. Go. Go -- You go.

9 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: You go.

10 (Laughter.)

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

22 KATHRYN HIGGINS: I can start.

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

25 KATHRYN HIGGINS: Yes, I can start. So for South

1 Coast, it's definitely -- this process has definitely sort  
2 of expanded and enriched the relationship with community  
3 members. We have community liaisons with South Coast that  
4 are assigned to each of our community steering committees.  
5 And so beyond AB 617 matters or issues, that relationship  
6 has afforded them now the comfort level to just, you know,  
7 reach out either directory, be it phone calls, be it email  
8 to inquire about other air quality issues, be there  
9 nuisances in the community. That did not exist prior to  
10 AB 617. And so those are the types of things, the  
11 benefits from this program, that are essential, you know,  
12 to -- to the CSC process, and to the CAMP, and the CERP.  
13 It's the relationships that were not in place that  
14 normally would have come through perhaps our public  
15 affairs department or perhaps only in a rulemaking  
16 process.

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

23 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Thanks,  
24 Kathryn.

25 Veronica.

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

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

18           The other thing that I will say is that it has  
19 made our Enforcement Division very, very popular.  
20 Everybody wants to know about enforcement in their  
21 communities. And one of our CAC members is talking about  
22 changing how we do enforcement, so it's not just based on  
23 complaints and then that's the end of community  
24 involvement, but really to make enforcement a  
25 collaborative process.

1           And hopefully -- hopefully I'm teeing up Todd Sax  
2 for later --

3           (Laughter.)

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

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

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

24           In addition to that, we've just had so many more  
25 opportunities through our regular rulemaking and



1 enforcement processes to include communities and just more  
2 contacts with community groups that we've met through this  
3 process, that work in more than just 617 communities.  
4 Every community group that's sitting up here I know, you  
5 know, does that. And so just those connections that we've  
6 built, and those relationships, and some of them, you  
7 know, took years in the making to build that trust have  
8 allowed us to leverage their existing resources and work  
9 in those communities as well.

10 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. Thank you.

11 Board Member Takvorian.

12 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Thank you, Chair.

13 I knew that you should go first, because that was  
14 a great question --

15 (Laughter.)

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

21 And I also want to say thank you to whoever  
22 thought about putting these two items on today's agenda,  
23 because they fit so perfectly together that we're talking  
24 courageously about structural and institutional racism as  
25 it applies for CARB staff, for our EJ communities. And

1 within the 617 program, it's really the challenge of our  
2 lives of -- you know, of so many lives.

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

11           The question that I'm also hearing, however, is  
12 where is the real change? And while it's great for  
13 everyone to be talking with each other more directly to be  
14 building trust, as we should have been doing for all these  
15 years had we not been struggling with these institutional  
16 challenges and barriers, okay, we're doing it now. But  
17 617, in my view, shouldn't be a special program. It  
18 shouldn't be transitory. It should be based into the  
19 districts' operations, into CARB's operations.

20           And what worries me is that we're still talking  
21 about 617 as a program as communities. That's not what's  
22 happening here. I mean, this has been decades in the  
23 making. So how do we -- how do we bake it in? And to me  
24 hearing what you've all said -- and I'm -- you can tell me  
25 if I'm not hearing this correctly, but what I would

1 interpret is when we talk about participatory budgeting,  
2 for instance - Gustavo, I know you talked about that and  
3 Veronica you did too - to me it has to be participatory  
4 budgeting for the entire district budget.

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

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

25 And then the last thing I guess I want to say is

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

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

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

1 changes, right?

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

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

21           And so I think there has -- and I think AB 617  
22 has accelerated that kind of notion of building  
23 relationship and capacity between the air districts, and  
24 not only like environmental justice organizations, but  
25 community leaders, right? Like community leaders are very

1 like you see them, you know them, right? You feel kind of  
2 their energy. And the air district has taken upon that to  
3 build relationship with those community leaders, right?  
4 And so there's that shift of difference that we see.

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

7 (Laughter.)

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

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

1 program.

2 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Any other questions for Board  
3 members.

4 Dr. Pacheco-Werner.

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

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

24 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST NUÑEZ: Jess, was  
25 that --

1           JESSICA OLSON: I was, but I already spoke. So  
2 if someone wants go first, I will defer to them. And I'm  
3 happy to -- okay.

4           GUSTAVO AGUIRRE, JR.: Go.

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

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



1 through that?

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

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

16           VERONICA EADY: I'll just add something that  
17 popped into my head. On occasion, there is -- it're  
18 really important for our board members to step in and give  
19 us support. And so, for example, there was a community  
20 that is not one of our AB 617 communities, but it's a  
21 high-priority community. We hope to nominate it at some  
22 point. And there was a lot of disagreement in the  
23 community about who is the community, and who leads the  
24 communities? And we sort of stuck our foot in that. And  
25 a particular group told us that they didn't want to work

1 with us any more. They were taking a break from us. They  
2 didn't want to have anything to do with AB 617.

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

12           Our community engagement team had been leading AB  
13 617, that team and our Planning and Climate team, and they  
14 said we don't want to work with you. We want to work with  
15 enforcement. And another big shocker, because there's a  
16 lot that goes into AB 617 that is -- enforcement is key,  
17 but there's a lot that goes into building structures and  
18 figuring out how meetings are going to run.

19           And so we've really had to be on our toes. We've  
20 had to be really flexible. They then said that they would  
21 work with one person who was not in enforcement who had  
22 been helping us in some of the other communities. So, so  
23 far, we're on this path to reconciliation. We're not a  
24 hundred percent there yet, but our Board member played a  
25 really critical role. And I think that -- I'm not sure

1 how the other air districts work, but I just want to put  
2 that out there for the districts and for -- and community  
3 folks that, you know, there -- there is this role that  
4 could be really key.

5 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: I bet I know the community.

6 (Laughter.)

7 CHAIR RANDOLPH: So, Kathryn, go ahead.

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

10 (Laughter.)

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

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

18 So that has presented challenges that we haven't  
19 otherwise had with our other five communities. The vast  
20 majority of community members we have never seen. There  
21 are staff members who've been onboarded at our agency and  
22 we've never seen them in person. Yet, we have had the  
23 highest numbers of attendees recently across all  
24 communities. And I would say with either -- with the  
25 South Los Angeles community, because of staff putting

1 forth a tremendous effort to reach out and maintain  
2 contact with our community members through whatever tools  
3 that we have, be there phone calls, phone banking on the  
4 part of our co-leads, phone banking with staff.

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

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

24           So that's fundamental I think and something that  
25 we've embraced and thinking that it's playing out in South

1 Coast. Also, just in terms of showing real support to  
2 move the needle forward is looking at legislative actions  
3 that are in place. You know, we've got -- there is two  
4 Assembly bills that directly tie to this program, one is  
5 AB -- Assembly Bill 2141 authored by Assemblyman Eduardo  
6 Garcia. And that creates -- aiming to create some  
7 sustainable funding for the program. And that's really  
8 been at the heart, you know, part of the challenge of the  
9 program. Also, Assembly Bill 1749, which extends the  
10 time -- proposing to extend the time frame from one to two  
11 years. So those are the sort of, you know, real concrete  
12 changes that we need to, you know, look at and support.  
13 So hopefully those bills are successful.

14           And then lastly, I'll say making a commitment to  
15 adjust expectations, as we learn. That is really where  
16 the opportunity for growth, relationship building takes  
17 place, because while we all want to and need to track the  
18 accomplishments in terms of emissions reductions for the  
19 program, really this is -- we're dealing with people.  
20 This is the first time we are require -- we're coming  
21 together, you know, air agencies, and other regulatory  
22 representatives with community members. So it's -- it's a  
23 learning experience. And so we just to adjust  
24 expectations as we learn. And that is really going to be  
25 fundamental to the success of the entire program

1 MARGARET GORDON: Oh. I can give an example for  
2 West Oakland Environmental Indicators how we developed a  
3 partnership agreement with Bay Area Air Quality before  
4 there was AB 617. Our first realistic project that we  
5 done with the Air District engineering staff was to do a  
6 truck count survey. And they supported us in shaping,  
7 framing, and structuring the count -- the counting of the  
8 trucks. They supported us being out on the street with  
9 us, counting these trucks. And then when the document was  
10 being wrote about, we participated in wordsmithing it,  
11 putting our stories in what happened there.

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

23 Then we did a process with them around what was  
24 community engagement. When the city and the port refused  
25 to sit with us that we had to file a Title 6 complaint

1 against the city and the port. So we have done those  
2 things with those -- those type of events to build the  
3 trust and relationships as an organ -- as a  
4 community-based organization.

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

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

1 get the right outcome.

2 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you.

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

8 (Laughter.)

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

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

14 Actually -- okay. Got it. All right.

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

22 Julia.

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



1 (Applause)

2 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Julia.

3 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST LUONGO: Thank you.  
4 Thanks, Liliana. Thank you, panel.

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

7 (Thereupon a slide presentation.)

8 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST LUONGO: Great.

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

22 We've also heard that the next Blueprint should  
23 be concise, written in plain language, and structured in a  
24 way that helps users easily find, understand, and use  
25 information about protecting air quality in their

1 community. We hope that the Blueprint becomes a  
2 step-by-step guide that is relied on by all those engaged  
3 in this program

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

6 --o0o--

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

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

18 --o0o--

19 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST LUONGO: This draft  
20 has also been posted on our website. This outline is a  
21 starting point and guide for the discussions we will  
22 engage in this summer. Later this summer, CARB will  
23 engage with community partners, air districts, business,  
24 and other State and local agencies to learn what is and is  
25 not working about the current Blueprint document.

1           In the fall, we will host facilitated engagement  
2 opportunities focused on how the program can be reimagined  
3 to support more communities. This is reimagining is what  
4 we are calling program reset.

5           By winter, CARB expects to have released the  
6 draft Blueprint 2.0 and we will host workshops and  
7 encourage public comment on that draft document. Based on  
8 those comments, we will revise Blueprint 2.0 in spring  
9 2023 and get it ready for finalizing by performing a CEQA  
10 analysis and working on document accessibility and  
11 translation.

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

22                           --o0o--

23           OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST LUONGO: Here, we  
24 present a draft blueprint -- a draft outline of Blueprint  
25 2.0. This outline is intended to provide an initial high

1 level guide of topics for ongoing discussion and public  
2 engagement throughout the Blueprint revision process. We  
3 are only providing the highest level of section heading,  
4 because much of this content will be shaped and informed  
5 by engagement opportunities later this year.

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

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

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

21           We wish to highlight opportunities for  
22 participatory budgeting, as well as readiness, and  
23 capacity building guidance for engaging in this program.  
24 We also wish to highlight examples and models of  
25 partnerships, co-leaderships, and meaningful engagement,

1 and additional guidance on steering committee membership  
2 and governance including charters and conflict resolution.

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

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

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

22 --o0o--

23 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST LUONGO: BY now,  
24 you've heard us use the word "reset" a number of times.  
25 But what is program reset and why are we doing it?

1           We heard earlier in the presentation a reminder  
2 of the goal of AB 617, quote, "to reduce emissions of  
3 toxic air contaminants and criteria air pollutants in  
4 communities affected by a high cumulative exposure  
5 burden".

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

21                           --o0o--

22           OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST LUONGO: We  
23 recognize though that we have made 11-year commitments to  
24 our 17 currently selected communities in the program. We  
25 and air districts are committed to ensure the

1 implementation of the strategies in those CERPs. That  
2 will not change. The level of investment we are seeing in  
3 many of the communities that are implementing their  
4 strategies is impressive and we will continue to keep  
5 learning from those 17 communities. That learning will  
6 feed into improving our program and finding solutions to  
7 model across the state.

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

15                           --o0o--

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

21           To get that conversation started, we wanted to  
22 share some initial ideas for delivering benefits in  
23 different ways than through the current model. Those  
24 ideas include community air grants, community focused  
25 enforcement, and the use of statewide incentive programs.

1                   --o0o--

2                   OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST LUONGO: The first  
3 idea involves AB 617 community air grants. These grants  
4 fund projects that provide support for California  
5 community based organizations and tribes. Their purpose  
6 is to fund community driven -- driven efforts to reduce  
7 exposure in communities most impacted by air pollution.

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

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

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



1           And we are already seeing this model in motion.  
2   So now, I'd like to invite Kevin Hamilton from Central  
3   California Asthma Collaborative to share the exciting work  
4   that he and other valley-based coalitions are doing in the  
5   San Joaquin Valley.

6           Kevin.

7           KEVIN HAMILTON: Thank you.

8                           --o0o--

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

21           Anyway, moving on from the menu.

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

24           (Laughter.)

25           KEVIN HAMILTON: -- this conversation -- I

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

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

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

1 went away with the reset, right?

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

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

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

1 to get to the entrée now.

2           This food thing keeps creeping in. You notice  
3 that.

4           (Laughter.)

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

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

20           Can we -- we have our first part of the slide  
21 show here. So way back in 2016, you see the highlighted  
22 organizations there. We decided to get together and stop  
23 being pushed around and used as a parachuting point for  
24 universities and others and form the San Joaquin Valley  
25 environmental justice -- or San Joaquin Valley

1 environmental steering committee. So -- I keep saying  
2 that. I'm so sorry. So the EJ collaborative. I'm so  
3 excited about the steering committee, I can't wait to get  
4 to that point.

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

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

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

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

22           KEVIN HAMILTON: Not a problem, Sandy.

23           VICE CHAIR BERG: So sorry, Kevin.

24           KEVIN HAMILTON: We're all learning every minute,  
25 right?

1           And I realized the available -- these great  
2 assets that we're being -- become available to low-income  
3 and disadvantaged communities in the San Joaquin Valley.

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

17   --o0o--

18           KEVIN HAMILTON: Ah, there we go. So as I  
19 mentioned, the Collaborative has participated in and  
20 supported residents in each of the four CAPP communities  
21 in the San Joaquin Valley and we work closely with the Air  
22 District and CARB to ensure that resident voices are  
23 included in the air monitoring and emission reduction  
24 plans and that the CERP strategies identified by the CSC  
25 and approved by CARB are actually implemented.

1           And so again, this has been a long path. I  
2 really feel it illustrated how different each community  
3 can be and the knowledge that lies in these communities.  
4 And the difficult part is how do we surface that knowledge  
5 and then actualize it. And I think that's the process  
6 that has, if nothing else, slowed this thing down.

7           The second thing that slowed it down significant  
8 is money. Now, is it a flat budget. We're here learning  
9 that, in fact, the money and the way that it's set up to  
10 run is overemphasized in some ways, and that will be clear  
11 here soon. However, when the money comes out, the  
12 fighting starts, right? And so unintentionally, that's --  
13 that's been happening. And it also limits  
14 decision-making. So you feel like I only have enough  
15 money to do those things, because I'm only looking at the  
16 617 money, instead of looking at all the incentives and  
17 all the money that's available to do this kind of work in  
18 these -- all of our communities, not just these  
19 communities.

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

23           (Laughter.)

24           KEVIN HAMILTON: You saw me just smiling when you  
25 said, wow, the way districts budget all of their money,

1 CARB budgets its money, should become a participatory  
2 process with the communities that money will be spent in.  
3 Now, that of course would bring industry to the table,  
4 because they'll be affected as well, but that approach is  
5 very different than the one that happens right now, where  
6 small groups of people make really big decisions about a  
7 huge amount of money and most of those are located in the  
8 Legislature and not on this Board, by the way, just  
9 saying.

10 So the next -- next slide, please.

11 --o0o--

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

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

20 And in an effort to expand 617 to communities  
21 that were not selected for CAPP, the collaborative created  
22 community steering committees in three disadvantaged  
23 communities, in Stanislaus, Madera, and Tulare counties.  
24 The collaborative and its local CBO partners then followed  
25 a process similar to CAPP CSCs that included education



1 about air pollution sources, input from CSC members about  
2 local air pollution concerns, identifying locations in the  
3 community to set up air monitors, and developing  
4 culturally appropriate outreach materials to inform  
5 broader -- the broader community, and finally identifying  
6 in this next phase, local mitigation strategies and  
7 working with the Air District to implement an informal  
8 CERP.

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

16           Come on now. There we go.

17           So -- next slide, please.

18                               --o0o--

19           KEVIN HAMILTON: So we needed to develop and  
20 implement the CERPs, right, that are informed by these  
21 local strategies. So in this next process, the  
22 Collaborative will facilitate and review, as we move into  
23 these three communities by the bay -- and let me say a  
24 couple things about these communities. Stanislaus County,  
25 where Valley Improvement Projects was our community-based

1 and is our community-based partner there. This is a group  
2 that they work with. These are communities that they  
3 organize. We started with South Modesto only. That has  
4 now stretched to Grayson, Crows Landing, Ceres, Turlock,  
5 and Newman.

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

14           And the next thing you know, Tom had a group of  
15 30 people in the room who represented many of these small  
16 more isolated communities, some large, some small. So  
17 people are interested. And what we were excited about is,  
18 wow, we're not just doing one community now, now we're  
19 doing a region of a county, right, a significant slice of  
20 that county with a number of small communities.

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

1 that conversation.

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

23           And so we felt like, well, how do we learn this?  
24 We start deploying air monitors. And through our CAG  
25 grants, we were able to buy about 80 of them and start

1 residents telling us where they wanted them to go. We put  
2 them there, hook them up to WiFi, and create a network  
3 that you'll see at the end o this slide show.

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

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

21           However because these CERPs that we're going now  
22 are crated outside the formal 617 process, they lack the  
23 funding available for the CAPP communities, and therefore  
24 must take advantage of the existing incentive programs and  
25 enforcement of existing regulations and develop

1 partnerships -- their own partnerships with local,  
2 regional and other agencies to identify and leverage  
3 existing assets. The CSC will also -- these CSCs will  
4 also identify community-based solutions to address local  
5 air pollution concerns in partnership with local CBOs,  
6 business, schools, and other stakeholders.

7           What's the Air District doing here?

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

24           So the district APCO has agreed to work  
25 collaboratively with these CSCs and CARB I know has as

1 well - I'm sorry. I didn't get it in here - to ensure  
2 relevant incentive resources and available funding are  
3 identified and then made available to these CERPs to move  
4 on to an implementation phase.

5 --o0o--

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

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

18 So setting that up was no mean feat. Taking care  
19 of it is no mean feat either, I can tell you. So we've  
20 been doing that now for almost three years, since we  
21 started setting it up. And these monitors are everywhere.  
22 But the point is they are in these neighborhoods, where  
23 people want them to be. What have we learned from that?  
24 We should have put the monitors up first. We spent a lot  
25 of time educating people about air pollution and air

1 pollution sources, but the first thing they wanted to know  
2 is, well, how much of it is around me? And the reality  
3 is, I can't answer that question. I can give you a --  
4 you, know the really well intentioned real-time air  
5 advisory network, but that monitor may be 30 miles away  
6 from you. And if that PM source is two blocks away, that  
7 PM is never going to reach that monitor there. We know  
8 that. I mean, that's just the way physics works, right?

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

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

1 automatically calibrating this monitoring system as it  
2 moves through.

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

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

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



1 between Modesto and Fresno -- Madera and Fresno that still  
2 exists.

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

15           Let's go to the next slide.

16   --o0o--

17           KEVIN HAMILTON: We've just got -- yeah, one -- I  
18 don't know maybe one or two more to torture you with.  
19 But -- so as you can see, our partnership with CARB and  
20 the air districts is fundamental to our ability to provide  
21 accurate PM2.5 data to residents in these DACs. The  
22 triangles outlined in blue indicate PM2.5 regulatory  
23 monitors, where we've co-located a low-cost monitor. So  
24 you see how many of those triangles there are. This was  
25 what we used to call yeoman's work. And full credit to my

1 co-director Tim Tyner and his air monitoring team, because  
2 these guys -- I mean, they're out here in these  
3 neighborhoods, setting these things up, fixing them when  
4 something happens, and there's only two of them.

5 (Laughter.)

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

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

20 (Laughter.)

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

23 But -- and so we -- we're going to put a second  
24 BAM -- that will be our third there. We need to put one  
25 up by Stockton. We just don't have the money.

1           Next slide. Thank you.

2                               --o0o--

3           KEVIN HAMILTON: This is the Delano setup that we  
4 have that exists right now that's on that bigger map that  
5 we showed you and you can see where the original  
6 monitor -- the BAM is right in the middle of town.

7           So, next slide.

8                               --o0o--

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

21           Now, it works for wildfires and it works, of  
22 course, because the valley has a lot of actual particulate  
23 pollution on a daily basis for about 80 or 90 days a year,  
24 which by the way is better than the 200 and some we had 20  
25 years ago, but still too many.

1           So this has been working for us. We're working  
2 with the Air District to integrate this real time SJVAir  
3 data into the RAAN program. They've committed to doing  
4 that. Samir brought that to his board in the last month's  
5 board meeting, which I thought was a really bold move and  
6 went really well. Two reallies in one thing there.

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

8                           --o0o--

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

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

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

20                           (Laughter.)

21           BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Probably less focused on  
22 food

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

25                           (Laughter.)

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

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

8 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST LUONGO: All at the  
9 end.

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

12 CHAIR RANDOLPH: At the end. Okay. Great.

13 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST LUONGO: Thank you,  
14 Kevin.

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

19 Todd.

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

22 --o0o--

23 ENFORCEMENT DIVISION CHIEF SAX: So to improve  
24 our enforcement work, we're starting to work more directly  
25 with community groups. We're trying to build

1 collaborative approaches where you work as a team with  
2 communities to listen and understand their concerns, and  
3 then work together to solve problems. It's not something  
4 that requires a lot of process.

5           Sorry. Mask was in the way.

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

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

23           CYNTHIA BABICH: Thank you, Todd. And thank you  
24 to the Board. It's been many years since I've been in  
25 front of the Board. And I think it was maybe 20 years ago

1 when the early action measures were being brought up and I  
2 was just so disgusted by the process and the lack of  
3 anybody wanting to pick the low-hanging fruit, that I  
4 basically disengaged.

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

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

18 The Del Amo area sits on top of the toxic remains  
19 of a World War II industrial complex. We are located in  
20 unincorporated Harbor Gateway between the cities of  
21 Torrance, West Carson, Gardena, and Harbor City. A place  
22 where land-use planning has historically collided.  
23 CalEnviroScreen has ranked our community focus area, which  
24 is about a mile radius around our community in the top 20  
25 percent of the most pollution-burdened communities.

1           Our focus area -- and I hope that you all  
2 received the handout of our excerpts, because it actually  
3 shows when area we're speaking to. Our focus area has two  
4 federal Superfund sites, Del Amo and Montrose, one State  
5 designated Superfund site, Armco Land Reclamation called  
6 Royal Boulevard, Jones Chemical, a grandfathered chlorine  
7 transfer station, the Torrance/Mobil Refinery - which I  
8 think they've renamed now - Dow Chemical Plastics  
9 manufacturing plant, 405 and 110 freeways, several  
10 landfills, and has several cancer causing chemicals such  
11 as benzene, TCE, DDT, and others in the air, soil, and  
12 groundwater beneath our homes.

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

20           This agreement called for the buyout area to be  
21 designated as an 8.5 acre park. Our first priority was to  
22 envision a precautionary park due to deep concerns about  
23 residual contamination that was documented through  
24 community science, elevating community fears of children  
25 playing on the site people would not live on. This led us



1 into a 16-year battle over an additional foot of soil to  
2 cover the site entirely. This is what was acceptable to  
3 the community, those who would be using the park. An  
4 agreement was made in 2018 to do so allowing us to support  
5 the park buildout.

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

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

20           Too much money denied. It feels like we're being  
21 studied to death. Do we just give you up? Then another  
22 incompatible land use was cited in the community by-right  
23 city planning. Farmer Brothers warehouses, a 200,000  
24 square foot warehouse in the community since the 1950s was  
25 replaced by a 500,000 square foot mega warehouse almost

1 overnight in an expedited process where a warehouse equals  
2 warehouse. By-right, end of discussion, fast track.

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

12           We decided to do our own community vision plan in  
13 2019. We gan by -- we began by collaborating with the  
14 public health department, local and State agencies, and  
15 planners to learn about land use, general plans, and  
16 political attempts to balance land use incompatibility  
17 like Clean Up Green Up, a city buffer zone area, a green  
18 zone, the county buffer zones area. And then the county  
19 sustainability plan. This is a plan that's been referred  
20 to by agencies as pie in the sky. Great ideas, but deemed  
21 unattainable.

22           These attempts fall short with no real viable  
23 plan in place to attain environmental justice in the  
24 communities they have been mandated to protect. We are  
25 concerned that Los Angeles does not have the capacity to

1 change the way planning has been done for decades.

2 Planning is still very revenue focused. All about the

3 money. We believe that change must be community driven.

4 We have the biggest stake in the outcomes. We discovered

5 the Florence-Fire Stone community specific plan, a

6 planning area very similar to our area. We used it as a

7 blueprint. Communities leaving a bread crumb path for

8 others to follow. We began assembling our plan and our

9 new understanding of land use, recent ground truthing

10 data, and a sense of urgency as the warehouses and

11 trucking facilities continue to multiply.

12 While creating the vision plan, we learned a lot

13 about our area and the laws that were designed to protect

14 our vulnerable community, but they were not. Even though

15 we met the designated criteria for CARB's AB 617,

16 CalEnviroScreen designated us as an SB 535 disadvantaged

17 community and AB 1550 to ensure Cap-and-Trade funds are

18 allocated to disadvantaged communities, as well as State

19 legislate -- legislature SB 1000 to consider EJ in land

20 use decision-making.

21 None of these designations protected us from once

22 again another incompatible land use, the ECI warehouse,

23 being built with 62 mitigations, 62. Some things just do

24 not go together. There is a lack of capacity for the Los

25 Angeles County to implement EJ policies to protect us.

1 They remain geared to permit, permit, permit.  
2 Multi-agency collaboratives could help build their  
3 capacity in areas where they lack environmental justice  
4 expertise. Setting up these could be a game changer.

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

12 Sorry.

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

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

25 We believe sharing our vision plan with agencies

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

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

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

19 We should help to build their capacity to secure  
20 funds to work as a community to identify solutions that  
21 are best for us. Agencies should not make it easy to  
22 displace the voice of those communities at ground zero  
23 with mere advocates. We can speak for ourselves. Well  
24 intentioned programs like AB 617 are not necessarily good  
25 programs for all impacted communities.

1           How can things be done differently? We want to  
2 use our vision plan as a vehicle for change as we see is  
3 needed, doing something different. Community-led  
4 engagement is best for us, because we carry the  
5 institutional memory of the harms committed and must  
6 believe in solutions leading us forward to healthier  
7 neighborhoods. A collaborative process is not just for  
8 us, but for all unseen EJ communities like ours gasping  
9 for air. This is not rocket science. This is common  
10 sense protections.

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

18           So thank you for the invitation to share our  
19 experiences.

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

22                           --o0o--

23           OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST LUONGO: So for our  
24 final initial reset idea, we want to touch on statewide  
25 incentive programs. Incentives are funds that can

1 accelerate emissions reductions faster or beyond what  
2 regulations require. Many of the community-prioritized  
3 solutions found in adopted groups used incentive funding  
4 called Community Air Protection incentives, or CAP  
5 incentives. CAP incentive funds are also available for  
6 projects in communities outside of those formally selected  
7 for the AB 617 Program.

8 In fact, the CARB Board directed that at least 70  
9 percent of funds be spent in disadvantaged communities and  
10 80 percent be spent in low-income communities statewide.  
11 The types of projects available include traditional Carl  
12 Moyer projects with certain flexible -- flexibilities  
13 including covering more of the costs for some sources,  
14 like on-road trucks, control measures for hexavalent  
15 chromium plating baths, and zero-emission lawn and garden  
16 equipment and air filtration replacement at schools.

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

23 CARB is committed to meaningful community  
24 engagement. And this includes updating the way we have  
25 traditionally reached out about incentive opportunities.





1 concept we just presented as well as the draft Blueprint  
2 2.0 outline are a starting point for discussion on  
3 resetting the program during the engagement later this  
4 year. Near-term next steps in the Blueprint revision  
5 process include the completion of the Consultation group  
6 discussion on the People's Blueprint and we will be  
7 accepting public comment on the People's Blueprint through  
8 September 30th of this year.

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

16           We want to thank our panel today for sharing  
17 viable -- valuable perspectives on how to improve this  
18 program going forward. We want to hear from all those  
19 involved in this program, so that diverse perspectives  
20 shape the next version of the Blueprint. We also want to  
21 continue learning from creative projects and partnerships  
22 like those shared by Kevin and Cynthia, as well as  
23 projects in our currently selected communities. These  
24 learnings will all contribute to shaping a program that  
25 brings benefits and solutions to more communities across

1 the state.

2 We look forward to engaging with all of you this  
3 summer and fall. And that concludes our staff  
4 presentation. Back to you, Chair Randolph.

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

9 There he is.

10 (Laughter.)

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

22 So we're going to keep plugging away at it.  
23 We're going to tweak it. We're going to make it better as  
24 we go along. But it is absolutely unique. There is  
25 nothing like this at this micro level on the planet. And

1 so that's what we have to -- you know, that has to be our  
2 North Star that we're doing this brand new thing. No one  
3 is doing it. No one has ever done it. And we're going to  
4 figure it out as we go along. But we're listening. We're  
5 trying to incorporate these ideas. I was talking to  
6 Gustavo earlier about the successes in Shafter. And that  
7 was tough to get started. And we're -- we're making great  
8 progress there. And we're just going to keep at it.  
9 We're not going to stop.

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

16 Thank you.

17 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you.

18 Supervisor Serna.

19 BOARD MEMBER SERNA: Thank you, Chair, and thank  
20 you to our staff presenters and our guest speakers for I  
21 think a very detailed explanation of the progress to date.  
22 You know, this is -- this subject was teed up in the  
23 context of the many times this Board has referenced the  
24 fact that while the merit of programming associated with  
25 AB 617 is to be lauded and has tremendous merit, we know,

1 as Mr. De La Torre just mentioned, you know, it's unique  
2 in its attempt to bridge the inter -- or meet the  
3 intersecting intents of advancing social justice with  
4 cleaner and healthier air quality for folks that deserve  
5 it.

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

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

25           But because AB 617 obviously has a very direct

1 connection to, I think, advancing the same desires and  
2 policy intents as municipalities and counties, and in  
3 fact, if I'm not mistaken, most of the local air district  
4 representation in the state of California is comprised of  
5 local electeds that serve in those capacities that also  
6 serve on those local air districts. But it seems to me  
7 that if we haven't at least looked at the legal and  
8 administrative guideposts on the use CDBG funding, maybe  
9 now is the time to do that to complement, you know, all  
10 the other efforts to advocate at the State for more -- for  
11 State budget appropriations.

12 But certainly as a county supervisor, wearing  
13 that hat, I'd be very interested in knowing the answer to  
14 that. So perhaps at some point in the near future, if  
15 staff doesn't have the answer today, we can get a report  
16 back on the use of CDBG grant funding.

17 Thank you.

18 KEVIN HAMILTON: Supervisor Serna, I'd like to  
19 speak to that.

20 It's Kevin.

21 BOARD MEMBER SERNA. Yes

22 KEVIN HAMILTON: So in Fresno, in fact, one of  
23 our partners who leads a large coalition that I was very  
24 involved with for 10 years. I don't if you're familiar  
25 with the TCE's project place-based funding 14 communities.

1 One is Fresno, which is the most successful built the --  
2 Building Healthy Communities Program there. That program  
3 leader, who is an amazing person, Sandra Celedon, is part  
4 of this process, she is working to bring Prop 65 money,  
5 which is parks money, right, and CDBG, and other funding  
6 to the table in this process at least in the Fresno area  
7 and intersecting those two things through, right now, a  
8 major update on our Measure C Transportation Plan --  
9 Program.

10 (Phone ringing.)

11 KEVIN HAMILTON: And I turned that damn thing  
12 off, John. Fricken cursed here.

13 (Laughter.)

14 KEVIN HAMILTON: I actually said do not disturb  
15 and it doesn't listen to me.

16 Anyway --

17 BOARD MEMBER KRACOV: It needs a -- it needs a  
18 reset.

19 (Laughter.)

20 KEVIN HAMILTON: Yeah, it needs a reset. Than  
21 you. That needs to be reset. So, yes, in that case,  
22 because part of my job for 10 years was to run a health  
23 care for the homeless program in Fresno, I'm very familiar  
24 with that funding stream. But cities also jealously guard  
25 that money, and often have it spent years ahead as -- at

1 least in our area. I don't know, you know, in the county  
2 where you are, but --

3 BOARD MEMBER SERNA: No, it -- that is certainly  
4 the case. I've known it to be the case that we -- I  
5 would -- I would probably characterize it a little  
6 differently that we like to be, you know, very thoughtful  
7 about how we use the funding. But I will also tell you  
8 that at least the experience that I've had in Sacramento  
9 to date, you know, we've -- we've looked at, as a local  
10 air district, sitting on the local air district, the  
11 prospect of ratcheting up fees significantly that are  
12 administered by the local air district. And there's no  
13 political appetite, at least now, to do that on -- at the  
14 local air district, in part for 617 implementation.

15 But it seems to me that if we're not interested  
16 in doing that, then we ought to have an honest  
17 conversation at the board of supervisors level, the  
18 housing authority level, the City of Sacramento level  
19 about maybe using -- or roping off a certain portion of  
20 CDBG funding for something as important as protecting  
21 public health by way of cleaner air.

22 KEVIN HAMILTON: This is why we say local  
23 government agencies are critical partners in -- in this  
24 process. And we've been trying to bring them to the table  
25 all across the valley, mostly with success.

1 BOARD MEMBER SERNA: Thanks, Kevin.

2 KEVIN HAMILTON: The truck study that's being  
3 done in Fresno is a huge lift.

4 BOARD MEMBER SERNA: Thank you.

5 KEVIN HAMILTON: I did want to mention that you  
6 talked about chronicling earlier. The Central Valley Air  
7 Quality Coalition is our partner and they have been  
8 chronicling our work right along. And they're building a  
9 how-to binder, and in fact will be in every meeting as we  
10 build these new CERPs. I'm sorry. I forgot to mention  
11 that, but I thought it was important.

12 CHAIR RANDOLPH: That's a great idea.

13 Dr. Balmes is next.

14 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: I have a lot to say, given  
15 my interest in the success of AB 617, but I'll try to keep  
16 it brief to highlight, given the time.

17 And I wanted to go back to something that one of  
18 my most important mentors with regard to environmental  
19 justice, Ms. Margaret Gordon, said in her introduction.  
20 You know, there's really a tension between expanding the  
21 program -- and I agree with Mr. De La Torre that we really  
22 need to get beyond the designated AB 617, 17 communities,  
23 and then getting it right. And that tension doesn't go  
24 away just because we want it to go away. And, you know,  
25 I've been struggling with this getting it right for the



1 whole time that I've been on the Consultation Group. I  
2 just want to acknowledge that right off.

3           But mostly, I'm going to talk about where I  
4 thought there was some very interesting intersectionality  
5 among stakeholders -- between stakeholders that this  
6 presentation this afternoon highlighted for me, which I  
7 was really, you know, grateful for. So I didn't hear a  
8 whole lot of people saying anything against participatory  
9 budgeting and capacity building. That is a major step  
10 forward. Now, maybe the specific representative of local  
11 air districts that we had here were chosen, because they  
12 can buy into that. But wow, you know, that needs to be a  
13 fundamental part of the -- of going forward. And I'm  
14 really pleased that the -- the outline for the new Program  
15 Blueprint 2.0, you know, has a whole section on  
16 participatory budgeting.

17           And nobody seemed to be against training at  
18 multiple levels, cause I think Ms. Margaret is right, that  
19 there was a lot of frustration based on the fact that CARB  
20 staff, District staff, and Board members like me really  
21 needed to have a lot of training to really be effective  
22 with regard to engaging communities.

23           I also liked that both for Veronica Eady from an  
24 air district and Paula Torrado both said that emission  
25 reduction impacts need to be measured. I get asked this

1 all the time by my colleagues around the country, who are  
2 interested in what we're doing. And they'll -- they'll  
3 say, well, have you measured whether there's been any  
4 improvement, in terms of reducing emissions. You know,  
5 and I always say, well, it's relatively early in the  
6 program. The CERPs are just starting to be implemented,  
7 but I do really think we have to have some concrete data  
8 about the accountability of these -- of the investments  
9 that supposedly being made in all these communities.

10 I also thought that Kathryn Higgins from an air  
11 district and Ms. Margaret both said we've got to figure  
12 out a way to have conflict resolution. Now, they may be  
13 coming at it from a different perspective in a way, but I  
14 think -- I agree with them. We have to get a -- we have  
15 to figure out a model where formerly antagonistic air  
16 district staff and EJ stakeholders, community  
17 representatives are working together. And, you know, I've  
18 got to throw in CARB there as well. You know, and yeah,  
19 it's -- I've been witnessing, as some other people like  
20 Kevin have been witnessing, the relative dysfunction of  
21 our discussions in the Consultation Group over, what is  
22 it, five years now?

23 We've been more focused on reviewing the People's  
24 Blueprint in the last, I don't know, six months. And  
25 that's been more productive in my view, you know, because

1 everybody, you know, wants to have a say in what the  
2 People's Blueprint -- what kind of input that's going to  
3 have with regard to the Program Blueprint that CARB will  
4 be writing.

5 But also, several people - I'll just highlight  
6 Gus - talked about how CERP measures could be shared at  
7 the Consultation Group level. That would be a useful way  
8 to use the Consultation Group work. Different CSCs could  
9 learn about what's been successful elsewhere. And really,  
10 communication between the CSCs, is -- I think would be a  
11 positive.

12 You know, we've worried about the consultation  
13 group being too unwieldy if we had, you know, 17, CSC  
14 representatives plus the other stakeholders, like the air  
15 districts and business. But I think having the  
16 consultation be a communication venue across CSCs is  
17 something I'd be interested in talking more about.

18 I also wanted to uplift what Christine Wolfe from  
19 CCEEB brought up about we can't forget about smaller  
20 businesses, which haven't really been represented and it  
21 may -- they may be represented at the CSC level, but not  
22 really at the Consultation Group level.

23 And, you know, both -- I've already said this, I  
24 got these notes all over the place. Stop me. But another  
25 area of intersection was best practices. And both Gus and

1 Kathryn highlighted that, that we have to get -- we have  
2 to have a -- some kind of compendium of best practices.  
3 And I don't think the People's Blueprint is -- is  
4 necessarily the best way to do that. It can highlight  
5 some important best practices, but it's not necessarily  
6 the way to transmit that across all our CSCs. But I also  
7 thought that Veronica's idea that the People's  
8 Blueprint -- the People's Blueprint could be disseminated  
9 to CSCs and they could use it as they see fit, in addition  
10 to the official Program Blueprint 2.0.

11 I think I'll stop there and let my fellow Board  
12 members chime in. But I was very energized by this  
13 presentation and discussion. As Kevin said, I think  
14 there's a lot that's been done. And, you know, we can --  
15 we can talk about the bumps in the road and the fact that  
16 there's so much more to do, but look -- this presentation  
17 has really -- or set of presentations and discussions has  
18 really made me feel like we have made progress. And so  
19 it's got me more energized to go forward.

20 And I really want to thank all the presenters and  
21 all the staff that have -- and I want -- I want to give a  
22 special shout-out to Deldi and Liliana, and Julia. I  
23 think, you know, my working with OCAP especially over the  
24 last year has really been a, you know, productive  
25 relationship. And I'm looking forward -- I'm sorry she's

1 not here -- of Ms. Hurt, you know, joining me as a Board  
2 member in the Consultation Group, so...

3 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Board Member Takvorian and then  
4 Board Member Kracov.

5 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Thank you.

6 And I think -- Board Member Kracov is staring at  
7 me like be short, because I'm tired. Sorry.

8 (Laughter.)

9 BOARD MEMBER KRACOV: How dare you.

10 (Laughter.)

11 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: It's like -- sorry.

12 BOARD MEMBER KRACOV: Speak your mind as always  
13 of course.

14 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: I will. I will and I  
15 will be short. I really appreciate all of you and I -- I  
16 appreciate the comments of my colleagues and agree just  
17 about everything. I think Supervisor Serna was smart to  
18 be talking about expanding funding, whether it's CDBG or  
19 the funding that I think is coming from the federal  
20 government for our communities. It's supposed to be  
21 focused on our communities. We should figure out ways  
22 of -- of really focusing it. And hopefully, CARB can help  
23 with that.

24 I just want to speak just to the one point that  
25 we've been talking about, and that is about how do we

1 expand the -- I'm going to call it the 617 approach to be  
2 on 617 communities. But I just want to say that the three  
3 of you represent having done that for decades. So we --  
4 you all have been working way before 617 was a thing. And  
5 so I just want to thank you for that, but also say, you  
6 know, 617 is helping to give some empowerment in a way,  
7 maybe some strength to the work that you're doing. But I  
8 have no doubt that if we're looking at expanding 61 -- the  
9 617 approach to communities that haven't been designated  
10 as such, that groups like yours have the ability to lead  
11 those kinds of projects.

12           But I wouldn't endorse that if you weren't given  
13 resources and authority. And I think that's the -- you  
14 know, the point that's going to be very, very difficult to  
15 get over. So if you want to flip it and community  
16 organization get to be the conveners and the districts can  
17 come to the table, and the city can come to the table, and  
18 CARB can come to the table, and we talk about it that way,  
19 and they're given the resources to do it, then okay, let's  
20 talk about it that way.

21           But I think to put community based organizations  
22 back to where they are, which is not empowered to make  
23 these decisions about land uses, as Margaret talked about  
24 and as Cynthia talked about, is just -- isn't -- is just  
25 exacerbating the problem.

1           So I don't want to be downer about this, but I  
2 want to be real, because many of us have been doing this  
3 for a very long time and we're smart, we know how to  
4 manage money, we know how to write legislation, and we  
5 could -- we could do this planning, as Cynthia talked  
6 about, but we need the authority to actually do it. And  
7 so if that doesn't get included in this plan to expand,  
8 then I -- I don't know how -- how that would work.

9           And I also want to say -- I guess Dr. Balmes  
10 left -- that that should be in the Blueprint as well. So  
11 if we're going to leave it with the districts, then  
12 their -- the direction to them has to be clear and the  
13 authority to the communities working with them has to be  
14 clear. So I think that's a big problem I think with 617  
15 is that the authority isn't clear and how -- how these  
16 requirements, how the CERPs are being implemented, and  
17 what the penalties are for not implementing them is going  
18 to be something we all are challenged by.

19           But I have no doubt that folks like you and the  
20 ones that we've seen all day long can do this work. And  
21 we figure out ways to empower you to actually do it and  
22 have the authority to do it. So thank you.

23           KEVIN HAMILTON: Board Member Takvorian, just  
24 quickly responding to that, the desperation of residents  
25 for an official facilitator becomes really evident of

1 needing somebody like -- so how does that happen? Because  
2 they're meeting for such a longer period? Most of the  
3 cities and agencies meet with them once about an issue,  
4 maybe twice. But because this has gone on so long and the  
5 meetings have gone on for a year, year and a half, now  
6 we're really hearing the problems, but -- and they -- they  
7 bring everything. They unpack all their baggage.

8           And so they're desperate to have their other  
9 elected officials hear this and do something about it, but  
10 there's really no venue for that, unless they attend  
11 millions of city council meetings in a row, which are not  
12 constructed in ways that bring them in in a specific area  
13 like this.

14           So I think that's -- that's what I've really felt  
15 in these meetings. I mean, we're doing land use stuff.  
16 You know, we're bringing the cities to the table in these  
17 meetings, when they can't get those kind of results from  
18 just going to the city. I don't know what that -- well, I  
19 do kind of know what it says about our system of  
20 government at the local level at times, but that's --  
21 that's critical. And so we need the districts still in  
22 this conversation.

23           I know that's not a popular thing to say, but in  
24 fact, we do, because they have -- they have stepped into  
25 that role and I give them credit for that, because they



1 take a lot of heat for it.

2 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Yeah. No, they're real.  
3 I wasn't trying to exclude the districts. I was just  
4 trying to see --

5 KEVIN HAMILTON: No, I didn't think you were.  
6 I'm saying yeah absolutely.

7 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Yeah.

8 KEVIN HAMILTON: I didn't meant to imply that at  
9 all. Yeah.

10 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Yeah. No, I just want  
11 to be clear. I just think we have to -- if we're going to  
12 share power, then let's figure out what that really means.  
13 And to your point, I think that's where it met in the  
14 first place and that is land use is a powerful tool. So  
15 if land use had the level of authority to regulate  
16 pollution -- air pollution and other kinds of pollution,  
17 then that might be the place to do it. You'd do community  
18 plans and that brings health and -- holeness to  
19 communities, but it doesn't. So we all have to play. So  
20 thank you.

21 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Board Member Kracov.

22 BOARD MEMBER KRACOV: Yeah. So this has been a  
23 great discussion. I just want to thank everybody who's  
24 been here today. I could just call everybody out by name.  
25 You know, Cynthia, it's kind of weird to be up here with

1 you down there, but, you know, life is strange sometimes.  
2 And Gustavo, this is the first time I've met without masks  
3 on. I didn't even recognize you at first, because it's  
4 been such a weird few years.

5           It is actually inspiring. You're right, Dr.  
6 Balmes, it's been a long kind of grueling day here. But  
7 seeing all the talent, and all the commitment, and all  
8 the, you know, enthusiasm still, despite all the ups and  
9 downs, you know, from all the different presenters, and  
10 even folks who are working so hard on this who I know  
11 aren't here. You know, folks -- I'll just give a  
12 shout-out from the South Coast, Jesse Marquez, and Luis  
13 Olmedo and Comite Civico that do so much great work, both  
14 in the South Coast and really have changed the whole  
15 landscape in imperial. And now that you've walked back in  
16 the room, Dr. Balmes, too.

17           I mean, I'm looking here at this draft Blueprint  
18 with its 20 points. I mean, thank you, Dr. Balmes. This  
19 is a tremendous amount of work, you know, for, you know, a  
20 part-time Board member to be, you know, put --

21           BOARD MEMBER BALMES: (Inaudible.)

22           BOARD MEMBER KRACOV: Yeah. Well, you know,  
23 again, I could call out everybody. So thank you, OCAP,  
24 too, and everybody who you've already called out by name,  
25 John.

1           So, you know, I do leave this actually feeling  
2 better than when I started, because of all the enthusiasm  
3 and ideas. I'm looking forward to seeing you finish this,  
4 I guess, Dr. Balms, all 20 points. And, you know, looking  
5 forward to seeing where we go with this, Ms. Reyes and  
6 gang, about the community air grants, community focused  
7 enforcement, and statewide incentive programs, if that's  
8 the evolution, or the reset, or the rethink that we're  
9 going in. And also just want to say it again, I don't  
10 want to forget the opportunity that we have with the  
11 annual reports. We're going to be looking at those pretty  
12 carefully to see what they say, particularly about some of  
13 the larger goals of the program.

14           You know, our work on the pesticide notification  
15 I think has really started to get that off the ground with  
16 sister agencies. And I think 617 does have a -- a -- was  
17 one of the -- was on of the reasons that that got  
18 instigated, so that's a positive.

19           And the last thing I'll say too, we talked about  
20 it before, is that the BACT and BARCT stuff, which also  
21 was a part of 617. Let's not forget about that either, as  
22 we're thinking about how to take this show on the road,  
23 even outside of the geographic areas of the 617  
24 communities.

25           So I leave this, you know -- I'm enthusiastic

1 today. Although, it's been a long day and just appreciate  
2 everybody -- everyone of you who has come today, staff,  
3 the districts of course, and the community members.

4 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. Thank you.

5 All right. We need to hear from our -- the  
6 members of the public, but I did want to read a brief note  
7 from Assemblymember Garcia, who wasn't able to join us  
8 today due to his legislative responsibilities, but it's  
9 very relevant to this conversation.

10 And so he says he's, "Happy to see the  
11 conversation surrounding the Community Air Protection  
12 Program". He says, "While I appreciate the additional \$20  
13 million identified in the May revise, that brings the  
14 total investment to \$240 million in this year's budget, I  
15 introduced legislation this year...", -- we talked about  
16 this earlier -- "...to bring that total to a minimum of  
17 \$300 million for the program.

18 "Additionally, Assemblymember Cristina Garcia and  
19 I carried a budget ask requesting a continuous  
20 appropriation for the Community Air Protection Program  
21 until 2030 in order to help achieve our original  
22 legislative goals. The program needs to be sustainable  
23 and able to expand to new communities, while continuing to  
24 tackle its central goal of allowing communities to improve  
25 their air quality. A program like this is time sensitive

1 and the more that we do to invest in the front end, the  
2 better we can tackle our community's air quality goals  
3 that will make strides in improving public health".

4           So that's what Assemblymember Garcia wanted to  
5 share.

6           I'll also just note I want to agree with a lot of  
7 what was said. And one -- one of the things I really  
8 appreciated about the panel was that there were so many  
9 specific suggestions. And one I really liked was Ms.  
10 Margaret's suggestion about the newsletter. And that goes  
11 to Dr. Balmes' point, where if there's sort of a  
12 continuous opportunity for updating and information  
13 sharing, so for people who can't make Consultation Group  
14 meetings or who -- activities of CSCs that aren't as  
15 engaged in the Consultation Group, that they can get a  
16 newsletter, and know what's on going, and know who to call  
17 and ask for more information.

18           Okay. I am now going to go to public comment.

19           Board Clerk, will you please call the commenters.

20           BOARD CLERK GARCIA: Thank you. We currently  
21 have three remote commenters who wish to speak at this  
22 time. If you wish to verbally comment on this Board item,  
23 please raise your hand or dial star nine now. The first  
24 three speakers will be Cynthia Pinto-Cabrera, Bill La  
25 Marr, and Adrian Rehn.

1 Cynthia, I have activated your microphone.

2 Please unmute yourself and begin.

3 Cynthia?

4 If you could try dialing star six.

5 There you go.

6 CYNTHIA PINTO-CABRERA: Hello. Good evening,  
7 Chair, members of the Board. I'm Cynthia Pinto-Cabrera,  
8 policy assistant with the Central Valley Air Quality  
9 Coalition, or CVAQ.

10 CVAQ staff and many coalition partners  
11 participate in the AB 617 process, both in selected  
12 communities and through conducting outreach and monitoring  
13 activities in environmental justice communities and in the  
14 valley.

15 While the goal of the community air protection  
16 plan is laudable, planning and implementing -- planning  
17 and implementation in the San Joaquin Valley has had a lot  
18 of lessons and lack of trust and transparency, for  
19 example, the \$5 million that was removed from the  
20 Stockton -- Stockton CERP budget.

21 Despite these challenges, CVAQ staff and partners  
22 have found ways to leverage conversations or taking a  
23 completely different approach to community air protection,  
24 like future plans to build on the collaborative work  
25 shared by Kevin Hamilton tonight to co-develop community

1 plans outside the official process, and working to develop  
2 an indoor air filtration pilot program in Stockton.

3           Among an important -- among many important  
4 priorities raised over the planning process in Stockton  
5 advocates and community members also asked for increased  
6 attention to heavy-duty diesel trucks, impacts, and  
7 initiated conversation with CARB's Enforcement Division,  
8 staff, about strategies like use of the Portable Emissions  
9 Acquisition System, or PEAQS, to find high emitting  
10 trucks.

11           Over the past several months CVAQ staff and  
12 Stockton partners have worked with Enforcement Division on  
13 staff -- Division staff on a collaborative project to  
14 assess where feasible address -- addresses -- where  
15 feasible address community impacts and concerns in South  
16 Stockton can be addressed, while sharing information about  
17 enforcement strategies like mobile source regulations, and  
18 tools like the PEAQS, and automated license plate readers.

19           In March, CARB Enforcement Staff participated in  
20 a series of workshops for youth advocates and community  
21 members in partnership with Little Manila -- Little Manila  
22 Rising, Edge Collaborative, and CVAQ. Enforcement Staff  
23 provided information on CARB's role in enforcing and  
24 cleaning up the air and hands-on demonstration of how  
25 these different technologies work and other equipment

1 works. CARB enforcement staff has also shared about  
2 opportunities to work at the Air Resources Board, to  
3 address pollution -- air pollution issues impacting the  
4 youth daily lives, are they long -- life-long valley  
5 resident and asthmatic.

6 It was great to learn about the work with --  
7 about the work that CARB staff is doing to improve air  
8 quality within the valley. And we appreciate that the  
9 CARB Enforcement Division under -- the leadership of Todd  
10 Sax has overall been very receptive to community feedback  
11 and have invested in learning with community members and  
12 including community mem -- members experiences to improve  
13 outcomes which at -- the community air protection program  
14 is completely about.

15 Community engagement. And a community that's  
16 engaged in cross-disciplinary efforts are challenging work  
17 in applying --

18 BOARD CLERK GARCIA: Thank you, Cynthia.

19 CYNTHIA PINTO-CABRERA: -- learning and the work.  
20 So overall just thank you for the -- for the work that  
21 CARB is doing. Thank you.

22 BOARD CLERK GARCIA: Thank you.

23 Bill La Marr, I have activated your microphone.  
24 Please unmute yourself and you can begin.

25 BILL LA MARR: Good evening, Chair Randolph and



1 Board members. I'm Bill La Marr. I'm the Executive  
2 Director of the California Alliance of Small Business  
3 Associations. Thank you for the opportunity to address  
4 the Board on this important topic.

5           Whether the future of the implementation of the  
6 program is successful largely depends on the changes you  
7 make to the Blueprint. Last November, CARB laid out a  
8 comprehensive program or process for public engagement on  
9 the Blueprint update, which include opportunities for  
10 input of the scope of the Blueprint, update public  
11 workshops, comment periods on draft language, and CEQA  
12 review. Alliance members support this process and believe  
13 it will lead to a more effective and efficient program  
14 especially after hearing the comments by the Consultation  
15 Group panel members.

16           We also agree with the statements made by the  
17 situ -- by the situation assessment report developed by  
18 CARB's Consensus and Collaboration Program of Sacramento  
19 State University. The assessment was based on seven  
20 interviews with Consultation Groups members and conducted  
21 in January of this year. We believe that the assessment  
22 contains useful insights and recommendations to help build  
23 cohesion within the group, including the shared sense of  
24 purpose, address tensions, and support Consultation Group  
25 members.

1           While we appreciate the time CARB has taken to  
2 focus on the community concerns and recommendations in the  
3 People's Blueprint, there are other aspects of the Program  
4 Blueprint that should be updated based on lessons learned  
5 over the first four plus years of the program  
6 implementation.

7           One example is the People's Blueprint does not  
8 address how the data from community air monitoring plans  
9 should be used to refine emission reduction measures in  
10 communities emission reduction plans. But these plans  
11 were developed from available regional data instead of  
12 community level data, which would show the attribution of  
13 emissions from sources within individual communities,  
14 rather than from the entire region.

15           That feedback mechanism is necessary to achieve  
16 the intent of the statute and to more effectively reduce  
17 to quant -- and quantify the cumulative emission burden in  
18 these communities. CARB has -- CARB has already taken  
19 steps to streamline the Blueprint update process in  
20 response to community concerns. We ask that you preserve  
21 the process that comes after the Consultation Group has  
22 thoroughly reviewed the People's Blueprint, so that all  
23 stakeholders have the time and a meaningful opportunity to  
24 contribute to the development of a more efficient and  
25 effective statewide implementation strategy.

1 Thank you.

2 BOARD CLERK GARCIA: Thank you.

3 Adrian Rehn, I have activated your microphone.  
4 Please unmute yourself and begin.

5 ADRIAN REHN: Good evening, Chair Randolph and  
6 Board members. Thank you for hosting this important  
7 conversation. My name is Adrian Rehn and my Organization  
8 Valley Vision was very active in advocating for  
9 Sacramento's initial designation as an AB 617 community.  
10 We're also a two-time community air grantee.

11 National media outlets consistently refer to AB  
12 617 as the State of California's signature EJ law. And in  
13 Sacramento, it started conversations and brought together  
14 partners that would otherwise never be in a room together.  
15 And it's generated immense amounts of data within our air  
16 monitoring deserts. It was really inspiring to here today  
17 about Kevin's work in the San Joaquin Valley.

18 With our air grant focused on North Sacramento  
19 and Oak Park, we've been able to place 18 low-cost air  
20 monitors in locations determined by residents, educated  
21 and engaged community members in four languages, held  
22 walking tours, and begun to analyze our data to see  
23 emerging block-by-block pollution disparities. And we've  
24 even developed one-page CERP outlines for each  
25 neighborhood that we're working in.

1           With our new air grant, we'll be piloting our  
2 participatory budgeting framework in implementing and  
3 emissions reduction pilot. And all of this has been done  
4 through that air grants program and with strong  
5 partnerships with residents, our air district, and  
6 advocates, but without yet being part of a formal AB 617  
7 community.

8           So that being said, of course, we talked today  
9 about how the success of AB 617 is threatened by  
10 inequities, governance issues, and resource limitations.  
11 So we agree that a new resident-centered Blueprint is  
12 needed, substantially more funding from the Legislature,  
13 and to Director Serna's point, other sources is also  
14 required. And the use and distribution of those funds  
15 must be more flexible and equitable, but at the same time,  
16 our need in North Sacramento and Oak Park remains the  
17 same.

18           So, yes, a reset is needed, but it must not  
19 dilute the impact that communities expect from formalized  
20 recognition by CARB. So it's going to be a tough needle  
21 to thread, we acknowledge.

22           So tonight I ask that you do not forget about the  
23 continually supported communities who have been  
24 organizing, monitoring our air, and looking forward to a  
25 formal 617 designation for years now. Reimagining this

1 program should not mean diluting this program. And as AB  
2 617 evolves, please remember the initial promise to our  
3 state's most pollution burdened communities. We do look  
4 forward to continuing to provide input into the next  
5 iteration of the Blueprint.

6 Those are my comments. Thank you.

7 BOARD CLERK GARCIA: Thank you.

8 Madam Chair, that concludes the list of  
9 commenters.

10 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Thank you.

11 And since this is not an action item, we are  
12 finished with our agenda for today and we are adjourning  
13 until tomorrow morning at 9 a.m. here in the auditorium.

14 Thank you, everyone, and we'll see you tomorrow.

15 (Thereupon the Air Resources Board meeting  
16 adjourned at 8:08 p.m.)

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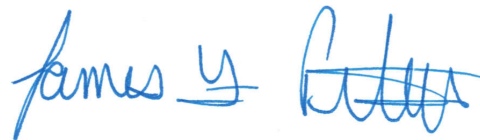
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That I am a disinterested person herein; that the foregoing California Air Resources Board meeting was reported in shorthand by me, James F. Peters, a Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of California, and was thereafter transcribed, under my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

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 3rd day of June, 2022.



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Certified Shorthand Reporter  
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