

MEETING

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

AIR RESOURCES BOARD

ZOOM PLATFORM

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

BYRON SHER AUDITORIUM

1001 I STREET

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2024

10:00 A.M.

JAMES F. PETERS, CSR
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APPEARANCES

BOARD MEMBERS:

Liane Randolph, Chair

John Balmes, MD

Hector De La Torre

John Eisenhut

Dean Florez

Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia

Eric Guerra

Davina Hurt

Gideon Kracov

Tania Pacheco-Werner, PhD

V. Manuel Perez

Cliff Rechtschaffen

Susan Shaheen, PhD

Senator Henry Stern

Diane Takvorian

STAFF:

Steve Cliff, PhD, Executive Officer

Courtney Smith, Principal Deputy Executive Officer

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

Chanell Fletcher, Deputy Executive Officer, Environmental Justice

APPEARANCES CONTINUED

STAFF:

Annette Hébert, Deputy Executive Officer, Southern California Headquarters & Mobile Source Compliance

Edna Murphy, Deputy Executive Officer Internal Operations

Rajinder Sahota, Deputy Executive Officer, Climate Change and Research

Sydney Vergis, PhD, Deputy Executive Officer, Mobile Sources & Incentives

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

Nicole Bruns, Air Pollution Specialist, Program Assessment and Reporting, Section, Office of Community Air Protection (OCAP)

Laura Carr, Air Pollution Specialist, Central Valley Air Quality Planning Section, AQPSD

Shannon Dilley, Assistant Chief Counsel

Dana Grubaugh, Assistant Chief Counsel

Jeremy Herbert, Staff Air Pollution Specialist, Program Assessment and Reporting Section, OCAP

Amaya Hernandez, Air Resources Engineer, OCAP

Vernon Hughes, Assistant Division Chief, AQPSD

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Abigail May, Senior Attorney, Legal Office

Chandan Misra, Manager, Program Assessment and Reporting Section, OCAP

Femi Olaluwoye, Branch Chief, OCAP

Kevin Olp, Chief, Program Assessment and Reporting Branch, OCAP

APPEARANCES CONTINUED

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Crystal Ruel-Chen, Air Resources Engineer, Community Outreach Enforcement Section, ED

Deldi Reyes, Division Chief, OCAP

David Ridley, Manager, Advanced Monitoring Techniques Section, Monitoring and Laboratory Division (MLD)

Adriana Smith, Air Pollution Specialist, Incentives Program Section, OCAP

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

Sylvia Vanderspek, Chief, Air Quality Planning Branch, AQPSD

Daniel Whitney, Senior Attorney, Legal Office

ALSO PRESENT:

Cesar Aguirre

Veronica Aguirre, Central California Environmental Justice Network

Margarita Alonzo

Francisca Alvarez

Priscilla B

Fred Beltran

Berta

Christian Bisher, Central California Environmental Justice Network

Adam Borchard, California Fresh Fruit Association

APPEARANCES CONTINUED

ALSO PRESENT:

Tonalli Borja

Tonatiuh Borja

Barry F. Boyd, Sacramento Environmental Justice Coalition

Jesus Cacho, Sacramento Environmental Justice Coalition

Susana Canseco

Dianna Carrillo

Guadalupe Cipres

Manuel Cunha, Jr., Nisei Farmers League

Natalie Delgado, Central California Environmental Justice Network

Perry Elerts, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

Andrew Escamilla California Environmental Voters

Richard Falcon, United Latinos

Ian Faloon, PhD, University of California, Davis

Philip Fine, Bay Area Air Quality Management District

Madina Flores

Libia Garcia

Maritza Garcia, Environmental Health Coalition

Catherine Garoupa, PhD, Central Valley Air Quality Coalition

Martha Gomez

Francisco Gonzalez

Patricio Gonzalez

APPEARANCES CONTINUED

ALSO PRESENT:

Karina Guererro

Kevin Hamilton, Central California Asthma Collaborative

Rhonda Henderson

Rosa Hernandez

Veronica Hernandez

Tido Hoang

Jennifer Holden, Mangan Park Neighborhood Association

Gabriel Javier

Patrick Kennedy, Supervisor, County of Sacramento

Emily Kneeland, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

Alison LaBonte, a la bonte advisors(Alba)

Pa Houa Lee, California Environmental Voters

Mauro Libre

Carmen Lopez

Martha Lopez

Bill Magavern, Coalition for Clean Air

Joonsik Maing, Range Energy

Caity Maple, Councilmember, City of Sacramento

Annabelle Marquez

Fernando Marquez

Nativad Martinez

APPEARANCES CONTINUED

ALSO PRESENT:

Chris McGlothlin, Western Agricultural Processors
Association, California Cotton Ginners and Growers
Association

Thomas Menz

Ileana Navarro, Central California Environmental Justice
Network

Ophelia Ochoa, Las Panchas

Wonuola Olagunju, California Environmental Voters

Miguel Orozco, United for Central Valley

Otilla Ortigoza

Ivan Ortiz, Central California Environmental Justice
Network

Alexandra Perez

Felipe Perez

Cynthia Pinto-Cabrera, Central Valley Air Quality
Coalition

Esther Ramirez

Adrian Rehn, Valley Vision

Alicia Rodriguez

Jared Rodriguez, Central California Environmental Justice
Network

Mariah Rodriguez

Mikaela Rodriguez

Rodolpho Rodriguez

Ruben Rodriguez

APPEARANCES CONTINUED

ALSO PRESENT:

Tatiana Rodriguez

Taylor Roschen, San Joaquin Valley Agricultural
Associations

Mark Rose, National Parks Conservation Association

Irma Ruiz

Saul Ruiz

Alexa Sanchez, Central California Asthma Collaborative

Luis Sanchez, Community Resource Project

Lupita Sanchez

Maria Sanchez

Raquel Sanchez

Ana Elsa Saavedra

Janice Lam Snyder, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality
Management District

Isabel Solorio

Maria Torres

Vincent Valdez, South Sacramento-Florin Community Steering
Committee

Mai Vang, Councilmember, City of Sacramento

Esperanza Vielma, Coalition for Environmental and Equity
Economics

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PROCEEDINGS

1
2 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. Good morning. The July
3 25th, 2024 public meeting of the California Air Resources
4 Board will come to order. Board clerk, will you please
5 call the roll.

6 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you, Chair Randolph.
7 Dr. Balmes.

8 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Here.

9 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Mr. De La Torre.
10 Mr. Eisenhut.

11 BOARD MEMBER EISENHUT: Here.

12 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Senator Florez.

13 BOARD MEMBER FLOREZ: Here.

14 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Assemblymember Garcia.

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER GARCIA: Present.

16 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Mr. Guerra.
17 Ms. Hurt.

18 BOARD MEMBER HURT: Present.

19 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Mr. Kracov.

20 BOARD MEMBER KRACOV: Here.

21 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Dr. Pacheco-Werner.

22 BOARD MEMBER PACHECO-WERNER: Here.

23 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Mr. Perez.
24 Mr. Rechtschaffen.

25 BOARD MEMBER RECHTSCHAFFEN: Here.

1 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Dr. Shaheen.

2 BOARD MEMBER SHAHEEN: Here.

3 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Senator Stern.

4 Ms. Takvorian.

5 Supervisor Vargas.

6 Chair Randolph.

7 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Here.

8 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Madam Chair we have a
9 quorum.

10 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Thank you very much.
11 Okay. We will begin our meeting with our housekeeping
12 items.

13 We are conducting today's meeting in person as
14 well as offering remote options for public participation
15 both by phone and in Zoom. Anyone who wishes to testify
16 in person should fill out a request-to-speak card
17 available in the foyer outside the Board room. Please
18 turn it into a Board assistant prior to the commencement
19 of the item. If you are participating remotely, you will
20 raise your hand in Zoom or dial star nine if calling in by
21 phone. The Clerk will provide further details regarding
22 how public participation will work in just a moment.

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

1 room immediately and go down the stairs to the lobby and
2 out of the building. When the "All Clear" signal is
3 given, we will return to the auditorium and resume the
4 hearing.

5 A closed caption feature is available for those
6 of you joining us in the Zoom environment. In order to
7 turn on subtitles, please look for a button labeled "CC"
8 at the bottom of the Zoom window as shown in the example
9 on the screen now. I would like to take this opportunity
10 to remind everyone to speak clearly and from a quiet
11 location, whether you are joining us in Zoom or calling in
12 by phone.

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

22 (Interpreter translated in Spanish).

23 THE INTERPRETER: Gracias and thank you.

24 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you. I will now ask the
25 Board clerk to provide more details regarding public

1 participation for this meeting.

2 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you, Chair.

3 Good morning, everyone. I will be providing
4 additional information on how public participation will be
5 organized for today's meeting.

6 We will first be calling on any in-person
7 commenters who have turned in a request-to-speak card and
8 then we will be calling on commenters who are joining us
9 remotely. If you are joining us remotely and wish to make
10 a verbal comment on one of today's Board items or during
11 the open comment period at the end of today's meeting, you
12 will must be using Zoom webinar or calling in by
13 telephone. If you are currently watching the webcast on
14 CAL-SPAN, but you wish to comment remotely, please
15 register for the Zoom webinar or call in. Information for
16 both can be found on the public agenda for today's
17 meeting.

18 To make a verbal comment, we will be using the
19 "Raise Hand" feature in Zoom. If you wish to speak on a
20 Board item, please virtually raise your hand. As soon as
21 the item has begun -- please raise your hand as soon as
22 the item has begun so you -- to let us know as soon as the
23 item has begun you wish to speak. To do this, if you are
24 using a computer or tablet, there is a "Raise Hand"
25 button. And if you are calling in on the telephone, dial

1 star nine to raise your hand. Even if you previously
2 indicated which item you wished to speak on when you
3 registered, you must raise your hand at the beginning of
4 the item, so that you can be added to the queue.

5 And for anyone giving verbal comments today in
6 Spanish and requiring an interpreter's assistance, please
7 indicate so at the beginning of your testimony and our
8 translator will assist you.

9 When the comment period starts, the order of
10 commenters will be determined by who raises their hand
11 first. We will call each commenter by name and will
12 activate each commenter's audio when it is their turn to
13 speak. For those calling in, we will identify you by the
14 last three digits of your phone number. We will not show
15 a list of remote commenters, however, we will be
16 announcing the next three or so commenters in the queue,
17 so you are ready to testify and know who is coming up
18 next. Please note, you will not appear by video during
19 your testimony. I would also like to remind everyone to
20 please state your name for the record before you speak.
21 This is especially important for those calling in by phone
22 to testify on an item.

23 We will have a -- we will have a time limit for
24 each commenter and we'll begin the comment period with a
25 two-minute time limit, although this could change at the

1 Chair's discretion. During public testimony, you will see
2 a timer on the screen. For those calling in by phone, we
3 will run the timer and let you know when you have 30
4 seconds left and when your time is up. If you require
5 Spanish interpretation for your comment, your time will be
6 doubled.

7 If you wish to submit written comments today,
8 please visit CARB's send your -- "Send Us Your Comments"
9 page or look at the public agenda on our webpage for links
10 to send these documents electronically. Written comments
11 will be accepted on each item until the Chair closes the
12 record for that Board item.

13 If you experience any technical difficulties,
14 please call (805)772-2715, so an IT person can assist.

15 Thank you. I'll turn the microphone pack to
16 Chair Randolph.

17 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you so much. So before we
18 start our agenda items today, I wanted to take a moment to
19 congratulate the South Coast Air Quality Management
20 District. They received a \$500 million Climate Pollution
21 Reduction Grant from the Biden-Harris administration.
22 That grant is going to go towards reducing pollution from
23 the goods movement sector. So it will go for vehicles,
24 infrastructure, workforce training, and a lot of other
25 projects that will help achieve cleaner air in the South

1 Coast Air Basin. So we're really excited that they
2 received that award and are looking forward to seeing the
3 results of all that work. And congratulations to Board
4 Member Kracov, our South Coast representative.

5 Now, we will turn to the first item on the
6 consent calendar, that is item number 24-4-1, the proposed
7 transport or good neighbor State Implementation Plan for
8 air pollution that crosses state lines. If you would like
9 to comment on staff's proposal as posted on CARB's
10 website, please raise your hand in Zoom or dial star nine
11 now. When we get to the public comment portion of this
12 item, we will call on in-person commenters who have
13 submitted a request-to-speak card followed by those who
14 have virtually raised their hand.

15 Dr. Cliff, would you please summarize the item.

16 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: Thank you, Chair
17 Randolph. The Clean Air Act's Good Neighbor provision
18 requires U.S. EPA and states to address interstate
19 transport of air pollution that affects downwind states'
20 ability to attain and maintain National Ambient Air
21 Quality Standards. CARB submitted California's
22 infrastructure State Implementation Plan, or SIP,
23 revision, including the Good Neighbor portion for the 70
24 ppb 8-hour ozone federal standard in 2018. While U.S. EPA
25 approved the majority of the infrastructure SIP in 2023,

1 U.S. EPA disapproved the Good Neighbor portion of CARB's
2 SIP and also published the Nationwide Interstate Transport
3 Federal Implementation Plan for California.

4 CARB staff have developed this 2024 Good Neighbor
5 SIP to replace the federal implementation plan and address
6 our interstate transport obligations. This SIP relies on
7 emission reductions from CARB's Clean Truck Check Program
8 and provides almost seven times more emission reductions
9 than the stationary source controls identified in the
10 federal plan. CARB staff have also addressed the SIP
11 approvability issues identified in U.S. EPA's disapproval.

12 Over the past year, several states have initiated
13 litigation against U.S. EPA to pause implementation of the
14 federal implementation plan for the Good Neighbor
15 provisions. Perhaps most visibly on July -- on June 27,
16 2024, the United States Supreme Court granted a stay or
17 pause of the federal implementation plan for several
18 states while litigation continues in Ohio versus U.S. EPA.
19 This and other stays do not apply to California as
20 California is not involved in these lawsuits. Because of
21 this, CARB is moving forward with these 2024 updates to
22 the Good Neighbor SIP as the most clear and efficient
23 approach to address regulatory requirements and improve
24 air quality in California and downwind states as required
25 by the Clean Air Act.

1 The 2024 Good Neighbor SIP will resolve the
2 disapproval and replace the Interstate Transport Federal
3 Implementation Plan for California. This Plan goes above
4 and beyond the previous submittal and ensures that
5 California is meeting its obligation to downwind states.
6 Staff recommends that the Board approve the proposed 2024
7 Good Neighbor SIP for submittal to U.S. EPA for inclusion
8 in the California SIP. This concludes my summary of the
9 item.

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Thank you. Board
12 Clerk, have any witnesses signed up to testify on this
13 item?

14 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: No. We have no public
15 comment -- or in-person commenters at this time.

16 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. I will now close the
17 record on this agenda item. The Board has before them
18 Resolution number 24-9. Do I have a motion and a second?

19 BOARD MEMBER HURT: Move approval.

20 BOARD MEMBER RECHTSCHAFFEN: Second.

21 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Board Member Rechtschaffen
22 seconded.

23 BOARD MEMBER RECHTSCHAFFEN: I want an
24 opportunity to say something though. I don't know if I
25 can do that before or after, Chair.

1 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Go ahead.

2 BOARD MEMBER RECHTSCHAFFEN: I just want to
3 highlight what Dr. Cliff mentioned about the posture of
4 California in this matter versus other states. So EPA
5 disapproved the State's Good Neighbor SIP and adopted a
6 federal implementation plan. And a number of states
7 challenged it. Some dropped out because they're in
8 compliance. California, rather than electing to fight,
9 adopted a new SIP that we're voting on today, as we
10 should, because we needed to do more to make sure that
11 we're in compliance with the Good Neighbor Plan. And the
12 Supreme Court issued the stay that Dr. Cliff mentioned in
13 what many people, observers think was one of their many
14 overreaching efforts, a real overreach in what the Supreme
15 Court did. It stayed the entire implementation of the
16 federal effort on a highly technical procedural ground
17 stopping the litigation from going -- stopping the rule
18 from being implemented before the decision on the merits
19 could be heard. So we're not part of that. I just want
20 to make -- we dissociate ourselves from those other states
21 and very happy that we're going forward with the adoption
22 of this SIP.

23 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Thank you.

24 Board Clerk, would you please call the roll.

25 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Dr. Balmes?

1 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Yes.
2 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Mr. Eisenhut?
3 BOARD MEMBER EISENHUT: Yes.
4 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Senator Florez?
5 BOARD MEMBER FLOREZ: Florez yes.
6 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Ms. Hurt?
7 BOARD MEMBER HURT: Aye.
8 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Mr. Kracov?
9 BOARD MEMBER KRACOV: Yes.
10 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Dr. Pacheco-Werner?
11 BOARD MEMBER PACHECO-WERNER: Yes.
12 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Mr. Rechtschaffen?
13 BOARD MEMBER RECHTSCHAFFEN: Yes.
14 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Dr. Shaheen?
15 BOARD MEMBER SHAHEEN: Aye.
16 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Ms. Takvorian?
17 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Aye.
18 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Supervisor Vargas?
19 Oh, my apologies.
20 CHAIR RANDOLPH:
21 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Yes.
22 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Motion passes.
23 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Thank you so much.
24 The next item on the agenda is number 24-4-2,
25 consideration of the San Joaquin Valley 2024 State

1 Implementation Plan, or SIP, for the 2012, 12 microgram
2 per cubic meter annual PM2.5 standard, amendments to the
3 agricultural equipment incentive measure, and the 1997 15
4 microgram per cubic meter SIP revision, and to hear an
5 implementation update on the 2018 PM2.5 plan.

6 If you are here with us in the room and wish to
7 comment on this item, please fill out a request-to-speak
8 card as soon as possible and submit it to a Board
9 assistant. If you are joining us remotely and wish to
10 comment on this item, please click the "Raise Hand" button
11 or dial star nine now. We will first call on in-person
12 commenters followed by any remote commenters when we get
13 to the public comment portion of this item.

14 The 2024 plan for the 12 microgram per cubic
15 meter annual PM2.5 standard before us today is the latest
16 in a series of plans developed jointly by CARB and the San
17 Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

18 This plan presents a comprehensive strategy to
19 bring clean air to all of the communities in one of the
20 most polluted regions of our State. The plan demonstrates
21 that San Joaquin Valley will meet the stringent 12
22 microgram annual standard by 2030 through implementation
23 of District rules and CARB's broad suite of aggressive
24 mobile source control measures.

25 This 12 microgram plan comes to the Board at an

1 interesting time. The U.S. Environmental Protection
2 Agency finalized a new even more stringent annual PM2.5
3 standard in February of this year at a level of 9
4 micrograms per cubic meter. It will be a challenge to
5 meet that standard in the San Joaquin Valley and in other
6 regions of the state, but that work is absolutely
7 necessary to achieve clean air.

8 I have been involved in conversations with both
9 the District and with the U.S. EPA on this SIP revision.
10 The 2024 plan for the 12 microgram standard is both an
11 important milestone and also serves as a stepping stone to
12 additional air quality planning efforts that CARB and the
13 District will need to undertake in the coming months and
14 years to meet that new more stringent EPA standard.

15 This item also includes proposed amendments to a
16 previously adopted SIP revision for the 15 microgram per
17 cubic meter annual PM2.5 standard and to the 2019 San
18 Joaquin Valley agricultural equipment incentive measure.

19 Today, staff is also going to provide a general
20 update on progress in meeting the previous PM2.5 plan in
21 the San Joaquin Valley.

22 Dr. Cliff, would you please introduce this item.

23 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: Thank you, Chair
24 Randolph. The 2024 PM2.5 plan represents almost two years
25 of collaboration between CARB, the San Joaquin Valley Air

1 Pollution Control District, our federal partners at U.S.
2 EPA, and committed and engaged advocates and partners in
3 the valley.

4 In the staff presentation, you'll hear more
5 details about what the plan contains and how it meets
6 Clean Air Act requirements for a State Implementation
7 Plan. You'll also hear an update on the implementation of
8 the previous PM2.5 plan for the valley, since those
9 efforts are ongoing, and they support the attainment
10 strategy in the 2024 PM2.5 plan.

11 I want to highlight that the plan includes a CARB
12 commitment to achieve emission reductions from the
13 measures in the State SIP Strategy. These upcoming
14 rulemakings the Board will consider in the months and
15 years ahead will be critical for the SIP. And, as the
16 Board has heard many times, action from our federal
17 partners, including approving CARB waivers and
18 authorizations, and acting on sources under their control
19 will be key.

20 The item also includes proposed amendments to the
21 SIP revision for the 15 microgram per cubic meter annual
22 PM2.5 standard and the agricultural equipment incentive
23 measure. These are amendments to include a quantification
24 of emission reductions in 2023 from existing Carl Moyer
25 Program and FARMER agricultural equipment projects.

1 Additionally, staff propose to amend the 15 microgram SIP
2 revision to allow the use of the emission reductions as a
3 substitute measure to meet the 2023 aggregate emission
4 reduction commitment in the 15 microgram SIP revision.

5 I will now ask Laura Carr of the Air Quality
6 Planning and Science Division to begin the staff
7 presentation.

8 Laura.

9 (Thereupon a slide presentation).

10 AQPSD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST CARR: Thank you,
11 Dr. Cliff.

12 Good morning, Chair Randolph and Board members.

13 I'll be presenting today's San Joaquin Valley SIP
14 item. This item includes Board consideration of the 2024
15 SIP for the 12 microgram per cubic meter annual PM2.5
16 standard and proposed amendments to the San Joaquin Valley
17 agricultural equipment incentive measure and the 15
18 microgram per cubic meter SIP. I will also present an
19 update on the status of implementing the 2018 PM2.5 SIP.

20 [SLIDE CHANGE]

21 AQPSD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST CARR: We'll start
22 by discussing the good news that PM2.5 air quality has
23 improved in the San Joaquin Valley on both the 24-hour and
24 an annual basis.

25 [SLIDE CHANGE]

1 AQPSD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST CARR: More days
2 in the valley are meeting the 24-hour PM2.5 standard than
3 two decades ago. The graph shows that in 2002, dozens of
4 days had PM2.5 levels above the 24-hour 35-microgram per
5 cubic meter standard.

6 By 2022, the number of days exceeding the
7 standard had dropped about 80 percent in Modesto and
8 Fresno and halved in Bakersfield. Air quality in the
9 southern portion of the valley is improving at a slower
10 pace due to the valley's topography and meteorology, which
11 led pollution to accumulate in the region.

12 This year continues the air quality improvement
13 trend. In the first half of 2024, the valley only
14 recorded one day over the 35 microgram standard on January
15 1st.

16 [SLIDE CHANGE]

17 AQPSD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST CARR: PM2.5 air
18 quality has also improved on an annual basis. This chart
19 shows the valley's PM2.5 monitoring sites ordered from
20 south to north. The yellow bars show the 2023 PM2.5
21 annual design value. This is the three-year average of
22 2021, 2022, and 2023 annual PM2.5 levels. EPA recently
23 approved the latest SIP for the 15 microgram standard
24 establishing an attainment deadline of December 31st,
25 2023. Fourteen of the 17 sites met the 15 microgram

1 standard by that deadline based on the 2023 design value.
2 However, due in part to the wildfire impacts in 20 --

3 CHAIR RANDOLPH: I'm sorry. I don't mean to
4 interrupt, but can you get a little closer to the mic and
5 speak a little louder.

6 AQPSD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST CARR: Sorry about
7 that.

8 CHAIR RANDOLPH: We're having trouble hearing.
9 Thank you so much.

10 AQPSD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST CARR: Is that
11 better?

12 Sorry. Fourteen of the 17 sites met the 15
13 microgram standard by that deadline based on the 2023
14 design value. However, due in part to the wildfire
15 impacts in 2021 and 2022, three sites in the southern end
16 of the valley remained about a microgram above the
17 standard.

18 In 2023, the valley did not experience major
19 impacts from wildfires, so the 2023 data present a clear
20 view of the impact of control programs on air quality
21 improvement. As shown in the green bars, all air quality
22 monitoring sites in the valley recorded PM2.5 levels below
23 the 15 microgram standard in 2023. Bakersfield-Golden
24 recorded the highest annual value at 13.6 micrograms. And
25 we can see that 13 of the 17 sites had values at or below

1 the 12 microgram annual standard.

2 [SLIDE CHANGE]

3 AQPSD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST CARR: When states
4 make progress, the Clean Air Act allows for an extension
5 of the attainment year if two criteria are met. One, the
6 area must record annual average values below the standard,
7 and two, the State must demonstrate it has met its
8 previous commitments for that standard.

9 Last month, CARB and the San Joaquin Valley Air
10 Pollution Control District submitted to EPA a request for
11 attainment date extension for the 15 microgram standard
12 documenting that the two criteria were satisfied. To
13 support the request, EPA asked that CARB also provide
14 amendments to two previously submitted items.

15 [SLIDE CHANGE]

16 AQPSD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST CARR: The 15
17 microgram SIP included a CARB commitment to achieve
18 reductions in emissions of oxides of nitrogen, or NOx, of
19 3 tons per day, and 0.04 tons per day of PM2.5 in 2023
20 from CARB's Heavy-Duty Inspection and Maintenance Program.
21 The SIP also recognized that there were emission
22 reductions not quantified in the SIP from the turnover of
23 agricultural equipment.

24 In 2019, CARB adopted the San Joaquin Valley
25 agricultural equipment incentive measure to demonstrate

1 how incentive programs can be credited in a SIP for the
2 years 2024 and 2025. As part of this measure, CARB
3 annually documents the actual emission reductions
4 achieved. The 2022 annual report documents creditable
5 emission reductions in place for 2023. Staff used the
6 2023 emission reductions from this measure to meet the
7 2023 aggregate emissions reduction commitment in the 15
8 microgram SIP.

9 CARB is proposing to amend the valley incentive
10 measure to include a quantification of emission reductions
11 in the year 2023 from existing agricultural equipment
12 turnover projects funded by the Carl Moyer and FARMER
13 programs. CARB is also proposing to amend the 15
14 microgram SIP to document that these reductions can be
15 used as a substitute measure instead of the Heavy-Duty I&M
16 Program to meet the 2023 commitment.

17 The agricultural equipment projects completed by
18 December 31st, 2022 achieved five tons per day of NOx and
19 0.27 tons per day of PM2.5 reductions, well in excess of
20 the 3 tons per day of NOx and 0.04 tons per day of PM2.5
21 commitment in the 5 -- 15 microgram SIP.

22 Staff have already submitted these proposed
23 amendments to EPA via parallel processing and on July 8th,
24 EPA proposed to approve the amendments and to grant the
25 attainment date extension to December 31st, 2024 pending

1 the Board's final action.

2 The next slides describe the CARB and District
3 rules and regulations that have contributed to air quality
4 progress.

5 [SLIDE CHANGE]

6 AQPSD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST CARR: This slide
7 lists measures CARB committed to pursue that have been
8 adopted since 2018 targeting on- and off-road engines.
9 CARB has been working steadily to adopt and implement
10 these regulations to provide new reductions of NOx and
11 PM2.5 each year. Many of the more recent regulations
12 depend on EPA approving CARB's waivers and authorizations
13 to achieve the emission benefits.

14 [SLIDE CHANGE]

15 AQPSD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST CARR: Similarly,
16 over the past few years, the San Joaquin Valley Air
17 District has adopted rules that provide NOx and PM2.5
18 emission reductions contributing to air quality
19 improvements. In addition to these rules, the District
20 has also been phasing out open agricultural burning.

21 [SLIDE CHANGE]

22 AQPSD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST CARR: In the
23 early 2000s, around a million tons of agricultural
24 material were burned annually. The launch of the
25 District's Alternatives Grant Program and adoption of the

1 phase-out strategy in 2019 and 2020 brought about a steep
2 decrease in the amount of material burned providing
3 reductions in directly emitted PM2.5.

4 In 2023, 122,000 tons of material were burned, a
5 new record low for the valley's Managed Burn Program. The
6 amount of material processed through the Alternatives
7 Grant Program saw a corresponding steep increase over the
8 same years from approximately 200,000 tons in 2019 to over
9 two million tons in 2023.

10 [SLIDE CHANGE]

11 AQPSD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST CARR: Now, let's
12 focus on the 2024 PM2.5 Plan.

13 [SLIDE CHANGE]

14 AQPSD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST CARR: CARB and
15 the District work together to jointly develop the 2024
16 PM2.5 plan, building on previous planning efforts for
17 particulate matter and ozone. Based on computer air
18 quality modeling using the best science and data currently
19 available, the plan shows attainment of the 12 microgram
20 standard throughout the valley by 2030 with many areas of
21 the valley attaining earlier than 2030. Adopted by the
22 District governing board last month, the plan includes
23 commitments from CARB and the District for emission
24 reductions needed for attainment. The public process
25 included five workshops over the course of plan

1 development.

2 [SLIDE CHANGE]

3 AQPSD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST CARR: This slide
4 walks through the planning background for the 12 microgram
5 standard.

6 In January 2019, CARB adopted a serious area SIP
7 for the 12 microgram standard as part of the comprehensive
8 2018 PM2.5 Plan that showed attainment in 2025. The Plan
9 was adopted early as the 12 microgram serious SIP was not
10 due until 2023.

11 In December 2021, EPA proposed approval of the
12 portions of the 2018 PM2.5 Plan pertaining to the 12
13 microgram standard.

14 In October 2022, EPA issued another action on the
15 Plan, this time changing its proposal to disapproval.
16 Since the SIP was not due yet, CARB withdrew the SIP and
17 started the process to update the underlying information
18 to develop the attainment strategy that is before the
19 Board today. While CARB withdrew the Plan, CARB and the
20 District continued to implement the SIP control strategy.

21 Last year, CARB submitted the initial required
22 elements for the new SIP including a base year emissions
23 inventory, precursor demonstration that showed that
24 ammonia, reactive organic gases, and sulfur oxides are not
25 significant precursors and Best Available Control Measure

1 demonstration.

2 And today, the full plan with the remaining SIP
3 elements required by the Clean Air Act is before the Board
4 for consideration.

5 [SLIDE CHANGE]

6 AQPSD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST CARR: PM2.5 is
7 made up of many different components and many emissions
8 sources contribute to total PM.

9 Directly emitted organic carbon particles make up
10 43 percent of the valley's PM2.5 in Bakersfield. These
11 particles come from sources within the District's
12 jurisdiction, such as residential wood burning and
13 commercial cooking, as well as mobile sources within CARB
14 and the federal government's jurisdiction.

15 Ammonium nitrate, 30 percent of PM2.5 is formed
16 in the air through a chemical reaction of ammonia and NOx.
17 Air quality modeling shows that to reduce ammonium nitrate
18 levels, the most effective strategy is reducing the
19 limiting precursor, NOx, rather than ammonia which is in
20 relative abundance in the valley. Mobile sources under
21 CARB and federal jurisdiction are a major source of NOx
22 emissions.

23 Based on the precursor analysis, the control
24 strategy in this SIP focuses on reducing NOx and directly
25 emitted PM2.5.

1 [SLIDE CHANGE]

2 AQPSD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST CARR: Ongoing
3 implementation of CARB's mobile source control strategy
4 continues to drive down NOx emissions and will achieve
5 most of the reductions needed to get the valley to
6 attainment of the 12 microgram standard. From 226.7 tons
7 per day in 2017, the current control program will reduce
8 NOx emissions down to 98.2 tons per day in 2030. PM2.5
9 emissions will drop from 65.7 tons per day in 2017 to 55.6
10 tons per day in 2030.

11 Despite these significant reductions, air quality
12 modeling conducted by CARB indicated that, for the valley
13 to attain the 12 microgram standard in 2030, more
14 reductions were needed. These reductions are provided by
15 the new measures in the 2024 PM2.5 plan.

16 [SLIDE CHANGE]

17 AQPSD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST CARR: Measures in
18 the 2022 State SIP Strategy provide the bulk of reductions
19 needed for attainment. The strategy adopted by the Board
20 in September 2022 reduces emissions from mobile sources
21 and buildings using all mechanisms available. The
22 strategy includes an aggressive measure schedule and
23 drives the pace and scale of CARB rulemakings through the
24 end of the decade with new emission reductions each year.

25 [SLIDE CHANGE]

1 AQPSD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST CARR: This table
2 shows the schedule for adopting and implementing these
3 measures. The Board has already acted on five measures in
4 the years indicated with blue stars and will see the
5 remaining ones in the coming years. The measures provide
6 reductions in the 2030 time frame. Note that the measures
7 in red are awaiting waiver approval or authorization by
8 EPA.

9 [SLIDE CHANGE]

10 AQPSD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST CARR: This slide
11 summarizes the measures that make up CARB's 2024 PM2.5
12 plan aggregate emission reduction commitment needed to
13 demonstrate attainment in 2030.

14 From the 2016 State SIP Strategy, CARB
15 anticipates emission reductions of three tons per day of
16 NOx from the accelerated turnover of agricultural
17 equipment incentive measure, which I will discuss on the
18 next slide. The Zero-Emission Forklift Measure was
19 adopted by the Board last month. From the 2022 State SIP
20 Strategy, five measures provide total reductions of 4.3
21 tons per day NOx and 0.2 tons per day PM2.5. Thus, CARB's
22 total aggregate emission reduction commitment for the 2024
23 PM2.5 plan is 7.3 tons per day of NOx and 0.2 tons per day
24 of PM2.5.

25 [SLIDE CHANGE]

1 AQPSD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST CARR: I want to
2 highlight the reductions from agricultural equipment.
3 CARB is committed to achieving emission reductions from
4 off-road agricultural equipment. An incentive-based
5 approach has proved effective at achieving the needed
6 emission reductions to meet our SIP commitments while
7 providing flexibility to the agricultural operators
8 replacing the equipment.

9 The District's agricultural equipment turnover
10 grant program has successfully replaced old dirty pieces
11 of equipment with new cleaner models achieving cost
12 effective NOx and PM2.5 reductions, while reducing
13 community exposure to toxic diesel pollution. The 2018
14 PM2.5 SIP included a commitment to achieve 11 tons per day
15 of NOx reductions from this measure. Valley agricultural
16 stakeholders played a key role in securing incentive funds
17 and in purchasing and deploying equipment, and have
18 exceeded the 11 ton per day NOx reduction commitment.

19 Some of these completed projects will provide SIP
20 creditable emission reductions in 2030. As shown on the
21 last slide, CARB anticipates three tons per day of NOx
22 reductions from these completed projects that year.

23 CARB staff will bring a SIP creditable incentive
24 measure before the Board in 2030 to document 2030 emission
25 reductions from already completed projects that contribute

1 to attainment of the 12 microgram standard.

2 [SLIDE CHANGE]

3 AQPSD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST CARR: Today, the
4 Board is considering adopting the aggregate emission
5 reduction commitment for the valley in 2030 as proposed in
6 the CARB staff report.

7 As shown, the proposed commitment is for 7.3 tons
8 per day of NOx and 0.2 tons per day of PM2.5 coming from
9 the remaining measures in the 2016 and 2022 State SIP
10 strategies. Of the NOx reductions, three tons per day
11 come from the agricultural equipment turnover incentive
12 projects just discussed.

13 This table also shows that the current Mobile
14 Source Control Program adopted by the Board provides
15 significant emission reductions needed for attainment.
16 The measures will provide air quality benefits statewide
17 and throughout the San Joaquin Valley in disadvantaged and
18 non-disadvantaged communities.

19 [SLIDE CHANGE]

20 AQPSD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST CARR: The
21 District's adopted control strategy for stationary and
22 area sources provides NOx and PM2.5 reductions in 2030.
23 The 2024 PM2.5 plan also includes commitments for four
24 regulatory and incentive-based measures. Currently, the
25 valley curtails residential wood burning from November 1st

1 through the end of February. The District commits in the
2 plan to extend the curtailment season through March 31st
3 providing an additional 0.02 tons per day PM2.5 reductions
4 in 2030.

5 The District also commits to evaluate the
6 feasibility and effectiveness of conservation management
7 practices on fallowed lands.

8 The District is requesting that EPA provide SIP
9 credit for the emission reductions achieved by the
10 Fireplace and Woodstove Changeout Program and will
11 quantify reductions from and request SIP credit for
12 projects completed through 2026.

13 Lastly, the District commits in the plan to
14 pursuing a multi-part strategy to continue progress
15 reducing emissions from nut harvesting, including
16 evaluating potential enhancements to the District's
17 emission reduction strategy for nut harvesting emissions,
18 supporting future research efforts, and continuing
19 incentive-based efforts supporting the accelerated
20 deployment of cleaner technologies for nut harvesting.

21 These three commitments do not have emission
22 reductions quantified at this time.

23 [SLIDE CHANGE]

24 AQPSD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST CARR: The
25 combined CARB and district control strategy provides the

1 emission reductions needed for attainment. Between 2017
2 and 2030, controls will achieve a 60 percent reduction in
3 NOx emissions and a 16 percent reduction in PM2.5
4 emissions.

5 [SLIDE CHANGE]

6 AQPSD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST CARR: The air
7 quality model is the tool the State is required to use in
8 a SIP to show attainment. Although the modeling conducted
9 by CARB indicates that attainment is not practicable at
10 all monitoring sites before 2030, many areas of the valley
11 will meet the standard well before then. As we saw
12 earlier, only four sites had air quality above 12
13 micrograms in 2023.

14 Sites are ordered south to north, emphasizing
15 that the remaining attainment challenges are largely in
16 the central to southern portion of the valley. The air
17 quality model shows that the control strategy will lead to
18 attainment of the 12 microgram standard at the remaining
19 most challenging sites by 2030, shown here in the blue
20 bars.

21 [SLIDE CHANGE]

22 AQPSD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST CARR: To
23 understand the health benefits of the new measures in the
24 2024 PM2.5 plan, CARB staff used EPA's BenMAP tool to
25 obtain quantitative estimates of the cases of avoided

1 mortality and morbidity outcomes associated with model
2 changes in PM2.5 between the business-as-usual case and
3 the attainment demonstration for the year 2030. Across
4 the valley, the measures will lead to 111 avoided deaths,
5 almost 80,000 fewer cases of asthma symptoms in children,
6 and over 16,000 avoided work loss days among many other
7 benefits described in the CARB staff report. These
8 estimates do not include the health benefits from CARB's
9 ongoing emission reduction program.

10 [SLIDE CHANGE]

11 AQPSD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST CARR: The 2024
12 PM2.5 Plan meets the requirements for a SIP under the
13 Clean Air Act. This table summarizes the elements
14 required to be in the SIP. In the middle column are SIP
15 elements included in the 2024 PM2.5 plan. Elements in the
16 right-hand column have already been provided to EPA in
17 previous submittals.

18 [SLIDE CHANGE]

19 AQPSD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST CARR: While not
20 included in the attainment demonstration, I want to
21 highlight the importance of federal action to air quality
22 improvement in the valley. For California to meet air
23 quality standards, it is imperative that the federal
24 government act decisively to reduce emissions from
25 primarily federally regulated sources of air pollution.

1 While NOx emissions from mobile sources primarily
2 regulated by the State decrease by 79 percent between 2017
3 and 2030, NOx emissions from mobile sources primarily
4 regulated at federal and international levels will
5 increase by 35 percent over the same period.

6 EPA must take the actions that are solely within
7 its authority to support emission reductions and clean the
8 air in California communities that need it most, approving
9 CARB's pending waivers and authorizations, setting more
10 stringent emission standards for sources under EPA's
11 authority, and providing the resources to direct the
12 cleanest equipment, trains, and planes to the San Joaquin
13 Valley.

14 [SLIDE CHANGE]

15 AQPSD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST CARR: Before
16 closing, we want to highlight that the work to advance
17 clean air in the valley continues. Staff are already
18 doing initial work for the new more stringent 9 microgram
19 per cubic meter annual PM2.5 standard promulgated by EPA
20 earlier this year. We will be doing this work statewide
21 concurrently for all areas that exceed the 9 microgram
22 standard, not just the San Joaquin Valley.

23 Staff are revisiting and updating the emissions
24 inventory based on the latest science looking at important
25 categories like NOx and ammonia from soils and dairies,

1 and PM2.5 from commercial cooking.

2 Beginning in 2026, CARB and the District will use
3 these robust updated inventories to conduct new air
4 quality modeling to determine key sources that should be
5 the focus of our control strategy to bring the valley into
6 attainment of the 9 microgram standard. Meanwhile, the
7 valley will continue to see air quality improvements with
8 current programs and measures in place while the District
9 and State work on the new plan.

10 Later in 2026, we will conduct a new precursor
11 analysis to determine if NOx, ammonia, and other
12 precursors are significant for the 9 microgram standard.

13 In 2026 and 2027, we will finalize a slate of
14 control measures. That work starts now with conducting
15 new evaluations of potential measures, focusing on the
16 sectors that contribute to nonattainment. The District
17 identified future study measures in the 2024 PM2.5 plan.
18 Those will be looked at closely. For CARB measures, in
19 January, staff kicked off the process to develop the 2025
20 Mobile Source Strategy to identify the level of transition
21 to cleaner mobile source technologies needed to meet
22 California's air quality and climate targets. The
23 strategy will focus on continuing the transition to low-
24 and zero-emission technologies in remaining sectors from
25 aviation, to off-road equipment, to ag engines, and may

1 inform development of new mobile source measures to be
2 included in the 9 microgram SIPs.

3 The public process for the new SIP has already
4 begun with staff meeting with interested stakeholders to
5 preview the work ahead. This engagement will continue as
6 we progress through the SIP development process all the
7 way up through CARB Board consideration of the SIPs. In
8 September, we will hold our first public workshop, and in
9 January, the Board will consider staff's proposed
10 nonattainment area designations.

11 [SLIDE CHANGE]

12 AQPSD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST CARR: That brings
13 us to the staff recommendations as laid out in Resolution
14 24-10. One, adopt the San Joaquin Valley 2024 PM2.5 plan
15 and CARB staff report, including the commitment to achieve
16 aggregate emission reductions of 7.3 tons per day of NOx
17 and 0.2 tons per day of PM2.5 in the San Joaquin Valley in
18 2030; two, adopt the amendment to the valley incentive
19 measure; three, adopt the amendment to the 15 microgram
20 SIP revision; and four, direct staff to submit the 2024
21 PM2.5 plan and CARB staff report, including the aggregate
22 emission reduction commitment and amendments to the valley
23 incentive measure and 15 microgram SIP revision to EPA as
24 a revision to the California SIP.

25 [SLIDE CHANGE]

1 AQPSD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST CARR: That
2 concludes the presentation. I would now like to introduce
3 Emily Kneeland, Director of Air Quality Planning at the
4 San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District to
5 provide a few comments on the SIP.

6 Thank you.

7 EMILY KNEELAND: Okay. Thank you, Laura. And
8 good morning, Madam Chair and your Board. My name is
9 Emily Kneeland and as Laura said, I'm the Director of Air
10 Quality Planning with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution
11 Control District.

12 The District appreciates the opportunity to
13 provide some comments today on the San Joaquin Valley 2024
14 PM2.5 Plan addressing the federal 2012 annual PM2.5
15 standard. Through the -- through the development and
16 implementation of numerous attainment plans addressing a
17 variety of federal air quality standards, both the
18 District and CARB have adopted and implemented the most
19 stringent regulatory programs in the nation to
20 significantly reduce emissions across the valley.

21 These efforts have reduced NOx emissions in the
22 region by over 75 percent since 1980, with ongoing
23 reductions expected in the coming years. As you saw in
24 CARB staff's presentation, these strategies have brought
25 about significant reductions in PM2.5 concentrations and

1 improvements in air quality.

2 With the valley meeting the 65 microgram daily
3 standard several years ago recording levels below and now
4 on the verge of meeting the 15 microgram standard,
5 reducing peak PM2.5 concentrations to where unhealthy AQI
6 days are an extremely rare occurrence, and overall proving
7 the effectiveness of our collective efforts. This
8 progress has been made in the face of increasing climate
9 driven challenges, such as wildfire impacts that are now a
10 significant part of the valley's PM2.5 concentrations, as
11 well as the near-term challenges with transitioning to
12 zero-emission mobile source technologies that will
13 continue to improve and be addressed in the coming years.

14 As with all planning efforts, the District
15 appreciates the close collaboration and support from CARB
16 staff throughout the development of this plan and also
17 appreciates all of the public involvement and input
18 provided through a robust public process, which included a
19 number of evening workshops and meetings along the way
20 with options to participate both virtually and in person,
21 and Spanish interpretation services provided.

22 While the District and CARB have been recognized
23 by EPA as implementing the most stringent measures in the
24 nation, we continue to seek air quality strategies to
25 bring our region into attainment. And public input has

1 been critical in preparing the plan and will continue to
2 be critical as strategies continue to be developed.

3 Preparing this plan was a true partnership and
4 we'd like to acknowledge the efforts of Deputy Executive
5 Officer Edie Chang, Dr. Michael Benjamin, Sylvia
6 Vanderspek, Jeremy Avise, and so many more, along with the
7 strong leadership and support from Dr. Steve Cliff and
8 Chairwoman Liane Randolph.

9 While major progress has been made, we must
10 continue to work together to further reduce air pollution
11 and improve air quality for our residents as expeditiously
12 as possible. To that end, the plan includes a variety of
13 aggressive emissions control strategies, including
14 significant new NOx and direct PM2.5 emissions reductions
15 from stationary and area source rules including boilers,
16 steam generators, process heaters, industrial flares,
17 glass melting furnaces, solid fuel-fired boilers, engines,
18 residential wood burning, conservation management
19 practices, the only of its kind phase out of agricultural
20 open burning, and more.

21 Through these efforts, coupled with CARB's latest
22 State SIP strategy to further reduce emissions from mobile
23 sources, direct PM2.5 emissions are expected to be reduced
24 by 16 percent and NOx emissions by 66 percent in the next
25 few years through the 2030 timeline of this plan with the

1 vast majority of valley residents in areas currently in
2 attainment or in areas that will see attainment in the
3 next few years through the ongoing collective work of our
4 agencies.

5 In addition to these regulatory and Incentive
6 based programs, the District is committing in the plan to
7 continue seeking emissions reductions from a number of
8 sources including residential and commercial heating,
9 commercial charbroiling, stationary sources of NOx and PM,
10 energy and climate change programs, commercial landscaping
11 equipment, nut harvesting activities and other innovative
12 measures.

13 The District looks forward to working with CARB
14 and valley stakeholders as the strategy for the plan is
15 implemented and further emissions reductions are achieved
16 bringing the valley into attainment of the federal 2012
17 annual PM2.5 standard.

18 Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

19 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Thank you very much.
20 We will now hear from the public who signed up to speak on
21 this item, either by submitting a request to speak card or
22 by a raised hand in Zoom. I will ask the Board clerks to
23 begin calling the public commenters.

24 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you, Chair Randolph.
25 As mentioned earlier, we will call in-person commenters

1 first and then we will hear from those who have raised
2 their hand in Zoom. We have seven commenters who have
3 turned in a request to speak card and wish to speak at
4 this time. We will be showing a list of the next several
5 commenters on this screen, so you can be prepared to come
6 up to the podium. Public sign-up closure will be at
7 11:20. And I apologize in advance if mispronounce
8 anyone's name.

9 And we're starting with Perry Elerts.

10 PERRY ELERTS: Good morning, Chair and Board
11 members. Perry Elerts with Leadership Counsel for Justice
12 and Accountability here to ask that you do not approve the
13 five-year extension for the 2012 standard. There are
14 several reasons why such an extension is inappropriate.

15 In order for the valley to qualify for an
16 extension under the Clean Air Act section 188(e), the
17 implementation plan must include the most stringent
18 control measures. The control measure analysis in the SIP
19 impermissibly dismisses feasible measures, including
20 measures that have been adopted in other SIPs or that have
21 been achieved in practice. For example, other
22 jurisdictions have adopted more stringent control measures
23 for banning unnecessary wood burning.

24 Further, South Coast has a much stronger Indirect
25 Source Rule, and given the inundation of warehouse

1 projects and inland ports planned for the valley, it's
2 imperative that emission reduction strategies are put in
3 place before it's too late. The valley also needs to
4 adopt stronger ammonia controls and ag equipment controls.
5 Dairies are increasingly a problem for nearby communities.
6 And unfortunately, key parts of the SIP, like the ammonia
7 precursor demonstration and inexcusably the Title 6
8 assurances never went through a public process.

9 A five-year extension is a maximum that can be
10 given and the modeling barely projects us to meet the
11 standard by 0.02 micrograms. We ask for a holistic
12 approach in creating a SIP in order for us to figure out
13 how not only we meet the 1997 and 2012 standards, but how
14 we create a path forward for the stricter 2024 nine
15 microgram standard.

16 I thank you for your time.

17 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Next to speak, Christian
18 Bisher.

19 CHRISTIAN BISHER: Good morning. My name is
20 Christian Bisher with the Central California Environmental
21 Justice Network. I am here to ask for transparency and
22 access to information. The proposed plan contains almost
23 no citations and no reference material when making
24 database statements or showing graphs or figures. This
25 does not allow a member of the public to look into those

1 source -- the source of these claims. The District and
2 CARB do not respond to information requests and during a
3 recent meeting with CARB, a staffer said they do not have
4 the staff or the resources to look into these and other
5 inquiries.

6 The current process is neither fair nor
7 equitable. We can only see what the District and CARB
8 want us to see. We are not allowed to inform ourselves
9 and intelligently participate. I am asking that you
10 direct CARB to require the Air District to make available
11 by default all information used to create this and future
12 attainment plans by either citing the source or including
13 the information in a reference appendix. If CARB cannot
14 verify the validity of these claims, plans should just not
15 be endorsed.

16 In my written comments, I shared that I had
17 previously worked at the San Joaquin Valley Air District
18 as an engineer in the permits department for four years.
19 Leaving earlier this year when I could morally no longer
20 continue to participate in their permitting efforts that
21 placed business, industry, and their associated profits
22 before public health. Given what I observed and heard
23 firsthand, I would tell anyone not to trust anything from
24 the District without verifying it yourself.

25 The relatively recent ERC audit is but the tip of

1 the iceberg in the San Joaquin Valley permitting process.
2 Access to information should be the standard by requiring
3 citations or including references for all database claims
4 along with access to an exact duplicate copy of the
5 emissions inventory used in up-to-date calculation
6 methodologies, that there is nothing to hide. There is no
7 reason not to share that information. Thank you for your
8 time.

9 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

10 Catherine Garoupa.

11 DR. CATHERINE GAROUPA: Catherine Garoupa,
12 Central Valley Air Quality Coalition, taking you back to
13 January 2019 when this Board came to downtown Fresno and
14 voted to pass the last PM plan that did not do enough to
15 get us to meet health protective standards. This Board
16 unanimously approved two additional measures. One has
17 been acted on, but it is still incomplete. The emissions
18 reduction credits program review that my colleague Cynthia
19 will virtually comment on. I look forward to hearing from
20 her and dozens of other community members that will be
21 joining us from listening sessions in the valley.

22 The other measure that was never acted on by CARB
23 staff is a review of the top 27 stationary sources of
24 direct PM2.5. This includes natural gas power plants,
25 major glass manufacturers, and the valley's largest oil

1 and gas producers, by our analysis, 58 percent of all
2 PM2.5 and 72 percent of all NOx from stationary sources in
3 the valley.

4 CVAQ over the last five years has submitted
5 numerous comment letters with specifics on what we would
6 like to see this review entail. The response we've gotten
7 from CARB Air Quality Planning and Science is we don't
8 have the staff. And the San Joaquin Valley Air District
9 has flat out refused to entertain the conversation despite
10 several consultative attempts with CARB enforcement to
11 pilot such a project in South Stockton as a part of AB
12 617.

13 San Joaquin Valley breathers need real reductions
14 now. Action is long overdue on these two measures and the
15 detailed asks in CVAQ's comment letter.

16 And in closing, I want to share my love and
17 shout-out to folks joining from Kern County, Avenal,
18 Fresno, and folks across the San Joaquin Valley who
19 couldn't be here in person today. Thank you.

20 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

21 Chris McGlothlin.

22 CHRIS MCGLOTHLIN: There we go. Good morning,
23 Chair Randolph, members of the Board. My name is Chris
24 McGlothlin. I'm with the Western Agricultural Processors
25 Association, as well as the California Cotton Ginners and

1 Growers Association. We ask today that you support the
2 plan as currently proposed. The ag industry has
3 demonstrated time and time again our industry's ability to
4 meet and exceed expected emission reductions and goals
5 from various equipment categories. We're happy to see the
6 inclusion of a further quantification for FARMER Program
7 and Carl Moyer emission reduction programs. Those -- both
8 of those have been vital for our industry's ability to
9 maintain and survive as equipment costs and conversions
10 are required by the air district and by the Board.

11 The ag industry also commits to continued work
12 with the Air Resources Board as well as the San Joaquin
13 Valley Air Pollution Control District to evaluate
14 ag-specific components, specifically CMPs, pump engine
15 conversion and upgrades, as well as procuring incentive
16 funding for the programs that I had listed previously.
17 We'd like to see those fully funded in future years, but
18 we understand how difficult it can be with the current
19 budget constraints that are in place.

20 The one ask that we have is that any future
21 proposed changes are evaluated and verified through proper
22 scientific research and review, specifically through
23 appropriate mechanisms such as ARB, Air District, and EPA
24 sanction and funded California Regional Particulate Matter
25 Air Quality Study Agency. With that, thank you for my

1 time.

2 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Mark Rose.

3 MARK ROSE: Madam chair and members of the Board.
4 I thank you for this opportunity to comment. My name is
5 Mark Rose with National Parks Conservation Association.

6 Today, you will hear many stories from numerous
7 residents of the San Joaquin Valley of what it's like to
8 live in one of the most polluted air basins in the United
9 States. I've lived there myself. Sadly, far too often
10 these stories are overshadowed in favor of economic
11 arguments that put industry profits over the well-being
12 and lives of millions of valley residents.

13 As a result, the story of Clean Act -- Air Act
14 attainment in the San Joaquin Valley is one of delay,
15 neglect, and repeated failures to meet nearly every single
16 Clean Air Act requirement put in place to protect the
17 public from deadly PM2.5 pollution.

18 At the end of last year, the valley likely failed
19 to meet the over quarter century old 1997 PM2.5 standard
20 for the third straight time. Each of those three times
21 over our objections, District and CARB staff came to this
22 very Board and asked you to vote on a plan that they
23 promised would get the valley into attainment, if only
24 they were given a little more time.

25 Now, they stand before you once again with an

1 insufficient plan asking for an additional five years to
2 meet attainment. We do not need an additional five years
3 to meet attainment. What we need is a better plan, a plan
4 that fully addresses the biggest sources of pollution in
5 the San Joaquin Valley. Valley advocates have been making
6 many of these exact same asks for many years now. As
7 highlighted in the technical comments we submitted, we
8 firmly believe attainment can be achieved sooner than
9 2030, if the plan is strengthened to include measures such
10 as ending unnecessary residential wood burning, developing
11 regulations that finally phase out the dirtiest
12 agriculture equipment, strengthening the valley's ISR
13 Rule, and requiring control -- additional controls for
14 sources of NOx like gas-fired combustion turbines.

15 I urge you, please do not delay attainment with a
16 standard for an additional five years, especially without
17 requiring additional control measures and returns. After
18 decades of failure, I really don't want to be back here in
19 another five years asking for measures --

20 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

21 MARK ROSE: -- that could have been required
22 today.

23 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: That completes your time.

24 MARK ROSE: Thank you.

25 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

1 Manuel Cunha, Jr.

2 MANUEL CUNHA, JR.: Good morning. Manuel Cunha,
3 President Nisei Farmers League, also the African American
4 Farmers of California. Mr. Will Scott is not able to be
5 here today. They are small farmers, which your FARMER
6 Program and NRCS conservations have kept them alive. And
7 through the FARMER Program, it's probably been the
8 greatest program ever, because they've been able to afford
9 to buy new clean tractors and equipment. Somebody
10 mentioned verification in the farm equipment, are we
11 really getting it? Yeah. Go to the junk yards. Several
12 of your staff have been part of crushing tractors. There
13 are piles and piles of old tractors. Those are real
14 reductions.

15 Agriculture has been at the table. Since 1992,
16 under Jan Sharpless, the former, former ARB Chair, brought
17 agriculture to the table and said okay, we need to look at
18 your industry. So how do we do it? And the thing was
19 called science, the JPA, the joint powers agreement. If
20 agriculture looks and works with ARB, and EPA, and USDA,
21 especially the San Joaquin Valley. If science shows and
22 tells us, then we're going to work on those solutions.
23 And you funded and been a part of our entire program for
24 agriculture.

25 The agricultural burn, no more burning in the San

1 Joaquin Valley by the year 2025. But we have challenges,
2 disease in crops. Number two is steel that's grown into
3 trees. We have actually devised machinery, but still
4 looking at agricultural air curtain burners. So we've
5 stepped out and continued. And we look forward. We
6 approve the plan that has been submitted to you, but we
7 also are looking forward to sitting with your staff, USDA,
8 and EPA, but the San Joaquin Valley especially, to look at
9 the answers of what we need to look at in the new
10 standard.

11 But to come in and just shut my industry, SGMA is
12 going to just take out a million acres of farmland this
13 year starting on the water situation. That's rural
14 communities that are going to be hurt.

15 Thank you very much for your time.

16 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

17 Bill Magavern.

18 BILL MAGAVERN: Good morning. Bill Magavern with
19 the Coalition for Clean Air. The staff presentation shows
20 that so many measures that CARB and the District have
21 adopted are -- and we have actively supported are really
22 helping, and that's important to note. But we also know
23 that we need to do more. And I also want to agree with
24 the presentation that the federal government in particular
25 needs to do a lot better, but we were told several years

1 ago that the District's plan was going to get us into
2 attainment by next year.

3 Now, what we're hearing is that will not happen.
4 I did not hear in the presentation an explanation of why
5 we're falling short. I also did not hear a rationale of
6 why we need five more years, which is really a very long
7 time, especially when you think about the life of a child
8 growing up in the San Joaquin Valley.

9 So what I would suggest is that instead you just
10 add a one-year extension and go back, work with the
11 District, find those additional measures. I know it's not
12 easy. The low-hanging fruit have been picked, but you do
13 have in our letters a number of suggestions for those
14 additional regulatory measures that could get us into
15 attainment, get us into a situation where kids in the
16 valley are breathing healthy air sooner than 2030.

17 And then we know we've got this nine microgram
18 standard coming up, so let's not wait. Let's not kick
19 that can down the road several years. Let's do everything
20 we can now to reach the 12 microgram standard and get us
21 on a path towards the nine.

22 Thank you.

23 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: That completes our
24 in-person commenters.

25 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Perfect. Okay. Thank

1 you, Chair. We have 65 remote commenters for this item.
2 So I will call out the next few names that are coming up.
3 And then I will give you access to unmute yourself and
4 begin your comment.

5 So for -- the first couple commenters are going
6 to be Ian Faloona, Joonsik Maing, and Taylor Roschen,
7 Ian, you can unmute and begin.

8 DR. IAN FALOONA: Thank you very much. This is
9 Ian Faloona, atmospheric scientist from UC Davis.

10 I have severe misgivings about the likelihood of
11 this plan being effective. One of my main concerns is the
12 lack of referencing in the literature in the -- in the
13 report and in the weight of evidence appendix.

14 Let's -- let me just point to a couple things.
15 None of the design values, either for ozone, PM2.5 24-hour
16 or annual standard have shown any signs of declining over
17 the past decade or more. You can see that clearly in
18 Figure 5 of the weight of evidence appendix of the report,
19 for example. Note also that as seen in Figure 23 of the
20 weight of evidence document, there's a corresponding lack
21 of trends in measured ambient NOx across the San Joaquin
22 Valley despite continued diminution in the NOx inventory.

23 A recent study of satellite NO2 trends by my
24 group Wang et al. Environmental Research Letters 2023 show
25 this to be true broadly across croplands and shrublands

1 all over California. NO2 has not decreased over the past
2 12 years, despite it still decreasing in urban areas at a
3 rate of about four percent per year.

4 Table 14 of the report and Table 2-A of the
5 weight of evidence document shows the proposed decreases
6 in air basin NOx emissions from 2017 to 2031. First off,
7 it shows a total emissions of NOx in 2025 of 121 tons per
8 day. Whereas, the current version of CEPAM, the standard
9 emission tool from ARB shows 165 tons per day in 2025.
10 But more troubling than that is the fact that the ultimate
11 projection in the report is 95 tons per day of NOx in
12 2031. This is extremely unrealistic.

13 One of the overlook studies I mentioned at the
14 outset is Luo et al. in Environmental Science and
15 Technology 2022, which used a state-of-the-art model of
16 fertilized soils.

17 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

18 Next, will be Joonsik Maing.

19 Joonsik, you can unmute and begin.

20 JOONSIK MAING: Good morning. Thank you for the
21 opportunity to comment on this important agenda item. My
22 name is Joonsik Maing. And I'm here on behalf of Range
23 Energy, a California company building battery electric
24 trailer systems to support electrification of transport
25 refrigeration units, or TRUs. Range Energy supports the

1 development of effective measures to attain the 2012 PM2.5
2 standard in San Joaquin Valley and efforts to prioritize
3 emissions reductions in communities disproportionately
4 impacted by air pollution. We are encouraged by CARB's
5 commitments to implement the remaining 2022 State SIP
6 Strategy measures, and in particular the commitment made
7 to adopt a TRU regulation part two by 2026.

8 We believe that this regulation can deliver
9 important emissions reductions in overburdened
10 communities, especially given recent advancements in the
11 availability of reduced and zero emissions TRU-related
12 technologies. For example, Range Energy's battery
13 electric trailer system, allows TRUs to operate on clean
14 electric power and can reduce diesel consumed by existing
15 heavy-duty trucks. In fact, we are currently putting our
16 technology into the hands of local farms and food
17 distributors, and helping them take a significant step in
18 decarbonizing their operations now.

19 We are interested in hearing from community
20 members on opportunities to prioritize the deployment of
21 our technology in overburdened communities ahead of the
22 TRU part two regulation. We also welcome any interest
23 from local warehousing and transportation service
24 providers in coordinating trial -- a trial of our battery
25 electric trailer system.

1 Thank you for this opportunity to comment and
2 thank you for your continued efforts on this important
3 matter. Please feel free to reach out to us by email at
4 feedback@range.energy.

5 Thank you for your time.

6 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

7 Our next speaker will be Taylor Roschen. And
8 then just a reminder that public comment sign-ups will
9 close at 11:20. And after Taylor, we will go to our
10 remote locations.

11 TAYLOR ROSCHEN: Good morning, Mr. -- I'm sorry.
12 Good morning, Madam Chair and Board members. Taylor
13 Roschen on behalf of the -- a variety of San Joaquin
14 Valley based agricultural associations. We'd like to
15 thank the Board and the District for working with ag
16 stakeholders and we ask for approval of the plan before
17 you. As we expedite the transition to low and no emission
18 conditions in the valley, we ask the Board in the future
19 to revisit the staff presentation today that note the
20 success of agricultural incentive programs like FARMER, ag
21 burn alternatives, and Carl Moyer to result in significant
22 emission reductions and ask that we seek to build on their
23 successes.

24 We look forward to working with the Board and the
25 administration to resource these programs in the 25-26

1 budget.

2 Thank you.

3 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

4 Now, we will go to our commenters in the valley.

5 So I will start -- and just a note to the commenters
6 for -- if you're giving your comment in Spanish, our
7 interpreter here will allow you to give your complete
8 comment and then we'll interpret at the end. So you will
9 not need to pause every sentence for interpretation.

10 So I've now unmuted the account and then Cynthia,
11 you can go ahead and go first.

12 CYNTHIA PINTO CABRERA: Hello. Good morning,
13 Chair Randolph and members of the Board. I'm Cynthia
14 Pinto Cabrera, valley resident policy coordinator with
15 Central Valley Air Quality Coalition. I'm proud to report
16 from the Fresno watch party (inaudible).

17 Residents and colleagues will dive --

18 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Cynthia --

19 CYNTHIA PINTO CABRERA: -- into the community --

20 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Cynthia. Can you stop the clock
21 for a second.

22 Cynthia, you're breaking up a little, so you
23 might want to get closer to your mic and we'll restart the
24 clock.

25 CYNTHIA PINTO CABRERA: Can you -- am I coming

1 out clear now?

2 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Yeah.

3 CYNTHIA PINTO CABRERA: Perfect. So I'll
4 introduce myself. I'm proud to be reporting from the
5 Fresno watch party. Our residents and colleagues will
6 dive into a (inaudible) in a moment. I wanted to
7 highlight an example from the long history of clean air
8 advocacy in the valley and the lack of actions --

9 CHAIR RANDOLPH: You're still -- you're still
10 breaking up.

11 CYNTHIA PINTO CABRERA: Okay. Am I still
12 breaking up?

13 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Yeah.

14 CYNTHIA PINTO CABRERA: Okay. I changed into the
15 English channel. Can you all hear me a little bit better?
16 Thanks for troubleshooting guys.

17 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Yeah. No, I think that's good.
18 Let's restart the clock.

19 CYNTHIA PINTO CABRERA: Okay. Perfect. Okay.
20 I'll start over again.

21 Good morning, Chair Randolph and members of the
22 Board. Cynthia Pinto-Cabrera, resident, asthmatic, and
23 policy coordinator with the Central Valley Air Quality
24 Coalition. Proud to be reporting from the Fresno Watch
25 party. Our residents and colleagues will be diving into

1 what we need now, but I wanted to highlight an example
2 from the long history of advocacy in the valley and lack
3 of action from both CARB and valley air on an ask
4 originally made in 2019 when you all heard the plan to
5 attain the 2012 standard for the first time, the ERC's
6 program.

7 The program review was a huge undertaking with
8 some very notable dialogue between advocates and
9 enforcement staff. The review marked important progress.
10 However, CARB's own review found deeply rooted problems
11 with the ERC system that remain unresolved, including
12 ensuring that the database has been corrected, updated,
13 and addressing permits with credits that are invalid or
14 overvalued, which affect the air monitors that we read,
15 and more importantly what people are breathing.

16 We ask for reconciliation of the air pollution
17 increases as a result of these failures, failures that
18 have subsidized industry, particularly the oil industry
19 and big ag. An EPA staff person even noted in one of the
20 public work group meetings that credit prices have been
21 suppressed for years. Where is the accountability for the
22 public harm that has been done?

23 Communities from Arvin, Shafter, and Delano all
24 know oil and ag are causing their health problems. It
25 is their concern that led us to this important discovery.

1 We ask that you listen to communities, do not wait another
2 five years. We need reconciliation now.

3 Thank you.

4 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you. Okay. Our
5 next couple speakers will be Tonalli Borja, and then
6 Tonatiuh Borja, and then Alexandra Perez.

7 So Tonalli.

8 TONALLI BORJA: Good morning. My name is Tonalli
9 Borja. I'm a resident here in Fresno, California. And
10 clean air is a basic human right and air quality impacts
11 our lives and health. Polluted air can make -- can affect
12 our -- excuse me, sorry -- can bring health risks to our
13 lives especially in children.

14 Something that I would to see more is more clean
15 public transport, such as electric buses, and reduce of
16 burning waste.

17 Thank you.

18 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

19 Tonatiuh.

20 TONATIUH BORJA: Good morning, everyone. My name
21 is Tonatiuh Borja. I am a student residing in Clovis,
22 California. And I want to say that I myself do not suffer
23 from asthma personally, but I have many friends and family
24 who do suffer from it. Asthma affects -- or impacts the
25 way they live. I have -- most of my friends can't even

1 spend even an hour outside due to their breathing problems
2 that they have developed from the pollutants that
3 contaminate our air.

4 Not only does it affect their social life, but it
5 also affects their work life as well. As far as I know, a
6 lot of companies don't really care that -- if you have
7 asthma or not. And, of course, asthma affects how you
8 work. And if they're not going to be working as much
9 because of their -- this sickness -- you know, they're not
10 going to be making as much money. It's going to be
11 affecting how they live. They're not going to be able to
12 afford things anymore.

13 As for resolutions, again, as the previous
14 speaker said, we should invest more in cleaner vehicles,
15 like electric buses, electric cars, you know, take
16 advantage of public transportation. Another resolution
17 that we could have is dedicating more land to trees than
18 let's say factories or warehouses. As many of you know,
19 trees provide clean air for us and not only do they do
20 that, but they can also act as a physical barrier to
21 protect us from pollutants.

22 So, yeah, thank you for your time.

23 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

24 Next, will be Alexandra Perez, and then Patricio
25 Gonzalez, Javier Brumfeld, Rosa Hernandez and Maria

1 Sanchez.

2 Alexandra.

3 ALEXANDRA PEREZ: Hi. Good morning. My name is
4 Alexandra Perez and I am a resident of Fresno, California.
5 I am an incoming senior in high school.

6 The reason I am here is because I want to see
7 change in the Central Valley regarding air pollution. I
8 myself have asthma, my family has asthma, the majority of
9 the people that I am surrounded by have asthma. I haven't
10 been able to go outside for an extended amount of time due
11 to this pollution.

12 Asthma pollution doesn't just affect me. It
13 affects the majority of the residents in Central
14 California. In other states and other places, asthma
15 isn't such a major factor in people's life regarding their
16 health, but for us, it is.

17 I just want to hold accountable the major factors
18 of diesel-burning vehicles and factories, because whenever
19 we go out, I see the smoke coming out of these vehicles
20 and factories, and I, myself, feel icky just looking at
21 it.

22 I want to add if there's anyway that we could
23 have more public transportation or more ways to make our
24 cars any more electrical. And thank you so much for
25 listening.

1 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

2 Patricio.

3 PATRICIO GONZALEZ: Hi. My name is Patricio
4 Gonzalez. I'm a resident of Fresno, California. I'm an
5 incoming junior in high school. And I, myself, have
6 asthma.

7 The reason I'm here is because I want people to
8 understand that asthma is a very pressing issue in the
9 Central Valley and many people here have it. And it's
10 actually a lot more common than most people would think.
11 And that is not very common anywhere else, which is a huge
12 problem. And I think we should invest more money in
13 public transportation, have maybe more regulation on
14 carbon emissions, like vehicles that burn fossil fuels,
15 and make -- maybe make it safer for -- make people feel
16 safer to take public transportation, because that may be
17 another reason why people don't want to take it, because
18 it's not very developed here in Fresno. It's more of a --
19 since it's more of a car-centric city here. It's not very
20 walkable either. So most people don't even have the
21 choice to walk. They have to buy a car, so that also adds
22 to the carbon emissions of the city.

23 Thank you. Goodbye.

24 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

25 Okay. Rosa, go ahead and then our interpreter

1 will come up and help with your comment.

2 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Go ahead.

3 THE INTERPRETER: Oh, thank you.

4 ROSA HERNANDEZ (through interpreter): My name is
5 Rosa Hernandez. And I am a resident of Madera. And I
6 have a 10-year old son who suffers from asthma. And we
7 have a lot of health issues in our community in general
8 and that's why I'm here to ask that you take more
9 immediate measures. We want for you to take more
10 immediate action instead of delaying some of the measures
11 that you are proposing. We feel that the extension that
12 is being considered is too long. And in the meantime, we
13 continue to be affected.

14 And so I ask that when you make this decision,
15 you take this into consideration, so that you can meet the
16 stricter standards sooner rather than later. We can no
17 longer wait for our kids' health to improve and improve
18 air quality in our communities in order to protect our
19 community.

20 Thank you very much.

21 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

22 Okay. Maria.

23 Thank you.

24 MARIA SANCHEZ (through interpreter): Good
25 morning. My name is Maria Sanchez and I am here from the

1 County of Madera. And as someone who has lived in the
2 county all of her life, I've been able to see firsthand
3 how the air quality has impacted my health, the health of
4 my friends, of my relatives of the people in my community.
5 As air pollution worsens, we suffer more and more impacts
6 to the point that I sometimes cannot leave my home to even
7 go on a walk, because I cannot breathe. And air pollution
8 is not only affecting me, it is also affecting all of our
9 community. And waiting until 2030 for everything to be
10 implemented is way too long for those of us who are
11 suffering impacts now. We cannot wait five more years
12 until action is taken. We need solutions now. And I ask
13 that you take our concerns seriously and that -- and with
14 the urgency rather than the problem deserves. We ask that
15 you take immediate action to ensure that we do everything
16 we can to reduce air pollution in order to protect our
17 health. The health and the life of our community depends
18 on it.

19 Thank you.

20 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

21 Our next speakers will be Patricia, Ramon, and
22 Priscilla.

23 Patricia, go ahead and begin.

24 OPHELIA OCHOA: Good morning. My name is
25 actually Ophelia Ochoa from the organization Las Panchas

1 an NGO. I have three children, the youngest of whom is a
2 special needs child who was impacted by pesticides. In
3 addition, he suffers from severe allergies. And despite
4 his being a disabled child, he should be able to enjoy
5 life otherwise. However, he cannot, because of the severe
6 allergies that he suffers and we're here today because
7 we've been fighting for this for a long time and we need
8 air quality to improve.

9 We have been at marches, and walkouts, and
10 protests, and -- for too many years. And we have many
11 people of our community for -- that suffer from these
12 pollution related illnesses because of the pesticides and
13 elsewhere. I come from the community of Mendota, which is
14 surrounded by ag fields. And when they spray pesticides,
15 they end up spraying the roofs of our houses, our cars,
16 and all of this affects us, so we need your help. We need
17 your help because we can't do this alone.

18 And that's basically my comment. Thank you very
19 much for listening to us and for helping us achieve what
20 we want, which is clean air. I hope that we'll be able to
21 achieve it. We're all here for that reason. And again,
22 thank you for your time.

23 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

24 Is Patricia Salcedo there?

25 NAYAMIN MARTINEZ: Raquel Sanchez is going to

1 speak on her behalf, her daughter.

2 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Okay.

3 RAQUEL SANCHEZ (through interpreter): Good
4 morning. My name is Raquel Sanchez and I am from Tulare
5 County. I'm a field worker, a mother, and a community
6 member, and a member of different organizations that
7 advocate for clean air. I'm here speaking to you as a
8 mother, as an asthma sufferer to ask that we please see
9 positive change. We need clean air. There have been a
10 lot of lives lost, a lot of pregnancies that have been
11 lost this year alone.

12 And while I was preparing for this meeting, I saw
13 even more pregnancies being lost. We cannot wait until
14 that 2030 deadline before we start seeing changes. This
15 is urgent. Please help us. Have no more illness, no more
16 death. As human beings, we have the right to clean air.
17 This is an urgent pressing matter.

18 Thank you.

19 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

20 Okay. Ramon Cruz, and then Priscilla B, and then
21 Lupita Beltran.

22 Ramon.

23 NAYAMIN MARTINEZ: We are ready for Priscilla.

24 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Okay.

25 NAYAMIN MARTINEZ: Thank you.

1 PRISCILLA B (through interpreter): Good morning.
2 Thank you for allowing me to be part of this -- to be a
3 part of this hearing. I am Priscilla Barerra. And I come
4 from a community south of Fresno and I'm here today to let
5 you know that our community suffer from very high
6 pollution. And they are -- we are becoming victims not
7 only because of pesticides that are being sprayed in the
8 fields, but also by other pollution, for example, from
9 tractors and other ag equipment.

10 In addition, some growers burn illegally
11 overnight and this impacts our children. My children
12 cannot spend time outdoors either at school or at home,
13 because of this pollution. And it is sad to see how this
14 impacts students and families, and we -- because we have
15 all these high concentrations, we cannot go on with our
16 everyday lives.

17 So we ask that we all work together, you the
18 Board that represent us and we as a community to take
19 immediate action, so that we can achieve these pollution
20 reductions. And one of the goals that I would have for
21 these highly polluted areas is to have permanent monitors,
22 so that we can have a better idea of the concentrations of
23 fine particulate matter, so that we can have an accurate
24 idea of what the air pollution is. I mean, the mobile
25 monitors are great, but a lot of the polluters know where

1 they're located and when they are operating, so they
2 basically just avoid them. So thank you in advance for
3 your help.

4 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

5 Ramon -- Is Ramon Cruz going to give a comment or
6 no?

7 NAYAMIN MARTINEZ: No. We are going to move on
8 to Filipe Perez.

9 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Okay.

10 FILIPE PEREZ (through interpreter): Good morning,
11 everyone, esteemed Air Resources Board. Thank you very
12 much for allowing us to have this hearing or to attend
13 this hearing remotely. As you've all heard, we have a lot
14 of issues. And in addition to air pollution -- so air
15 pollution just comes to make matters worse. Everyone
16 knows that the Central Valley suffers from terrible air
17 pollution. So we want to ask you, as a Board, as a
18 regulatory entity, to help us improve this situation. We
19 have these microscopic particles that while we can't see
20 them, really impact us all. We have -- we all have
21 relatives with asthma, have family members that suffer
22 allergies constantly.

23 For example, when we have the almond harvest
24 time, if you visit the Central Valley, you'd see this dark
25 cloud constantly there. And then after that, they start

1 planting cotton and it starts causing us nose bleeds,
2 because just imagine this, we still have the impacts of
3 that black cloud and then they start taking actions to dry
4 the cotton. And so we have both of these impacting us at
5 once. As people spoke before me, we have issues with
6 children, with pregnant women, and we love the Central
7 Valley. And we are part of what brings food to your
8 tables. We contribute in the Central Valley to putting
9 food on everyone's table. So we hope that you will pay
10 more attention to us and care more about what we have.

11 As a city council member, whenever we have an
12 issue in the city, we direct our city manager to take
13 action, so that we can get things done. And I realize
14 that things cannot happen overnight, but I know that you
15 do have the power to create change. So thank you in
16 advance. May God bless you and hopefully we'll achieve
17 results soon.

18 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

19 Next is Lupita Beltran, Lupita Sanchez, and then
20 Lupe Cipres.

21 Thank you. And that was Otilia Ortigoza that
22 just spoke?

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Si. Si.

24 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Okay. Okay. Thank you.

25 Go ahead.

1 NAYAMIN MARTINEZ: Will there be a translation?

2 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Yes, one moment.

3 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, my apologies. One second.

4 BERTA (Through interpreter): My name is Berta.

5 I am here from Mendota. And I have a daughter who suffers
6 down syndrome as well as asthma and allergies. And I ask
7 you to please pay attention to what's going on, because
8 it's not just impacting us, it's impacting everyone. We
9 have to pay attention to this, because we have to protect
10 our planet. First and foremost, we are inhabitants of
11 this world together, all of us. And we are all being
12 impacted because of what? Because of this pollution and
13 these pesticides. And again, it's not something that just
14 affects us. It affects all around the world, even the ice
15 caps are melting because of all this pollution.

16 So please, you have the power. Please pay
17 attention to what's going on. Because again, this is not
18 just causing us to disappear, it impacts everything, so we
19 all need to act together. We need to protect our trees
20 for example, which are our natural air filters. So again,
21 I am here to ask that you pay -- that you pay close
22 attention to all of this and thank you all for your time.

23 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you. And Cynthia,
24 if it's easier, I have the names. If you're in a
25 different order, you could control who goes next. Just

1 have them say their name clearly before they begin.

2 NAYAMIN MARTINEZ: Next one is Lupita Sanchez.

3 Let us know when to start.

4 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Oh, okay. Go ahead.

5 LUPITA SANCHEZ (through interpreter): Good
6 morning. My name is Lupita Sanchez and I am part of the
7 Environmental Justice Network. I am a mother of five
8 children, among them one with down syndrome, and I have
9 children with asthma. I'm highly concerned with the fact
10 that so many of our loved ones are being lost to cancer,
11 to asthma, to Valley Fever, to pneumonia. And I wasn't
12 aware before how much of this came from all of this air
13 pollution that we have to breathe every day. We can't go
14 outside, but we have to as parents. We have to go and
15 work outside because we have to put food on the table,
16 and -- in order to have money to pay for our rent. And it
17 worries me that with every passing day, we continue to
18 have to breathe all of this polluted air.

19 And so we need stricter regulations now to
20 protect our health. Let's not wait until later. We need
21 to protect our health now and not wait until later while
22 we continue to be impacted, before we continue to lose
23 more people. Why wait until we lose all those additional
24 lives, instead of helping now?

25 Thank you.

1 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

2 Whoever is next can just begin. Just state your
3 name first.

4 GUADALUPE CIPRES (through interpreter): Good
5 morning. I am Guadalupe Cipres. I am a father and I am a
6 resident of Fresno. And we are here because you, as a
7 people, who work for us need to help us. Our taxes after
8 all pay for your wages, so we want to ask that you act now
9 instead of waiting while people continue to die in
10 communities such as Fresno. It is very sad that right now
11 we've also had a lot of wildfires in the mountains around
12 us and then add to that the 4th of July fireworks that
13 come to make the situation worse, when we already had air
14 quality issues. So please do what you need to do. Again,
15 you're supposed to work for us. Our taxes pay for your
16 salaries, so let's not wait any longer. Let's take action
17 now. Thank you.

18 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you. Okay. Next.

19 NAYAMIN MARTINEZ: The next one is Otilla
20 Ortigoza and Maria Lopez together.

21 OTILLA ORTIGOZA (through interpreter): Good
22 morning. My name is Otilla Ortigoza. I am from San
23 Joaquin Valley. I am a mother and I feel that we need to
24 have a change in our air quality. It is harming our
25 children who have asthma. I myself lost a pregnancy, lost

1 a child, because I was exposed to pesticides in 2022. And
2 it's not just me. There are many people who have gone
3 through the suffering and this pain because of pesticide
4 exposures. We work from sun up to sun down to put food on
5 our tables and on all of your tables. So we need a change
6 soon to improve the air quality, so that we who are
7 essential workers, as field workers, who again work to
8 bring food to all of your tables can be protected, instead
9 of being exposed to these pesticides. We can't wait for
10 five more years while more people die and more people are
11 impacted.

12 So we ask that you restrict use of pesticides and
13 make improvements soon, and again instead of waiting for
14 five years, while we continue to lose. We as field
15 workers remember are more exposed to particulate matter
16 than other people, so we require a change soon.

17 Thank you.

18 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Okay. Maria.

19 NAYAMIN MARTINEZ: The next one is Francisca
20 Alvarez.

21 FRANCISCA ALVAREZ (through interpreter): Good
22 morning. I'm Francisca Alvarez from the Las Panchas
23 organization. And I'm not going to repeat a lot of what
24 you already know. Many people have already spoken about
25 the issues about our people being sick after suffering

1 from pollution and pesticides. Rather, what I'm going to
2 ask all of you our federal, State, local representatives
3 that can create change, is what strategies are you
4 implementing now? What is your plan to reduce this
5 pollution even by some degree, so that we no longer suffer
6 from it? That is my question. What are you doing now?

7 Because otherwise, what good is it for all these
8 families to come and give testimony if nothing happens.
9 This isn't an issue that has been here for a year, or two
10 years, or five years. For years, we've been dealing with
11 these pesticides and this pollution.

12 In 2017, most of the children that were born in
13 2017, if I'm not mistaken, were born with autism in our
14 community because of their contact with pesticides. And
15 whenever a pesticide is supposedly removed from the
16 market, sure it's taken from the stores, but what happens?
17 The growers stockpile them so they can continue to use
18 them.

19 So I ask you to please follow up on all this
20 really, because you are in this position, because the
21 community placed you there. As someone said before, we
22 pay with our taxes. So if you don't have that commitment
23 to help the community to avoid children having to miss
24 school because of asthma and because people tell us don't
25 go outside, because the air is too polluted today, these

1 children are our future, the future of this country. So
2 it's enough. We don't have to tell you what's going on.
3 You already know why we need this action now.

4 Thank you.

5 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you. Next.

6 NAYAMIN MARTINEZ: Next is Susana Canseco.

7 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you. We'll go
8 ahead and do the translation.

9 SUSANA CANSECO (through interpreter): Good
10 afternoon. My name is Susana Canseco. I'm here from
11 Madera County and I work at the Environmental Justice
12 Network as a community outreach worker. And I had the
13 privilege of attending a presentation yesterday where they
14 were telling parents about the impacts of wildfire smoke
15 on our health. And during the presentation, we learned
16 how fine particulate matter, PM2.5, which is present in
17 wildfire smoke is a serious hazard to human health,
18 particularly the health of young children, since it can
19 impact their brain development. It is also a serious
20 hazard for older adults, who also have other pre-existing
21 conditions.

22 The parents who attended this meeting were
23 alarmed once they became aware of this situation and the
24 danger that it poses to their children's health and their
25 own health. And so they expressed the need to have a more

1 effective plan to achieve better air quality in Central
2 Valley. This proposal to postpone the compliance with
3 more strict PM2.5 standards until 2030 is unacceptable,
4 because it will continue to affect our community until
5 then. We cannot allow inaction and delaying action to
6 continue to impact our loved ones.

7 I ask you to please consider the opinion of these
8 parents and our communities in your action. We need a
9 plan that goes beyond merely meeting the standards, but
10 that actually protects our health.

11 Thank you.

12 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thanks.

13 Okay. Next.

14 NAYAMIN MARTINEZ: Next is Martha Lopez and this
15 is our last Spanish speaker.

16 MARTHA LOPEZ (through interpreter): Good morning.
17 My name is Martha Lopez. I am an asthma sufferer and I
18 live in Merced, California. I moved there four years ago
19 and I moved there, I thought, because I thought it would
20 have -- it would be healthier. You know, a place with
21 trees, more rural, and it changed my life the other way.
22 Never had I suffered from asthma so much. And I'm a
23 prisoner in my house come the evening, because we can't go
24 out, because of all the pesticides that are being sprayed.
25 I have a special needs child who I also can't take outside

1 in the evening, because of everything in the air. It
2 keeps us locked indoors.

3 So I ask you please to take this into account and
4 to feel what we feel, because we're lacking clean air,
5 where we can breathe easy, that gives us a better life. I
6 mean, this is killing us. And so please from the bottom
7 of my heart, listen to what all of our communities are
8 telling you. I mean, I've lived my whole life, but what
9 about our children. They are the future, right? So
10 again, from the heart, ask us to improve this situation.
11 Thank you.

12 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you. Okay. Are
13 there a couple English-speaking commenters there at that
14 site?

15 NAYAMIN MARTINEZ: Five more in English.

16 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Okay. Okay. Go ahead.

17 WONUOLA OLAGUNJU: Hi. My name is Wonuola
18 Olagunju and I am the San Joaquin Valley CBO Coordinator
19 for Central Asthma Collaborative.

20 I wish to echo all the comments said by community
21 members here today and also want to add the following.

22 Delaying air pollution requirements continuously
23 is just a delayed and postponed concern for all of you
24 there. Rather than working to make changes to benefit the
25 people now, you choose to shorten the lives of -- many of

1 here now and in the future. I urge the Board to do the
2 right thing. Please do now allow for these extensions to
3 continue for another five years, as this is a death
4 sentence for many in the Valley.

5 As someone who moved here from the Bay Area, and
6 has developed air pollution problems and issues breathing,
7 I can say for a fact that the lack of concern is not only
8 detrimental to those who continuously live here, but also
9 to those who have been here. And to see that there is
10 still a lack concern to this day, there's still no action
11 being taken is very disheartening and concerning as you
12 leaders, as you politicians, continue to -- continue to
13 allow for this to happen.

14 So again, I just want to remind us all why we're
15 here and then also hoping that we'll choose the right
16 choices and make the right decisions. Thank you for your
17 time.

18 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you. Could you
19 repeat your name.

20 WONUOLA OLAGUNJU: Wonuola Olagunju.

21 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Okay. Perfect.

22 NAYAMIN MARTINEZ: She's on the list.

23 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Okay. Next.

24 PA HOUA LEE: Hello, Board members. Good
25 morning. My name is Pa Houa, representing at Central

1 Valley regional organizer at California EnviroVoters.

2 And I am here to express my frustration as a
3 member of this community. I am concerned and disappointed
4 about the continuous failures of keeping our valley clean
5 air, despite the PM2.5 air quality standard established
6 since 1997.

7 It has been too long. For over two decades,
8 residents of our valley have been subjected to unhealthy
9 air quality with significant impact for our public health,
10 our environment, and our well-being, especially for our
11 underserved community. We cannot delay anymore. An
12 extension to meet the 1997 clean air standards that had
13 already failed to meet twice means an increased cost to
14 our health of our community. The valley consistently
15 stays as the most polluted air basin in the nation,
16 negatively affecting our community's health, and
17 well-being, and surrounding environment.

18 Research has been proven how much our bad air
19 quality has impacted us. Given by the previous attempts
20 to reach the 1997 air quality standard, I urge you to take
21 direct attention to additionally implement effective
22 stricter measurements and metrics on stationary, area, and
23 mobile sources.

24 Furthermore, in order to attain our goal by 2030,
25 I ask that you prioritize the approval of pending EPA

1 waivers concerning essential regulations like the Advanced
2 Clean Fleet. I also urge that you timely prioritize SB
3 253 rulemaking process and implementation as it is
4 critically needed to reduce green gas emissions, improve
5 our public health, and address the inequalities of our
6 environment.

7 It is an unfair burden to our community,
8 especially with -- when our valley resident, often
9 low-income and marginalized, face hire -- thank you.

10 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

11 Next.

12 FRED BELTRAN: Yes. Hello. My name -- good
13 morning. My name is Fred Beltran. I'm on the school
14 board in Terra Bella, a small community. I represent
15 about 800 students from kinder -- pre-kindergarten all the
16 way to eighth grade. And in year's time, my education on
17 air quality is just so eye opening.

18 The number of kids that are calling in sick --
19 we're a coalition of five rural school districts -- small
20 school districts, and the number of absentee students from
21 air issues, asthma mostly, and the number of hours that
22 these kids are losing in education, the number -- the
23 dollars that the schools are losing on ADA is just
24 staggering.

25 This program -- you've heard a lot of testimony.

1 This program cannot be extended another five years. All
2 you're doing is kicking the can down the road. And I
3 think it's time to, you know, put your feet on the ground
4 and feet on the fire and make a decision to stop this
5 polluting. If you cannot fund any of the things that can
6 prevent some of these PM2.5, then at least try to fund
7 some of the schools or anywhere else public for
8 filtration, so that -- you know, these kids spend six to
9 eight hours a day at schools. At least be able to breathe
10 some decent air during that time. Thank you very much for
11 your time.

12 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

13 Okay. Next.

14 ALEXA SANCHEZ: Hi. My name is Alexa Sanchez.
15 I'm the Climate Equity Coordinator with Central California
16 Asthma Collaborative, or CCAC for short.

17 For those that don't know CCAC is a regional
18 community-based organization that serves -- that serves
19 vulnerable populations in the San Joaquin Valley that have
20 asthma -- through asthma education and remediation,
21 research, air quality monitoring, and electric vehicle
22 awareness, and policy advocacy.

23 With that being said, one of our many programs,
24 CARES, provides direct services to more than 3,000
25 patients per year with asthma all across the San Joaquin

1 Valley. Since the region is known to have the worst air
2 quality in the United States, it comes to no surprise that
3 more than half of our patients are children suffering with
4 chronic asthma. It is known that non-white and low-income
5 populations are being disproportionately exposed to higher
6 levels of PM2.5, it's important to take into consideration
7 who is being affected by wood burning, dirty off-road
8 equipment, and other big sources of pollution, and
9 therefore have more stringent rules and regulations.

10 The proposed delay that this Plan proposes to not
11 meet an outdated PM2.5 standard for an additional five
12 years will unnecessarily expose a whole new generation of
13 children in our region to chronically poor air quality in
14 their most formative years, which is zero to five years
15 old, when we know that their lung and brain development
16 are the most important.

17 CCAC requests that you consider amending this
18 plan, before it is submitted to EPA, to outline measures
19 that help us meet the standard and by the original
20 deadline. We do not want another generation of children
21 to suffer from a lack of strong protections.

22 Thank you.

23 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

24 And is there one more?

25 NAYAMIN MARTINEZ: The last speaker from Fresno?

1 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Yeah.

2 ANDREW ESCAMILLA: Hello. Hello. I'm Andrew
3 Escamilla with California Environmental Voters and soon to
4 be father. I'm here today to give some comments and, of
5 course, to echo and show support for everyone's voices
6 today.

7 As you know, these -- the decision from CARB and
8 from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution District has
9 continued to fail this area in our region. All of these
10 decisions have led to health problems like asthma, heart
11 and lung disease, and even early death. And despite this
12 Board knowing about this, both with CARB and the Valley
13 one, you know, I think this leadership has failed over and
14 over again to submit on time and effective clean air plans
15 that prioritize public health over the profits from
16 polluters.

17 And so we are demanding, as you've heard today,
18 is that CARB and Valley Air have them stop dragging your
19 feet on these clean air plans and regulations, and that
20 this Board must act now. The health and well-being of the
21 valley residents depends on this fast action.

22 And we're hoping that this Board can also
23 continue to prioritize public health. And these solutions
24 must prioritize health over again the profits of industry,
25 that includes strong rules and enforcement. And, of

1 course, we hope that this Board will consider the cost of
2 health and health care as health care costs and outcomes
3 must be considered -- must be considered in all of the
4 decision-making processes.

5 Thank you.

6 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

7 Thank you. And thanks for coordinating those
8 speakers in that location.

9 Next, we will hear from Adam Borchard and then
10 Thomas Menz.

11 So, Adam, you should be able to unmute and begin.

12 ADAM BORCHARD: Good afternoon. Can you hear me?

13 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Yes, we can.

14 ADAM BORCHARD: All right. Thank you. Thank you
15 Chair Randolph and Board members for the opportunity to
16 comment today. My name is Adam Borchard and I'm speaking
17 on behalf of the California Fresh Fruit Association. The
18 Association represents growers, packers, and shippers of
19 13 fresh market tree and vine fruit commodities grown
20 domestically in California. Many of our members also have
21 diversified agricultural operations representing other
22 commodities.

23 Notwithstanding events beyond the control of the
24 state's agricultural industry, such as the widespread
25 outbreak of wildfires in 2020-2021, the San Joaquin Valley

1 has seen significant improvement in regional air quality,
2 as was highlighted in the staff presentation. California
3 agriculture is doing its part to help the valley achieve
4 EPA's air quality targets. California Fresh Fruit
5 Association supports the comments provided earlier today
6 by the Western Agricultural Processors Association,
7 California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association, and
8 Nisei Farmers League.

9 Thank you.

10 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

11 Okay. Thomas Menz, you can go ahead and unmute
12 and begin.

13 It looks like you've unmuted, but we can't.

14 THOMAS MENZ: Good afternoon, ladies and
15 gentlemen -- can you hear me?

16 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Oh. Perfect. We can
17 hear you. Go ahead.

18 THOMAS MENZ: Good afternoon again, ladies and
19 gentlemen. I'm a resident of Fresno County. This
20 revision still doesn't go far enough to curtail direct
21 PM2.5 emissions from residential wood burning and ignores
22 simple measures to reduce residential wood smoke, entirely
23 feasible measures that other districts have already
24 adopted. While this plan does now include the month of
25 March in the season subject to mandatory curtailments, I

1 wonder why the curtailments don't go year-round, as other
2 districts have done. And I continue to wonder, as I
3 wondered five years ago why the many thousands of highly
4 polluting uncertified wood stoves that have been
5 permanently banned in other areas aren't banned in the San
6 Joaquin Valley as well. And I can't help wondering that
7 if had these and other perfectly feasible measures been
8 adopted and included in the 2018 plan, if we'd even be
9 here today needing to request an extension.

10 It's just not right that still another plan
11 should be accepted by the State and by EPA absent feasible
12 enforceable measures that other districts have already
13 adopted. The District's so-called holistic comparisons
14 are flawed, are contrary to EPA's 2016 guidance for PM2.5
15 plans, and result in de facto de minimis exemptions to
16 most stringent measures of EPA's 2016 guidance for PM2.5
17 plans expressly -- (inaudible)

18 I continue to hope the EPA will continue to
19 revisit the issue and avoid approval of still another
20 PM2.5 plan for the San Joaquin Valley that doesn't get the
21 necessary emission reductions to avoid ending in failure.
22 I note that as agency decisions are no longer to be given
23 judicial deference, perhaps the letter of the law and the
24 plain language of the Clean Air Act with respect to most
25 stringent measures will finally be -- thank you.

1 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

2 Okay. Now, we are going to go to the listening
3 party in Arvin. So Ileana, I have unmuted and I have the
4 names, but if they're going to go in a different order,
5 that's fine, just have each person announce their name
6 before they begin.

7 It looks like you've unmuted. We can't hear you
8 yet.

9 You may need to change to the English channel.

10 ILEANA NAVARRO: Hello. Can you hear me?

11 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Yes.

12 ILEANA NAVARRO: Okay. Perfect. There's a group
13 of about six people with me. I'll be providing comment
14 first.

15 Hello, all. Thank you for the opportunity to
16 provide comments on this matter and for respectfully
17 listening to these comments, and -- as your decisions
18 affect the lives of millions of people, including myself.
19 My name is Ileana Navarro with the Central California
20 Environmental Justice Network. And I currently reside in
21 Bakersfield.

22 I strongly disapprove of the Air District's
23 efforts to clean our air. These high levels of
24 particulate matter have affected valley residents for far
25 too long. And delaying the attainment period for PM2.5

1 can be detrimental not only to mine and my family's
2 health, but to millions of residents of the San Joaquin
3 Valley.

4 This air is impacting our current and our future
5 health. Low-income residents are suffering the most from
6 the valley's worst-in-the-nation PM2.5 pollution. We can
7 not afford another five years of breathing unhealthy air.
8 That's five more years of countless trips to the doctor's
9 office, five more years of paying for asthma medication.
10 I really want to emphasize that while to you all this may
11 be just another delay to a work deadline, this is a scary
12 reality to me and to many residents. The district needs
13 to do more now and I ask that this plan not be approved.
14 Additionally, additional controls must be adopted to meet
15 requirements sooner than 2030.

16 Thank you so much and I will now pass it along to
17 the people who are here with me.

18 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: We can't hear anyone yet,
19 but -- and if you're going to give your comment in
20 Spanish, please just let us know.

21 ILEANA NAVARRO: This next comment will be in
22 Spanish.

23 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Okay. Thank you.

24 (The interpreter communicated with the
25 public speaker in Spanish.)

1 THE INTERPRETER: My apologies.

2 ANNABELLE MARQUEZ (through interpreter): My name
3 is Annabelle Marquez and I live in the City of Shafter.
4 It is a city that is polluted by oil and pesticides. And
5 there are more companies that are coming, like warehouses.
6 We have a refinery also that wants to set up a shop here.
7 And so we're affected by all these trucks, and trains, and
8 everything. And you with your regulations don't think
9 about all the additional companies that are setting up
10 shop here and that are polluting our air. I work with
11 disabled people, people who have cancer, who have asthma,
12 who have Valley Fever and it saddens me. It saddens me.

13 But I tell them that they need to be strong, but
14 these disease are very harmful. Like Valley Fever, Valley
15 Fever is a fungus that enters your body and it affects
16 your internal organs. And even if you get rid of it, it
17 comes back. And it continues to affect us. All you see
18 is money and numbers and protecting the industries.

19 The Air District has colluded with the industry
20 and it's unfair that in addition to that you want to make
21 us wait five more years. We can't. We can't wait for
22 more people to die. It's too much. We have people with
23 prostate cancer -- nine year olds with prostate cancer.
24 Children who are dying, because we have these oil
25 companies next to homes, and next to schools, and we don't

1 have anything to let us know when we can go outside when
2 we're being sprayed with pesticides. Enough is enough.
3 We need action now. We cannot wait for five years.
4 You're concerned with money. We're concerned with our
5 loved ones.

6 It is very painful. You're making billions of
7 dollars and the -- and us as human beings have to lose our
8 lives. Human lives are worth a lot more than any money.

9 Thank you and please listen to us.

10 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

11 Okay. Next.

12 MIGUEL OROZCO (through interpreter): Good
13 morning. My name is Miguel Orozco and I am here from the
14 organization (Spoke in Spanish) United for Central Valley.
15 And we want is for the plan to be implemented now. We
16 don't want to wait -- well, not just wait. We don't want
17 to waste more time. We don't want our children and our
18 adults to continue to suffer from this. What can our
19 children expect the next five years if their parents are
20 dying of cancer and other diseases. We'd have to leave
21 the Valley to improve our health.

22 And if the industries are making it, why aren't
23 they contributing it -- contributing back to the lives of
24 people. So, please, no more. We want change now. We
25 want healthy parents, healthy children. We want a healthy

1 valley. We want the best for all of our people. Thank
2 you very much.

3 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

4 Okay. Next.

5 Thank you. And is that -- Oh, I'm sorry. Go
6 ahead.

7 FRANCISCO GONZALEZ (through interpreter): Good
8 afternoon. My name is Francisco Gonzalez and I am a
9 resident of the City of Arvin. I'm here to say we're
10 tired.

11 We have severe pollution here in Arvin. When
12 they shake the almond trees, we can't even go outside,
13 because the sky darkens from all the dust. And it is
14 affecting everyone. My grandchildren are all sick. And
15 you are the people in charge of protecting us and you're
16 not getting it done, so we need a plan now, not five years
17 from now.

18 It's no good five years from now, once I die and
19 I'm no longer here. So we need this today, not tomorrow,
20 not the next day. You are the people in charge, so do
21 something to protect all of us here. Children, adults,
22 families, we're all suffering, because of this situation,
23 because of this pollution that we have. We had a big
24 issue with oil companies. We had things oozing under our
25 home. Back in 2014, there was all of this contamination

1 under our houses and we had to suffer through that for
2 nine months. Nine months we had to be out of our homes
3 while they cleaned up all of that contamination.

4 So it's about time you roll up your sleeves and
5 do something for us. Don't be ignorant. Do something
6 with these companies. Fine them strong fines to ensure
7 that something gets done and they stop polluting or at
8 least pay for the pollution they caused.

9 Thank you.

10 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you. And I believe
11 you have two more. Are they English speaking?

12 ILEANA NAVARRO: Yes. We have three more
13 actually.

14 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Okay. Go ahead.

15 IVAN ORTIZ: Hello. My name is Ivan Ortiz with
16 the Central California Environmental Justice Network. I'm
17 here demanding CARB not to adopt the current plan. I want
18 to first touch on the urgency at which the issue of PM2.5
19 needs to be addressed and why the five-year plan is a
20 gross undermining of the clear economic and health
21 impacts. In the CARB staff review of the plan, you
22 highlight the avoided morbidity and mortality incidences
23 associated with the PM2.5 plan for the year 2030. What
24 the section doesn't highlight is the financial burden
25 placed on low income communities, parents who have to miss

1 work to take their children to the emergency room due to
2 an asthma attack, schools who lose funding due to students
3 missing class.

4 The estimated yearly cost of asthma in
5 California, which includes medical expenses, premature
6 deaths, missed school days, and missed work days is about
7 13 billion per year or about 65 billion by the time the
8 2030 deadline comes around. Secondly, I want to highlight
9 one of the factors that cause PM2.5 emissions and how the
10 Air District has failed to provide updated methods they
11 use to calculate the emissions of agricultural burning.

12 From the 2018 plan to the plan being presented
13 today, ag burning mysteriously increased by three tons a
14 day from 13.2 tons to 16.2 tons. Evidently, the Air
15 District chose to revise how ag burning emissions were
16 created once CARB required further ag burning reductions,
17 which just so happened to increase the amount of emissions
18 they could accept as reductions. It is clear that the Air
19 District is creating more emissions that they can cut from
20 and call it a success.

21 Additionally, the updated SJV emissions
22 calculations methodology is not posted on their website,
23 which still shows the 2007 version. None of this was
24 discussed in a plan document or public workshops. Our
25 communities deserve clean air to breathe and transparency

1 from agencies whose core mission is the protection of
2 public health.

3 Thank you.

4 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

5 Next.

6 Is there another speaker at that location?

7 ILEANA NAVARRO: Yes.

8 FERNANDO MARQUEZ: Hi. My name is Fernando
9 Marquez. And I'll make it short and sweet. You know, we
10 can have regulations for everything, from where we smoke
11 or where -- you know, where everything is, zoning, not
12 zoning. You know this just sounds to me like a whole
13 bunch of BS and running around. I mean, this time, and
14 effort and money they invested in something that's so
15 simple that's, you know, everybody's responsibility. You
16 know, just -- le't just get to work and just do what we
17 need to do to take care of our planet, our environment,
18 and do something for our kids. That's pretty much it.
19 Thank you.

20 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you. Could you
21 repeat your name?

22 FERNANDO MARQUEZ: Fernando Marquez.

23 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Okay. Thank you.

24 Okay. Last commenter.

25 CESAR AGUIRRE: Hello. My name is Cesar Aguirre.

1 I'm commenting from Bakersfield, California, a place that
2 has some of the worst air in the entire nation. We know
3 from the extractive economies that are in this county that
4 we need to do more, because the plan that has been put
5 into motion as of now and the status quo that exists is
6 not enough and has never been enough to make sure that
7 things are done in a protective manner.

8 Residents from all over the Central Valley are
9 not only worried about the next five years of their life,
10 but also the first five years of their children's lives.
11 Five years may not be a lot in the time scale of
12 government, but when developing a child in a human body,
13 those first five years are the most crucial. We need
14 action and we need it now, not only because it is deserved
15 and owed, but it is an urgent topic that needs to be a
16 addressed immediately.

17 Five years is much too long and we need action
18 now. Thank you very much.

19 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you. Okay. Now,
20 we're going to go to our last group of commenters.
21 Natalie, I'm going to unmute and you should be able to
22 unmute and then begin with the commenters.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Spoke in Spanish).

24 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Yes, it's just a little
25 bit loud.

1 THE WITNESS: All right.

2 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Okay. Go ahead.

3 RUBEN RODRIGUEZ: (Spoke in Spanish).

4 So my message to you guys is we have never turned
5 in a clean air plan on time. And we have never met a
6 federal clean air standard on time. We need real
7 solutions now, solutions that prioritize
8 people (inaudible)

9 Hold up. Yeah, I was doing my own translation.
10 I appreciate that. I wasn't done yet. We need -- we have
11 never turned in a clean air plan on time and we have never
12 met a federal clean air standard on time. We need real
13 solutions now, solutions that prioritize people over
14 profits and public health.

15 So earlier, we were going to stop this at 11:30,
16 at least the public comment portion of it, right? There's
17 a lot of people that have things to say to you guys. I
18 would really appreciate if you guys would honor these
19 people's time. They stepped out of their day to come to
20 you today to provide a comment that is for the betterment
21 of everybody. So with that being said, I'm going to go
22 ahead and turn it over to the first community speaker
23 here.

24 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you. And I have
25 all the names, but I'll let you go ahead and go in the

1 order that works for you guys and I'll just make a note.
2 If each person can just say their name at the beginning
3 and if they need Spanish translation.

4 RUBEN RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. Thank you.
5 Appreciate that. So just say your name and your age,
6 okay?

7 JARRED RODRIGUEZ: Hi. My name is Jared
8 Rodriguez. I'm 12 years old.

9 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: And can I actually have
10 you change to the -- to the English channel, because I
11 think we're getting some feedback.

12 NATALIE DELGADO: There you go. Okay. You
13 should be ready.

14 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Yeah, perfect.

15 JARRED RODRIGUEZ: Hi. My name is Jarred
16 Rodriguez. I'm 12 years old. And what I like to do is
17 stay active. I play football. I play soccer. I wrestle.
18 I also play basketball, do track and field, cross country,
19 baseball, and I play outside sports.

20 When is -- when the air is bad, the football
21 players get sick and it also makes me think about the
22 people who are working for the fields. They breathe that
23 bad air all day and risk getting sick. When I leave my
24 community of Coalinga, and I travel up the hills, and I
25 get a view of the bigger valley, the air is terrible and

1 it's scary, to think that I'm also breathing this dirty
2 air.

3 I want to make sure I can speak up for those that
4 are not able to make it today. You help -- today. You
5 help protect that I -- today I want to ask that you help
6 by protect my friends, my family, teachers, my dogs, and
7 all of us kids. Thank you for your time and please listen
8 to what we are asking for -- of you. No more babies
9 getting killed.

10 Free Palestine.

11 Thank you.

12 RUBEN RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

13 Next person, please.

14 ALICIA RODRIGUEZ: Hello, everybody. My name is
15 Alicia Rodriguez. I am 16 years old. I am from Coalinga.
16 I like to play sports. I like to play soccer and I also
17 run in track. Everything I -- or every time I run in
18 track, I think about the unclear air and the impact the
19 air has on everybody. I want there to be clean and
20 healthy air, not just only for me and my family, but also
21 for everyone and my future kids. Thank you for listening
22 and thank you for your time.

23 Free Palestine.

24 GABRIEL JAVIER: Hi. My name is Gabriel Javier.

25 I am 11 years old and I will be in 6th grade. I love my

1 home and the place I live, but it is getting harder to
2 enjoy being a kid, because I have asthma and every year
3 the air seems to get worse. Even though I'm just a kid, I
4 wonder what I can do to -- seems to get worse. Even
5 though I'm just a kid, I wonder what I can do to take care
6 of my home. But if grown ups who have power -- who have
7 power are not playing, what hope do I have? I need your
8 help to heal the air.

9 Thank you.

10 RUBEN RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Gabriel.

11 MARIAH RODRIGUEZ: Hi. My name is Mariah
12 Rodriguez. I am eight years old. I live in Coalinga,
13 California. I like to play softball, cheer, and soccer.
14 I like to go swimming, also play on the trampoline and see
15 the sky. (Inaudible) you guys need to please do a good
16 job. If not, people and things would die, such as my
17 dogs, my teachers, my mom, my dad. If the air is bad and
18 I go out --

19 (Technical difficulties).

20 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: We lost -- I think we
21 lost your connection. We can't hear you on this end.

22 Can you hear us still?

23 Oh, it looks like you might have dropped from the
24 call. One second.

25 Okay. Let's try again. You should be able to

1 unmute now.

2 NATALIE DELGADO: Hello. Hi. Can you hear us?

3 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Yes, we can now.

4 NATALIE DELGADO: Okay. Sorry. We got
5 disconnected.

6 RUBEN RODRIGUEZ: What was the last person you
7 heard?

8 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Maria[sic] was speaking.

9 RUBEN RODRIGUEZ: Mariah. Okay.

10 NATALIE DELGADO: Okay.

11 RUBEN RODRIGUEZ: Mariah. Where are you at,
12 Mariah?

13 NATALIE DELGADO: It got disconnected so --

14 RUBEN RODRIGUEZ: You want to try it again?

15 NATALIE DELGADO: You want to -- yeah.

16 RUBEN RODRIGUEZ: Good job, Mariah.

17 NATAL DELGADO: She's coming back right now.

18 RUBEN RODRIGUEZ: This what we need, right, folks
19 like this.

20 (Applause).

21 MARIAH RODRIGUEZ: Hi. My name is Mariah
22 Rodriguez. I am eight years old. I live in Coalinga,
23 California. I like to play softball, cheer, and soccer.
24 I like to go swimming, but also to play on the trampoline
25 and see the sky. My little sister has asthma so you guys

1 need to please (inaudible) people and things will die,
2 such as my dogs, my teachers, my mom, my dad. If the air
3 is bad and I go outside, it affects my health. I stand up
4 for my own and we need you guys to understand that people
5 don't -- don't -- we need you -- I stand up for my own and
6 we need you guys to understand that people don't have
7 homes and need clean air to breathe. Thank you for
8 letting me talk.

9 Free Palestine.

10 RUBEN RODRIGUEZ: Go ahead.

11 MIKAELA RODRIGUEZ: (Spoke in Spanish) is Mikaela
12 Rodriguez. I am nine years old. I come from Coalinga. I
13 am a gymnast. I love to swim and run with my dogs Chica
14 and (inaudible). These things I love are becoming more
15 impossible to do if I am not breathing clean and healthy
16 air. This terrible air can affect my developing lungs and
17 affect my health in a bad way.

18 I grew up next to the creek, trees, hawks,
19 rabbits, squirrels, and all kinds of sacred life. I want
20 to stand up for my friends and demand cleaner air. If you
21 believe my life is valuable and my friend's lives are
22 valuable, you will help protect us and help improve our
23 air quality.

24 I am sad that my life (inaudible) people causing
25 the problems I didn't create, just like I am responsible

1 for my own messes. I wonder why adults are not paying
2 their fair share and solving these issues. Every living
3 being deserves to breathe clean air, drink clean water,
4 and to live in peace.

5 Thank you for your time.

6 Free Palestine.

7 (Applause).

8 RUBEN RODRIGUEZ: And I do apologize, are we
9 going to do translation or we just rolling.

10 TATIANA RODRIGUEZ: Hi. My name is Tatiana
11 Rodriguez --

12 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: If someone is giving a
13 comment in Spanish -- oh -- then we will have -- they can
14 give their entire comment and then our interpreter will
15 give -- will interpret it to English.

16 TATIANA RODRIGUEZ: Hi. My name is Tatiana
17 Rodriguez. I'm seven years old. I am coming from
18 Coalinga. I like to play sports, such as cheerleading and
19 basketball. When I go outside, I think about what air I
20 am breathing. Please help the air clean. Thank you for
21 your time.

22 (Applause).

23 (The interpreter communicated with the
24 speaker in Spanish).

25 MARTHA GOMEZ (through interpreter): Good

1 afternoon. My name is Martha Gomez and I'm here from
2 Cantua Creek and my community is highly polluted. And we
3 get sprayed and we're surrounded by trees. We have almond
4 and pistachios mostly. So we're constantly breathing in
5 pesticides and we're breathing in all of this polluted
6 air. And, as you know and we know, these pesticides can
7 cause cancer. And we have many people in our community
8 who have died of cancer and that's why we need you to act
9 now. We need clean air. So please don't postpone the
10 plan. We need real solutions now. We ask that you do
11 your job. Yes, we can.

12 (Applause).

13 MADINA FLORES (through interpreter): I am Madina
14 Florez Lomita. And I'm here from Cantua Creek, where I
15 have lived for over 56 years.

16 Colleagues, what do want? We want solutions,
17 don't we? We want clean air. What do we want?

18 AUDIENCE: Solutions.

19 MADINA FLORES (through interpreter): And when do
20 we want them?

21 AUDIENCE: Now.

22 MADINA FLORES (through interpreter): Do we want
23 extensions?

24 AUDIENCE: No.

25 MADINA FLORES (through interpreter): Those are my

1 people. Those are my people.

2 Ladies and gentlemen, we have a saying in Spanish
3 that says the weakest dog gets the fleas. And
4 unfortunately, I think you see us as that. Why? Because
5 we're ag workers, because of our skin color, because we
6 don't speak English, because we don't know how to better
7 express ourselves, because we're unaware of our rights?

8 However, we do want something. We want to
9 protect our children and for them to have better health.
10 We want to live without having to have so many
11 medications. And with every extension you grant, our
12 illnesses get worse and the cost increases and our lives
13 become extinguished at a pace that cannot wait for the
14 extensions you want to grant.

15 It saddens me greatly to not see results in our
16 fight for clean air and better health. If my child has a
17 coughing attack, what am I supposed to tell him? Give me
18 a 5-, 10-, 15-, 20-year extension. I can't.

19 Again, colleagues, what do we want?

20 AUDIENCE: Solutions.

21 MADINA FLORES (through interpreter): Do we want
22 extensions?

23 AUDIENCE: No.

24 MADINA FLORES (through interpreter): That is my
25 comment.

1 (Applause)

2 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Okay. Next commenter.

3 ESTHER RAMIREZ: Hello. My name is Esther
4 Ramirez. I'm from Cantua Creek.

5 We deserve clean air to breathe now. The need to
6 enforce the plan is now. Do not vote yes to extend the
7 plan for another five years. We need real solutions now
8 that prioritize people, over profits and protect public
9 health. I have allergies that are aggravated when I step
10 outside of my home. My community is small, but important.
11 As a senior citizen, I believe the children deserve a
12 better environment to grow up in. I want a better
13 environment too. We deserve a better environment.

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause).

16 MARGARITA ALONZO (through interpreter): My name
17 is Margarita Alonzo and I am here to address the
18 California Air Resources Board. I want to thank you for
19 allowing us to speak today.

20 This is very important. We want to ask to please
21 not wait five more years. We're dying out here. Our
22 children are dying of cancer. Tomorrow, it may be one of
23 you, but we don't wish that on anybody. Today, we ask
24 that you pay attention to what's going on, make sure that
25 your people are doing their work. Maybe you think they

1 are. And even when they do, they're sitting in their
2 little rooms doing what they do while we have the air
3 pollution problem outside in our air. So we need you to
4 pay attention to that. We live in rural communities, but
5 it also -- but this also affects urban environments. You
6 have cars everywhere. You have planes. We have planes
7 around us. So pollution affects us all.

8 Now is the time to start paying attention.
9 Again, it's affecting us today, but it will be you
10 tomorrow. So please, listen with your heart to our
11 brothers and sisters. None of us want to be dying
12 anymore. So please from the bottom of my heart, let's
13 stop this. Let's not wait five more years. No more.

14 (Applause).

15 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Next commenter.

16 ISABEL SOLORIO (through interpreter). Hi. My
17 name is Isabel Solorio from the community of Lanare in
18 Fresno County. And we want for this plan to do what it
19 needs to do under the law to achieve clean air in the San
20 Joaquin Valley. It is very frustrating to have to depend
21 on medications every day, because of my asthma and severe
22 allergies. I'll also depend on having an air purifier at
23 home, so I can control pollutants indoors. We have a lot
24 of children who are sick who suffer from asthma in the San
25 Joaquin Valley.

1 So, we need to do something to clean up our air
2 to resolve these problems that surround us. We are
3 surrounded by different kinds of pollution sources,
4 particularly in rural areas, so we need that change to
5 happen now. We have to protect our mother earth. No more
6 extensions. We want solutions now.

7 Thank you.

8 (Applause).

9 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Next commenter.

10 VERONICA HERNANDEZ (through interpreter): Good
11 afternoon. My name is Veronica Hernandez from the
12 community of Riverdale in Fresno County. I am here
13 representing the Riverdale community. It is astounding
14 how much environmental pollution we have. So what we want
15 is results, something to resolve this. This involves us
16 all. And unfortunately, we're not all doing what we need
17 to do. I'm concerned for the young generations who are
18 just getting started. We need and want to see results
19 now. We have so many diseases that we're suffering from,
20 because of the pollution beginning with illness --
21 illnesses such as asthma. So we're here to ask for
22 accountability, and to raise awareness, and to say that we
23 want no more extensions. We want solutions.

24 Thank you.

25 (Applause).

1 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Next commenter.

2 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: That completes your time.
3 Thank you.

4 SAUL RUIZ (through interpreter): Good afternoon.
5 My name is Saul Ruiz from the community of Lost Hills.
6 And I am here because I am concerned with the levels of
7 air pollution throughout the valley. My community has
8 been greatly impacted in addition by wildfires, as well as
9 the pesticides and the oil fields that we are surrounded
10 by. And so we call the Air District when we have issues
11 and the Air District does not listen to us. They don't
12 look into a solution until two, three days later.

13 I have a 27-year old daughter who suffers from
14 asthma. And my life when she was a child was very
15 difficult. I regularly had to leave work to take her to
16 the hospital when she had an asthma attack. And from the
17 local hospital, she had to be flown by helicopter to the
18 Madera Hospital and so I had to follow along on the
19 freeway trying to keep up, begging God that my daughter
20 would survive. And there are so many families in our
21 valley that suffer from the same thing.

22 So I ask all of you leaders in the Capital to not
23 have any more extensions. We cannot continue having
24 people dying of cancer, asthma, and Valley Fever. So many
25 people in the Central Valley end up having to leave,

1 leaving families behind, because they cannot -- no longer
2 stay because of things like Valley Fever. So for all of
3 you leaders in the capital, you have the power in your
4 hands to get rid of all of this.

5 So don't just sit in your warm seats in your
6 offices. Last year, we came up to Sacramento to try and
7 get a bill passed, asking all of you to get a bill passed
8 to improve our lives and....

9 (Applause).

10 THE INTERPRETER: Time ran out of after that.

11 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Okay.

12 You should have to unmute again.

13 Perfect. You're unmuted and next commenter can
14 go ahead.

15 MARIA TORRES (through interpreter): Good
16 afternoon. My name is Maria Torres. And we are here not
17 to ask, to demand rather, that things change, for things
18 to get fixed more quickly. We don't want for our children
19 to continue dying, our trees to continue burning. We need
20 a solution now. We're tired. I mean, it's easy for you
21 because you're up there in your air conditioning and in
22 your offices, and you don't think about us. So we're out
23 here working to put food on your tables.

24 So if you're not going to do the job - again,
25 you're there to represent us - then maybe you leave that

1 job for someone else, for someone who has feelings and
2 empathy for our people, who has that heart. Again, if you
3 don't want to do the job, let others do it. We need
4 solutions now. We demand solutions now, not tomorrow, not
5 in a week, not in a year, not in five years. We need
6 solutions today for our children, for our elderly, for all
7 of us.

8 No more deaths due to your negligence and not
9 getting the job you need to get done. So that's what we
10 demand as a people and as a community.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause).

13 (The interpreter communicated with the
14 speaker in Spanish).

15 NATIVAD MARTINEZ (through interpreter): Good
16 afternoon. My name is Nativad Martinez and I'm here from
17 the community of California. The San Joaquin Valley is
18 the most polluted airshed in all of the United States when
19 it comes to fine particulate matter. Fine particulate
20 matter, known as PM2.5, is so small that it can get deeply
21 embedded in our hearts and in our lungs, and it can cause
22 problems like asthma, heart disease, lung disease, even
23 death. So we need real solutions and we need them now.
24 We need solutions that will put people above profits and
25 that truly protect public health. We need solutions. No

1 more extensions. No, we don't want to continue paying the
2 cost with our health for these companies to continue to
3 make billion dollar profits. These costs include
4 premature death, medical expenses, and lost work and
5 school days.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause).

8 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Next speaker.

9 Oh, you'll need to unmute. Sorry, I had to mute
10 you, because there was some background noise coming in.

11 RUBEN RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

12 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: We can hear you.

13 (The interpreter communicated with the
14 speaker in Spanish).

15 CARMEN LOPEZ (through interpreter): Good
16 afternoon. My name is Carmen Lopez from the community of
17 Huron, California. And thank you for allowing us this
18 time. For years, we have suffered from the impacts of
19 this air pollution.

20 THE INTERPRETER: My apologies.

21 CARMEN LOPEZ (through interpreter): And we're
22 impacted mostly as ag workers by the fields, by trash.
23 And those of us who actually work the fields are the ones
24 who suffer the most. We have to suffer every day with --
25 from allergies, and asthma, and heart disease others that

1 impact our lungs, our liver, et cetera. So we need
2 solutions today. No more extensions. We need to
3 prioritize public health, otherwise our youth are going to
4 pay the price.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause).

7 RUBEN RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. We appreciate it,
8 but I do catch that the translation is not being done
9 entirely. The last was that we do not want our future to
10 deal with the secondhand problems.

11 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you. Appreciate
12 it. The connection seems to be coming in and out a little
13 bit, so we appreciate your patience.

14 Are there more Spanish speakers in the room?

15 RUBEN RODRIGUEZ: Yes we have maybe four more.

16 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Okay. Go ahead.

17 IRMA RUIZ (through interpreter): Hi. Good
18 afternoon. My name is Irma Medina Ruiz --

19 RUBEN RODRIGUEZ: Here, I am again -- here I am
20 again brother. I do apologize --

21 IRMA RUIZ (through interpreter): -- and I am here
22 from the community of Lost Hills in Kern County. And I am
23 a mother of nine and I am worried because of all of the
24 pollution that we have in our communities, the communities
25 around us. I disagree with what you are proposing that

1 would just continue to allow pollution that destroys our
2 health. We suffer from so many respiratory diseases that
3 impact our elderly and our kids who are the future.

4 Recently, I have developed allergies, headaches.
5 My nose is constantly plugged up. My eyes burn. I feel
6 tired. My bones hurt. We can't even go out and go to the
7 park or go -- walk around the neighborhood because of the
8 very unhealthy air quality. So we ask you to please not
9 put this off any longer and implement more strict
10 regulations for all of the Central Valley. We do not want
11 to allow more time for them to continue slowly
12 extinguishing our lives.

13 My second daughter suffered from asthma for --
14 about -- since about 27, 28 years ago and I also suffered
15 three miscarriages during my lifetime. Even today, I was
16 supposed to be working and I had to miss work to be able
17 to come here to speak up, because we want you to do
18 something to reduce pollution for companies to not
19 continue polluting our air and we need it now.

20 Thank you very much.

21 (Applause).

22 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you. Next speaker.

23 RUBEN RODRIGUEZ: Awesome. Thank you. We have
24 maybe about four more speakers. And I did want to share
25 Carmen Lopez before she walked out she said that it was

1 not mentioned neither on my behalf, but she had a daughter
2 that passed away from cancer. And this is something that
3 she wanted to relate back to you guys and say that this is
4 also another reason why she urges you guys, you know, to
5 please do a better job.

6 (Spoke in Spanish).

7 RUBEN RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. And I'll go ahead
8 and pass it on to the next speaker.

9 LIBIA GARCIA(through interpreter): Hi. Good
10 afternoon. I am Libia Garcia. I'm here from Huron,
11 California. You as your representatives need to make the
12 commitment to do something, to fight for clean air. We
13 need solutions now, not five years from now.

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause).

16 (The interpreter communicated with the
17 speaker in Spanish).

18 KARINA GUERERRO(through interpreter): Hi. My
19 name is Karina Guererro from Huron in Fresno County. The
20 San Joaquin Valley residents, the Central Valley residents
21 need you to truly commit to make significant changes to
22 enforce air quality standards. It's not fair for people
23 to get rich on the backs of the residents of our
24 communities. It is irresponsible of you to refuse to do
25 something to reduce air pollution. So I have two

1 questions for you. One, why didn't you come to the
2 Central Valley, where the issue actually is? And two, why
3 do you want to provide extensions for the implementations
4 of these laws?

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause).

7 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Next commenter.

8 ANA ELSA SAAVEDRA (through interpreter): Good
9 afternoon. My name is Ana Elsa Saavedra. And I am here
10 from the Central Valley. And I would like to know what
11 other measures can be implemented that could truly make a
12 difference to clean up our air. It's been years and
13 measures have been taken, but we haven't seen any positive
14 results. I am very worried because of the impacts that
15 air pollution has had on the people around me, but
16 particularly young people who at their young age are
17 already suffering from these issues. We urgently need
18 solutions that will favor the whole community instead of
19 projects that are just left up in the air and that never
20 lead to positive results.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause).

23 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Next speaker.

24 RODOLPHO RODRIGUEZ: Good afternoon. My name is
25 Rodolpho Rodriguez and I am a -- I am from Coalinga. I'm

1 also a sociology professor in ethnic studies and structure
2 at Community Coalinga College.

3 I am here to demand that a greater emphasis be
4 placed on public health. We need stronger regulations in
5 place that accurately reflects our reality and hold those
6 polluting our precious communities accountable. Do not
7 grant this five-year extension. I am just like you and
8 everyone else who has taken time from their busy schedules
9 to be here. I enjoy breathing clean air, having clean
10 water, and peace. Living in a valley where the air
11 quality is not safe for more than half of the year makes
12 it difficult for people like me who have asthma to go
13 outside and play soccer with my young daughter and
14 nephews.

15 Stop failing us. Stop putting the interests of
16 polluting companies ahead of people. We need stronger
17 regulations, not just for the front-line communities in
18 the San Joaquin Valley, but around the world. Failure to
19 do so will lead to further -- to a further decline in
20 public health, worsening of the climate crisis, and speed
21 up the mass extinction of our world -- that our world is
22 currently experiencing.

23 The lives of our children, our parents, our
24 grandparents, community members, and fellow animals are
25 important. Please do not ignore the calls for change from

1 community members, protect our communities, and the people
2 you were meant to serve. No more extensions.

3 Thank you.

4 (Applause).

5 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: And could you repeat your
6 first name.

7 RODOLPHO RODRIGUEZ: Rodolpho Rodriguez.

8 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

9 Okay. Next speaker.

10 DIANNA CARRILLO: Hi. Good afternoon. I'm going
11 to go ahead and speak in English -- I'm sorry in Spanish
12 first and then in English. I can do my own translation.

13 So to begin.

14 (Spoke in Spanish.)

15 DIANNA CARRILLO: I'm going to go ahead and say
16 it in English now. My name is Dianna Carrillo. I am a
17 social worker and I live in Fresno. As I was writing my
18 public comment, I was asking myself, why do we need five
19 more years? Why hasn't this been dealt with already in
20 the last couple of years? In five years, many things can
21 happen. That time is now, not tomorrow. Now is the
22 urgency. Now is the time to change. Why should we wait?
23 Should we wait for more people from our community to pass
24 away? This air it's not healthy and it affects the
25 quality of our on lives. It fills us up with allergens,

1 pollutions, and toxic -- and toxins. It affects our body
2 in many different ways. I suffer from migraines, severe
3 aller -- and severe allergies. My wife also suffers from
4 severe allergies. If we didn't have constant air filters
5 in our home, my wife would probably be in the hospital
6 almost every day. This is just one of thousands of
7 stories from our communities. The time to change is
8 urgent and the time is now. Let's not wait five more
9 years.

10 Thank you.

11 (Applause).

12 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Next speaker.

13 NATALIE DELGADO: Hi. My name is Natalie
14 Delgado. I'm a Policy Associate with CCEJN. I'm here
15 today with 40 residents at a watch party. We are
16 disappointed that CARB did not come down here in person
17 and made this important meeting inaccessible to many folks
18 whose lives are affected by it. I am here to tell CARB to
19 deny the five-year delay request -- to deny the five-year
20 extension for the 2012 PM2.5 standard plan. Time and time
21 again, local and State regulators have failed to adopt the
22 necessary measures and meet attainment deadlines to ensure
23 clean breathable air for valley residents.

24 CARB can't just rubber stamp this plan because
25 they do not want to spend any more time or resources on

1 it. CARB and the Valley Air District have the
2 responsibility to do their jobs correctly and continue
3 until the standard is successfully attained. Communities
4 of color and low-income communities bear the
5 disproportionate burden of PM2.5 exposure.

6 In a recent health study by UC Merced for Fresno,
7 researchers found that the rates of infant mortality were
8 8.9 per thousand people within South Central Fresno and
9 only 6.0 for the rest of the city. Many residents who
10 live within this part of Fresno have higher longer --
11 long-term exposures to traffic and diesel emissions due to
12 the -- due to the concentration of indirect sources such
13 as warehouses, industrial development, and heavy-duty
14 trucks. The valley must adopt a more stringent Indirect
15 Source Rule.

16 Since valley's ISR adoption in 2017, the South
17 Coast Air Management Control District has adopted a more
18 stringent ISR that applies to existing warehouses, not
19 only planned ones. To our knowledge, no number-based
20 demonstration has been conducted to verify how stringent
21 the Valley ISR is.

22 Per the Clean Air Act, CARB must conduct a data
23 number-based approach to the Valley ISR to comply with
24 federal regulations. Valley residents do not need another
25 five-year extension. We need action now.

1 Thank you.

2 (Applause)

3 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Next speaker.

4 RUBEN RODRIGUEZ: Thank you guys. We have two
5 more speakers here to go.

6 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Awesome.

7 RUBEN RODRIGUEZ: Thank you guys for your
8 patience.

9 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

10 VERONICA AGUIRRE: Good afternoon. Can you hear
11 me?

12 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Yes, we can.

13 VERONICA AGUIRRE: Hi. Good afternoon again. My
14 name is Veronica Aguirre. I come -- I come from the
15 community of Avenal, California. I am also a community
16 organizer for Central California Environmental Justice
17 Network. I sit in a room full of people that have given
18 compelling testimony who have been willing to share their
19 lives, open up their hearts, open up their personal
20 stories. And we ask you -- we ask you to not accept the
21 exemption. We ask you to finally take a stand and stand
22 with the people. Listen to the stories that have been
23 told to you. What does five years mean to you?

24 Well, five years means to us is health issues,
25 losing jobs. We have people who have shared that they had

1 to get a day off at work just so they could come here,
2 because it's important to them. We have people here who
3 have shared their health issues, who have lost family
4 members due to cancer and other types of illnesses. It's
5 time. It's time that we step aside and quit supporting
6 big businesses, quit accepting pay to pollute and start
7 supporting the people, the people who are coming to you
8 and saying, no. You know what five years means to us?
9 Five years means that kids are going to be -- have to stay
10 in their classrooms, because they can't go outside to play
11 any more. Five years of that. Five years of taking a
12 kid's life away because they're not going to be able to
13 enjoy the outdoors. Workers who have to work outside in
14 such terrible air.

15 And what does that mean to them? They have to
16 work to put food on their tables. But guess what, they
17 also work to put food on ours and we need to take that
18 into consideration.

19 Again, like I said, I think it's time that we do
20 something different and stand with the people rather than
21 the big boys club, the billionaire club, you know, big
22 business. It's time to put them (inaudible). They having
23 nothing to lose. The only they have to lose is profit.
24 And what do we have to lose? We have to lose people,
25 people and health.

1 Thank you.

2 (Applause).

3 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Next speaker.

4 RUBEN RODRIGUEZ: This is Ruben again. And I
5 wanted to end it on a very powerful note. So I want to
6 read my message, which says we have never turned in a
7 clean air plan on time and we have never met a federal
8 clean air standard on time. Solutions that prioritize
9 people over profits and protect public health. So I
10 repeat...

11 (Spoke in Spanish).

12 RUBEN RODRIGUEZ: Thank you for your time. We
13 appreciate you and I hope you listened.

14 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Thank you.

15 Chair, that concludes the commenters.

16 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Thank you very much
17 and thank you for all the community residents who came to
18 the watch parties to -- took their time out of the day to
19 share their thoughts.

20 We are going to take a 45-minute lunch break, so
21 we will return at 2 -- let's -- actually let's make it
22 2:20. So we will return at 2:20.

23 (Off record: 1:35 p.m.)

24 (Thereupon a lunch break was taken.)

25 (On record: 2:23 p.m.)

1 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. All right. We are back
2 from our break. And we are continuing our work on item
3 number - sorry, just getting the Agenda item number -
4 24-4-2. We have heard from the public.

5 I just want to ask staff, is there anything --
6 any specific factual issues that you need to clarify
7 before we go back to -- before we go to the Board members?

8 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: No, Chair. I think --

9 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay.

10 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: -- we'll just go to the
11 discussion. Thank you.

12 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Great. Thank you.

13 So I will close the record on this agenda item
14 and we will bring the discussion to the Board.

15 Board Member Pacheco-Werner.

16 BOARD MEMBER PACHECO-WERNER: Thank you, Chair.
17 The 2024 plan comes at a time when the air pollution
18 challenges are growing every day, as the standards get
19 more difficult. It is important to mention that it should
20 never be lost on anyone that these public health guidance
21 standards grounded are grounded in science and that our
22 response should also be grounded with what we know and
23 understand based on studies and established science
24 conduct by our staff.

25 I thank those who have brought their stories,

1 especially the youth, who called for more public
2 transportation and access to electric vehicles. Those
3 stories are real and I live with those challenges as well
4 as a resident of the valley, someone who struggles with
5 asthma and has a six-year old boy who has asthma so
6 severe, we have to keep an inhaler at his school in case
7 of emergency.

8 It is important to note that the District rules
9 in the plan are being implemented and many of them began
10 implementation in 2024, so reductions are coming and some
11 are here now. As you saw with the NOx reduction through
12 ag equipment turnover, we have met that commitment.
13 However, we do have remaining commitments that we have to
14 continue to work together to fulfill. I am most
15 optimistic about our ACF Rule, which already began
16 implementation, Truck Refrigeration Units, the
17 Zero-Emission Forklift Rule, and other mobile source
18 regulations that will yield significant reductions in NOx.

19 For those that have asked what is being done now,
20 aside from our statewide rules on mobile sources, which
21 are already being implemented, you should know that
22 implementations for rules on flares, boilers, steam
23 generators, process heaters, internal combustion engines,
24 and ongoing controls on dust, conservation management
25 practices in agriculture, and glass melting furnaces has

1 begun this year or is ongoing.

2 I also invite everyone to be involved in our
3 upcoming rulemaking process at the Air District that will
4 begin in 2025 for stricter measures on fireplace wood
5 burning and wood burning heaters, which will begin
6 implementation in 2026. It is also important to note that
7 all of these new and ongoing reductions, when modeled by
8 staff, show that 70 percent of our population in the
9 valley will be in attainment by 2025. This is not a
10 mission accomplish moment though, but it is important to
11 recognize that progress is being made, while recognizing
12 that we need reductions on mobile and stationary sources
13 that address our most difficult areas.

14 But again, these targeted reductions must be
15 science backed. The plan has been delayed due to a number
16 of factors, but an ongoing commitment to the reductions
17 has not been delayed. As you saw in the presentation, NOx
18 reductions give us the biggest bang for our buck, but they
19 are only one piece of the puzzle.

20 I congratulate staff from both CARB and the
21 District for being forward-looking on updating our
22 emissions inventory -- with a plan to update our emissions
23 inventory and the new precursor analysis that is coming in
24 2026 and the commitment to immediately start looking at
25 new controls based on that scientific data.

1 I applaud the community engagement efforts and
2 would advocate for an engaged process in this, especially
3 in those areas where we know reductions are most needed.

4 There are things that we will need collaboration
5 and commitment from local and State -- stakeholders and
6 elected officials to get more political will for new
7 emission reductions in areas that are critically needed
8 and controls that are critically needed, such as with
9 charbroiling.

10 I would also support closing the loop on this
11 inventory that has been talked about for years on these 21
12 sources that we committed to look at in 2019. I also
13 think that the untapped mobile source reductions need to
14 be looked at and further evaluated just like any other
15 measures, and nothing must be off the table, including
16 those agricultural sources, which we know are being worked
17 on through incentive measures and may need more controls
18 in the future if science determines that they do.

19 However, we must, in that same step, continue to
20 find and advocate for funding for incentive measures that
21 we already know work, as we saw with the truck turnover
22 and are generating reductions today. I will also ask,
23 Chair, that we ask staff to work with EPA to have more
24 guidance on the most stringent measure question,
25 particularly when we are being asked to weigh two of our

1 own rules. I am hesitant to assign that determination
2 knowing that it has national implications. However, we
3 should have guidance and the matter resolved before the
4 nine microgram standards come to us. We do need unity in
5 this moment in calling for approval of our federal
6 waivers, so that we can all benefit from the committed
7 reductions.

8 Finally, I do want to thank the staff for their
9 commitment. Few on the Board probably know this, but the
10 process for getting to this place has been extremely
11 cooperative from the District, CARB, and EPA, both on the
12 staff and leadership front. The staff have been hard at
13 work thinking about this deeply and doing lots of work to
14 get to where we are today. I, myself, cannot count the
15 hours spent in meetings or on the phone talking about this
16 plan and what would get us to today. So it is not lost on
17 me how deliberated this has been and why you see so many
18 commitments for the nine microgram plan outlined here in
19 the resolution, because there are so many things we must
20 continue to Zoom in on, that we need more science and
21 understanding on, to bring forward further action to
22 improve our air.

23 My son who is six years old, also like the youth
24 today, calls on less car idling, more electric vehicles,
25 and more electric trucks in our rural community of Sanger.

1 I will support this plan with him in mind and ask
2 direction to staff on the additional items I mentioned
3 because we must do everything we can to bring the
4 reductions as soon as possible.

5 Staff, I also do think it is important to answer
6 to the public why the 2025 attainment date is no longer
7 feasible, as I think it further highlights the complexity.
8 So if you could provide comment on that, I would
9 appreciate it.

10 Thank you so much for the time.

11 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Thank you, Dr.
12 Pacheco-Werner. Do we want to have staff answer that
13 question now?

14 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: Sure. Thank you, Dr.
15 Pacheco-Werner. Steve Cliff here. So regarding the
16 timeline for attainment, when we withdrew the plan, and
17 that was as a result of the proposed disapproval, EPA
18 required that we use an updated inventory and the latest
19 modeling information, which would also incorporate all of
20 the adopted measures, so that we had the most up-to-date
21 information. And that required all of the information
22 that we had up through 2017 rather than looking at 2013,
23 as was in the original plan.

24 So that type of work takes time to do, and the
25 Clean Air Act recognizes that fact and provides for

1 additional time, because you have to look at a new
2 attainment date. We could no longer look at an attainment
3 date that would, in fact, have been in the past by the
4 time we got the plan done.

5 So that five-year attainment date is what's
6 provided as part of the Clean Air Act. As you mentioned
7 and you laid out really well, nothing that is -- that is
8 in our work stopped while the plan was being developed and
9 considered. In fact, our work has only accelerated. Not
10 only has the District adopted a number of rules and
11 they've committed to some additional ones, but the State,
12 of course, has adopted a number of rules and are
13 implementing those, and we've committed to additional
14 ones. And all those are laid out in the presentation.

15 So the time that it takes to develop that new
16 plan which is in front of you today is important, because
17 it looks at the latest information and modeling and helps
18 us better understand the types of things that we can do
19 and need to do, as well as where there are opportunities
20 as we think about the nine microgram standard going
21 forward. So it's provided a lot of opportunity for us to
22 have discussions with stakeholders, to have discussions
23 with the District on what the right opportunities are for
24 us, not only to implement this plan, but to attain that
25 nine microgram standard, which we know is going to be even

1 harder in the future.

2 And I will just also note, and you laid this out,
3 I just want to echo it, that for folks that want to see a
4 faster attainment, there are opportunities in any of these
5 rulemakings to push us harder, to push the District
6 harder. And you mentioned in particular the wood smoke,
7 that is an upcoming opportunity for stakeholders to
8 comment and push for more aggressive faster or more
9 expansive phaseout of wood burning as a way to reduce
10 PM2.5.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIR RANDOLPH: So as we engage in the
13 discussion with the other Board members, I just wanted to
14 make sure I have the suggestions that you made. So one
15 issue is the -- going back to the 2019 conversation about
16 the stationary sources, taking a look at understanding the
17 emissions from those sources. Another suggestion was to
18 be thinking about what our future Mobile Source Strategy
19 is with regard to getting attainment in the valley. And
20 that's an important question as well. And I think we'll
21 engage in some conversation about that, because we are
22 looking at engines and equipment in the valley. But, of
23 course, our mobile sources are statewide. When we do a
24 rule, it's a statewide rule.

25 So, we should probably kind of talk to staff

1 about sort of what the logical next steps are to kind of
2 be thinking about that. I think your suggestion about
3 working with EPA to get guidance on most stringent
4 measures, you know, ahead of the next round of State
5 Implementation Plans is a great idea. And what was your
6 fourth one?

7 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Ag equipment. Didn't
8 you --

9 BOARD MEMBER PACHECO-WERNER: Well, the mobile
10 sources.

11 CHAIR RANDOLPH: That's -- mobile sources is ag
12 equipment. Was that it? Did I get everything?

13 BOARD MEMBER PACHECO-WERNER: Um-hmm.

14 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. All right. Yeah. We
15 can -- we can -- we can talk about that, because I think
16 Dr. Pacheco-Werner was, you know, correctly noting that
17 there's quite a bit of emissions from older equipment in
18 the valley. Incentive programs have been very successful
19 in dealing with that equipment, but I think it's a really
20 important conversation to have as we think about, you
21 know, current budgets, future budgets, like, are those
22 incentives going to continue, what happens if those
23 incentives don't continue, what other measures should we
24 be thinking about. And then as I mentioned, if we're
25 thinking about a regulatory strategy, that would apply

1 statewide. So we need to be thinking about the -- you
2 know, the potential benefits and challenges associated
3 with that.

4 BOARD MEMBER PACHECO-WERNER: If science dictates
5 that's where we need to go.

6 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Right. Yes. Good point. Good
7 point, because -- and I think it's a -- it's a useful
8 conversation to have about the continued efforts to
9 quantify the reductions from incentives. And I think we
10 have, as I mentioned, have shown that there have been
11 quite a bit of reductions from there and then figuring out
12 as we do the inventory, what additional, if any, measures
13 would be needed.

14 Okay. I'm going to start calling on other
15 colleagues. Oh, I promised Dr. Balmes he can go first,
16 because he has -- he has something to do and then Board
17 Member Takvorian.

18 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Thank you, chair. And I
19 like the last comment from Dr. Pacheco-Werner about what
20 the science dictates. So I wanted to talk about my
21 scientific credentials in the valley. I've said it
22 before, but I've been working on the health effects of air
23 pollution in kids in the San Joaquin Valley, specifically
24 Fresno, but other parts of the San Joaquin Valley at times
25 for the last 25 years. I also was on the Clean Air

1 Scientific Advisory Committee of U.S. EPA that came up
2 with the recommendation of a nine microgram per meter
3 cubed standard, based on the health effects in the
4 literature. There's a robust literature about health
5 effects below the 12 microgram per meter cubed old
6 standard, which we're still dealing with.

7 And so while I appreciate the hard work of both
8 our staff and the Air District staff on dealing with the
9 complications -- the complicated SIP process, I think the
10 five-year time frame is too long, based on what I know
11 about the health effects. That's five years where kids,
12 like Dr. Pacheco-Werner's child, are going to be exposed
13 to higher levels of PM2.5 than is good for them.

14 So, you know, I realize that the Clean Air Act,
15 you know, has this -- gives this five-year period, but I
16 think we should try hard to beat that. And so I
17 appreciate Dr. Cliff's comment that we can always do
18 better. And so we need to do better. And I think that,
19 you know, getting rid of unnecessary wood smoke --
20 residential wood burning is an important step. It looks
21 like that's moving forward.

22 You know, I have to say that getting or moving
23 away from ag burning in the valley was -- is a huge
24 success. That it took a long time. We finally got there,
25 but I think we shouldn't take so long to deal with our

1 current PM2.5 SIP, if we can go faster. And, you know, I
2 was -- back in 2019, some of us old Board members were
3 present when we made commitments that I think we really
4 haven't delivered on. That review of the 20 plus
5 stationary sources. You know, to give the District
6 credit, I know that there was a glass manufacturing
7 facility or two and I saw that there's a rule now about
8 glass manufacturing. So it's not like those 20 station --
9 20 plus stationary sources were totally forgotten, but I
10 don't think we communicated to the public, to the
11 stakeholders in the community about as well as we could in
12 terms of that story.

13 I mean, when Dr. Catherine, you know, mentions
14 that right off, I think there's something -- that's a
15 problem in terms of our communication that we don't tell
16 the story that really shows that we're trying to impact
17 the communities that are most vulnerable.

18 And, you know, I think the ag equipment
19 inventory -- you know, I got thrown for a second, because
20 I don't consider it, you know, old ag equipment really
21 mobile sources, but I understand it is, but they're
22 off-road mobile sources at least.

23 Yeah, that -- the FARMER Program, as was
24 mentioned, has been a big success, but we need more money
25 for that, because we need that incentive money to allow

1 farmers to take advantage of the FARMER incentive program.

2 So while I'm going to vote for this resolution, I
3 think that we really have to work closely with the
4 District to try to accelerate the work to get to where we
5 want to go before 2030. And that's also important for us
6 to be able to set the framework for achieving a nine
7 microgram per meter cubed standard. So if we think, you
8 know, achieving 12 is hard, you know, I know it's going to
9 be much harder for nine.

10 So -- and then the final thing I would like to
11 say is that I think we need to do better to communicate
12 with the communities we heard from today. You know, the
13 SIP work is complicated. The staff is doing a great job,
14 but it doesn't translate to community members in terms of
15 improved air quality to -- even to talk about, you know,
16 whatever many air monitoring stations are now below the 12
17 microgram per meter cubed standard. That doesn't
18 translate into the community hearing that the air quality
19 is improved enough to impact their health.

20 So I think -- and I think through AB 617, we've
21 learned to do better with the community engagement, but I
22 think we forget about it sometimes with these larger sort
23 of statewide SIP -- well -- or here, this is not
24 statewide -- these SIP processes. So we've got to figure
25 out a way to communicate the benefits of what we're doing

1 for -- to meet our SIP commitments to community
2 stakeholders.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Thanks so much, Dr.
5 Balmes.

6 Board Member Takvorian.

7 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Thank you and thank you,
8 Board Member Pacheco-Werner, for leading us off. I really
9 appreciated your summary of where we are. And I think
10 it's a complicated issue. And I know that the District,
11 and you, and CARB staff have been working very hard to get
12 us to where we are today.

13 I have to say that I have -- I had to look back,
14 because I was having a little, I guess, PTSD from this
15 and -- I'm sorry, are you there now? But I've had the
16 opportunity to discuss our vote on this three times. And
17 two of those times we were in the valley, we were in
18 Fresno, which I think was a good place for us to be to be
19 discussing this. And to Dr. Balmes' point, we made
20 promises in those meetings. And for those of you who may
21 not have been here when we did that, I think everyone of
22 us who made those promises took them very seriously and
23 believed that we needed to fulfill those promises. And so
24 it's hard to be here today and feel like there's progress
25 and there's something to celebrate with that, but that we

1 haven't come through for the people of the valley and that
2 we need to do better. So that's my starting point is that
3 we need to do better and I want to figure out together how
4 we can do that.

5 I have to say that in -- when reviewing the 2022
6 staff report -- CARB staff report, we not only promised,
7 our analysis was that the CARB -- and I'm quoting here,
8 "The CARB and district measures will achieve more emission
9 reductions than needed to attain the 12 microgram standard
10 PM2.5 standard in 2025 without the new four measures,"
11 that the District was putting forward. So there was a
12 statement that there would be an excess of emission
13 reductions and that we wouldn't need the new measures, not
14 that we were saying we wouldn't do them, but that we
15 wouldn't actually need them.

16 So one of my questions is what changed? And I
17 understand a lack of confidence coming from the community
18 and probably coming from some Board members when we say no
19 problem for 2030, because that's what we said about 2025
20 and that was an extension.

21 So I don't feel comfortable going for another
22 five years. I don't think it's -- at some level, I don't
23 think it's ethical, in addition to not being health
24 protective. And so that's problematic for me and I'd like
25 to get an answer to that.

1 Not only are we not making good on that promise,
2 which we made pretty solidly, we're not getting close to
3 the nine microgram standard. And I really appreciated Dr.
4 Pacheco-Werner pointing out a chart that was in the plan
5 that the District put forward that actually includes the
6 15, the 12, and the 9, and shows where each of the
7 monitoring stations are. I think that's the kind of data
8 that we should have been provided with, because it helps
9 us to understand what we're missing, and where we're
10 missing it, and how far we have to go.

11 And I appreciated Dr. Balmes' comment about
12 health outcomes. We're -- the staff did a great -- CARB
13 staff did a great job of looking at what the health
14 benefits would be for 2030, but we don't know what they
15 are -- what the gap is between 2025 and 2030, how much --
16 how many of those health benefits are we missing. So how
17 much sicker are people in that five years? I think that's
18 all information that we should have in order to make this
19 decision. And that's weighing on me that we're -- we
20 don't have that.

21 So I would suggest that we reduce the amount of
22 time that we're seeking for an extension and would ask the
23 staff what you think -- how short we could make it. Is
24 two years adequate? Could we go for three years? And
25 what do we do within that time period? And suggestions

1 are that within -- my suggestion is within six months that
2 the staff returns with a report on the effectiveness of
3 the agriculture equipment incentive program and provide an
4 assessment of the best pathways for a reduction. That
5 might include other incentives or additional incentives,
6 but it also would include an evaluation of regulatory
7 measures.

8 And I would also support the need for annual
9 updates. And I would hope that six month one would serve
10 as the first one and then we would do annual updates after
11 that. And to, I think, points that have been made about
12 wood burning, I need to better understand why we can't
13 request that the district adopt a prohibition, because as
14 I understand it, the 2026 implementation only adds an
15 additional month to the existing rule. So I don't
16 understand. It feels that it's -- that's pretty small
17 given the urgency that we should be feeling about this.

18 So those are my three requests and I would
19 appreciate responses and see where we go from there.

20 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: Thank you.

21 So I'll start this and then ask staff to help
22 fill in. Regarding the concern -- and I won't necessarily
23 take these in order. So regarding the concern that we
24 have provided a shorter time than the five-year extension,
25 that would necessitate a new planning document, which

1 would require all new modeling and new -- you know,
2 determining new design values and so on and so forth.

3 The -- I don't -- I don't see a way that that
4 would actually provide additional health benefits, given
5 that we're continuing to implement the measures. And in
6 the case of the mobile source strategies that we put in
7 place as CARB, we've done those with the idea of achieving
8 the technical feasibility as quickly as we possibly can.
9 So additional reductions would not result from a new
10 planning document, even if it resulted in a different
11 target date. It would take at least a year to develop a
12 new plan. So in other words, if the Board were not to
13 adopt the plan today, we would have to undertake a new
14 planning effort, which would take at least a year to do
15 with new modeling, and we may result in some different
16 understanding of what -- how quickly measures have to be
17 put in place.

18 In the meantime, we would still be implementing
19 all of the rules that we already have on the books. So I
20 don't believe that it would be any more health protective.

21 Your --

22 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Well, can I interrupt
23 you for a second and say my assumption was that there
24 would be new measures that would come forward. I'm not
25 asking for a new plan to be done for the sake of another

1 document. It's -- the point is what do we need to do to
2 get there faster? Because what you've done is model for
3 2030 to say, okay, we can ask for five years, so we're
4 taking five years and then we're going to get there at
5 2030. If we said, we could get -- we wanted to get there
6 in 26-27, what would it take to get there? That's the
7 plan, right?

8 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: And so it -- again, it
9 would still require a new -- a new planning exercise and a
10 new understanding of how many tons would have to be
11 reduced.

12 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Yeah, okay.

13 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: So to your first point
14 that, I think -- if I think -- I think I understood
15 correctly is that we said that the mobile source measures
16 that CARB would adopt would have achieved attainment in
17 2025. And, of course, that was based on modeling at the
18 time, and you acknowledged that, that, you know, there's
19 some uncertainties as you do these plans. I guess what I
20 would point out is that on slide four, I believe there's
21 only four sites in the valley in 2023 that exceeded the 12
22 microgram annual standard.

23 So in large part, the valley is achieving that
24 standard. Nine microgram totally different ball game. We
25 know that's going to be terribly difficult. But for the

1 12 microgram standard, we're actually very close on many
2 of the sites. So I don't know that that initial statement
3 that, you know, CARB made that we would actually achieve
4 the target in 2025. We don't know yet whether that's
5 untrue, since it's not yet 2025, but we are very, very
6 close.

7 And I just -- I want to reiterate, we're not
8 taking our foot off the pedal. I mean, this planning
9 exercise that happens is extremely important. It tells us
10 whether we're on track, need to do more. What the
11 planning exercise told us is that, in fact, for area-wide
12 PM2.5 sources, we did need to do more and that's why the
13 District is undertaking activities for additional measures
14 to reduce wood smoke for example.

15 As we get to the nine microgram, really
16 everything has got to be on the table. We're going to
17 have to be looking at all these other sources, which I
18 think Dr. Pacheco-Werner, you know, laid out very
19 carefully.

20 And your last point, I apologize, I'm forgetting.

21 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Oh, the coming back, yeah.

22 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Coming back.

23 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: Please, use you mic, Ms.
24 Takvorian.

25 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: It's like why is she

1 yelling at me?

2 (Laughter).

3 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: What did I do?

4 Yeah. Coming back in six months with a report on
5 the effectiveness of the incentive program, this is for ag
6 equipment, and providing assessment of the best pathways
7 for reduction, be it additional incentives or regulation.

8 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: Yeah. Thank you.
9 That's -- that sounds like a really good exercise. I
10 would not want to do that just for San Joaquin. I believe
11 that because we have these sources throughout the state
12 and the incentives that we provided for reductions in
13 emissions from agricultural engines, were actually
14 targeted towards the San Joaquin Valley. About 80 percent
15 of the FARMER funds went to the San Joaquin Valley, and
16 yet, we do have emissions throughout the state.

17 So we should probably look at that a little more
18 comprehensively. And we'd like to take that back and
19 discuss exactly how we can respond to the Board, you know,
20 to bring back an item with some information about what
21 we've already achieved, what more incentives could achieve
22 and sort of what other opportunities for reductions are
23 appropriate, if that makes sense.

24 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Great. So you can do
25 that in six months? That's what you said, right?

1 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: We understand the ask
2 and we will work as quickly as possible to get there.

3 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Okay.

4 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Are we good?

5 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Well --

6 CHAIR RANDOLPH: I just want to make sure you
7 were done before I called on someone else.

8 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: I guess I just want to
9 lastly say I -- given what you said, Dr. Cliff, about how
10 close a number of the stations are to the 12 microgram
11 standard, it's -- I still have trouble understanding the
12 five years. If we're really there, if we're close, then
13 it seems to me that it could have been shorter and there
14 could have been more aggressive pushing on those places
15 like wood burning where we have some opportunities. So it
16 doesn't, in my mind -- and, you know, I don't want to be
17 argumentative, but it just don't, in my mind, justify the
18 five years. It may justify two, but we can't see that
19 data. So I'm not arguing for two, because I don't have
20 the information, but I'm -- I would say, given what you
21 said, I would argue for less, because it sounds like we
22 can get there.

23 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: Yeah, and nothing
24 prevents us from pushing harder and faster to implement
25 measures or implement measures more aggressively,

1 especially knowing that we have a target out there to
2 achieve nine microgram annual standard.

3 So, what I would say is as we're thinking about
4 that 9 microgram planning effort, we will certainly be
5 including all of the opportunities to reduce emissions and
6 work closely with the District on that. And as the
7 District is implementing their part of the Plan, we will
8 be working closely with them to ensure that we're getting
9 the maximum possible reductions that we can, knowing that
10 not only do we have to meet this plan, but we're going to
11 have one. So it's kind of no regrets to go faster.

12 So I think we're in agreement with that. What I
13 was arguing is not to do a new planning exercise for a
14 shorter period of time. Rather, we -- the date that was
15 chosen is what is provided by the Clean Air Act, that
16 five-year extension, so that becomes the date from which
17 we develop our modeling, look at the inventories and so on
18 and so forth.

19 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. Board Member Hurt.

20 BOARD MEMBER HURT: Thank you, Chair.

21 I want to thank staff for working with the Air
22 District and stakeholders to get us to this day. I know
23 it's not been easy and will continue to be very difficult,
24 especially as the standard for attainment tightens. But
25 it's really clear that sources are making business

1 decisions that are impacting the air quality and not
2 always people protective decisions, meaning the most
3 protective health decisions for people in the community.
4 And we've heard it in the public testimony a plea to do
5 more and change the way we do business and live. And I
6 think I look forward to Building a commitment with
7 community and all the stakeholders that we heard from in
8 public comments that are sources that are impacting
9 communities lives.

10 I think, you know, there's an extensive network
11 of monitors that has been put throughout the region. We
12 have a clear understanding of what's happening in the
13 region. And I think Dr. Pacheco-Werner nicely outlined
14 those large contributors, residential wood combustion,
15 cooking, biomass burning, wildfires, direct tailpipe
16 emissions, livestock operations, fertilizer applications,
17 material, and dust contributors from traffic, on- and
18 off-road. There is a long list of areas that we're going
19 to have to be different and do different.

20 And it is no mistake that this attainment has not
21 happened yet, because of all these things that we've
22 listed and that this is going to be difficult to meet.
23 But I do want to remind folks that reductions have been
24 made and I think we have to feel good and positive about
25 that, but not sit on that and continue to speak to one

1 another about how much harder we all need to be different,
2 and quite frankly, how much more action needs to come from
3 State and federal, as well as local action by leaders, who
4 managed oil, agriculture, and warehouse distribution in
5 their cities for example.

6 As it relates to effective controls strategies,
7 there's a belief that in the SIP that there's a reliance
8 too much on incentive funding in our existing mobile
9 source rules with minimal behavioral change. And I'm
10 wondering if staff can help us understand how we're
11 currently viewing the concept of the most stringent
12 measures when other districts have varied measures. And
13 so how are we thinking about this idea and standard in
14 this moment?

15 Similar to Board Member Takvorian, I'd like an
16 evaluation or a report every six months on where we are,
17 what's happening, the lay of the land, so that we can be
18 strategic and thoughtful and not have this go on another
19 five years or however long for attainment, even though
20 most of the areas aren't attainment, even those three need
21 to equally be so. So I think because it's such a hard
22 area, we're going to have to work closely together, and
23 that means not leaving spans of time where we're not
24 talking, but actually reporting out and understanding
25 where we are.

1 I also want to understand the incentive funding
2 and its application to small-sized farms. The incentive
3 funding is extremely important to change out some of the
4 dirtiest equipment. And I'm thinking specifically some of
5 the ag equipment that I've heard from advocates who are
6 really concerned about that turnover being sooner than
7 later. And so I'd like to understand where our incentive
8 funding is going in a clearer way. And I also want to
9 understand that percentage that goes to small farmers and
10 how we can help them have cleaner equipment.

11 I will vote to move this forward, but I would
12 like to also understand from staff what are the practical
13 effects of not giving the five-year extension, and to Dr.
14 Balmes' comment, what does it mean for one year or two
15 years? Does it really change how much we work. I think
16 Dr. Cliff spoke a little bit already to that point, but
17 I'd like it just kind of told in a way that maybe all the
18 public can understand as they listen in this afternoon.
19 And those are my comments.

20 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you. I'm going to let
21 staff address your questions. I did -- I did want to
22 follow up a little bit on the sort of check-in cadence,
23 because I did hear from some of the folks I talked to
24 that, you know, previously, there had been discussion
25 about an annual sort of review of the progress towards

1 attainment. And I want to make sure that we kind of put
2 that back on the table and have a little discussion about
3 that. I'm not sure every six months would make sense,
4 but, you know, potentially some kind of annual review that
5 would provide for some actual Board discussion. So I
6 would love to hear staff's response on that.

7 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: Thank you, Chair.

8 Regarding the report-back, so we have done report-backs on
9 an annual basis. Last year, was a little different. We
10 did that by memo. And, you know, certainly that's
11 something that we can do. I'd also like to maybe talk to
12 staff about whether this should be simply focused on the
13 San Joaquin Valley or all non-attainment areas as
14 something that we would consider.

15 So we'd like to take that back and consider what
16 the best way to do that is, but I appreciate having that
17 opportunity, especially as we're thinking about the
18 standards that are even more challenging. And given the
19 work that we've collectively done, both at the State and
20 within air districts, the opportunities for reductions are
21 getting ever more difficult. And so this is a real chance
22 to talk about that and get some direction from the Board
23 as we're thinking about what's next.

24 Regarding the question about the EPA guidance, if
25 I can ask Dr. Michael Benjamin to respond to that.

1 AQPSD CHIEF BENJAMIN: Yes. This is Michael
2 Benjamin. So EPA does have some guidance on MSM, or most
3 stringent measures, but it's limited. And so it makes it
4 very challenging for air districts or CARB to do those
5 sorts of analyses. And so we do the best that we can. In
6 other words, by comparing the rules for a given source
7 category between one district and another to see
8 whether -- for example, in this case, whether the rules
9 for San Joaquin Valley are as stringent as let's say in
10 South Coast. The parameters or the various criteria that
11 are used in evaluating those sources, there are many of --
12 many different criteria that we need to think about and
13 it's not always an apples-to-apples comparison, but we do
14 the best that we can.

15 In some cases, we find that the San Joaquin
16 Valley rules may be more stringent than South Coast and in
17 other cases we find vice versa that South Coast, for the
18 very same rule, is more stringent. And so it's
19 challenging to determine or assess whether for a given
20 rule one district is more Stringent than another, but we
21 do the best that we can. EPA -- once we've completed that
22 evaluation and we submit the SIP to EPA for their
23 consideration, EPA does their own assessment, their own
24 MSM assessment. And I'd have to say that every time that
25 we have submitted SIPs with MSM analyses, EPA has reviewed

1 and approved those assessments. And so we have a track
2 record of conducting and completing those evaluations of
3 rules -- district rules and of EPA accepting our analyses.

4 BOARD MEMBER HURT: Thank you. And I guess the
5 other question with regards to the practical effect again
6 about extending five years versus I heard one year, I also
7 heard two years, what does that mean just in more clear
8 words for the public and why the five-year extension is
9 something that's written in the resolution currently?

10 AQPSD CHIEF BENJAMIN: So under the Clean Air
11 Act, when a rule -- a SIP is resubmitted, there's up to
12 five years are allowed for the new attainment date, and --
13 but it can be shorter than that. When we began this
14 process with the San Joaquin Valley District two years
15 ago, we went into it not thinking that 2030 would be the
16 new attainment date. We really went through a very
17 rigorous process with the District at evaluating what were
18 all of the feasible measures or rules that could be
19 implemented? And then we sort of arrived at 2030 as being
20 the only feasible date.

21 One of the areas where we looked extremely hard
22 at getting additional emission reductions that would have
23 allowed an earlier attainment date was charbroiling. And
24 we spent, I would say, hundreds of hours working with the
25 District looking at the feasibility of that. The District

1 already has an incentive program for charbroilers in the
2 valley. And what they're finding is that restaurants
3 aren't even willing to install charbroiler control
4 technology, even if the costs are fully paid.

5 And so, a control strategy that would make sense
6 in getting the valley into attainment sooner is just
7 extremely challenging in the real world to get restaurants
8 to adopt. And so that was what we ran up against.

9 To the District's credit, they have formed a
10 charbroiler collaborative with ourselves, Bay Area, and
11 South Coast. And we're looking to see if there are
12 cheaper control technologies that could be adopted in time
13 for the nine microgram SIP. And so it's not that we
14 arrived today at this attainment date of 2030, just
15 because of the Clean Air Act says that that's what we can
16 do and it's the -- it was the easiest thing to do. We
17 spent hundreds, if not thousands, of staff hours looking
18 at every single opportunity for additional emission
19 reductions. And we honestly couldn't find anything that
20 was feasible on the time that we had.

21 Now, if you were to direct us today to go back
22 and say, well, sorry, we'd like you to find an attainment
23 date, let's say, in 2027 or 2028, it will take us two
24 years of staff time to do that, not just the emissions
25 inventory and the modeling, but all of the assessment of

1 control technologies. And, you know, we went through that
2 exercise. We tried. I can't say that we'll be any more
3 successful over the next two years. Plus, the staff who
4 would be doing that are the very same staff who are
5 starting to work on the nine microgram SIP. And so then
6 that puts us at -- you know, behind two years on the nine
7 microgram SIP.

8 So I'm just saying that we're very open to Board
9 direction and whatever you choose to have us do, we will
10 do, but there are ramifications in terms of other plans.
11 And practically speaking what the outcome would be of all
12 of that staff effort and whether it would really get us to
13 a different place.

14 BOARD MEMBER HURT: Thank you for expressing
15 that. And I think it was important to hear that from
16 start to finish. And for me, I'm not, at this point,
17 interested in changing the five-year timeline that we have
18 before us that's in the resolution. It's more about
19 trying to get the annual update or six-month update,
20 whenever number makes sense, so that we can just kind of
21 thread the needle on getting to attainment together and
22 the many people in the room. So thank you.

23 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you.

24 Board Member De La Torre.

25 BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: Thank you. Thank you,

1 Staff. Thank you for answering the questions. A bunch of
2 those I had too. I want to start by associating myself
3 with the remarks of my colleague, Pacheco-Werner, who has
4 been working on this. It is her district. It's -- you
5 know, she's there fighting the good fight all the time and
6 I know it isn't easy, so thank you for all of your hard
7 work.

8 I want to start by saying we've made amazing
9 progress in the San Joaquin Valley. Thirteen of 17 being
10 in compliance already is a phenomenal thing. Obviously,
11 as I used to say when I was an elected official, with
12 crime statistics, if it happens to you, it's a hundred
13 percent. So I get that those four areas are still not in
14 compliance and bearing the brunt of this, but 13 out of 17
15 is pretty good.

16 The fewer days above the 24-hour standard across
17 the Board is phenomenal. So very good progress on the
18 indicators, and the reasons for it, right? This Board
19 pushed for the ag burning implementation. And that has
20 had tremendous -- as we saw on the chart, tremendous
21 impact, beneficial impact to the communities. We have in
22 this report, for the first time ever, a health benefits
23 assessment component that we've never done before in SIPs.
24 Great work.

25 Pesticides came up quite a bit in the public

1 comment. While that is not under our purview, there is a
2 direct line from this Board's actions to DPR doing a
3 pesticide notification regulation that will be completed
4 this year. And that is a direct connection and addresses
5 an issue that came up over and over today. And it was
6 this Board that started it. Even though it's not in our
7 purview to put heat and lean on our sister agency that has
8 led directly to that regulation. That was announced in
9 the fall of last year and will be done, I think, this fall
10 as well. So all of those things very good progress.

11 That being said, I do want to again associate
12 myself with the remarks of Board Member Pacheco-Werner on
13 the 21 stationary sources. We have to follow through on
14 that. That was something that this Board committed to in
15 2020 and I know it was in the middle of COVID and people
16 forget things, but we have to follow through on that.

17 There was another thing, and I don't know -- I
18 didn't hear it, but maybe I missed it, an inventory of old
19 and dirty ag equipment. That was another commitment that
20 was raised in 2020 by this Board. And so that's another
21 one that I would like to see done to give us a sense of
22 the challenge of replacing that equipment. First, we have
23 to identify what it is, where it is. And then we can
24 obviously -- the FARMER Program is great. It's working,
25 but this would prioritize some of that funding going

1 forward.

2 And I've had a conversation with the Chair about
3 identifying funding sources. Clearly, the budget down the
4 street is not going to get any better anytime soon. GGRF
5 monies are stretched thin. So we need to think about some
6 other opportunities for funding for that ag equipment.
7 But if we know what the worst is, then we can target that
8 equipment first. So those two things go hand in hand.
9 And again, we made that commitment in 2020. I don't know
10 where it stands, if we ever started it, whatever. We need
11 to do that.

12 And then two other things that I wanted to plug
13 in here. ACT and ACF, that's one. This Board has taken a
14 bold initiative that will benefit the Central Valley as it
15 will the whole entire state. It will absolutely benefit
16 these communities as it rolls out. And we are on a good
17 cadence there. We're two years ahead of schedule so far,
18 and we expect to pick up steam there.

19 And then our locomotive rule. There's a whole
20 lot of rail traffic going through the Central Valley. And
21 our locomotive rule, both of those require federal waivers
22 that we're waiting on, that we expect to have by the end
23 of this year. And so those two will make a huge
24 difference as well in these communities as they will in my
25 area in the goods movement corridor in Southern

1 California.

2 So I think there's a lot of moving parts here. I
3 think this is a good place to just kind of memorialize
4 this progress and then keep moving ahead with all of these
5 commitments that we've discussed here today.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Thank you.

8 Board Member Eisenhut.

9 BOARD MEMBER EISENHUT: Thank you, Chair. I have
10 some -- I guess it's all been said, but in part this Board
11 operates on a preponderance of comments, so I'm going to
12 add my voice to a couple things. I would, first of all,
13 indicate I intend, at this point, to vote for this motion.
14 I'm open to further discussion on the timing. That hasn't
15 been fully resolved yet, but it's my intention to support
16 the action. I would like, as Hector -- as Board Member De
17 La Torre, I want to acknowledge and affiliate myself with
18 the comments from Board Member Pacheco-Werner and thank
19 her for her work on the -- on the District Board.

20 As has been noted -- and I also want to affiliate
21 myself with several of my colleagues who have indicated an
22 interest in an inventory. And I leave open -- there's a
23 nuance here that I think we touched on but didn't explore.
24 Our interest in this discussion is the San Joaquin Valley.
25 But as we begin to look at an inventory -- and I leave

1 this open. I don't have a strong sense of this, other
2 than to point out the nuance. There are lots of farming
3 activities in places other than the San Joaquin Valley,
4 which is our target here, and the most vulnerable area for
5 emissions, I would encourage us to focus our inventory on
6 the San Joaquin Valley.

7 So I -- I'm a little bit uncertain as to -- as to
8 what else to include in order to be -- have a complete
9 State inventory, but that needs some discussion, I think,
10 and some recommendations from staff.

11 The FARMER Program, which I believe has been very
12 effective, and I want to second Hector's observation that,
13 A, we know there's no immediate funding, but I encourage
14 staff to continue to seek sources of funding to supplement
15 or replace, so that we can continue the FARMER Program and
16 continue it, as my colleagues have asked for, with an
17 inventory, so that we don't rely on grant applications,
18 but we target the dirtiest most effective -- the dirtiest
19 equipment and the most effective way to spend that money,
20 whatever money we can -- whatever money we have to use for
21 incentives.

22 So -- and one last and very in-the-weeds comment
23 has to do with the -- I think it's on page eight has to do
24 with the inclusion of some language regarding harvest
25 equipment. I noted the language was a little bit vague.

1 And I'm not going to -- I'm not going to dwell on this,
2 but I -- I need some clarity and the intention. And I
3 assume the intention -- it's the inclusion of harvesting
4 equipment -- nut harvesting equipment specifically. And I
5 found it strange, because that's one piece of equipment
6 operated by one segment of the ag industry for a very
7 limited time of the year. And rather than including
8 language about an inventory, we focused on that one piece
9 of equipment.

10 I assume it's our intention to work cooperatively
11 with the District -- and what I'm looking for here is a
12 nod or a comment, if you wish to offer it, that it's our
13 intention to work cooperatively with the District in order
14 to gather information about the characteristics and the
15 inventory of that equipment as we approach the nine
16 microgram rule. Is that -- am I correct in that
17 assessment?

18 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: I'll give a verbal nod,
19 yes, that's right.

20 BOARD MEMBER EISENHUT: Okay.

21 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: And on slide 20, you
22 know, we highlight that the District has a program for low
23 dust nut harvesters. So that was just acknowledging that
24 we would continue to work with them on the --

25 BOARD MEMBER EISENHUT: Okay. Thank you.

1 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: -- implementation of
2 that.

3 BOARD MEMBER EISENHUT: Thank you, Chair.

4 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. Thank you.

5 Board Member Rechtschaffen.

6 BOARD MEMBER RECHTSCHAFFEN: Thank you, Chair. I
7 want to first thank you, Dr. Cliff, for agreeing to the
8 annual in-person Board updates on the progress of the
9 valley and possibly the South Coast in meeting attainment.
10 I think -- I think that's very important. I think it will
11 help provide more transparency and accountability with the
12 public. And especially given how difficult things are,
13 it's important to get as much weigh-in as possible along
14 the way as we embark on these challenges.

15 I have two questions or maybe a question and a
16 comment. The first question is pretty broad and it may be
17 a little unfair, so I acknowledge that at the start.
18 Despite the very substantial progress we've made, you
19 can't look at the history of the last two decades in the
20 valley without realizing that it's been a history of
21 missed deadlines, uneven progress, failed commitments, and
22 we're still out of compliance with the health-based
23 standards of the Clean Air Act.

24 What's different this time? What, in staff's
25 view, makes it likely that this time we will get there?

1 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: Perhaps I can start and
2 look to staff to fill in. So I would just say that, you
3 know, in general, we've made a lot of progress. That's
4 not to say that we're there or there isn't more to do, but
5 you can see that progress in the reported data.
6 Importantly, EPA has recognized that more health
7 protective standards are important, and therefore, reduced
8 the standards in recognition of that.

9 So we're on kind of a continuum. We're very,
10 very close in 2023 in -- at a number of sites. And we're
11 planning to ensure attainment at all the sites, and at the
12 same time, looking to meet even more health protective
13 standards. And, of course, that's, you know, just here in
14 the valley. We're doing this statewide. All of our rules
15 are intended to get reductions across the state.

16 So there -- it's important that we have these
17 kind of leading indicators that we're continuing to make
18 improvement over time, whether that's in the reported
19 emissions, the amount of measured pollutants at a site,
20 the number of days that exceed air quality standards, and
21 so forth, as those continue to progress across the state
22 and in nonattainment areas, so that we're getting better
23 health outcomes as a result. That's the important part of
24 these -- of the work that we do.

25 And the plans help us ensure that we're making

1 that progress and that we're continuing to develop
2 approaches and opportunities to reduce emissions that
3 will, you know, get us towards that attainment. We -- I
4 think in all of these plans what we're seeing is we
5 comes -- what comes out of that are additional ideas and
6 additional opportunities to reduce emissions, not only
7 from the collaboration with districts, but from input from
8 our partners, as you heard today, about different
9 opportunities to reduce emissions.

10 I'm just encouraged, because this was a plan
11 development that was very collaborative and we worked
12 closely with a very friendly EPA on developing approaches
13 to reduce emissions. So I don't have the history to say
14 whether this is different or not. I can merely say that I
15 think I'm very encouraged by the work that has been done.
16 And I'll ask, you know, staff to add anything if they
17 think we can be more responsive.

18 AQPSD CHIEF BENJAMIN: I can -- this is Michael
19 Benjamin. I can add a little bit, if you'd like.

20 So when we develop a SIP, the SIP it's a planning
21 document that actually rests. As we'd like to think of
22 it, it's a pyramid that rests on a huge amount of
23 technical information, emissions inventories, air quality
24 models that have a tremendous number of inputs based on
25 the best available information that we have at any time.

1 And so that's what we do with every SIP planning
2 cycle. And we also, as we go through the planning
3 process, we really -- we develop the strategies that will
4 get us to attainment, but we have to be very careful not
5 to propose measures that are unnecessary, because those
6 bear a lot of costs for regulated industry. So we do the
7 very best with the information that we have at a given
8 time in developing that SIP. What we find is that as we
9 go forward, we're -- with every SIP cycle, we're having to
10 revise and update those emissions inventories in those
11 models using new information. And we may find that
12 there's some sources that we missed or maybe that they
13 were -- the emissions are higher than we had anticipated,
14 or in some cases they're lower, but there is always
15 changes in the technical information that gets cycled into
16 the next SIP.

17 And so I think some of what we're seeing with not
18 hitting some of these targets is a function of the
19 information that we're collecting to the best of our
20 abilities. And then maybe we're missing some sources in
21 certain cases and then we go back and we catch them the
22 next time using, you know, the best available approaches
23 that we have.

24 So I think you've heard, for example, concerns
25 about soil NOx. We've convened a panel of five experts

1 who are going to help us to better assess what the
2 contributions of soil NOx are and we're going to
3 incorporate that information into the -- into the nine
4 microgram SIP. So that will help us in better assessing
5 the contributions from that source. And so I think -- I
6 think we need to remember that we're doing our best to try
7 to demonstrate attainment, but it's an extremely complex
8 technical process that we arrive at and there's
9 uncertainty in that process.

10 BOARD MEMBER RECHTSCHAFFEN: Thank you. I
11 appreciate the answer and I -- it is a when did you stop
12 beating your wife a little bit of a question. So I
13 under -- I understand that.

14 I want to just build on that and what you heard
15 from a lot of the Board members. Given our history of,
16 you know, not meeting standards and how challenging it is
17 and how challenging the nine microgram standard is going
18 to be. And, Dr. Benjamin, you pointed out how it's
19 important to have staff working on those additional
20 measures going forward. We also really didn't talk about
21 we have the ever present threat of wildfires that could
22 throw everything out of sync and make particulate
23 emissions dramatically increase. So that suggests to me
24 the need for an adequate margin of safety, if you will,
25 and erring on the side of being precautionary.

1 Is there anything more that we can say in the
2 resolution or we can commit to doing in terms of a
3 schedule for consultation with EPA about more stringent
4 measures or even development of measures we need to do? I
5 know we can't, absent amending the plan, tell the San
6 Joaquin Valley Air District -- or we can't -- we can't --
7 we can't mandate that in the -- without updating the plan.
8 But is there anything -- any more language, any more
9 signals we can do of quick development consultation of the
10 measures we'll need for the nine microgram standard, which
11 are after all no regrets strategies. That will help us
12 meet the current attainment deadlines faster and then
13 we'll need to meet them for the admittedly more
14 challenging enterprise of getting to the nine microgram
15 standard.

16 So I don't know if there is. We have language in
17 the resolution that we're going to be doing that to some
18 degree anyway, but I'm wondering can we be more concrete
19 and specific?

20 DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER CHANG: This Edie Chang,
21 Deputy Executive Officer. I would say, Board Member
22 Rechtschaffen, it's kind of a question for the Board.
23 We've heard the direction definitely from the Board
24 members about, you know, saying that this is -- we should
25 try to accelerate regulations as much as possible, as

1 we're looking at both our regulations and the District
2 looks at their regulations. I -- you know, I think we all
3 hear you loud and clear that we should go for, you know,
4 as much as we can. You know, the numbers that we have in
5 our plans. Those are targets.

6 Every time we take a regulation, we're always
7 looking to see how we can maximize. Maybe technologies
8 are in a different place than we thought when we made
9 those commitments. So I think we heard you all loud and
10 clear, and Dr. Pacheco-Werner, regarding the working with
11 EPA on guidance on most stringent measures. And so I
12 think in a way, it's kind of up to you all. I mean,
13 that's -- it's definitely something that we have all heard
14 loud and clear at this table.

15 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Can I -- can I just say, you
16 know, we still have -- you know, we're thinking about --
17 we're still going to get more information from staff about
18 sort of, you know, the cadence for the annual update, a
19 timeline for the ag engine incentives sort of report back.
20 We have -- next year, we do have Mobile Source Strategy
21 coming up towards the end of the year. So we have some
22 touchpoint opportunities, where maybe we can elevate that,
23 so staff can kind of think about that and at the end of
24 our discussion kind of make a recommendation, because I
25 feel like if we sort of increase our touchpoints, then

1 that gives us an opportunity to continue to kind of have
2 the conversation at the Board level considering the fact
3 that staff is going to be working actively with the
4 District, for instance, on the wood burning rule that they
5 are about to take up and sort of providing input on that.

6 BOARD MEMBER RECHTSCHAFFEN: Well Edie, if -- I
7 don't want to suggest something that's not workable, but
8 if -- I would be interested if you can think in the next
9 little bit about some language that gives voice to the
10 desire for specificity and a more concrete timeline that's
11 workable for you.

12 That's -- I -- the last thing I would say, I
13 agree with the sentiment from Dr. Balmes and others that
14 it would -- it would be ideal to be able to approve this
15 in a -- on a shorter time frame. It doesn't look like
16 that's in the cards, so we just need to do everything
17 possible to accelerate attainment, as if we had a shorter
18 time frame.

19 Thank you.

20 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Senator Stern is on
21 the -- remote participation, so I'm going to call on him.

22 SENATOR STERN: Thank you, Chair Randolph.

23 Am I coming through okay?

24 I see myself on the gigantic screen, so
25 apparently yes.

1 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Yes. Yeah, we can hear you.

2 SENATOR STERN: Yeah, way too big.

3 I want to appreciate the remarks of Dr.
4 Pacheco-Werner and Dr. Balmes, especially I know the
5 history on these issues, and echo the trepidations from
6 Board Member Takvorian about sort of legacy of unmet
7 commitments here. You know, I've been in the Legislature
8 when we've given all kinds of free passes over the years
9 and slowed down our ability to really achieve clean air
10 outcomes, everything from our gas tax -- gas tax
11 exemption, we're on trucking, to a number of other times
12 where we've failed to, I think, put appropriate scrutiny
13 on the San Joaquin Air Quality Management District, who I
14 think from what I've heard from a lot of stakeholders
15 here, there's still a general lack of trust with the
16 follow-through and with the kind of measures that are
17 coming up and their ability to get that done.

18 We haven't decided to make any legislative
19 interventions on that front, but I do -- I will just say
20 at the outset, I appreciate that CARB is getting into the
21 weeds here. And I think there's a lot more trust in the
22 Air Resources Board to really see through this plan, and
23 to Board Member Rechtschaffen's point to accelerate this
24 effort as if the timeline were now, because we know lives
25 are on the line.

1 I wanted to ask though I guess sort of a
2 technical, but also a policy question about what I've seen
3 as a -- maybe a -- not a missing piece, but certainly an
4 undermentioned piece in the discussions today. I'm not
5 sure who best to direct this to, but I'm wondering about
6 ammonium nitrate, I guess, as well as ammonium sulfate,
7 and the role of the -- of dairies as sort of generators of
8 precursors to PM. I don't know who at the staff level has
9 a comment on that, but is ammonia a major precursor to
10 PM2.5?

11 AQPSD CHIEF BENJAMIN: This is Michael Benjamin.
12 The short answer is yes. There is a slide, it's slide 13,
13 that indicates about 39 percent of the PM2.5 in
14 Bakersfield is either ammonium nitrate or ammonium
15 sulfate. And the important thing though for both of those
16 pollutants is that what limits their formation is the
17 pollutant, the precursor that's least available. So it's
18 both NOx and sulfur are the pollutants that we really need
19 to reduce if we want to reduce ammonium nitrate and
20 ammonium sulfate.

21 There's such an abundance of ammonia in the
22 valley because of all the dairies, that even if you were
23 to reduce the ammonia emissions in the valley by 30
24 percent, it would have an insignificant impact on the
25 formation of secondary PM2.5. So the answer to your

1 question is yes dairies are a significant source of
2 ammonia that contributes to secondary PM2.5 in the valley.
3 But if we want to reduce PM2.5, the best way to do it is
4 to reduce NOx and sulfur. And CARB is doing that with the
5 regulations that we're pursuing.

6 SENATOR STERN: I guess my concern is when I --
7 when I then flip ahead to the measures listed out for the
8 new regulatory incentive base aggregate commitments, I
9 think I'm -- if you're following me -- if you're following
10 along in the slide, I think it's slide 20, there's nothing
11 on dairy methane there. We've been talking about wood
12 burning and charbroiling, nut harvesting. But even though
13 it wouldn't solve the problem itself, Michael, certainly
14 it would make meaningful contributions if you could
15 ratchet down the kind ammonia that's coming off of both
16 dairy and fertilizer operations, no?

17 AQPSD CHIEF BENJAMIN: So I'm not discounting the
18 impact of dairies on air quality or to greenhouse gases.
19 So they are a significant source of methane and I think
20 we're trying to address that through our dairy digester
21 program and other mitigation strategies in the Scoping
22 Plan. Dairies are also a significant source of ammonia
23 that has an impact on workers at those dairies. It's a
24 risk at high enough concentrations. Cal/OSHA I think
25 looks seriously at that. And obviously, it's not a

1 pleasant thing to be living around.

2 But when we're talking about PM2.5 and how best
3 to reduce PM2.5 in the valley, from a scientific
4 perspective, reducing ammonia is not a very effective way
5 of doing that, unless you were to literally, I'll just
6 say, get rid of dairies in the valley. I mean, it would
7 be a huge --

8 SENATOR STERN: Or to have not open -- I mean,
9 not get rid of --

10 AQPSD CHIEF BENJAMIN: Well --

11 SENATOR STERN: -- but to have all the dairy
12 methane be captured, right? I meant it's not -- to not
13 have it be sort of open source.

14 AQPSD CHIEF BENJAMIN: Well, it's not -- methane
15 is not a concern from a PM2.5 perspective.

16 SENATOR STERN: It's really the ammonia solely
17 and the ammonium nitrate?

18 AQPSD CHIEF BENJAMIN: That's correct. It's the
19 ammonia that combines with the oxides of nitrogen to form
20 fine particulate, what we call secondary PM2.5.

21 SENATOR STERN: Understood. I mean, I know you
22 all have a workshop coming up I think next month in
23 Fresno, if I'm not mistaken, around --

24 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Yes, August 22nd.

25 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: August 22nd.

1 SENATOR STERN: In August, great. I mean, the
2 one thing I would just request, and I don't know if Dr.
3 Cliff or -- has a sort of more broader comment, but I'm
4 really hoping the Board considers moving forward more
5 aggressively on direct regulatory measures in that arena
6 going forward, especially to, you know, rebuild trust
7 around that issue in the broader context of low carbon
8 fuels and a lot of the other sort of, you know, parallel
9 measures to what we're talking about here today, but to at
10 least -- I guess I'm looking for some assurance that
11 whatever benefits from additional regulations, either at
12 the local level or at the State level, would be adopted
13 that they would be accounted for and taken into
14 consideration in achieving this PM2.5 SIP, even if they're
15 not the be-all end-all or maybe the -- even the top of the
16 list, that -- I just don't -- I see a cow in the chart and
17 then I don't see anything related to dairy in any of the
18 measures. So can you just comment on how some of those
19 benefits around ammonium nitrate or sulfate reduction
20 would be accounted for going forward.

21 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: We're conferring.

22 AQPSD CHIEF BENJAMIN: We're -- sorry. This is
23 Michael Benjamin again. We're just conferring to make
24 sure we understand your question. So -- okay. Stepping
25 back. Dairies do produce ammonia. They produce methane

1 and a variety of other pollutants. All of these
2 pollutants are of concern. Strategies that we are
3 pursuing to mitigate methane have benefits when it comes
4 to reducing ammonia. If those strategies were to be
5 implemented on a large enough scale, it's possible that it
6 might reduce fine particulate, but it would require very
7 significant reductions. Is that helpful?

8 SENATOR STERN: It is. And I guess to add, if we
9 were to pursue those measures at a broad scale, I guess
10 I'd just want to -- I'd want to see, and maybe that
11 already exists, but how that's quantified, like what the
12 potential is we could achieve through those measures that
13 maybe are squarely focused on the methane piece and then a
14 co-benefit, if you will -- I don't know if that's the
15 right word, but a co-benefit would be in the PM -- in the
16 fine particulate space, but some way to ensure that, you
17 know, if we really are going to undertake some large-scale
18 efforts, that that's being quantified, accounted for, and
19 frankly incentivized, that, you know, it's going to help
20 San Joaquin achieve attainment more quickly, even if it's
21 not maybe the lead item.

22 AQPSD CHIEF BENJAMIN: Okay. This is Michael
23 Benjamin again. Let me try again. This is -- this is on
24 me. It's not you. So one of the requirements that we
25 have when we do a SIP is we have to do what's called a

1 precursor analysis. So we have to assess through
2 modeling, very extensive modeling, if we were to reduce
3 the precursors to fine particulate, how much would we need
4 to reduce each of those precursors in order to see
5 reductions in fine particulate.

6 And so for this SIP that we're proposing to
7 submit to EPA, we did this analysis and what we found is
8 is that even if we reduced ammonia by up to 30 percent
9 that we would not see a reduction in fine particulate in
10 the San Joaquin Valley, that we would have to reduce
11 ammonia emissions by 70 percent in order to see any
12 significant reductions in PM2.5. So we have done a very
13 thorough analysis and that has already been discussed and
14 provided to EPA. So is that helpful?

15 SENATOR STERN: Yes. So in other words, the
16 target to hit to make meaningful contributions here in the
17 broader context that it will be under discussion next
18 month is something exceeding that 30 percent marker that
19 you said to get to any level of significance. So that's
20 sort of the floor, if you will, of how to actually make a
21 dent on the PM issue here, if we were going to be
22 indirectly benefiting. I just --

23 AQPSD CHIEF BENJAMIN: At least 30 percent.

24 SENATOR STERN: Okay.

25 AQPSD CHIEF BENJAMIN: Much -- yes, at least.

1 SENATOR STERN: And I -- and just because it's
2 not maybe the driver of the PM strategy, I do want to see
3 stronger action taken both by the Board and especially
4 with the local district measures as well on that front. I
5 know that's not only related to the proceeding before us
6 here today or the vote you all you have to take, but that
7 would give me a lot more comfort if I knew that, you know,
8 that kind of level of rigor were going to be applied going
9 forward. So I hope you guys will take my comments into
10 consideration. I don't have a vote here today, but I know
11 it's a tough one.

12 The one thing I would just say at the close, for
13 all the advocates, I so appreciate everyone putting these
14 watch parties together and doing the hard work to do the
15 organizing. I would just plead when I hear seven and
16 eight year olds wrapping up their remarks talking about
17 politics of the Middle East and making that the final
18 exclamation point, makes it very, very hard for a Board
19 member like me to hear the rest of it. I am capable of
20 separating those issues, but it's -- especially to the
21 young advocates out there, I would just urge you to not
22 conflate injustice that you all are facing with a very,
23 very complicated situation thousands of miles away. It's
24 just hard to hear a seven and eight year old being coached
25 by an environmental justice organization to close their

1 remarks with "Free Palestine". You know, that's not your
2 mission statement.

3 I know we have solidarity and I think we can be
4 moving forward together in a more productive way. So
5 sorry to end on that note, but it's grating and
6 disheartening to hear. But I still applaud you all for
7 your organizing effort and your pleas are not on deaf
8 ears.

9 Thank you all for giving me a minute here.

10 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you so much, Senator
11 Stern.

12 Okay. Board Member -- actually Dr. Shaheen is
13 next, then Board Member Kracov.

14 BOARD MEMBER SHAHEEN: Thanks so much, Chair. So
15 I'd like to start with thanks and really deeply
16 appreciative of all the hard work that went into this, all
17 the time that staff spent on this. I can tell this is
18 extremely difficult work to do. And Dr. Pacheco-Werner,
19 lots of gratitude to you for your tireless efforts on
20 this. Really, really appreciate.

21 I was so deeply moved by the public commentary.
22 I have never heard or seen of a watch party in a CARB
23 meeting, but that was tremendous to see and I heard you.
24 I heard you loud and clear.

25 I really appreciate the staff presentation and

1 the progress that we're making. I look in particular at
2 slide 3, which shows this tremendous arrows going
3 downward, as we look at the 24-hour standard. But then I
4 have concerns when I look at slide 4 and I see the PM2.5
5 levels. And while they do show progress, right, the 2023
6 values in green, that was a year we didn't have wildfires.
7 And so the yellows we did have some wildfires, so those
8 are harder targets to hit.

9 And so my big takeaway from all of this is that
10 we have tremendous uncertainty and we have tremendous
11 urgency in front of us. And I definitely appreciate Dr.
12 Cliff's remarks about the implications of changing the
13 modeling and changing the SIP to get to the target before
14 five years.

15 But I heard remarks by Dr. Catherine early about
16 in 2019 when the Board voted on this, it -- the Board made
17 it clear that it wanted an emissions inventory on 27
18 sources and some other things. And those things didn't
19 happen. And so where I get really concerned is if we vote
20 in favor of this and there's no language in the resolution
21 that says we're going to move faster, even if we adopt
22 this, how do we assure that we don't go back to where we
23 were?

24 And so I'm all in favor of my colleagues'
25 recommendations for more communication, more transparency,

1 annual check-ins, the stationary source inventory, and
2 certainly more funding for mobile source emissions
3 reductions through agricultural equipment, but I do worry.
4 How do we ensure that we are going to accelerate and we're
5 going to stay on top of it? And I do want to see us move
6 forward, because I don't think we can afford to lose any
7 more time. But I guess I would echo the remarks of prior
8 Board members that I'd feel more comfortable if we could
9 somehow write something into the resolution that says that
10 we're going to move faster, as fast as we possibly can.
11 And, you know, I'm not a lawyer, but I heard the
12 commentary, I hear the urgency, and I also know that
13 there's a lot of uncertainty ahead of us.

14 So with that, I'll conclude my remarks.

15 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Thank you.

16 Board Member Kracov.

17 BOARD MEMBER KRACOV: Yes. I know it's been a
18 very long day and appreciate everyone's comments. I want
19 to thank Board Member Pacheco-Werner for carrying sort of
20 the laboring or -- both at the Air District and then also
21 here at this Board. I don't know if you makes you feel
22 any better or sympathize, but, you know, you folks have
23 PM2.5 and we have ozone in our district, so, you know, I
24 guess you're not alone in that.

25 Just a couple things, Chair. I want to thank the

1 advocates for the great presentation today. I think this
2 was a little bit of an innovation in terms of the watch
3 party and how that was done. And I think it was done very
4 effective. And I know the advocates are just working
5 tirelessly. Their lawyers are working tirelessly on this
6 issue. And I thought it was very effective and do
7 appreciate that.

8 I also heard from the agricultural industry and
9 received some of the letters from legislative
10 representatives and I know that there are -- got some
11 really good advocates in the capital here that are going
12 to fight for the FARMER funding and fight for the other
13 funding. And there's some good advocates for the
14 agricultural industry in the room that I've learned so
15 much from and some of the other ones that I spoke to.

16 I was going to ask those questions about ammonia.
17 To me, it does seem to be a little bit of the elephant in
18 the room or maybe the cow in the room. I don't know.

19 (Laughter).

20 BOARD MEMBER KRACOV: Can I ask a few more
21 questions on that just very briefly, Chair? Are we do --
22 we're doing some sort of study also through our research
23 wing, aren't we, on ammonia and the precursor issue. Can
24 you just explain that a little bit or whoever might be
25 right on that?

1 DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER SAHOTA: Board Member
2 Kracov, yes, Research Division is working on a study
3 looking at ammonia from dairies and the precursor issue.
4 I don't expect that we'll have those results back in the
5 coming months, but we continue to look at that issue. And
6 it's unclear at this time if using digesters to actually
7 address methane will have significant impacts on reducing
8 ammonia. So that is an outstanding question at this time.

9 BOARD MEMBER KRACOV: That's the kind of thing
10 that can inform our work as we get to the nine ug
11 standard, right? Because when I see these numbers here
12 that 39 percent of the PM2.5 is attributable to ammonium
13 nitrate and ammonium sulfate, if we're going to get to the
14 nine microgram standard, I think we're going to have to
15 have those kinds of discussions. Maybe it's for other
16 Board members in a different Board in the future, but it
17 seems to me that we need to have that discussion.

18 What about fertilizer? Is ammonia in fertilizer
19 a part of this as well? Can we speak to that or is that
20 also part of the research?

21 AQPSD CHIEF BENJAMIN: So we did account for
22 ammonia, I mean, from fertilizer application in all of the
23 modeling. We have that in our emissions inventory. So we
24 acknowledge and -- that fertilizer does contribute to
25 that.

1 So again, from a PM2.5 control perspective, we
2 still think that the most effective approach is reducing
3 NOx, but it is true that fertilizer is a source of
4 ammonia, yes, and we are accounting for it.

5 We're also doing work to improve those estimates
6 and that's going to be reflected in our nine microgram SIP
7 inventory is a more refined inventory for ammonia from
8 fertilizer application.

9 BOARD MEMBER KRACOV: And I understand how
10 important fertilizer and ammonia is to our modern society.
11 I just read this book how things work by a guy named
12 Vaclav Smil, if any of you have read that. And it was
13 just mind-blowing to me how much our society relies on
14 ammonia actually and how important fertilizer is feeding
15 everyone.

16 So it's an education. I think we've talked about
17 the importance of science, the importance about rigorous
18 analysis. And I think all of these things are going to
19 be -- have to be on the table in the future. And so I
20 wanted to uplift the ammonia issue a little bit and I know
21 that Senator Stern picked on that too.

22 The last thing I'd ask, Chair, you know, we've
23 had a lot of recommendations sort of bouncing around.
24 Tania said several things. I think John said something.
25 Diane said a few things. Dr. Shaheen just said something.

1 I would just like to have some clarity and a really good
2 summary of what we're adding to this and what form we're
3 adding to it. We do have this issue about having to go
4 back and read transcripts from five years ago to figure
5 out what might have been said. Diane has been looking at
6 these transcripts all day. I really don't want to do that
7 if we can avoid it. So I think it's important that we
8 have clarity on what we're talking about that staff
9 understands it and that's it, you know, before we vote
10 today and -- because I'm a little confused at this point
11 in time, so I think we could all benefit from such a
12 summary.

13 CHAIR RANDOLPH: You read my mind. I am going to
14 walk through each what I view as a follow-up issue, ask
15 staff for some specificity on next steps, and then we'll
16 go through all those.

17 Okay. So let's talk about the follow-up from
18 previous Board discussions around reviewing the stationary
19 sources. I think the first list was 27. I think one or
20 two of those are now closed or dormant. One -- I thought
21 one was. No? No. None of them are closed or dormant. I
22 don't even know if 27 is the right number now, because now
23 I'm second guessing myself. So let's talk about that
24 first and let -- give us the next steps on that.

25 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: Well, thank you, Chair.

1 So actually I -- it would really help me to better
2 understand exactly what the Board is interested in with
3 regard to the sources. So as my understanding here is
4 there was a letter that was provided by CVAQ in 2019 that
5 asked us to look at the 27 largest PM2.5 -- stationary
6 sources, PM -- sorry, sources of PM2.5. And there, you
7 know, was a variety of Board discussion around that.

8 What I think I understand from that is not so
9 much that the -- there are appropriate rules, but that
10 CVAQ was talking about enforcement of those rules. So I'm
11 a little unclear exactly what the Board is directing us to
12 do with regard to those sources and what that follow up
13 is. I mean, we have no problem following up on this and
14 reporting back to the Board being held accountable. I
15 just want to make sure exactly what it is the Board is
16 directing us to do. So I'm looking maybe for a little
17 more feedback Dr. Pacheco-Werner, if that's possible, and
18 others to help guide our work.

19 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Yeah. Well, let me -- so again,
20 I was not here in 2019, but my understanding of sort of
21 the next logical step with those sources is to analyze
22 their -- the documentation we have about their emissions
23 and ensure that they are operating to their permitted
24 standards. And that presumably would help us understand
25 whether or not we have a correct inventory about the

1 emissions from those sources. If that is not a correct
2 characterization, let me know, but I think that's my
3 understanding of what needs to happen.

4 Yes, Dr. Shaheen.

5 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Oh, sorry.

6 BOARD MEMBER SHAHEEN: I just -- so I did look at
7 the CVAQ proposal, while we were here listening. The
8 items I had, Dr. Cliff, are amount and source of emissions
9 for both PM2.5 and NOx, type of pollution control
10 equipment used at each source, emission reduction
11 opportunities at each source, including best available
12 control technology, retrofit, and cost. They also, in
13 their letter, recommended that a compliance history and
14 data associated with ERCs with each source would be very
15 much appreciated.

16 CHAIR RANDOLPH: So I'm going to separate those
17 two issues a little bit, because I think it's -- I think
18 looking at each source, you know, their emissions, their
19 current controls, I think that's definitely possible.
20 There's two components of that that may be more
21 challenging. One is sort of looking at analyzing what
22 other potential new controls would be right be -- you
23 know, for those specific facilities. I think that would
24 be kind of a second order of analysis, maybe after they
25 complete that first part.

1 The ERC is a very complicated issue, because it
2 involves basically creating a counterfactual. And I think
3 we should separate those things, because I don't know that
4 it is possible to create that counterfactual. So my
5 recommendation was -- would be to direct staff to look at
6 kind of the first order of business and then -- and then
7 go from there.

8 All right.

9 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Can I just add
10 something. I think the ERC was included because that was
11 a major point of discussion in -- at that time and the
12 concerns about the operation of it. So my assumption,
13 which may be wrong, is that that was -- that particular
14 point was evaluated by the District. So if that's --

15 BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: It was separate.

16 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: -- in fact, true, then
17 that could come forward.

18 BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: It was separate.

19 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: We could be given that.
20 But I don't even know if it's a new body of work. My
21 thought was that it had gotten done by the District.
22 Maybe we could find that out.

23 BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: But it was separate.

24 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: But it was separate,
25 yes.

1 BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: The way the Chair just
2 broke it down was the way we talked about it.

3 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Yeah. Yes.

4 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. So that would be the
5 direction. And I will defer to staff on timing. That
6 would be extremely -- I mean this is a pretty
7 labor-intensive lift, so I really want to defer to staff
8 in terms of managing their workload. I think we can --
9 why don't we require at least an update in 12 months
10 about, you know, where you are, what's been done. And I'm
11 okay with that being in writing, recognizing that we're
12 going to have other touchpoints as Board items. And then
13 once staff is fully ready, if there's a need for sort of a
14 more public discussion -- my guess is that would probably
15 be more of a workshop setting or if it ends up being more
16 of an enforcement thing, it may end up being something
17 that is kind of behind the scenes for a little while.

18 So I really want to kind of defer to staff and
19 let them kind of figure out what the best steps forward
20 are with an update in no later than 12 months.

21 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: Got it. Understood.
22 Yeah. I -- it is a very significant undertaking, as you
23 noted. We're probably talking about a section worth of
24 employees doing work for about a year to do the kind of
25 review that you're talking about and deep cooperation from

1 the District. So we'll, you know, need to work closely
2 with the District to get information regarding the permits
3 that they have. And, you know, we'll undertake that and
4 report back.

5 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. And then I believe you
6 had a recommendation on kind of thinking about in our
7 conversation about the engines and sort of next steps as
8 we're thinking about looking at how the incentives have
9 been working, and how much reductions we've been able to
10 achieve with the incentives, and what would happen if
11 those incentives were increased or reduced. So what's
12 your thoughts about how to follow up on that?

13 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: Yeah. We -- so I heard
14 the request to come back in six months. We'll need to
15 confer on that and try and see how quickly we can get
16 back. I think we understand that exercise. We have the
17 information and have done much of that quantification, of
18 course. The work that we did to determine that the 11 ton
19 commitment had been met also gives us a lot of basis for a
20 better understanding of what other -- what more incentives
21 could help us motivate in terms of reductions.

22 So we'll get back early next year with more
23 information on that and be able to report back.

24 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Can I ask a specific question
25 around this question of an engine inventory? I mean, do

1 we think that that is a necessary sort of piece of this or
2 do you think you have what you need to understand what's
3 out there right now and what the emissions are?

4 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: And staff should
5 correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe we continue to
6 update the ag engine inventory. So we have a pretty good
7 understanding of what's out there and clearly, you know,
8 have worked very well with agricultural stakeholders to
9 get information. So I think we have that work. And, of
10 course, we're continuing to, you know, update those
11 inventories over time. So that's a part of understanding
12 the emissions benefits that we would achieve, not only how
13 many engines are out there, but those that are controlled
14 at each different tier and so forth.

15 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. Then the next item was --
16 sorry. Yeah, go ahead.

17 BOARD MEMBER PACHECO-WERNER: Just I wanted to
18 clarify on that, because I don't know if some of this --
19 the things that the District or both the District and CARB
20 have committed to quantifying on the District programs
21 might coincide with this quantification that we're asking.
22 So I just want to say that the assumption is that we're
23 also working under a timeline of which that process is
24 also happening.

25 Thank you.

1 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: Yeah, that -- and
2 certainly, we'll work with the District to understand how
3 the work overlaps and make sure that we're benefiting from
4 each other's work.

5 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. Then another follow-up is
6 working with EPA to get more -- or guidance on most
7 stringent measures. I think the logical place for follow
8 up with that is when we do our annual review of the status
9 of attainment, both in San Joaquin Valley and in other
10 nonattainment areas, because my guess is that staff will
11 need to spend some time talking to EPA, getting guidance
12 on that or an understanding from them if they can be --
13 provide additional guidance. And that's not necessarily
14 an urgent issue in terms of continuing to move forward
15 with measures, it's more of, you know, how do we do SIPs
16 going forward. And so it seems like the annual update
17 would be an appropriate time to ensure that that's sort of
18 just a status of how those conversations are going.

19 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: Yeah, that makes sense.
20 I think that's the right approach.

21 I just wanted to note, we'll also have other
22 touchpoints, where we can kind of continue to discuss
23 these things. The area designations, recommendations will
24 be coming up early next year for those areas that would be
25 designated as nonattainment under the new nine microgram

1 standard. So we'll be bringing that to the Board. So
2 there will be other touchpoints where we're discussing
3 PM2.5 related issues.

4 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. That's very helpful.
5 Thank you.

6 And then to be clear, you know, there will be
7 an -- some kind of annual presentation of attainment --
8 you know, reaching attainment in areas that are currently
9 in nonattainment.

10 I do think it's important that it not just be San
11 Joaquin Valley. I mean, we just approved a five-year
12 extension for South Coast without nearly as much
13 discussion. And so I think it's fair to be clear about
14 all of the areas of the state where we are not meeting
15 public health standards.

16 All right. I -- that's the list I have. Does
17 that make sense to everyone?

18 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Well, I thought there
19 was the discussion of how to express our willingness to
20 move faster than the five years.

21 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Oh, yes. You're right.

22 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: And I think --

23 CHAIR RANDOLPH: You're right.

24 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: I asked for that and
25 others did as well.

1 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Yeah. So I think there -- there
2 is a provision in the regulation -- I mean, sorry, in the
3 resolution, the second to last be it further resolved,
4 that CARB commits to collaborating with the San Joaquin
5 Valley Air Pollution Control District and U.S. EPA in
6 pursuing the most cost effective and technologically
7 feasible controls needed to attain -- to show attainment
8 of the nine microgram standard, including additional
9 needed reductions in emissions from mobile -- from federal
10 mobile sources.

11 I think we can add a pursuing the most
12 cost-effective and technologically-feasible controls that
13 can be implemented as soon as possible needed to show
14 attainment. I think it's the urgency that needs to be
15 expressed. And I think we can do that by adding those --
16 that language.

17 Okay. Do I have a motion to approve the
18 resolution with that amendment?

19 BOARD MEMBER PACHECO-WERNER: Move to approve.

20 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Is there a second?

21 BOARD MEMBER HURT: Second.

22 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Board Clerk, will
23 you please call the roll.

24 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Dr. Balmes?

25 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Yes.

1 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Mr. De La Torre?

2 BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: Aye.

3 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Mr. Eisenhut?

4 BOARD MEMBER EISENHUT: Yes.

5 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Senator Florez?

6 BOARD MEMBER FLOREZ: Florez aye.

7 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Ms. Hurt?

8 BOARD MEMBER HURT: Aye.

9 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Mr. Kracov?

10 BOARD MEMBER KRACOV: Yes.

11 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Dr. Pacheco-Werner?

12 BOARD MEMBER PACHECO-WERNER: Yes.

13 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Mr. Rechtschaffen?

14 BOARD MEMBER RECHTSCHAFFEN: Yes.

15 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Dr. Shaheen?

16 BOARD MEMBER SHAHEEN: Aye.

17 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Ms. Takvorian?

18 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Yes.

19 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Chair Randolph?

20 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Yes

21 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Motion passes.

22 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. Thank you very much.

23 BOARD MEMBER PEREZ: I'm on.

24 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Oh, Supervisor Perez, did you
25 call on him?

1 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: I did not. My apologies.
2 Mr. Perez?

3 BOARD MEMBER PEREZ: Yes. Thank you.

4 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you. Sorry about that.
5 Okay. This item passes.

6 We are now going to be taking public comment on
7 items that are not on the Board's agenda.

8 Clerk, do we have any commenters for public --
9 open public comment?

10 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: None in person and I
11 don't see any hands up in Zoom.

12 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. Then we are going to --
13 we have items slated for four o'clock. I think it would
14 be a good idea to take a 10 minute break and then come
15 back and begin our evening items.

16 Thank you.

17 (Off record: 4:13 p.m.)

18 (Thereupon a recess was taken.)

19 (On record: 4:31 p.m.)

20 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. Welcome back, everyone.

21 As we start the second half of the meeting, I'm
22 going to reiterate some of our standard housekeeping
23 things for those who were not here for the earlier part of
24 the meeting today.

25 So as reminder for anyone who is just joining us,

1 we are conducting today's meeting in person as well as
2 offering remote options for public participation both by
3 phone and in Zoom. Anyone who wishes to testify on a
4 Board item in person should fill out a request-to-speak
5 card available in the foyer and turn it into a Board
6 assistant prior to the commencement of the item. If you
7 are participating remotely, you will raise your hand in
8 Zoom or dial star nine if calling in by phone.

9 For safety reasons, please note the emergency
10 exit to the rear of the room through the foyer. In the
11 event of a fire alarm, we are required to evacuate this
12 room immediately and go down the stairs to the lobby and
13 out of the building. When the "All Clear" signal is
14 given, we will return to the auditorium and resume the
15 hearing.

16 A closed captioning feature is available for
17 those of you joining us in the Zoom environment. In order
18 to turn on subtitles, please look for a button labeled
19 "CC" at the bottom of the Zoom window as shown in the
20 example on the screen now. I would like to take this
21 opportunity to remind everyone to speak clearly and from a
22 quiet location, whether you are joining us in Zoom or
23 calling in by phone.

24 Interpretation services will be provided today in
25 Spanish, if you are joining us -- in Spanish. If you are

1 joining us using in Zoom, there is a button labeled
2 "Interpretation" on the Zoom screen. Click on that
3 interpretation button and select Spanish to hear the
4 meeting in Spanish. If you are joining us here in person
5 and would like to listen to the meeting in Spanish, please
6 notify a Board assistant and they will provide you with
7 further instructions. I want to remind all of our
8 commenters to speak slowly and pause intermittently to
9 allow the interpreters the opportunity to accurately
10 interpret your comments.

11 (Interpreter translated in Spanish).

12 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you.

13 The next item on the agenda for this afternoon is
14 Item number 24-4-3, to consider the proposed
15 recommendation to select the South Coast -- I'm sorry, the
16 South Sacramento-Florin community to transition to develop
17 a Community Emissions Reduction Program.

18 If you are here with us in the room and wish to
19 comment on this item, please fill out a request-to-speak
20 card as soon as possible and submit it to the Board -- to
21 a Board assistant. If are you joining us remotely and
22 wish to comment on this item, please click the raise-hand
23 button or dial star nine now. We will first call on
24 in-person commenters, followed by any remote commenters
25 when we get to the public comment portion of this item.

1 Assembly Bill 617 requires community focused
2 action to reduce air pollution and improve public health
3 in communities that experience a disproportionate burden
4 from exposure to air pollutants. In response to this
5 statutory charge, CARB established the Community Air
6 Protection Program, or Program, for short. To date, 19
7 communities, including South Sacramento-Florin, have been
8 selected by the Board for the Program. The statute
9 requires CARB to annually consider, as appropriate, the
10 selection of communities for the development and
11 implementation of Community Air Monitoring Plans or
12 Community Emissions Reduction Programs, or both.

13 This year, CARB staff are recommending the
14 selection of South Sacramento-Florin community to
15 transition to develop a Community Emissions Reduction
16 Program or a CERP. Staff's recommendation based on the
17 Board's prior direction to prioritize communities that are
18 implementing a Community Air Monitoring Plan to transition
19 to a CERP community. The South Sacramento-Florin
20 Community Steering Committee's support for this transition
21 and the Sacramento Metro Air Quality Management District's
22 nomination to CARB to transition the community to develop
23 the -- a CERP.

24 We recognize and applaud the work of the air
25 districts and the community steering committees across the

1 state that are implementing this Program. Your work is
2 not only making a difference at the community level, it is
3 also influencing how CARB operates throughout the agency
4 in all of our programs.

5 Dr. Cliff, would you please introduce this item.

6 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: Thank you, chair
7 Randolph.

8 Since the selection of the first communities into
9 the Community Air Protection Program, air districts and
10 CARB staff have been working with community-based
11 organizations and community members to develop plans that
12 will reduce air pollutant emissions and exposure in the
13 selected communities.

14 Air districts have convened 19 community steering
15 committees that include many members who live, work, or
16 own businesses in the community. In coordination with
17 these steering committees, air districts have deployed 16
18 Community Air Monitoring Plans, or CAMPs, and are working
19 to implement hundreds of strategies to reduce emissions at
20 the community scale. These strategies are contained in
21 the 15 Community Emission Reduction Programs that are
22 being implemented across the state.

23 These 19 selected communities represent about
24 four million Californians and make up about 10 percent of
25 the state's total population. The 19 communities serve as

1 models for how CARB, air districts, community members, and
2 other stakeholders can work together to reduce exposure to
3 air pollution in their neighborhoods.

4 Our focus today is the Board's consideration of
5 the South Sacramento-Florin community and staff's
6 recommendation to select this community to transition to
7 develop a Community Emissions Reduction Program. By
8 selecting this community for a CERP, CARB is meeting its
9 Program commitment to prioritize communities that are
10 implementing a CAMP to transition to a CERP community.

11 The South Sacramento-Florin community was one of
12 the first communities selected by CARB in 2018 to develop
13 and implement a Community Air Monitoring Program, or CAMP.

14 Since the adoption and approval of the CAMP by
15 the Sacramento Metro Air Quality Management District in
16 July 2020, the Air District has made great strides in
17 implementing the CAMP by deploying 200 PurpleAir sensors
18 in underserved areas of Sacramento. The Air District has
19 also launched a new portable air monitoring laboratory
20 station on Fern Bacon Middle School.

21 The Air District, the Community Steering
22 Committee, and the South Sacramento-Florin community all
23 continue to build partnerships and engage with community
24 organizations and local agencies to review and discuss air
25 monitoring data results to better understand the air

1 quality concerns in the area.

2 Over the next five years, we anticipate that
3 Blueprint 2.0 will focus resources on the consistently
4 nominated communities with an emphasis on new pathways to
5 provide support and Program benefits to more communities.

6 These new pathways include community focused
7 enforcement, use of community air grants to develop Local
8 Community Emission Reduction Plans, and increase
9 flexibility for incentives. In addition, CARB remains
10 committed to partnering with other State and local
11 agencies to address community concerns.

12 Today, I am pleased to present to the Board the
13 recommendation to select South Sacramento-Florin to
14 transition to develop a Community Emissions Reduction
15 Program.

16 I will now ask Adriana Smith from our Office of
17 Community Air Protection to give the staff presentation.
18 We will then hear from our invited guests of Community
19 Steering Committee and Air District representatives and
20 community leaders who will share their perspectives as the
21 Board considers transitioning the South Sacramento-Florin
22 community to develop a Community Emissions Reduction
23 Program. We look forward to hearing from them shortly.

24 Adriana, please begin the staff presentation.

25 (Thereupon a slide presentation).

1 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST SMITH: Thank you,
2 Dr. Cliff and good afternoon, Chair Randolph and members
3 of the Board. My name is Adriana Smith and I'm with the
4 Office of Community Air Protection. I am the CARB
5 community liaison for the South Sacramento-Florin
6 community and I will be presenting staff's recommendation
7 to the Board today.

8 [SLIDE CHANGE]

9 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST SMITH: Today,
10 staff is recommending this Board approves the transition
11 of the South Sacramento-Florin community to develop a
12 Community Emission Reductions Program, while continuing to
13 implement the Community Air Monitoring Plan. After my
14 presentation, we will hear from our invited speakers and
15 members of the public.

16 [SLIDE CHANGE]

17 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST SMITH: I would
18 like to highlight a few significant community achievements
19 that the South Sacramento-Florin Community Steering
20 Committee and the Sac Metro Air District have accomplished
21 as they collectively implemented the Community Air
22 Monitoring Plan, or CAMP for short, over the past five
23 years.

24 First, the Air District has been actively
25 monitoring air quality through a phased approach and has

1 been providing readily accessible community level air
2 quality data in real-time.

3 Secondly, the Community Steering Committee has
4 worked very hard to expand community engagement, and as
5 part of this effort, they've also created a website to
6 inform the community on their outreach. Next, the
7 Community Steering Committee, the Air District, and the
8 Sacramento City Unified School District they've worked
9 together and organized a community-wide air quality event
10 to create opportunities for greater community awareness.

11 And lastly, the Air District is prioritizing
12 early measures and exposure reduction strategies in the
13 South Sacramento-Florin and surrounding communities. This
14 is being done by targeting state and local incentive
15 programs to reduce mobile source emissions, implementing
16 an innovative unidentified source inspection program for
17 permitted sources -- or permitted business, and
18 implementing a one-year community centered Supplemental
19 Environmental Project, or SEP for short, with a local
20 community-based organization. As per the final SEP report
21 of do-it-yourself air filers, a total of 617
22 do-it-yourself air filters were distributed in
23 Sacramento's underserved communities under the
24 Supplemental Environmental Project.

25 [SLIDE CHANGE]

1 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST SMITH: Now, that
2 we've highlighted community achievements, I want to share
3 with you a short story about the work that's been done to
4 prepare the community to transition to develop a CERP and
5 continue implementing the CAMP.

6 Over the last five years of the CAMP
7 implementation, the Community Steering Committee and Air
8 Districts have worked together and identified some key
9 areas -- air quality areas of concern such as:

10 The need for more enhanced air quality education
11 and community outreach around air quality; the concern
12 over high rates of asthma and respiratory problems in the
13 community; the emissions from small and large businesses
14 and local industry; emissions from Highway 99 and heavy
15 traffic in the community corridors; and lastly, there's
16 been a particularly concern about the emission impact on
17 sensitive receptors, an example being children walking to
18 school and crossing intersections located in high-traffic
19 areas or along Highway 99.

20 In recent months, the Community Steering
21 Committee and the Air District have diligently worked
22 together to conduct outreach and identify a new proposed
23 boundary, as the community transitions to develop a CERP.
24 At the June 4th Community Steering Committee meeting, the
25 Air District led a discussion to identify additional areas

1 of concern leading to the creation of a proposed new
2 boundary. During the proceeding, 30-day public comment
3 period, the Air District and steering committee members
4 attended several community events to share information and
5 also solicit feedback. The proposed boundary was well
6 received by community members at these community events.

7 On the map to your right, the proposed CERP and
8 CAMP boundary are aligned with the red-dashed line while
9 the original CAMP boundary is outlined by solid black
10 line. This past Monday, July 22nd, the Steering Committee
11 and community members approved the new community boundary.

12 [SLIDE CHANGE]

13 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST SMITH: It's also
14 worthwhile to note here that the newly approved South
15 Sacramento-Florin CAMP plus CERP community boundary
16 includes three AB 617 consistently nominated communities.

17 On this slide, I would like to now highlight the
18 achievements of the CAMP implementation. The South
19 Sacramento-Florin community was selected by this Board in
20 2018, and over the past five years, the Air District and
21 the Community Steering Committee have been actively
22 implementing the CAMP and collecting air quality data.

23 As part of the CAMP implementation, the District
24 has collected a wide variety of data using various
25 technologies through a phased approach. Implementation of

1 began as Part 1 in 2019 followed by Phase 2 in 2020 and
2 2021, and Phase 3 in 2023.

3 As the District transitions to a CERP, they will
4 continue to implement their CAMP in the new expanded
5 community boundary, as shown on the prior slide to support
6 the CERP development and I implementation.

7 [SLIDE CHANGE]

8 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST SMITH: The CAMP
9 implementation efforts have inspired additional monitoring
10 efforts in many Sacramento communities. As you can see on
11 this slide, communities and various community-based
12 organizations are using grants and funding opportunities
13 to monitor air quality and toxics in many areas of
14 Sacramento.

15 For instance, the District was awarded a U.S. EPA
16 grant to expand AB 617 monitoring in the South
17 Sacramento-Florin community, as well as to conduct
18 targeted mobile toxics monitoring in Old North Sacramento
19 area, which is a consistently nominated community.

20 Next, the Sacramento County Vehicle Emission
21 Project is an EPA grant where Sacramento Public Health and
22 non-profit partners are working together to collect
23 specific vehicle emissions across several underserved
24 areas in the Sacramento County and hosting several
25 community events to share the air quality data that's been

1 collected.

2 Another example is the Sacramento Neighborhoods
3 Activating on Air Quality. It is a partnership of four
4 organizations led by the community air grant grantee
5 Valley Vision to monitor air quality in North Sacramento.
6 The partners are also collaborating to develop a Local
7 CERP and several consistently nominated communities in the
8 Sacramento area.

9 Our last example here is the U.S. EPA grant that
10 was awarded a Community Air Pollution Monitoring Project
11 to United Latinos to develop an air quality educational
12 material, awareness, and engagement, and air quality
13 monitoring

14 All these efforts exemplify the lessons learned
15 through the CAMP implementation, which are being applied
16 to support nearby consistently nominated communities in
17 the Sacramento region helping to fulfill the program
18 Blueprint 2.0 Goal 6.

19 [SLIDE CHANGE]

20 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST SMITH: Blueprint
21 2.0 Goal 6 calls out for a focus on consistently nominated
22 communities. The Air District is actively partnering with
23 local agencies to help bring benefits not only to the
24 South Sacramento-Florin Community but to many of the
25 communities in the Sacramento region. Many of these

1 partners are shown on this slide.

2 In addition, the District has been working
3 diligently to prioritize climate investments in
4 underresourced communities.

5 (Technical difficulties).

6 BOARD CLERK ESTABROOK: I'm sorry. Your
7 microphone has gone bad.

8 (Technical difficulties).

9 (Off record: 4:52 p.m.)

10 (Thereupon a recess was taken.)

11 (On record: 4:56 p.m.)

12 BOARD MEMBER HURT: So it looks like we may be
13 ready to start again, yes?

14 And we're going to go back a couple of slides to
15 get more of the staff presentation since that was missed
16 earlier.

17 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST SMITH: Okay. I'll
18 go ahead and get started back on slide 5 -- slide 6,
19 inspiring further monitoring in other Sacramento
20 communities.

21 So the CAMP implementation efforts have inspired
22 additional monitoring efforts in many of Sacramento
23 communities. As you can see on this slide, communities
24 and various community-based organizations are using grants
25 and funding opportunities to monitor air quality and

1 toxics in many of the areas of Sacramento.

2 For instance, the District was awarded a U.S. EPA
3 grant to expand AB 617 monitoring in the South
4 Sacramento-Florin community as well as to conduct targeted
5 mobile toxics monitoring in Old North Sacramento area,
6 which is a consistently nominated community.

7 Next, the Sacramento County Vehicle Emissions
8 Project is an EPA grant where Sacramento Public Health and
9 non-profit partners are working together to collect
10 specific vehicle emissions across several underserved
11 areas in the Sacramento County and hosting several
12 community events to share the air quality data that's been
13 collected.

14 Another example is the Sacramento Neighborhood
15 Activating on Air Quality. It is a partnership of four
16 organizations led by the Community Air Grant grantee
17 Valley Vision to monitor air quality in North Sacramento.
18 The partners are also collaborating to develop a Local
19 CERP in several consistently nominated communities in the
20 Sacramento area.

21 Our last example here is the U.S. EPA awarded a
22 Community Air Pollution Monitoring Project to United
23 Latinos to develop air quality educational materials,
24 awareness, engagement, and air quality monitoring.

25 All these efforts exemplify the lesson learned

1 through the CAMP implementation, which are being applied
2 to support nearby consistently nominated communities in
3 the Sacramento region helping to fulfill the Program
4 Blueprint 2.0 Goal number 6.

5 [SLIDE CHANGE]

6 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST SMITH: Blueprint
7 2.0 Goal 6 calls for the focus on consistently nominated
8 communities. The Air District is actively partnering with
9 local agencies to help bring benefits, not only to the
10 South Sacramento-Florin community, but to many other
11 communities in the Sacramento region. Many of these
12 partners and some nonprofits are shown on this slide here.

13 In addition, the District has been working
14 diligently to prioritize climate investments
15 under-resourced communities. An example is the Sacramento
16 Area ZEV Deployment Strategy developed by the Air
17 District, SACOG, SMUD, and Sac RT which aims to electrify
18 the region's transportation fleet demonstrating a
19 commitment to a zero-emission future. The plan
20 prioritizes investments in under-resourced communities,
21 personal and shared ride vehicles, public and private
22 transit, microtransit, and shuttles, and medium- and
23 heavy-duty fleets.

24 In addition, Greentech's Del Paso Heights
25 Zero-Emission mobility hub opened last year located in a

1 consistently nominated community, and the Air District is
2 working with the Community Resources Project, our CRP for
3 short, to open up a new mobility hub in the South
4 Sacramento-Florin community. These community -- these
5 mobility hubs are the first two of the 52 planned in the
6 Sacramento region as part of the ZEV development strategy.

7 CAMP Implementation has allowed many more
8 partnerships to flourish. And as a result, many more
9 communities in the Sacramento region will realize benefits
10 from a variety of efforts.

11 [SLIDE CHANGE]

12 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST SMITH: In
13 conclusion, CARB staff recommends the Board approve
14 Resolution 24-11, which includes the selection of the
15 South Sacramento-Florin community to transition to develop
16 a CERP and continue CAMP Implementation and certifies that
17 this transition is exempt from CEQA requirements.

18 We will now hear from our invited speakers on the
19 staff's recommendations. We -- first, we want to thank
20 our invited speakers for their time and their presence at
21 today's hearing. We first invite the South
22 Sacramento-Florin CSC member and Co-Chair Vincent Valdez
23 to provide his statement.

24 Welcome, Vincent.

25 VINCENT VALDEZ: Thank you. My name is Vincent

1 Valdez and I'm the co-lead of the South Sacramento-Florin
2 Community Steering Committee and I've been on the
3 Committee for five years. And if you would have asked me
4 five years ago if I thought I'd be up here presenting to
5 the Board -- an Air Resources Board with elected officials
6 and Air Resources Board and the Air Quality Management
7 District, I would have laughed, but here I am.

8 And so for the last five years, we've worked in
9 the community. And we had the opportunity to learn a lot
10 about air quality, the VOCs, NOx, PM2.5 what is black
11 carbon, what is ozone air pollutants. It's been a
12 learning curve for the Steering Committee. And so, I'm
13 proud to say that, you know, at first it was like learning
14 a second language, but I'm grateful to have had the
15 opportunity to -- with my fellow committee members to
16 become leaders in our community on air quality. We've
17 called ourself ambassadors of air quality in the community
18 when we go out and do outreach.

19 And so one of our best -- our greatest
20 achievements though is introducing the Air District on how
21 to engage the community and share from a government
22 perspective how to engage the community and how to listen
23 to the community. And we've all learned that together.

24 And so our committee consists of residents,
25 business interests, and community organizations. We have

1 representatives from the macro partnership Power Inn Road
2 Alliance, Dignity Health Medical, Methodist Hospital,
3 Sacramento Environmental Justice Coalition, Vietnamese
4 American Community of South -- of Sacramento, the United
5 Latinos, South Gate Parks and Rec, Color the Black, and
6 BCM Neighbors Networks, as well as residents from within
7 our current CAMP boundaries.

8 Some of our residents are on these -- with these
9 organizations as well. So when I was the first on the
10 committee, I was a resident and I moved in 2020, but now
11 I'm a member of the United Latinos. I'm still a member of
12 the United Latinos Environmental Justice Green Team and
13 we've worked in -- within the community over the years.

14 Our Community Steering Committee has been
15 anticipating the date when we formally become a CERP
16 community. And in anticipation, we formed a CERP
17 subcommittee in February 2024. To start with some of the
18 goals and objectives on our first task, we created a
19 timeline for our CERP process, and we far -- we are so
20 designated a CERP community. We've done a lot of
21 extensive outreach in our community.

22 I love my spot.

23 We done extensive outreach efforts in our current
24 community boundaries, and in the process, we heard from
25 the community that our current CSC boundaries do not

1 include some of the most marginalized communities in South
2 Sacramento, and that they shared their interest in
3 participating in the AB 617 community-driven processes.

4 We went to the Meadowview Neighborhood
5 Association, the Mangan Park Neighborhood Association
6 meetings, and were well received and heard the interest
7 about air quality concerns from the communities and
8 outside our current boundaries.

9 From within our current boundaries, we wen to the
10 Mesa Verde and North Laguna Valley Creek neighborhood
11 associations and provided updates on what we have found in
12 the data from our air monitoring, and heard possible
13 projects and areas of concerns from these communities.
14 We've also attended several community events throughout
15 South Sacramento and gathered feedback on areas of
16 concern. And this has helped our steering committee
17 decide on the new expanded boundaries for our CERP. We
18 are also changing the -- our CAMP boundaries to be the
19 same as the CERP boundaries.

20 We are proud to say that our new boundaries now
21 include the Meadowview, Woodbine, Oak Park, North Franklin
22 Boulevard, Power Inn Road, and Fruitridge Road
23 communities.

24 We also understand that we -- in our new
25 boundaries, we have not done a lot of outreach or

1 monitored extensively, but there have been several
2 monitoring projects within our new proposed boundaries
3 conducted and we hope to use the data collected from those
4 projects to help us come up with CERP projects.

5 Our goal would be to engage and educate our new
6 communities on the air quality in their communities, just
7 as we did in our original community steering committee,
8 and help form new CERP projects from what we learn from
9 our new community residents and the data from air
10 monitoring done in those areas.

11 Our steering committee has grown in the last year
12 and it's heartening to see that there is a new growing
13 interest in the air monitoring data we've collected and
14 outreach we have been doing in South Sacramento about the
15 concerns for the health risks associated with poor air
16 quality.

17 I became a member of this committee when my
18 son -- he has asthma and his mom has asthma, but it seemed
19 to be really bad when we moved closer to 24th Street in
20 South Sacramento. And so, that was what spurred me to
21 start doing all this. And like I said, there's health
22 risks associated to the poor air quality. And so being a
23 part of the CERP really means a lot to me if we can
24 actually get some Community Emissions Reductions Projects
25 going in South Sacramento.

1 Burning eyes -- from the outreach we've done,
2 these are some of the responses we received were burning
3 eyes, high asthma rates, and poor indoor air quality are
4 some of the common themes we have been hearing from the
5 community. And addressing them with our new CERP
6 designation will be a great opportunity for our South
7 Sacramento/Florin Community Steering Committee.

8 Some of the CERP priority projects that we have
9 been discussing at our CERP subcommittee meeting are
10 relocating some of the truck routes approved for South
11 Sacramento, addressing indoor air quality by retrofitting
12 some of the older apartment complexes in our -- in our
13 community with newer energy and air quality efficient
14 systems.

15 Another project is reducing the illegal parking
16 of diesel trucks near existing truck stops and possibly
17 electrifying the truck stops to reduce the running of
18 generators to keep trucks cool and powered up. So our
19 Committee has really worked hard and we're a very diverse
20 community.

21 And so I am just happy to be a member and very
22 honored to be up here at this table with everybody.

23 Thank You.

24 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST SMITH: Thank you
25 so much -- oh, sorry about that.

1 Thank you so much Co-Chair Valdez. I appreciate
2 all your comments.

3 Next, I will pass it to Mr. Patrick Kennedy,
4 Sacramento Metro Air District Board Chair and Sacramento
5 County Supervisor for District 2 to provide his statement.

6 Welcome, Supervisor Kennedy.

7 SACRAMENTO COUNTY SUPERVISOR KENNEDY: Thank you
8 very much and thank you Chair Randolph and members of the
9 Board and especially thank you, Vincent for the work you
10 do.

11 I'm Patrick Kennedy. I'm Chair of the Sacramento
12 County Board of Supervisors representing South Sacramento,
13 where I was born and raised and lived most of my high life
14 and raised my four daughters. I'm also a Board Chair of
15 the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management
16 District and Sacramento Regional Transit District,
17 positions that allow me to champion climate action,
18 something I have believed in and worked on since my early
19 days at SMUD in the 1990s, when I led efforts to
20 commercialize zero-emission vehicles in partnership with
21 CARB, the CEC, and the OEMs.

22 First, thank you, CARB, for your ongoing support
23 and funding for the Air District's AB 617 environmental
24 justice initiatives in the Sacramento region. I am proud
25 of our agency for its leadership in taking proactive

1 measures to advance our regional clean air and climate
2 goals all while uplifting local communities through an
3 environmental justice lens in everything that we do.
4 Together with SMUD, the Air District, Sac RT, and SACOG
5 are fostering a growing regional partnership that is
6 affecting positive change throughout our six-county
7 region, including many initiatives centered on equity and
8 inclusion in South Sacramento and beyond.

9 I want to take a moment to share th Air
10 District's Board appreciation for their staff and
11 community members who have dedicated numerous hours to
12 community engagement and to developing a robust and
13 inclusive program in South Sacramento a community that has
14 been ignored many times in the past.

15 Our AB 617 work is important and we will continue
16 to engage community members to find our opportunities and
17 solutions that will improve not only air quality but
18 overall quality of life in the area of the county that
19 deserves our collective attention.

20 Our Air District Board supports South Sacramento
21 transitioning to a Community Emissions Reduction Plan, or
22 CERP, and we stand ready to do so. Using lessons learned
23 during the Community Air Monitoring Program plan process,
24 the Air District and the community are eager to build a
25 model for community participation and collaboration

1 encompassing our community's diverse perspectives.

2 The Air District and the Community Steering
3 Committee have already begun steps to develop a
4 comprehensive plan. Staff are actively involved with the
5 community to expand program's boundaries. In fact, the
6 CERP subcommittee has already begun as you've heard
7 preparatory work in this direction.

8 The Air District is a State leader in developing
9 and implementing innovative emissions reductions incentive
10 programs, like the Carl Moyer Program, which was the first
11 in the state and it started right here in Sacramento 28
12 years ago. We're confident that the strategies emerging
13 from the Community Air Protection Program through our
14 community-centered process will improve air quality.
15 Early emission reductions initiatives in South
16 Sacramento-Florin are focused on ensuring business
17 compliance and air quality permits and implementing a new
18 supplemental environmental -- environmental program or SEP
19 to fund community projects with violation proceeds.

20 One SEP project resulted in a collaboration with
21 300 -- with 350 Sacramento. This program resulted in the
22 distribution of more than 600 DIY air filters to residents
23 over one year providing them with simple cost-effective
24 solutions to help protect themselves from air pollutions,
25 particularly people like Vincent's son.

1 This is an example of how the District is
2 supplementing its community air protection efforts to
3 ensure the goals of the program can be fully realized. As
4 we move forward in alignment with Blueprint 3. -- 2.0 the
5 District will continue to advance projects and programs to
6 benefit more of our communities. Therefore, it will be
7 important for us to continue to work together to ensure
8 that there is funding for these communities' identified
9 strategies to be implemented and sustained in coming
10 years.

11 In closing, I steadfastly express my support and
12 that of the Air District for our Community Air Protection
13 Program and its continued natural next steps. Our agency
14 and community are ready and committed. We look forward to
15 continuing this partnership with CARB to ensure an
16 inclusive and transparent community-led process leading
17 towards clean air for all. I thank you very much for
18 taking the time to listen to us. I thank you again for
19 your past support. I apologize. I have to leave for
20 another engagement and plus I want to go out and take
21 another look at your Chihuly sculptures. But thank you
22 sincerely from the bottom of my heart for all of the
23 efforts that you've done over the years.

24 Thank you.

25 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST SMITH: Thank you

1 so much, Supervisor Kennedy. We appreciate you being here
2 today. Thank you for your time. Have a good rest of your
3 day.

4 Next, we will hear from Mai Vang, Sacramento Air
5 District Board Member and Sacramento Council Member
6 representing District 8, which is an AB 617 area.

7 Welcome, Council Member Vang.

8 SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCILMEMBER VANG: Thank you so
9 much. Hello, Chair Randolph and members of the Board.
10 Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to be here
11 in space with you today and to speak.

12 First, I want to take this moment to say thank
13 you for your service. On behalf of South Sacramentans,
14 thank you so much for your heart and hustle for the
15 community.

16 My name is Mai Vang and I am the proud City
17 Councilmember representing District 8 in the City of
18 Sacramento and also Air Board member myself. I represent
19 most of the AB 617 in South Sac in the city, the most
20 southern part in the City of Sacramento. And I'm here to
21 express my strong support for the recommendation to
22 transition our South Sacramento community to a CERP.

23 My community is ready to expand AB 617 and begin
24 the process of identifying and implementing emission and
25 exposure reduction strategies and to improve the overall

1 quality of life of South Sacramentans. I want to take
2 this time to say thank you to the State Legislature and
3 CARB for providing funding to our Air District to
4 transition our community from a CAMP to a CERP. Local
5 governments, as many of you know, are incredibly stretched
6 and we do everything we can at our very best to address
7 air quality and the disparities that exist in our
8 community, but support from the State is absolutely
9 essential.

10 I want to take this time to thank Dr. Ayala,
11 Janice, all of our staff at the Air District and
12 especially the members of the Steering Committee, Mr.
13 Valdez, a few shout-out to Mr. Falcon and Ms. Rhonda
14 Henderson really for their heart, and their hustle, and
15 their passion fighting and working tirelessly to engage
16 and work with our diverse communities in our district.

17 I was born and raised right here in Sacramento.
18 I lived in the State Capital until I was 18. I grew up in
19 Oak Park and in Meadowview. And then I left to college
20 and I was the first in my family to go to college. And
21 when I returned home from college, I become a community
22 organizer mobilizing my community, engaging them,
23 registering them to vote, amplifying their voices, voices
24 that often -- they spoke up, but folks didn't listen to
25 them. And they shared many concerns about the public

1 health challenges that folks face in South Sacramento,
2 from lack of tray canopy, to poor air quality, to just
3 access to opportunities.

4 I know from own lived experiences, stories from
5 elders, neighborhood leaders about the long-standing
6 historical injustice of redlining in the City of
7 Sacramento, but across the state, which all of you know
8 very well have contributed to the disparities and the air
9 quality burdens that face so many Californians. Your
10 support is absolutely critical. It's necessary to ensure
11 that we can continue to advance social and environmental
12 justice for our community. While more work remains as we
13 include additional communities, we must also recognize the
14 progress strides that we've already made through this
15 program and the work ahead.

16 I'm so pleased that this Community Steering
17 Committee will be expanding the community boundaries to
18 include additional areas in my area and Vice Mayor Maple's
19 district as well, areas that have faced long
20 disproportionate pollution burdens and have consistently
21 been nominated for inclusion over the past four years.

22 The District and its partnership with the
23 community have built a solid foundation for this next
24 transitional step. In my experience, District staff have
25 always been professional and engaging. They have

1 demonstrated their genuine care for the residents in the
2 community. Their dedication to building a relationship
3 with our diverse community to address concerns, to protect
4 public health, and reduce pollution is vital to our
5 collective fight for cleaner air.

6 The success of this Program, however, requires an
7 all-hands-on-deck approach involving local agencies,
8 community members, activists, non-profits, neighborhood
9 associations, and CARB. As a daughter of Sacramento of
10 Hmong refugees and now a proud representative of the
11 people. I can attest to the importance of elevating the
12 Air District's work so we can garner more support for our
13 local agencies in addressing this challenging issue.

14 As a resident of South Sacramento, I often
15 reflect on the ways that government can either help or
16 harm communities. We are one of the very last AB 617
17 communities that will transition from a CAMP to a CERP.
18 So oftentimes, mistrust is built in the community because
19 limited resources is given to communities like ours and
20 then we don't see further investment follow-through.
21 Trust can only be built if we maintain consistent
22 engagement and demonstrate a genuine commitment to
23 addressing community needs by being present.

24 Listening actively, investing, and following
25 through on promises is how we can create lasting

1 partnership that empowers and uplifts our residents and
2 neighborhoods. As the district continues to engage with
3 additional and new community voices, it is crucial to
4 ensure these efforts are genuinely inclusive and are
5 responsive to the community.

6 I am incredibly excited to support the ongoing
7 work and the -- and tackle the new challenge that we have
8 ahead. I am in full support of the transition to a CERP
9 for our community for South Sacramento-Florin, recognizing
10 that we've made progress, but also acknowledging that we
11 have so much more work that remains. I look forward to
12 working with all of you, our community partners, our
13 district, staff everyone that is invested in our babies,
14 and our families to ensure that we create a healthier and
15 equitable future for all of our residents in South
16 Sacramento.

17 We are in the Capital of the State of California,
18 but often its neighborhoods that I grew up in like
19 Meadowview, Oak Park that gets left behind. And so I
20 really urge for your support and thank you so much for
21 giving me the opportunity to speak this evening.

22 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST SMITH: Thank you
23 so much Councilmember Vang. We really appreciate your
24 voice here today and for being here.

25 We now invite Caity Maple, the Sacramento Metro

1 Air District Board member and City of Sacramento
2 Councilmember representing District 5, which is an AB 617
3 area as well. Welcome, Councilmember Maple.

4 SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCILMEMBER MAPLE: Thank you
5 much. Good afternoon, Chair Randolph and members of the
6 Board. I really appreciate the opportunity to speak here
7 today. My name is Caity Maple. I'm currently serving as
8 the Vice Mayor of the City of Sacramento, proudly
9 representing District 5, just a little bit north of
10 District 8 with my colleague Councilmember Vang here, and
11 also a proud member of the Air District Board.

12 I do want to go a little bit off script for a
13 moment to just really thank the incredible staff that we
14 have at the Air District. It's been wonderful. I'm a
15 fairly newish member, but just seeing what they've been
16 able to accomplish in a relatively short period of time is
17 incredible and also really want to thank the members of
18 our community steering committee for their tireless work
19 that they, you know, do not get compensated for, but have
20 the opportunity to represent their communities. And I'm
21 grateful for your work.

22 I'm here tonight to really highlight the progress
23 that the Air District has made implementing the Community
24 Air Protection Program and addressing the community air
25 quality concerns. Sharing very similar sentiments to my

1 colleague Councilmember Vang. I'm very happy to hear that
2 the Steering Committee members have expanded the
3 boundaries to be more inclusive of many areas in my
4 district that really need more focused attention. We
5 are -- I'm very much looking forward to seeing a diverse
6 set of voices that can uplift community priorities. And
7 we're seeing that already and I know that we'll see it
8 more as we see a CERP implemented.

9 The Air District has made significant strides in
10 establishing a community centered process governed by a
11 charter developed and supported by the Community Steering
12 Committee. I am supported and encouraged to see that the
13 charter ensures that the community's voices are centered
14 with many residents maintaining -- with residents
15 maintaining a majority vote to address the needs and
16 concerns of those most impacted by air quality issues.
17 The recent expansion to 21 members also brings a broader
18 range of diverse voices and perspectives, enhancing our
19 commitment to inclusivity.

20 The Air District is strongly committed to
21 transparently investing incentive funds in under-resourced
22 communities and adhering to State incentive guidelines.
23 Projects are listed on the Air District's website offering
24 a clear understanding of where and how funds are being
25 allocated. The air district also has directed over 90

1 percent of all incentives funds to projects in
2 disadvantaged neighborhoods resulting in significant
3 reductions in emissions in the region as demonstrated by
4 CARB's data.

5 Recently, I participated in the South
6 Sacramento-Florin area community bus tour, which was
7 organized by the Air District. This tour provided an
8 invaluable opportunity for open dialogue with community
9 members about their air quality concerns and included
10 discussions about a local airport that's in my district,
11 and something that I have been thinking much about. As an
12 Air District Board Member, I understand that there are
13 limitations to the District's authority to regulate
14 specific sources, such as small aircraft that use leaded
15 fuel at the airport, but I was encouraged to hear that the
16 staff have already started engaging with the EPA regarding
17 the community's concerns about those emissions and will be
18 leveraging the EPA's authority to help assist with some of
19 those concerns. So just another example of our incredible
20 team and their willingness to go above and beyond.

21 My experience with the bus tour reinforced the
22 importance of engaging directly with the community and the
23 need for continued action. One of the things that I
24 noticed on that tour is the desperate need for us to
25 expand these boundaries. The boundaries that currently

1 exist do not actually include most of the biggest
2 emitters, many of which are in my district, in District 6,
3 and District 8. And doing that tour literally being able
4 to see those buildings, seeing where these emitters are
5 happening was not only really illuminating for me, but
6 many of the members of the steering committee and people
7 on the tour.

8 And so these are the conversations that I have
9 all the time in the neighborhoods, at the community
10 meetings, at the events. People talk about their real
11 life experiences, their children's experiences, their own
12 health concerns. And I think it's incumbent on us to do
13 everything that we can to make it better. And so in
14 closing, the District and its staff are fully committed to
15 a transparent and inclusive approach to achieving our air,
16 climate, and equity goals. And I support this request to
17 the transition to a CERP. Thank you and I urge your eye
18 vote.

19 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST SMITH: Thank you
20 so much. Thank you so much, Councilmember Maple. We
21 appreciate it. We appreciate you being here.

22 And finally, we would like to invite Janice Lam
23 Snyder, Director of the Community Air Protection at the
24 Sacramento AQMD. Janice has been working with the South
25 Sacramento-Florin Community Steering Committee since it

1 was elected by this Board in 2018 and has been
2 instrumental in spearheading many of the initiatives we
3 shared in this presentation.

4 Welcome, Janice.

5 JANICE LAM SNYDER: Thank you so much, Adriana.
6 Good afternoon, Chair Randolph and members of the Board.
7 My name is Janice Lam Snyder and I run the Community Air
8 Protection Program at the Air District. I'm here today to
9 echo the encouraging progress we made with our community
10 and to strongly advocate for your support to transition
11 this community to develop a CERP.

12 First, I want to thank the Board, yourselves, and
13 CARB staff for supporting the AB 617 Program. Your staff,
14 in particular Deldi Reyes, Kevin Olp, Adriana, has been
15 such a wonderful resource for us, always willing to share
16 experiences from other communities and taking the lead in
17 connecting the air districts together, so that we can
18 share best practices. I will say that we are so fortunate
19 to be able to learn from the other CERP communities that
20 have come before us and we will benefit from the hard work
21 that they have put in and poured into the Program.

22 I also want to thank you our dedicated Steering
23 Committee members who have generously donated their time
24 to this program. None of this would be possible without
25 their commitment to this important issue of environmental

1 justice here in Sacramento.

2 Like many of our air district colleagues across
3 the State, we have worked very hard to provide meaningful
4 support for our communities. Fostering these
5 relationships and partnerships with our community has
6 taken time. And an openness to have difficult
7 conversations -- to have difficult conversations, be
8 flexible, and then also finding ways to support the
9 community's priorities and needs.

10 We've continually refined our approach to --
11 based on ongoing feedback, incorporating a diverse
12 perspective and needs from our community members. And a
13 prime example of this is our support earlier this year for
14 expanding the membership of our steering committee to
15 increase the capacity and the inclusiveness. And just
16 this past Monday, you have heard that our Steering
17 Committee has expanded the community boundaries.

18 As part of this effort and ongoing conversations,
19 my team and I have made a deep commitment to meet people
20 where they are.

21 We have and will -- we have and will continue to
22 work to grow the partnerships that we will need to have a
23 successful CERP implementation. This includes attending
24 community events, having one-on-one conversations to
25 listen to the concerns, so that we can make meaningful

1 steps to address them. We recognize how crucial
2 transparency is when we have these conversations, and we
3 commit to maintaining the highest standard in these areas.

4 I've been extremely proud that CARB staff has
5 commended our annual implementation reports as some of the
6 best and most detailed across the state. I'll wrap this
7 up with this. As we envision the future of this program,
8 we remain dedicated to maintaining a community-centered
9 approach, and my hope is to implement a program that fills
10 us all with pride. Thank you for your ongoing support and
11 we are ready to work and we look forward to this phase of
12 collaboration with our communities.

13 Thank you.

14 OCAP AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST SMITH: Thank you
15 so much, Janice for your kind words.

16 Again, I want to take this opportunity to thank
17 our invited speakers for providing their testimonies
18 today. And now we'll be happy to answer any questions
19 that the Board may have. Thank you again for your time.

20 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you so much. Do the Board
21 members have any clarifying questions for our guest
22 speakers before we open it up for public comment?

23 BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: This was -- there
24 was -- thank you for all of your service and your hard
25 work in bringing this before us. There was a significant

1 growth in the footprint of this 617 community. Can you --
2 someone, any one of you, speak to that big growth.

3 VINCENT VALDEZ: Sure. My name is Vince Valdez
4 with the South Sacramento-Florin Steering Committee.

5 So a lot of the outreach we did were in areas
6 outside of our current boundaries. And the feedback we
7 got was that these communities were left out of our
8 original map. And so in the beginning we had a map we
9 started with and then we finished with our current
10 boundaries, but -- and South Sacramento and the
11 marginalized communities extend beyond our boundaries.

12 And so to the north of our boundary, we used the
13 CalEnviroScreen and we looked at that -- that map. And so
14 that map on the upper right corner has some really dark
15 orange communities where in between they -- they're not
16 they're actually green, so -- but we wanted to include
17 that community at the top of the map in our new
18 boundaries, because we knew that from the EnviroScreen
19 that those were the communities that deserved our looking
20 into and community emissions reductions.

21 And then further investigation, we saw that some
22 of the highest permitted pollution facilities are in those
23 areas. And so that's what inspired some of that. And
24 also, in our eastern boundary, we received complaints from
25 people. And so since I've been on the Committee, all my

1 friends who are in other areas that were just outside of
2 the boundary have called me and said, hey, man, we're
3 having a lot of air quality problems here. And so they
4 were just outside the boundaries. And so this was the
5 information we've got from friends, family members, and
6 you name it, the different Committee members. And so this
7 was kind of what inspired some of -- looking at the
8 EnviroScreen screen map and showing that we are in the
9 middle of the orange and yellow areas, but they still
10 expand to the north, south, and east and west of our
11 current boundaries. Thank you.

12 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Board Member Hurt.

13 BOARD MEMBER HURT: Thank you, Chair.

14 As I think about how we've kind of reimaged and
15 improved AB 617, I always ask every community what were
16 the biggest challenges and how did you overcome them or
17 how are you still trying to meet them, so that other
18 communities can hear and learn as this Program I think is
19 intended to do? And it would be great to hear maybe from
20 the perspective of the local officials as well as a
21 perspective of a community member.

22 JANICE LAM SNYDER: Hi. Janice Lam Snyder with
23 the Air District. You know, one of the biggest challenges
24 that we have has been resources and funding. And as you
25 know, you know, engaging with communities, having these

1 one-on-one conversations, being able to provide
2 information, so that they can make informed decisions
3 takes resources and time. And so with lack of resources,
4 then it comes lack of being able to do more. And so I
5 think that has been the biggest challenge for us.

6 BOARD MEMBER HURT: Thank you.

7 VINCENT VALDEZ: I'll add to some of the
8 outreach. So in working with the Air District and they've
9 done a phenomenal job of helping us get the information
10 out to the community. But in the beginning, we went to
11 some Spanish speaking communities or events, and we didn't
12 have Spanish speaking -- spanish language literature or
13 Spanish speaking people to share what we're talking about.
14 And so those are the learning curves that we went through.
15 And also presentations or it's on your computer aren't
16 some of the right answers for the community we're engaging
17 with, the marginalized communities.

18 And so we had some events where we brought food
19 and we shared discussions over a meal. And so we had
20 surveys. And so I took the surveys and did in-person
21 surveys for the first time. And then next, you know, we
22 did a few more events. And it was a lot easier to get
23 feedback from people in person and over a meal or just at
24 an event where they were interested to be there.

25 And so it's just going to it -- like I think

1 Janice said going to where people are was one of the
2 biggest things that we learned. Instead of trying to have
3 people come to our events, we went and found people where
4 they were at in the community and we received a lot of
5 feedback that way, engaging them.

6 BOARD MEMBER HURT: Thank you for sharing.

7 SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCILMEMBER MAPLE: And just
8 really briefly from -- you know, I can speak from the --
9 from the elected perspective, not taking anything away
10 from the steering committee, but want to second the point
11 on language access. I think that's really crucial being
12 able to meet people where they, going to those places of
13 worship, the community centers, schools in particular. I
14 think my colleague will probably agree with this, making
15 sure that we're engaging young people is important.

16 But I think also the iterative process is
17 important, like the expansion of the boundaries itself.
18 You know, as I go out and I talk to my constituents, you
19 know, we recognize that a lot of the boundary expansions
20 actually in my district areas that weren't formerly
21 included, things like around the County -- the Sacramento
22 County Executive Airport where we have since gotten more
23 data from some of the air monitoring and realized, ahh,
24 you know, that is actually what we thought it was. We are
25 seeing increase in these places and we're seeing outcomes

1 in these places that are challenging.

2 And so we want to make sure that as we get more
3 information that we are constantly updating the process,
4 updating the boundaries and capturing everyone that we
5 need to, so...

6 SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCILMEMBER VANG: Thanks, Vice
7 Mayor Maple. I think the only thing I would add is
8 definitely back to the resources, but the Building
9 capacity. I have full faith in our community members to
10 lead this work, but they are also incredibly busy. And
11 making sure we have resources to help build that muscle is
12 so important.

13 And back to the linkage access piece. Even right
14 now in the City of Sacramento, you know, we just secured
15 funding for a language access coordinator, right? There's
16 so much that we could be doing to reach our diverse
17 community by being -- a big part of that is resources and
18 helping to ensure that we continue to build capacity,
19 because, councilmembers and mayors electeds they come and
20 go, but the people that stay is the community doing this
21 work.

22 And if I've learned anything from my organizing
23 and watching the steering committee, it's about making
24 sure we help build capacity, so that when we're no longer
25 here, it's a community that's carrying this work and doing

1 the advocacy and doing the education, and so resources for
2 the community, so they can build that capacity arm is
3 critical to the work.

4 BOARD MEMBER HURT: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

5 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Thank you so much.
6 We will now hear from members of the public who signed up
7 to speak on this item, either by submitting a request to
8 speak card or by raising their hand in Zoom. So I will
9 ask the Board clerks to call the commenters

10 BOARD MEMBER LEVRINI: Thank you, Chair,
11 Randolph. We will call in-person commenters first and
12 then we will hear from those who have raised their hand in
13 Zoom. We have six commenters who have turned in a request
14 to speak card and wish to speak at this time. We will be
15 showing a list of the next several commenters on this
16 screen, so you can be prepared to come to the podium.
17 Public sign-up closure will be at 6:07 p.m.

18 Starting with Rhonda Henderson.

19 RHONDA HENDERSON: Good afternoon, Chair Randolph
20 and the rest of the members on the Board. I'm Rhonda
21 Henderson and I'm on the Steering Committee, and I'm
22 also -- I live in the community. And I represent a
23 neighborhood association, which I'm the President of,
24 which is North Laguna Creek Valley High Community
25 Association. I've lived in South Sacramento for decades.

1 I grew up in Oak Park and I went to fruitridge elementary
2 school and I graduated from Sac High. Later on, I raised
3 my kids in Meadowview for 13 years. I went on and lived
4 in Old Florin Town for another 13 to 15 years. And now I
5 live in North Laguna Creek.

6 So I have great experience living in the south
7 area. I just want to help improve our air quality. I
8 have served on the AB 617 Air Quality Steering Committee
9 since its inception. And I also -- I strongly support the
10 development of a CERP to reduce air pollution. As a
11 community member, I've experienced firsthand negative
12 impacts of poor air quality on my health and the health of
13 my family. A CERP is essential for creating a healthier
14 and safer environment for everyone.

15 Clean air is a fundamental right. By investing
16 in CERP, we're investing in the long-term health and
17 well-being of our community. I'm eager to participate in
18 this process and to contribute to cleaner -- a cleaner
19 future.

20 We've recently expanded, as you heard, our
21 boundaries to support monitoring in additional areas that
22 were not originally included in our CAMP boundaries. And
23 those areas include places that have even greater polluted
24 air quality than we thought. So we want to be able to
25 address those areas. And its -- a lot of them are in

1 marginal areas that have been overlooked for a long time.

2 I'm pleased and consider one of the greatest a
3 challenges that we've accomplished is to complete the CAMP
4 the first Round 1, Phase 2 and now we're still in Phase 3.

5 We all --

6 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you, Ms. Henderson.
7 I believe this completes your time.

8 RHONDA Henderson: We also created a website, so
9 that we can reach more people and we use QR codes too, so
10 therefore, if we're out tabling, as Vincent alluded to --

11 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: I'm sorry, Ms. Henderson,
12 that completes your time.

13 RHONDA HENDERSON: Oh, okay.

14 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Yeah, your time is up, if you
15 want to just do one more wrap-up sentence, that would be
16 great.

17 RHONDA HENDERSON: Okay. My interaction with the
18 Air Quality District Staff has been great. They provide
19 essential support and guidance along the way that help us
20 to be successful. Thank you.

21 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you, Ms. Henderson.
22 Richard Falcon.

23 RICHARD FALCON: Thank you very much. Good
24 afternoon everyone. My name is Richard Falcon. I am a
25 member of the Steering Committee for the AB 617. And I

1 also want to let you know that I also sit on the CARB
2 Community Scientists Initiative that's going on. It's
3 been such an eye-opening experience for me. And also I
4 sit on the CARB community engagement initiative that's
5 there, again on how we reach community on these very, very
6 important subjects. I am also one of the key members on
7 the Sacramento County Vehicle Emissions Project and all
8 the work that's been going on there. And as a member of
9 United Latinos implementing the new U.S. EPA grant, where
10 we're focusing on education and air quality, especially as
11 a workforce development place for the improvement of the
12 education of our youth and leading it to solutions there.

13 All of this --

14 BOARD MEMBER KRACOV: You should be sitting up
15 here instead of down there.

16 (Laughter).

17 RICHARD FALCON: So all of this though is to say
18 that this all started because United Latinos decided to
19 get the idea that we wanted to do our own independent air
20 quality monitoring, because frankly we didn't trust you,
21 so we did that. And with that, we have developed
22 relationships with the Air Quality Management District
23 over the years that we've been doing this. And we have
24 found that in developing that relationship, in speaking
25 our truth, in sharing those uncomfortable conversations,

1 we have come to this place of an understanding and the
2 ability to say, let's start providing solutions.

3 We think about the fact -- I was remembering on a
4 U.S. EPA Region 9 call, it was talked about the fact that
5 community engagement is no good if the answer is always
6 no. But by taking us from a CAMP to a CERP, now you're
7 making the answer yes. Yes, we will listen to you. Yes,
8 we will fund you. Yes, we will make changes in there to
9 improve the health of our families, and the vibrancy of
10 our communities.

11 So all of this is to say please, please, please,
12 I urge you pass this initiative, give us the funding, let
13 us continue to do the funding. And we're going to make
14 mistakes along the way. That's okay. That's how we grow,
15 but give us the resources necessary to make those mistakes
16 and to grow things. Thank you very much.

17 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

18 And I apologize in advance if I mispronounce any
19 names. Adrian Rehn.

20 ADRIAN REHN: I hate having to follow Richard.
21 He's so great. Good afternoon, Chair Randolph and members
22 of the Board. My name is Adrian Rehn. The non-profit I
23 work for, Valley Vision, was very active in advocating for
24 Sacramento's designation as a Round 1 AB 617 community. I
25 was actually in this room in September 2018 when we were

1 successful in obtaining that designation. And I've
2 personally attended the vast majority of CSC meetings
3 since they began in December 2018. And I know and really
4 enjoy spending time with a lot of the Committee members.

5 In addition to seeing the process firsthand, I've
6 helped secure three of the community air grants that have
7 come to the Sacramento region to do AB 617 pre-work in
8 North Sac, Oak Park Fruitridge, and soon Meadowview. I'm
9 here today to support the transition of South Sac-Florin
10 to a CERP community, enabling South Sac to formally
11 advance a long awaited emission reductions.

12 AB 617 has been a learning experience as well,
13 especially for air districts who've had to structurally
14 shift their focus to direct engagement with impacted
15 communities. I've seen firsthand neighborhood leaders in
16 South Sacramento build connections and trust with one
17 another over the years they've put in, some of them for
18 six years now. We have the opportunity tonight to
19 recognize all the work and trust building that has been
20 achieved by the residents and CBOs serving on the CSC as
21 well as the Air District and staff. At the end of the
22 day, we're all people and we're all here because we want
23 better air quality in South Sacramento.

24 All of this said, the success of the Program is
25 threatened by inequities that the AB 617 consulting group,

1 EJ advocates, air districts, CARB staff, and just about
2 everyone has warned about at some point or another. A few
3 million bucks just doesn't go far enough and more funding
4 is needed to be responsive to the needs of the community
5 and for meaningful planning and implementation of
6 projects.

7 The resource element is really important as we
8 think about the initial promise to our state's most
9 pollution-burdened communities including here in
10 Sacramento. So again, I want to thank you for your time,
11 urge the approval of the CERP, and encourage expanded
12 resources for South Sacramento to realize its clean air
13 vision.

14 Thank you.

15 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

16 Luis Sanchez.

17 LUIS SANCHEZ: Good afternoon, Chairman Randolph
18 and members of the Committee. My name is Luis Sanchez and
19 I'm the Executive Director of Community Resource Project,
20 a 51-year established nonprofit here in the Sacramento
21 region, providing vital services to low-income residents
22 throughout our full county region.

23 I'm here to voice support for the South
24 Sacramento-Florin community to transition to a Community
25 Emissions Reduction Program. This is a needed action to

1 provide mitigation and improvement actions to address
2 air -- residents' air quality concerns and the health
3 impacts derived from them. CRP is also a recipient of a
4 CARB Clean Air Grant serving that South Sacramento area.
5 And so we thank you for that.

6 CRP has had as strong collaborative involvement
7 with the Sacramento Air Quality Management District over
8 the years, and especially with AB 617 boundaries in South
9 Sacramento, where we have offices.

10 Our experience with the District has been a
11 positive and supportive one with their assistance in
12 transitioning some of our fleet vehicles to electric
13 vehicles, so that way our technicians can travel without
14 emitting emission -- bad emissions in the community.

15 We've also -- they have also supported us in the
16 development of a mobility hub at our community resource
17 center located in the AB 617 boundaries to provide the
18 community residents with clean mobility options. And so
19 we believe that the District's community engagement and
20 involvement through their efforts and also through this
21 Committee is helping identify those concerns in addressing
22 solutions to mitigate those.

23 So we support the efforts of this transition to a
24 CERP. Thank you

25 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

1 Mauro Libre.

2 MAURO LIBRE: I spent hours practicing for two
3 minutes and all that's out the window now. So, I heard
4 the presentation and I heard a lot of promises of things
5 coming around the corner. Isn't that how racism works?
6 Justice is always right around the corner. But after five
7 years and \$4 million, I don't have a 30-page rough draft
8 that tells me what they've done and what issues I should
9 be concerned about in my community.

10 I don't know how you can look at that as anything
11 other than an utter failure of the Steering Committee, the
12 Air District, and CARB for not pushing for that. Now, I
13 think what you've heard here today kind of justifies my
14 written public comments that certain communities were
15 intentionally excluded. I think I've made that case
16 really well in previous written comments. Your guest here
17 was on the news breaking ground across the street from the
18 boundaries next to the avenues and Woodbine in Caity's
19 district.

20 I don't oppose moving to a CERP, but I get the
21 vibe like you guys are trying to move past all the
22 injustices that occurred with the CAMP. Reducing
23 emissions might not be the same emissions that are
24 plaguing this particular community. And I don't think the
25 Steering Committee has been informed or educated enough to

1 be making decisions for the Avenues and Woodbine.

2 You want to know my credibility. Those 600 DIY
3 filters they're talking about, my idea. That bus tour
4 Caity took, I pushed for it, because I proved the original
5 bus tour intentionally hid the pollution the Avenues and
6 Woodbine. A lot of the folks you're going to hear today,
7 I recruited them. I could recruit a 20-person steering
8 committee in two months with only the promise of a \$100
9 stipend and being heard.

10 This is somewhat of a sham and you guys can
11 correct it by ceding them their CERP, but also insisting
12 they correct the injustices that occurred with the CAMP.

13 Thank you.

14 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

15 Barry Boyd.

16 Take your time.

17 BARRY BOYD: Give me a second. Part of my
18 comments will be on my health. And trying to just catch
19 my breath from that very short walk.

20 The -- I used to be an athlete. But to that, I
21 won't detain us anymore. Let me know when the -- Hi,
22 Adriana -- when the clock starts, so I'll be begin or the
23 clock starts on my...

24 My apologies. I've been told that I -- when I'm
25 speaking it sounds very low, but to me, it sounds like I'm

1 yelling. Is this better?

2 Okay.

3 Thank you, brother.

4 I need one of these at home.

5 (Laughter).

6 BARRY BOYD: To that, good afternoon. And as
7 announced, I am Barry F. Boyd. I, too, am a South
8 Sacramento-Florin Steering Committee member. I, too, am a
9 Subcommittee CERP member and I am in support of the South
10 Sacramento-Florin community to develop a Community
11 Emissions Reductions Program and extending the Community
12 Air Monitoring Plan in the new expanded boundaries as of
13 Monday, July 22nd, 2024 in the South Sacramento-Florin
14 Steering Committee meeting, as I believe Janice had stated
15 a little bit earlier.

16 With the Sacramento Environmental Justice
17 Coalition, to which I sit on that board and I am the
18 representative of Sac EJC on the South Sac-Florin Steering
19 Committee, we ask with the confirmation of the South
20 Sacramento-Florin into a CERP, that a measured health care
21 study, i.e. Respiratory, epidermis, et cetera, and their
22 outcomes be included in that motion. If there isn't
23 health care -- health care studies that -- with their
24 outcomes -- if there isn't health care studies with their
25 outcomes, there is no way to know how effective the CERP

1 implementations would have been or will have been, since
2 it hasn't happened yet.

3 Not only is this a common sense notion, it may
4 help to explain why after moving back to Sacramento in
5 2006 from Los Angeles, I now have chronic allergies,
6 respiratory and heart issues that I am under doctor's care
7 for and other issues. Again, I once was an athlete. The
8 weight that I am now is the same weight I was when I came
9 in 2006. The difference was that you would have saw a
10 very decent looking physique of muscle.

11 And again, so finding out that we are in a bowl
12 in Sacramento county-wide. The pollution in the
13 Meadowview neighborhood, to which I live, is one of the
14 highest peaking area just a mile from Mangan Park, the
15 airport, and the surrounding areas.

16 I know I'm over my time, I'll wrap it with this.

17 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you, Mr. Boyd.

18 BARRY BOYD: It is well past the time of what we
19 need for implementation to not mitigate, but to stop that
20 excess of pollution that is already here without industry.

21 Thank you and sorry for yapping on.

22 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you.

23 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you, Mr. Boyd.

24 Jennifer Holden.

25 JENNIFER HOLDEN: Good evening. My name is

1 Jennifer Holden. I am the neighborhood association leader
2 for the Mangan Park Neighborhood Association, which is at
3 the northern or the take-off end of the Executive Airport
4 in Caity Maple's district. And I am also and advisor for
5 the Sacramento Environmental Justice Coalition.

6 As a neighborhood association leader, I got to
7 know my neighbors very well and learned that among the
8 families who had lived in the neighborhood more than 10
9 years, every single family member had a respiratory
10 disease -- every single household had one, I should say.
11 Every household more than 10 years, one respiratory
12 disease at least.

13 I checked the CalEnviroScan[SIC]. The census
14 tract for my neighborhood is in the 94th percentile for
15 asthma. So only six percent of California census tracts
16 have higher rates of asthma than my neighborhood of Mangan
17 Park in the south area.

18 I worked with Richard Falcon and the United
19 Latinos and got some air quality monitoring in the
20 neighborhood. We do have some higher levels of some ugly
21 things running around in there. Now, then they're within
22 EPA levels -- I'm not talking lawsuit here. But in
23 comparison to a control in an industrial area, just a mile
24 or two away, our levels still tested higher.

25 We've got problems and we need help. Our kids

1 are reaching for their inhalers. I have adult onset
2 asthma that I acquired about 10 years after living in the
3 neighborhood. Never had asthma before. Adults rarely get
4 asthma. I did.

5 So, I am in support of creating this CERP. And
6 good people, let's do this. Let's do some good things
7 together.

8 Thank you.

9 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

10 We have one more in-person speaker, Jesus Cacho.
11 Jesus?

12 JESUS CACHO: Good afternoon to everyone. My
13 name is Jesus Cacho. I'm a member of Sac EJC and I
14 support this CERP in South Sacramento only, if public
15 health outcomes are attached for the project.

16 Thank you very much. I, too, live around people
17 who have asthma. And health care is so expensive. I'm a
18 health care worker myself, so I understand the situation.
19 So we do need something to do for our community. And
20 also, if it's possible, educate our people in school in
21 all the community area.

22 Thank you very much.

23 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you. And we have one
24 Zoom commenter. Tido Hoang, we are going to give you
25 permission to talk, if you could please unmute your mic.

1 TIDO HOANG: Hello, everyone. Can you hear me?

2 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: We can hear you.

3 TIDO HOANG: All right. Hello. Thank you so
4 much. Thank you, Chairperson Randolph. Thank you, Janice
5 and the rest of the team. I really wish I was there with
6 you all. I'm a member of the Steering Committee. Since
7 2019, I'm the President of the Vietnamese American
8 Community of Sacramento, a member of the Little Saigon
9 community. We are in the heart of South Sacramento. I
10 want to echo everything that was said by City
11 Councilmember Mai Vang, Janice, that our community has
12 suffered so much.

13 And I think we've gone -- come a long way the
14 last five years. We've accomplished so much. I felt
15 there was so much that we still have yet to accomplish and
16 this is where we need to put our words and our talk into
17 action. I think much is given. I think much is expected
18 of us. I think converting this into a CERP is the way to
19 do this. My community of 40,000 AB -- AAPI community
20 members who are refugees and immigrants who come here for
21 a better life. And I really felt that as a South
22 Sacramento member of the community we've gotten somewhere
23 and converting this CERP is the way to go. If I can save
24 some few minutes for Rhonda Henderson. I know you guys
25 want to share. And also for the of rest of the team

1 members much love and thank you for your time. Thank you
2 so much.

3 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you. That completes
4 our public commenters for this item.

5 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. Thank you. I am going to
6 go ahead and close the record on this item and see if
7 Councilmember Guerra is able --

8 BOARD MEMBER GUERRA: Sure, Chair.

9 CHAIR RANDOLPH: -- to speak on.

10 BOARD MEMBER GUERRA: Chair Randolph.

11 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Oh, good. There you are okay.

12 BOARD MEMBER GUERRA: Can you hear me?

13 CHAIR RANDOLPH: The Chair -- the floor is yours.

14 BOARD MEMBER GUERRA: Yes, I can hear you Chair
15 Randolph.

16 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Go ahead and share
17 your thoughts on this item.

18 BOARD MEMBER GUERRA: Great. Thank you so much.
19 You know, I apologize for not being able to be there. I'm
20 visiting my family up in the Sierra Madre and we're
21 experiencing thunder storms here, so our reception is a
22 bit choppy here.

23 But first let me just start by saying what a
24 exciting day it is today to be here, one as a CARB Board
25 member representing the Sacramento-Florin Air Basin

1 District and the South Sacramento community, but more so
2 are entire air region here. I had an opportunity to be
3 the Chair of the Air District at the time that we began
4 this effort. And when we began to create a steering
5 committee and move forward and submitted a number of
6 communities to include in this.

7 And one of the things that I'm very proud of
8 today is the amount of community work that's gone on. You
9 know, thank you very much to Chair Vincent Valdez, to
10 Richard Falcon from United Latinos, from -- Tido from, you
11 know, you Stockton Boulevard, Little Saigon community that
12 we've had a lot of opportunity to work with them, and
13 Rhonda Henderson who -- you know, who mentioned she went
14 to Fruitridge Elementary, where -- near where I live now
15 off of Stockton Boulevard.

16 And a couple things to discuss first and
17 foremost. Questions for my Board members that were
18 brought up. Number one, Board Member De La Torre, your --
19 the question about the size and the boundaries. Knowing
20 Sacramento, particularly South Sacramento, you'd have to
21 recognize that the communities that are impacted by this
22 area are faced with a squeeze. There in a -- in between
23 Highway 99 and also the industrial area of the Power Inn
24 community. And that in itself, if you look at the
25 CalEnviroScreen and the way that our air patterns move,

1 the heat island effect are all interconnected. And so
2 those boundaries that were selected are a recognition of
3 the multiple zones, but more importantly of just the
4 science and how air movement works and how those areas and
5 the emissions, and the sources for mobile sources impact
6 that community.

7 The second question I think that came about from
8 our Board Member -- Board Member Hurt's was the -- what
9 were the challenges? And I think one of the biggest ones
10 with AB 617 that faces all communities that look at AB 617
11 is the issue of resources, because of their -- these are
12 non-committed, no long-term obligated sources. So unless
13 you're a large air district, unless you're an air district
14 that has the ability of different sources of funding, not
15 that they're unlimited, smaller and midsized air districts
16 have a real challenge trying to execute any program and
17 face a challenge where they cannot meet their obligation,
18 if there isn't a path forward.

19 What's exciting about where we are today -- and I
20 want to thank my colleagues on the Air District, Chair
21 Kennedy who's our current Chair and our two Board members,
22 Councilmember Vang and Councilmember Maple, for coming
23 today, because they underscored the commitment by the
24 local air district, and the local county, and to the city.
25 The community efforts by the steering committee inspired

1 me to challenge a air monitoring program where the City of
2 Sacramento, because of the interests of our South
3 Sacramento Steering Committee, we instituted a general
4 fund funded program to put in 200 portable air monitors,
5 so that the community could use those portable air
6 monitors to identify areas in their community and to also
7 educate them on how air monitoring works.

8 It also funded a mobile high level air monitor
9 that we're moving around and using for different sources
10 in areas, on top of that, of what I call, also creating
11 the air quality -- or air fellowship, where we were able
12 to increase our workforce and look for to hire a student
13 who now works for the Air District by looking at this
14 program here.

15 All of those are efforts that have come about
16 because of the CAMP program. The CAMP program showed so
17 much success in moving us forward. My only frustration is
18 that this is the last movement to a CERP of all the
19 communities in the state. I agree that this should have
20 done -- been done sooner and today's action to move
21 forward is critical.

22 I want to also, you know, make a clear point
23 here. There were some assertions made about transparency.
24 And I will say that I am very proud of the amount of
25 effort that has been consistently done for transparency,

1 for outreach, for learning about how better communicate
2 with our community. I want to thank Richard Falcon and
3 the work of the -- our local artist to engage our Latino
4 community and also Tido and the community in Little Saigon
5 to recognize not only our immigrant, but our refugee
6 community who live in the area and also face the same
7 challenges and to make sure that we were engaging our
8 business owners and local business owners.

9 And what's exciting about that is now we have one
10 of our local Vietnamese business owners who is going to
11 produce a full electric kitchen, recognizing the effects
12 of natural gas as an impact on emissions. That's the
13 leadership that we're seeing because of this
14 community-based effort.

15 In South Sacramento, you know, this community
16 really has put an effort into looking at all aspects and
17 educating themselves on how best to prioritize these
18 resources. Finally, I want to, you know, again thank the
19 CARB staff here for taking the time to work with the Air
20 District and the community in this level, to making sure
21 that we're preparing. Because even without CARB making --
22 or taking an action today, which I feel optimistic that
23 our Board members will support the community's call to
24 action, the community's vote to move it forward, even
25 before that, they have said we need to begin to move

1 forward, even if the State hasn't taken action, how do we
2 make sure we move forward in that direction.

3 With that, I'm excited to see my local
4 neighbors -- as was mentioned here, this is -- this is
5 about our public health, about, you know, the young kids
6 in our area who face lung development challenges because
7 of the poor air quality, our seniors -- my mother who
8 lives off of Power Inn and Fruitridge Road next to the
9 rail line, and making sure that we're making efforts to
10 address those areas of industrial impacts to the
11 community, and the actions that this CARB Board has taken.

12 I want to thank the CARB Board for looking at the
13 loc -- the locomotive rule that we've most recently
14 passed. That affected South Sacramento in a very big way,
15 because any time we have areas like these that have rail
16 spurs and idling, you know, trains, those are local
17 emitting sources. All of this has been an effort that
18 we've been able to use together. And I'm excited to be
19 working with the community in this next step.

20 Madam Chair, I know you prefer to hear the
21 dialogue before we make an action, so I'll wait to make --
22 ask to make a motion, but I would very much like to take
23 that action when appropriate.

24 Thank you, Madam Chair.

25 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. I will call on you

1 when we get to that point in the discussion.

2 Dr. Balmes.

3 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Thank you, Chair. And
4 again, I want to thank the members of the Community
5 Steering Committee, the local elected officials that are
6 here and all the public testimony. You know, I've been
7 involved with AB 617 implementation pretty much from the
8 start. It was one of the sort of special tasks that I
9 embraced as a Board member, because I think AB 617 is such
10 an important effort transformative and that I hope our
11 success will lead to a more national approach to community
12 air pollution, monitoring, and emission control.

13 As you know, the South Sacramento-Florin AB 617
14 effort had some bumps in the road, you know, but I really
15 am happy to hear how successful it's been more recently.
16 And I like the expansion of the area a lot, I think,
17 especially using CalEnviroScreen to help you, you know,
18 with those boundaries. That's very good thinking and I
19 appreciate that.

20 So I mostly just want to commend you for the
21 success that you have attained. I'm totally happy to vote
22 for your transition to a Community Emission Reduction
23 Plan.

24 So thank you.

25 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Thank you.

1 Any other questions or comments?

2 All right. I will echo Dr. Balmes thanks for all
3 the work you all put into this. It's very exciting and I
4 really appreciate the thoughtfulness, as Dr. Balmes said,
5 you know, of thinking about the boundaries, and thinking
6 about the needs, and the sources, and the opportunities
7 there.

8 So with that, I will call on Board Member Guerra,
9 because I think he has a motion he would to make.

10 BOARD MEMBER GUERRA: Thank you, Madam Chair.
11 You know, I'd like to move the staff report and accept the
12 request by the South Sacramento-Florin community to move
13 to a CERP. And that's my motion.

14 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right.

15 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Second.

16 CHAIR RANDOLPH: I will -- that is motion to
17 approve Resolution number 24-11. And we have a second
18 from Dr. Balmes.

19 Clerk, will you please call the roll.

20 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: All right. Dr. Balmes?

21 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Yes.

22 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Mr. De La Torre?

23 BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: Aye.

24 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Mr. Eisenhut?

25 BOARD MEMBER EISENHUT: Yes.

1 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Senator Florez?

2 Ms. Guerra?

3 BOARD MEMBER GUERRA: Guerra aye.

4 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Ms. Hurt.

5 BOARD MEMBER HURT: Many thanks to all those that
6 leaned in. Aye.

7 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Mr. Kracov?

8 BOARD MEMBER KRACOV: Yes.

9 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Dr. Pacheco-Werner?

10 BOARD MEMBER PACHECO-WERNER: Congratulatory yes.

11 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Mr. Perez?

12 BOARD MEMBER PEREZ: Perez yes.

13 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Mr. Rechtschaffen.

14 BOARD MEMBER RECHTSCHAFFEN: Yes.

15 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Dr. Shaheen?

16 BOARD MEMBER SHAHEEN: Aye.

17 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Ms. Takvorian?

18 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Did you hear Dr.
19 Shaheen?

20 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Yes. Sorry.

21 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Oh, okay. I didn't want
22 to step on her.

23 And my congratulations. Enthusiastic yes.

24 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Chair Randolph?

25 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Yes.

1 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: The motion passes.

2 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Thank you.

3 Congratulations.

4 (Applause).

5 CHAIR RANDOLPH: We'll be starting our next item
6 in about two minutes.

7 Okay. The last item -- Board Member De La Torre,
8 the last item on the agenda today is Item number 24-4-4.

9 And --

10 AGP VIDEO: Let's quiet down. Thank you. Hello.
11 Quiet down.

12 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you. Okay. Our -- I
13 don't have a gavel. I know I need a gavel.

14 Okay. Everybody is getting punchy, so we should
15 get our last item started. It is item number 24-4-4 to
16 hear the Community Air Protection Program annual progress
17 update. If you are here with us in the room and wish to
18 comment on this item, please fill out a request-to-speak
19 card as soon as possible and submit it to a Board
20 assistant. If you are joining us remotely and wish to
21 comment on this item, please click the raise-hand button
22 or dial star nine now. We will first call on in-person
23 commenters followed by any remote commenters when we get
24 to the public comment portion of the item.

25 The Community Air Protection Program continues to

1 demonstrate why it is one of the most essential tools we
2 have to improve air quality in the most vulnerable and
3 impacted communities.

4 Last year, this Board approved the first
5 five-year update to the Program Blueprint, which is the
6 guidance document for the Community Air Protection
7 Program. Blueprint 2.0 reiterated CARB and air district
8 commitment to the 19 communities in the Program and called
9 out three new pathways to support consistently nominated
10 communities experiencing cumulative emissions exposure
11 burdens.

12 It has been nine months since the Board approved
13 Blueprint 2.0. During this time, air districts and
14 community steering committees have been hard at work
15 implementing actions in the Community Emissions Reduction
16 Programs.

17 As this Program has matured, the role of our
18 Board in it has also evolved. We will continue to
19 consider the selection of communities into the Program
20 when more resources become available, as air districts
21 complete work on some of the early CERPs and are able to
22 formally select communities again. We will also continue
23 to use new pathways to focus on the 60 plus consistently
24 nominated communities.

25 Tonight, we'll hear about the progress and how

1 lessons learned are being applied in other communities
2 across the state. CARB acknowledges the partnership and
3 hard work of communities and air districts in our shared
4 mission of improving air quality in these most impacted
5 communities.

6 Dr. Cliff, would you please introduce the item.

7 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: Thank you, Chair
8 Randolph.

9 I am deeply grateful for the unwavering
10 commitment of our partners, stakeholders, and community
11 members who work to ensure that AB 617 delivers on its
12 promise of improving air quality in the most impacted
13 communities throughout the state. You will see that
14 commitment reflected both in the annual progress report
15 that we are proud to share today and in the voices you
16 will hear in the video and panel that are part of this
17 presentation.

18 Our collective efforts demonstrate that an
19 equity-driven approach can work. And while there is still
20 much work to be done, I'm hopeful we can take the time to
21 celebrate how far we've come.

22 The cornerstone of community air protection is
23 the role communities play in identifying priorities and
24 shaping actions to address them. Thanks to the Board's
25 approval of the South Sacramento-Florin community to

1 develop a Community Emission Reduction Plan just a minute
2 ago, all 19 communities in the Program are developing or
3 implementing their CERP. Over 500 community members
4 within 19 AB 617 community steering committees are -- in
5 six air districts worked to develop their CERP, which
6 together contained hundreds of actions to mitigate air
7 pollution.

8 Since this Board approved the first CERPs, we
9 have seen a remarkable mobilization of resources and
10 community engagement aimed at reducing emissions from both
11 stationary and mobile sources. Blueprint 2.0 reinforces
12 CARB and air district commitment to the 19 communities in
13 the Program and introduces three new pathways to benefit
14 communities with cumulative emissions exposure burdens
15 that have consistently been nominated but not selected for
16 formal CERP development.

17 Tonight, you will hear an update on CERP
18 implementation from partners who have been at the
19 forefront of advancing innovative strategies within CERPs.
20 Bay Area Air Quality Management District Executive Officer
21 and Air Pollution Control Officer Dr. Phil Fine will share
22 gains made through the use of air district rulemaking
23 authority and the transformative organizational impact
24 from AB 617.

25 Additionally, Esperanza Vielma and Maritza

1 Garcia, community leaders from the Stockton and Portside
2 San Diego steering committees, will describe how
3 communities -- how community is involved in shaping
4 implementation of different measures to reduce air
5 pollution and promote healthy communities. From staff,
6 you'll also hear about progress made using the new
7 pathways set out in Blueprint 2.0. One new pathway is to
8 make incentives more accessible to impacted communities.
9 In April 2024, after an extensive public conver --
10 consultation progress -- process, we published revised
11 incentive guidelines that now facilitate the replication
12 of successful projects across similarly impacted
13 communities statewide

14 Communities partners played an essential role in
15 identifying and prioritizing incentive projects that
16 directly address their most pressing air quality concerns.
17 These projects range from replacing old, high-emission
18 transit vehicles with cleaner alternatives to community
19 greening and vegetative barrier installations all aimed at
20 reducing localized pollution and improving public health.

21 A second pathway relies on a new project type for
22 community air grants that empowers community-based
23 organizations and tribal governments to develop their own
24 local Community Emission Reduction Plans. Last month,
25 eight community air grant -- air grantees, which includes

1 two California Native American tribes began work on their
2 local CERPs. The flexibility of Local CERPs, which do not
3 require formal approval by the air district board or CARB
4 Board supports community self-direction in matters of air
5 quality governance and air district partnerships.

6 Implementing the Community Air Protection
7 Program, both within CARB and within each air district
8 that supports selected communities, requires dedicated
9 coordination across programs. I'm pleased to note that
10 our staff presentation tonight will include an update by
11 our Enforcement Division on community-focused enforcement,
12 the third pathway in Blueprint 2.0.

13 During, this evening's presentation, CARB's
14 Enforcement Division will provide an update on their work
15 in selected communities. CARB and local air district
16 staff play a pivotal role in investigating compliance
17 issues and enforcing air quality standards, particularly
18 in communities burdened by high levels of pollution.
19 These enforcement actions are designed to be proactive and
20 responsive, targeting areas of significant concern even
21 outside what's outlined in CERPs. Additionally,
22 Supplemental Environmental Projects provide an avenue for
23 violators to pay a portion of their penalties instead to a
24 community benefiting project that enhances local air
25 quality and public health. By integrating enforcement

1 with community focused initiatives, CARB aims to deliver
2 tangible improvements in air quality and compliance across
3 California's most impacted neighborhoods.

4 As we look ahead, the commitments and priorities
5 outlined in Blueprint 2.0 will guide our efforts over the
6 coming years. These priorities emphasize environmental
7 justice, equity, and civil rights ensuring that our
8 actions benefit all communities, particularly those
9 historically burdened by poor air quality. The strategic
10 goals set forth in supporting peer-to-peer learning across
11 communities increasing transparency and accountability,
12 programmatic evaluation, and expanding the reach of our
13 programs through innovative partnerships, and resource
14 allocations.

15 The progress documented in this report is a
16 testament to the dedication and collaborative spirit of
17 everyone involved in our Community Air Protection Program.
18 We remain committed to our mission of improving air
19 quality and public health across all California
20 communities. We are confident that with you continued
21 support and guidance, we will achieve even greater success
22 in the years to come.

23 I will now ask Jeremy Herbert from our Office of
24 Community Air Protection to introduce a short video
25 highlighting the experiences of representatives from the

1 communities of Calexico-El Centro-Heber, Stockton, and
2 Portside environmental justice neighborhoods. Following
3 the video, Jeremy and Dr. Crystal Reul-Chen of the
4 Enforcement Division will give the staff presentation.
5 And we will conclude with a panel of air district
6 representatives and community leader who will share their
7 perspectives on implementing CERPs within their
8 communities.

9 Jeremy.

10 OCAP STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERBERT:

11 (Thereupon a slide presentation).

12 OCAP STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERBERT:

13 Thank you, Dr. Cliff. Good afternoon, Chair
14 Randolph and members of the Board. Actually, it's more
15 like good evening at this point, right?

16 I am Jeremy Herbert, a Staff Air Pollution
17 Specialist in the Office of Community Air Protection,
18 otherwise known as OCAP. This is the first annual
19 progress update since the Board adopted the Program
20 Blueprint 2.0 last October.

21 [SLIDE CHANGE]

22 OCAP STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERBERT:

23 This year's Community Air Protection Program
24 annual progress update is aligned with the framework of
25 Blueprint 2.0. For example, one of the three pathways

1 included in Blueprint 2.0 to support consistently
2 nominated communities is community-focused enforcement.

3 Later in the presentation, Dr. Reul-Chen from the
4 Enforcement Division will share how community partnerships
5 can transform how we incorporate environmental justice
6 priorities in our enforcement work. We will also
7 facilitate a panel discussion from leaders in the program
8 talking about the power of the community collaborative
9 problem solvings model for creating lasting change.

10 [SLIDE CHANGE]

11 OCAP STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERBERT:

12 Moving on, let's start by looking at the status
13 of the 19 communities in the Program developing or
14 implementing Community Emission Reductions Plans, or
15 CERPs, and Community Air Monitoring Plans. These 19
16 communities collectively represent approximately four
17 million people in California.

18 Seven communities that were selected by this
19 Board in 2018 are in the fifth year of CERP
20 implementation. Additionally, there is six newer
21 communities that are actively implementing CERPs. These
22 communities have both helped shape the Program from the
23 outset and achieved substantial results.

24 In the prior item, this Board approved the
25 transition of South Sacramento-Florin community to develop

1 a CERP, while continuing their Community Air Monitoring
2 Plan. As of today, three more communities are in the
3 process of developing their CERPs, while two CERPs are --
4 were recently adopted by the local air districts earlier
5 this year. This month, Executive Officer Dr. Cliff
6 approved the CERP for the international border community
7 and we anticipate approval of the Richmond-North
8 Richmond-San Pablo CERP later this summer.

9 [SLIDE CHANGE]

10 OCAP STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERBERT: We
11 also commit to transparency about how Program funding is
12 used. Shown here is a summary of funding from the most
13 recent year of air district operations that has been fully
14 spent.

15 The chart on the left breaks down how the six air
16 districts implementing CERPs or Community Air Monitoring
17 Plans used those funds. A majority of implementation
18 funds were directed towards Program personnel costs,
19 followed by 10 million which was spent on planning,
20 implementing Best Available Retrofit Control Technology,
21 and toxics rule review, education and training, and
22 inventory work. Over \$3 million were spent on monitoring
23 activities and over two million on language access,
24 facilitation, and compensation for community steering
25 committees.

1 As a result of this funding, air districts have
2 the staffing resources to implement the hundreds of
3 strategies collectively contained in CERPs, some of which
4 are highlighted in the next slide.

5 [SLIDE CHANGE]

6 OCAP STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERBERT:

7 There are numerous highlights in the 13
8 communities actively implementing CERPs. Many more
9 highlights can be found in the accompanying annual
10 progress report, and an online community highlights story
11 map, as well as air districts own annual progress reports
12 and trackers.

13 I will highlight a few achievements here.

14 In the Bay Area, a new environmental justice
15 element was included into Oakland's 2045 general plan,
16 which integrates environmental justice principles into
17 local planning and land use decision-makings.

18 The Imperial County Air Pollution Control
19 District implemented strategies, such as fugitive dust
20 reduction, increased greenery, and improved agricultural
21 burning policies in Calexico, El Centro, and Heber
22 community.

23 In Portside environmental justice community, the
24 first all-electric tugboat in the United States was
25 implemented. That will save three -- 30,000 gallons of

1 diesel fuel per year.

2 In the South Coast, the East Los Angeles-Boyle
3 Heights-West Commerce Steering Committee approved the AB
4 617 Clean Technology Truck Loaner Program providing fleet
5 owners the opportunity to test zero-emission trucks.

6 South Coast Air Quality Management District
7 amended Rule 1118 to reduce flare emissions and
8 implemented an Enhanced Refinery Leak Detection Program in
9 Wilmington-Carson-West Long Beach.

10 [SLIDE CHANGE]

11 OCAP STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERBERT: And
12 Finally, South Los Angeles strategy implementation
13 included installing air filtration systems in 95 schools
14 and day cares, enhanced oil and gas regulations, and truck
15 idling inspections.

16 The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control
17 District has been implementing the Clean Air Rooms
18 Programs providing free air purifiers to South Central
19 Fresno residents to reduce indoor air pollution. Shafter
20 holds -- hosted an event to educate residents on cleaner
21 home heating options, including the fireplace and
22 woodstove changeout application process. The City of
23 Arvin represented on the Arvin-Lamont Steering Committee
24 has been a strong partner in collaborating to improve
25 roads, sidewalks, and bike paths reducing dust exposure

1 and prioritizing community-centric transportation.

2 [SLIDE CHANGE]

3 OCAP STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERBERT:

4 From my time in OCAP, I've worked with many
5 communities and have been fortunate to listen and learn
6 lessons from the local leaders in each of them. For that
7 reason, I am excited to share this video where we share
8 stories from residents, partners, and air districts about
9 how this Program is making a big difference in three of
10 our communities.

11 Can we please play the video.

12 (Thereupon a video was played.)

13 OCAP STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERBERT:

14 We thank everyone featured in the video for
15 sharing the strength and resilience in our communities and
16 the immense benefits this Program can achieve by
17 meaningfully partnering with communities to protect local
18 air quality. We look forward to highlighting other
19 communities in future videos.

20 [SLIDE CHANGE]

21 OCAP STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERBERT:

22 While the video highlighted a few recent
23 incentive successes like the electric tugboat in San Diego
24 and the school buses in Stockton, community air protection
25 investments are having a significant positive impacts

1 across the state.

2 As of November 2023, these investments have
3 resulted in over 5,200 projects across California. This
4 impressive number includes 1,200 zero-emission technology
5 projects, underscoring our commitment to advancing
6 cleaner, more sustainable transportation options.

7 A critical aspect of our strategy is to ensure
8 that these benefits reach the homes and neighborhoods of
9 communities most in need. I am proud to share that about
10 94 percent of community air protection incentives have
11 been allocated to designated disadvantaged communities.

12 [SLIDE CHANGE]

13 OCAP STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERBERT:

14 These incentives support a variety of projects.
15 Here are a few examples of projects funded in the last
16 year, paving projects, electric lawn and garden equipment,
17 electric school buses, and school air filtration systems,
18 which reduce air pollution exposure in the environments
19 for children attending school.

20 In addition, investments in the installation of
21 vegetative barriers help filter air pollutants naturally
22 and enhance the overall environment. Another important
23 focus is off-road projects, including replacing cargo
24 handling equipment like forklifts and cranes, and
25 agricultural equipment such as tractors and sprayers.

1 [SLIDE CHANGE]

2 OCAP STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERBERT:

3 Statewide, community air protection incentive
4 projects are significantly improving air quality in
5 communities heavily burdened by pollution. These projects
6 will reduce over 22,000 tons of oxides of nitrogen and
7 1,500 tons of reactive organic gases, which lead to ozone
8 formation. Additionally, they will cut more than 900 tons
9 of particulate matter, which can cause serious health
10 problems. By focusing resources on the most affected
11 areas, about 40 percent of these emission reductions will
12 benefit our 19 selected communities helping to reduce
13 disparities in air pollution impacts.

14 [SLIDE CHANGE]

15 OCAP STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERBERT:

16 CARB administers community air grants as a tool
17 for communities overburdened by air pollution to
18 participate in the community air protection process. Over
19 the past year, CARB has supported 39 Cycle 3 grantees as
20 they implement their respective projects throughout the
21 state. This includes the first Local Community Emission
22 Reduction Plan, or L-CERP, as a pilot project underway in
23 the San Joaquin Valley. This project inspired the
24 inclusion of the L-CERP project type as a pathway to
25 support consistently nominated communities.

1 Other community air grantees have also been hard
2 at work in 2023 implementing their projects. For example,
3 Blue Lake Rancheria used their community air grant awarded
4 in 2022 to develop an Air Quality Monitoring Plan,
5 purchase and deploy air quality monitors, conduct training
6 on air monitor maintenance, and work with teachers and
7 students to raise awareness about air quality. Similarly,
8 Brightline Defense Project used their grant to develop and
9 implement a community air monitoring and education plan
10 for San Francisco overburdened communities, including
11 youth leaders.

12 Over the last year, we have awarded \$10 million
13 to 42 projects in the fourth cycle of community air grants
14 with implementation beginning June 2024. Eighteen of
15 these projects will benefit the consistently nominated
16 communities. Of the 42 projects, 21 are technical
17 projects, 10 are educational projects, and three are
18 emission reduction strategy expansion projects. Four
19 projects will be implemented by California Native American
20 tribes. Cycle 4 also includes eight L-CERP projects and
21 we will begin recipient orientation next month.

22 [SLIDE CHANGE]

23 OCAP STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERBERT:

24 This slide showcases CARB's recently adopted
25 regulations that significantly reduce emissions,

1 especially in burdened communities. Targeting pollution
2 from heavy-duty vehicles, industrial emissions, and small
3 engines, CARB's efforts are comprehensive and vital for
4 public health in overburdened communities.

5 Many CARB rules in development are linked to CERP
6 actions, allowing community input on regulations affecting
7 local pollution sources. In the coming years, CARB and
8 air districts will continue to address these concerns.
9 Later, Dr. Phil Fine will discuss how the Bay Area Air
10 Quality Management District's rule making has also
11 benefited communities.

12 [SLIDE CHANGE]

13 OCAP STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERBERT:

14 Across the state, community air monitoring under
15 the Community Air Protection Program has broadly increased
16 the amount of spatially and temporally resolved air
17 pollution data available to the public through the
18 development and implementation of Community Air Monitoring
19 Plans.

20 Blueprint 2.0 has uplifted collaboration between
21 CARB, local air districts, and communities, and all groups
22 are working to maintain existing monitoring systems and
23 add new monitoring systems to better understand local
24 conditions and address community concerns. These new
25 monitoring activities range from characterizing emissions

1 from stationary sources, evaluating emissions from
2 heavy-duty vehicles, and deploying new technologies to
3 evaluate air toxics and other emerging pollutants of
4 concern.

5 Additionally, community-based organizations are
6 leveraging community air grants and United States
7 Environmental Protection Agency grant resources to further
8 develop their monitoring capabilities and conduct their
9 own monitoring. These include projects such as black
10 carbon measurements in heavily trafficked communities,
11 particulate matter sensors to quantify dust and wildfire
12 exposure, and mobile monitoring such as that near the San
13 Ysidro border crossing.

14 With support from community residents, CARB
15 applied and received a grant from the United States
16 Environmental Protection Agency to conduct community air
17 monitoring in La Vina, a consistently nominated community
18 in Madera County, and the communities of Maywood, Vernon,
19 Bell, and East Commerce in Los Angeles County. CARB, in
20 consultation and collaboration with local residents is
21 conducting air monitoring in these communities to measure
22 pesticides, air toxics, particulate matter, and black
23 carbon.

24 Moving forward, we expect monitoring programs to
25 continue to fill information gaps and renew their

1 continued focus on collecting data that leads to action.

2 I will now turn to Dr. Crystal Reul-Chen for the
3 enforcement update.

4 [SLIDE CHANGE]

5 ED AIR RESOURCES ENGINEER REUL-CHEN: Thank you,
6 Jeremy. And thank you, Dr. Cliff, Chair Randolph, and
7 esteemed Board members for the opportunity to update you
8 on some of CARB Enforcement's efforts prioritizing our
9 work in overburdened communities across California. I'm
10 Crystal Reul-Chen and work as a Community Enforcement
11 Liaison.

12 Community-focused enforcement is one of Blueprint
13 2.0's three pathways that CARB relies on to address needs
14 in 19 selected communities and consistently nominated
15 communities.

16 Thank you again.

17 CARB conducts enforcement throughout California
18 on a wide range of regulated sources shown on this slide.
19 CARB settled over 6,750 enforcement cases last year and
20 assessed over \$22 million in penalties, affecting change
21 in communities across the state.

22 Community members can access our enforcement data
23 in two ways. First, through our new Enforcement Data
24 Portal linked at the bottom of this slide and second
25 through our online interactive Enforcement Data

1 Visualization System mapping tool to see past enforcement
2 efforts in their communities.

3 [SLIDE CHANGE]

4 ED AIR RESOURCES ENGINEER REUL-CHEN: As a result
5 of or AB 617 work, CARB Enforcement developed a
6 community-focused enforcement approach to extend our
7 ability to support overburdened communities more broadly.
8 There are three main components to this approach. The
9 first is collaboration, where we work directly with
10 community members and others on targeted solutions
11 designed for the specific community.

12 The second is focusing our enforcement based on
13 community input.

14 The third is outreach where we share more about
15 our regulations, contact information, and air pollution
16 solutions with community members.

17 In the next few slides, I'll frame my description
18 of our work around this approach, which we've been
19 piloting in three communities. Today, I'll highlight our
20 progress in those communities and a few others.

21 [SLIDE CHANGE]

22 ED AIR RESOURCES ENGINEER REUL-CHEN: Southeast
23 LA is a Program community impacted by many sources of
24 pollution, including major freeways, railyards, and
25 industrial facilities.

1 CARB enforcement supports this community through
2 traditional enforcement efforts and additional actions
3 outlined in the Community Emissions Reduction Plan. In
4 addition to our railyard and truck idling inspections last
5 year, in partnership with community workgroup members, we
6 completed a commitment to develop a fact sheet to help
7 deter catalytic converter theft.

8 CARB Enforcement staff also continued to
9 distribute truck idling fact sheets during the
10 inspections. Our workgroup also began distributing the
11 catalytic converter theft deterrence fact sheets to law
12 enforcement and posting it online, which can be accessed
13 at the link at the bottom of this slide. We're now
14 working to establish a community pollution enforcement
15 workgroup to address broader community pollution concerns.

16 [SLIDE CHANGE]

17 ED AIR RESOURCES ENGINEER REUL-CHEN: In South
18 Stockton, CARB Enforcement piloted partnering directly
19 with community groups. Regular meetings with Little
20 Manila Rising and the Central Valley Air Quality Coalition
21 led us to develop a dynamic community enforcement plan
22 that evolves through regular community-driven meetings to
23 identify and solve problems together. While CARB
24 Enforcement staff regularly conduct inspections of
25 ocean-going vessels and commercial harbor craft, at the

1 nearby Port of Stockton, port truck traffic is impacting a
2 local school near it.

3 Community members in partnership with CARB staff
4 conducted truck counts to better understand truck volume
5 and flow around the school. CARB used this data in 2023
6 to conduct roadside inspections using PEAQS technology to
7 screen almost 600 trucks and confirmed a high compliance
8 rate with CARB regulations.

9 Even though the trucks were compliant with our
10 regulations, they were still damaging the road in front of
11 the school and making getting to school unsafe. CARB and
12 community leaders are using this information to advocate
13 for a solution to reroute the trucks.

14 CARB and community leaders have facilitated the
15 installation of no idling signs in the community and
16 continue to learn from each other at community youth
17 education events designed to empower students to actively
18 participate in air pollution solutions.

19 [SLIDE CHANGE]

20 ED AIR RESOURCES ENGINEER REUL-CHEN: Del Amo is
21 not a program community, but is a great example of how our
22 new approach can benefit many more communities across the
23 State. We've been piloting our approach in this community
24 that is impacted by heavy truck traffic from the nearby LA
25 County ports.

1 Since 2021, the Del Amo Action Committee and CARB
2 Enforcement have been meeting regularly with various
3 government agencies to address community environmental
4 concerns, including increased warehouse truck traffic
5 through meaningful actions. The Del Amo Community
6 Enforcement Workgroup has undertaken five efforts to
7 address truck traffic in the community ranging from
8 conducting studies and outreach efforts together to
9 investigating idling trucks at warehouses near residential
10 homes, both through truck inspections and warehouse
11 visits, where we determined that trucks waiting in traffic
12 to enter the warehouses, while not in violation of CARB's
13 idling rule, but facility visits then revealed product
14 delivery timing issues and limited access points as a
15 major cause of traffic congestion.

16 Like the Del Amo community members who reported
17 concerns that led to surveillance effort identifying
18 noncompliant trucks, anybody can report environmental
19 concerns to CARB at the link at the bottom of this slide.

20 [SLIDE CHANGE]

21 ED AIR RESOURCES ENGINEER REUL-CHEN: CARB
22 Enforcement's oil and gas program has also been working in
23 two formally selected communities in the San Joaquin
24 Valley, Arvin-Lamont and Shafter to address community
25 concerns from air pollution from oil and gas extraction.

1 The communities are adjacent to Bakersfield and are
2 impacted by Kern County's largest oil and gas refineries.

3 CARB and CalGEM's cross-agency Methane Task Force
4 and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
5 developed a comprehensive sampling and analysis plan, as
6 well as a community safety risk notification system before
7 beginning their inspections of 141 active and idle oil
8 wells in Bakersfield and these surrounding communities.
9 They discovered 45 leaks, all of which were repaired and
10 confirmed by follow-up inspections of the wells. The
11 Methane Task Force shared these inspection results with
12 the communities at six meetings.

13 In the Central Valley, CARB's community SEP
14 pro -- funding program provided the Air District over
15 \$750,000 to provide air filters to enhance indoor air
16 quality for many households in overburdened communities,
17 prioritizing access to those with respiratory conditions
18 to reduce exposure to harmful air pollutants. CARB's
19 Enforcement Division looks forward to replicating this
20 successful effort with other communities that have also
21 prioritized oil and gas-related commitments in their
22 CERPs.

23 [SLIDE CHANGE]

24 ED AIR RESOURCES ENGINEER REUL-CHEN: The
25 Community Supplemental Environmental Project funding

1 program, which we often refer to as SEPs, is one of the
2 key components of our community-focused enforcement
3 approach. CARB recognizes that while enforcement actions
4 and penalties play an important role in deterring
5 environmental violations, they alone don't address the
6 environmental harm that communities suffer because of
7 these violations. SEPs are community-based projects
8 funded by a portion of penalties received during CARB's
9 settlement of enforcement actions. Since 2017, over \$41
10 million from 160 enforcement cases have funded 76 projects
11 in California's overburdened communities. In 2023,
12 penalties funded \$6.1 million in SEPs.

13 SEPs projects are designed to improve community
14 health, raise awareness, and reduce pollution in the
15 neighborhoods most burdened by environmental harm.

16 Pictured here are examples of completed projects
17 in the bay and LA areas. You can see from those and from
18 the current projects described on this slide that a
19 variety of projects are funded all over the State.

20 [SLIDE CHANGE

21 ED AIR RESOURCES ENGINEER REUL-CHEN: CARB
22 enforcement is taking several steps over the course of the
23 next year to expand and update our community-focused
24 efforts. We plan to not only continue our efforts in
25 these communities, but to expand our community work into

1 put into place pathways to support consistently nominated
2 communities.

3 For example, OCAP has also expand the types of
4 incentive projects that are eligible for funding to make
5 it easier for communities to apply for and receive
6 assistance for proven air quality solutions.

7 CommunityHub 2.0 is an online resource that
8 serves as a platform to share strategies, actions, and
9 tools to improve air quality at the community scale.
10 Building the capacity of our own staff is another
11 commitment to -- in the blueprint. Training topics for
12 OCAP have included community engagement principles and
13 racial equity. As shared earlier, 18 community air grants
14 in cycle 4 will benefit consistently nominated communities
15 to the Program.

16 Additionally, we have executed a contract with a
17 research team to conduct a three-year programmatic
18 evaluation focused on five communities in the program and
19 lessons learned will guide the continuing evolution of the
20 Program.

21 CARB has also made substantial progress this year
22 towards updating our 2016 Civil Rights Policy, which will
23 be released for public review before the end of the year.

24 [SLIDE CHANGE]

25 OCAP STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERBERT: I

1 want to Zoom in on a couple other milestones for meeting
2 Blueprint 2.0 commitments. Recently, OCAP updated the
3 webpage that tracks the AB 617 requirements of air
4 districts to expedite the development of Best Available
5 Retrofit Control Technology regulations. The intent of
6 this statutory requirement is to make sure that the best
7 pollution controls are placed on stationary sources with a
8 special emphasis on sources air districts had not updated
9 permit limits since 2007.

10 Implementation of the requirement was due at the
11 end of 2023 and OCAP is now in the process of evaluating
12 completeness of these rulemaking commitments as well as
13 working with air districts to estimate the emissions
14 reduction benefits at the State and local level resulting
15 from these rules. Our next annual report update to the
16 Board will include additional details on projected results
17 from adoption of these rules.

18 [SLIDE CHANGE]

19 OCAP STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERBERT: We
20 have also partnered with the California Air Pollution
21 Control Officers Association, or CAPCOA, as commune -- and
22 community members to increase accessibility for the public
23 to the complex stationary source permitting process, an
24 important aspect of air quality protection. Engagement
25 with community members revealed over 160 questions that

1 community members had about this process. District
2 experts, CAPCOA, and OCAP work collaboratively to develop
3 accurate, accessible, and clear responses to these
4 questions in the form of an FAQ that is now available
5 online.

6 [SLIDE CHANGE]

7 OCAP STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERBERT:

8 While we continue to work with air districts to
9 support the current 19 CERPs and Community Air Monitoring
10 Plan communities, we are concurrently designing a
11 framework to expand efforts into our consistently
12 nominated communities to expand efforts to across much
13 larger number of communities across the state.

14 We will work to build partnerships and coordinate
15 the types of enhanced enforcement with communities we
16 heard about from Dr. Reul-Chen. We have begun to identify
17 pathways for increased access to incentives in
18 consistently nominated communities targeting outreach to
19 organizations in these areas to apply for community air
20 grants and Local CERPs.

21 We will also coordinate air monitoring efforts
22 within the consistently nominated communities to address
23 local pollution concerns through the statewide mobile
24 monitoring initiative as well as work with local partners
25 to identify opportunities to leverage federal resources.

1 [SLIDE CHANGE]

2 OCAP STAFF AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST HERBERT:

3 While we have made important progress, as we have
4 shared today, we still have much work ahead of us. We
5 plan to come to the Board next spring with a recommended
6 slate of members for the AB 617 Consultation Group after a
7 call for applications is released later this year. On
8 July 19th, CARB staff released the draft request for
9 applications for the next cycle of community air grants.
10 A draft engagement plan to guide this process will shortly
11 be released for comment. During the engagement process,
12 CARB staff will seek feedback on how best to improve
13 community air grants, project implementation, and develop
14 additional requirements for the L-CERPs. Public workshops
15 on the re -- draft request for applications are set for
16 August 20th and 22nd, 2024.

17 Findings and learnings from the third-party
18 program evaluation will help identify lessons learned,
19 unanticipated benefits, and outline key barriers to be
20 addressed for future implementation across many more
21 communities across the state.

22 CARB is currently reviewing proposed updates to
23 the 2016 civil rights policy and discrimination complaints
24 process, anticipating to finishing these updates through a
25 public process over the next year.

1 We will continue to create and facilitate a
2 learning culture of peer-to-peer networks and mentoring
3 for both communities and agency staff aimed at
4 transferring knowledge and air quality solutions between
5 communities across the state.

6 Additionally, CARB has recently initiated the
7 Statewide Mobile Monitoring Initiative. We are in the
8 beginning stages of this project and more details are set
9 to be released earlier next month.

10 And finally, we will launch an enhanced
11 stationary source technology clearinghouse in the spring
12 of 2025.

13 This concludes the staff presentation. I will
14 now turn to Kevin, Chief of the Reporting, Assessment, and
15 Strategy Branch in OCAP to moderate the Panel discussion.

16 Kevin.

17 OCAP PROGRAM ASSESSMENT & REPORTING BRANCH CHIEF
18 OLP: Thank you, Jeremy.

19 Testing.

20 [SLIDE CHANGE]

21 OCAP PROGRAM ASSESSMENT & REPORTING BRANCH CHIEF
22 OLP: All right. Well, before we begin the final element
23 of our presentation this evening, I just want to echo the
24 thank you to all of our Board members for staying with us
25 late into the evening. I know you've all had a very long

1 day, but the good news is we've saved the best for last.
2 And I'm excited to talk to some of our community leaders
3 and -- about the work that's happening on the ground.

4 Before we begin, I do want to just confirm that
5 Dr. Phil Fine is here and his audio and video are working.
6 I'll cull on him.

7 DR. PHIL FINE: I'm here I think, if you can hear
8 me.

9 OCAP PROGRAM ASSESSMENT & REPORTING BRANCH CHIEF
10 OLP: I think you're here. Thank you. Thanks, Phil.

11 All right. In 1987, the United States
12 Environmental Protection Agency responded to a research
13 study which clearly demonstrated disproportionate
14 environmental impacts in communities of color. EPA denied
15 that some of the communities were more impacted than
16 others and said that the agency was not a sociology
17 agency.

18 Almost 40 years later, clearly we have come a
19 long way as a nation and certainly in California. And
20 that movement has been driven by advocates and
21 environmental justice leaders demanding that we do better
22 to tackle the historical injustices in this country.

23 California is leading the country in innovative
24 approaches to resolve these structural racial and economic
25 inequities. And this has largely been driven by the

1 tireless work of amazing environmental justice leaders and
2 activists demand that we do better. This is especially
3 true in the Community Air Protection Program where
4 partnerships that we have made with local leaders and
5 advocates has been a hallmark feature of the program,
6 bringing in community expertise, creativity, transparency,
7 and accountability into the Program. This is a critical
8 reason we've been able to make tremendous strides to
9 reduce local air pollution and seeing organizational
10 culture shifts in CARB and in the air districts
11 participating in the program.

12 So I'm so excited to have a conversation with
13 three helping to shape the Community Air Protection
14 Program on the ground and who can talk about the key
15 ingredients that the program's approach is having that is
16 resulting in lasting change in our organizations and in
17 communities across California.

18 So without further ado, I want to take the
19 opportunity to introduce our three panelists. First, we
20 have Maritza Garcia, Policy Advocate at the Environmental
21 Health Coalition and member of the San Diego Portside
22 Community Steering Committee.

23 Next, we have Espe Vielma, Executive Director of
24 the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water and member
25 of the Stockton Community Steering Committee.

1 And then finally, we have Dr. Phil Fine, the Air
2 Pollution Control Officer for the Bay Area Air Quality
3 Management District.

4 So Maritza, I wanted to start by asking you a
5 question. Can you talk a little bit about your journey
6 since becoming a community steering committee member in
7 San Diego Portside work. What was it that inspired you to
8 join and how is your perspective and approach in
9 advocating for environmental justice issues shifted as a
10 result of your participation.

11 MARITZA GARCIA: Hello, everyone. Thank you so
12 much having me here. I'm honestly so honored to be able
13 to come and speak in front of all of you and share my
14 experience.

15 So as I mentioned in the video, I grew up in a
16 community that's very looked over. I grew up in Logan.
17 It is a very heavily polluted area, have high asthma
18 rates, high chronic breathing.

19 Oh, wow. I can't speak right now. I'm a little
20 nervous.

21 We have a lot of things wrong with our community
22 that's affected by pollution, by industry, by the highway
23 being there, and all of these things. And so growing up I
24 didn't realize how bad it was until I started talking to
25 people that were not from my community and realized that

1 what I found normal is indeed not normal. And about 2020
2 is when I actually started volunteering with Environmental
3 Health Coalition and they introduced me to the Portside
4 Steering Committee.

5 And I quickly jumped on board because I really
6 wanted to do something to change the trajectory of our
7 community. I mean, this -- it's really beautiful. It's
8 so culturally rich, if you ever have been there. If you
9 haven't, I invite you to go. I -- there's a lot of beauty
10 in our community, and unfortunately, it's sometimes --
11 they don't -- they emphasize on the pretty because of how
12 nice it is, but they don't show how bad our lives really
13 are daily because of all of these things.

14 So when I started being part of this steering
15 committee, I realized the amount of empowerment I got from
16 being able to not only, you know, communicate with people
17 that were in these decision-making spaces, but also
18 realize that I wasn't the only community member feeling
19 this way. We don't often talk to each other about it,
20 because it's such -- you know, hard things to talk about.
21 You don't want to focus on the negative. And so we kind
22 of brush it off and make it seem like it's not really
23 there all the time.

24 And unfortunately, our health, you know, stats
25 begged to differ. And so just being in this space and

1 being able to speak my truth and also in a way where
2 people can connect it to like these policies that are
3 actually affecting us in a negative way. So it's just
4 been a really empowering space. I never realized or saw
5 myself as a community leader. I see myself as someone who
6 cares and has lived in this community. And, you know, now
7 being a newer mom and just seeing these generations, like
8 I don't want the future generations to continue what I've
9 had to live with, what my parents had to live with, and
10 the generations before.

11 OCAP PROGRAM ASSESSMENT & REPORTING BRANCH CHIEF

12 OLP: Thank you, Maritza. I'm nervous too, but you spoke
13 much more eloquently than me.

14 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: You might have started off
15 nervous, but you were on a roll there. That was great.

16 MARITZA GARCIA: Thank you. I appreciate it.

17 OCAP PROGRAM ASSESSMENT & REPORTING BRANCH CHIEF

18 OLP: The Stockton Community Steering Committee has
19 developed a unique model with the Air District for have to
20 collaboratively engage with the community to develop
21 solutions to address local needs. Can you talk about how
22 that process has evolved and how you're seeing it benefit
23 your communities through this work.

24 ESPERANZA VIELMA: Sure. So again, thank you for
25 the opportunity. And so as -- I'm currently not a

1 Southside resident, but I grew up in Southside Stockton,
2 so I understand firsthand, you know, what it means to live
3 in the pollution corridor that we have there, especially
4 Charter Way and Airport Way. And, you know, as a young
5 teenager trying to do track and field and running down
6 those streets, you know, while the bellies of the
7 airplanes are going over you as well.

8 So that was the scenario. So that's a firsthand
9 knowledge base. And so I think that to -- just to like
10 Maritza's point, understanding when you're there as a
11 younger person, but then once you leave the community and
12 you go even to the northside of Stockton, where you have
13 the community college that I attended, and then, you know,
14 it's green canopy is where then you can like breathe and
15 run freely, and then from there going to UC Berkeley and
16 understanding the disparity that we have in our
17 communities. And I think that that comparison is very
18 real and helpful in terms of our community members.

19 And so what we were able to do is, first of all,
20 like a lot of folks, we're not aware of what was happening
21 and weren't aware of the sources of emissions. And so
22 then that in and -- in and of itself when you're speaking
23 that language is very different, you know, to say, you
24 know, emissions, and NOx, and SOx, and all of that. So I
25 think there was a lot of education that took place for the

1 folks that didn't understand that. And then so recruiting
2 the community members and being very cognizant of us doing
3 outreach, we work specifically with environmental justice
4 communities. So I think that was crucial to include
5 community organizations such as ours, and Catholic
6 Charities, and to lay that blueprint plan.

7 There was no, you know, plan per se, so then that
8 in and of itself was a task at hand. And there were some
9 bumps along the way. I'm jealous of your guys' tugboat.
10 But nonetheless, we were able to recruit the members. And
11 so what I think was very, very crucial and critical is
12 that the staff from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution
13 Control District was -- they're very -- they're friendly,
14 approachable, and knowledgeable.

15 And so then that's key, because then they're able
16 to intentionally like work with the residents. And then
17 therefore the residents feel respected and validated. And
18 so then the residents were then also I think validated
19 with the fact that they were to receive a stipend. So
20 there were organizations that were there and they were
21 present and they're getting, you know, paid to
22 participate, the fact that they listened to the community
23 members and the community members, you know, were able to
24 have the meetings after hours.

25 And so the fact that the community was then

1 integrated at that level, I think was key to creating what
2 we have now moving forward. So it wasn't just about, you
3 know, the folks that know the information from the staff
4 perspective, and just telling folks this is what it's
5 about, but it's really integrating the community and
6 respecting of their time and their input. And I think
7 that that's what, you know, ultimately has laid the
8 groundwork, and hopefully we can see this, you know,
9 moving forward in other areas.

10 OCAP PROGRAM ASSESSMENT & REPORTING BRANCH CHIEF

11 OLP: Thank you so much, Espe.

12 ESPERANZA VIELMA: Um-hmm.

13 OCAP PROGRAM ASSESSMENT & REPORTING BRANCH CHIEF

14 OLP: Phil, I know the Air District is undergoing a
15 strategic planning process. And environmental justice is
16 a central feature of the plan. How is the focus -- how is
17 that focus connected to the ongoing work with the
18 Community Air Protection Program. Have you seen the
19 organizational priorities at the Air District change due
20 to your leadership in the community air protection efforts
21 across the Bay Area.

22 DR. PHIL FINE: Thanks, Kevin. And good evening,
23 Chair Randolph, Board members. And thanks for the
24 invitation to not just represent the Bay Area Air
25 District, but also all the air districts across the state

1 who have been implementing this program. Like many of
2 you, I was involved -- I've only been at the Bay Area
3 District about a year and a half, but I was involved at
4 the onset of the program during my work at South Coast
5 AQMD that had, you know, three communities to start out in
6 that first year.

7 So as Kevin mentioned, we've recently released
8 our draft just this month of a five-year strategic plan
9 for the Air District as a whole. And I think what Kevin
10 mentioned is true, at least it was about 35 strategies in
11 this strategic plan and at least three-quarters of them
12 involve or advance environmental justice in real ways.

13 And this focus was driven by AB 617. Many of the
14 strategies come directly from our CSCs and our CERP
15 development, as well as our Community Advisory Council,
16 who's actually meeting, as I speak, downstairs, which is
17 why I couldn't be there in person today, as I had
18 intended. And I'm running down there when I'm done here
19 to give a presentation on that same strategic plan to our
20 Community Advisory Council.

21 In some ways, that strategic plan was actually
22 built around the two adopted CERPs. And the CERPs now
23 serve as basically action plans to advance the strategic
24 plan goals, and again not just in those two communities
25 that have CERPs or two communities that will have CERPs,

1 but across the Bay Area in all of our overburdened
2 communities.

3 One really underappreciated aspect of AB 617 is
4 really how much it's changed the internal district
5 conversations and that we really do consider EJ in
6 everything that we do, whether it's in permitting, or
7 rules, or monitoring, enforcement, incentive funding and
8 other policies. And I realize that's not always apparent
9 to the public, and -- but I can attest to it, because I've
10 been at two agencies and I know other agents -- other air
11 districts as well are feeling the same way and seeing the
12 same thing.

13 Now, that doesn't mean we don't have a long way
14 to go to get it really integrated into on decision-making.
15 We're fighting legacy air quality management structures
16 that have not always served communities in the best way,
17 but environmental justice is front and center in our minds
18 every day. And again, I don't think this would have
19 happened, at least not to this extent or this quickly,
20 without the push that AB 617 provided. So I think this is
21 one of the underappreciated successes of the program and
22 we have to keep that momentum driving forward as well.

23 AB 617 came with important resources that allowed
24 the air districts to hire dozens of new staff dedicated to
25 community engagement, but also in our other divisions like

1 in monitoring, and enforcement, and planning. And those
2 resources also allowed us to directly support our
3 community partners with stipends, and contracts, and
4 grants to engage with us and compensate them for that work
5 and that input that we need.

6 This influx of staff, money, and yes, the
7 requirements are not enough to do everything we would like
8 to do, but it has fundamentally changed our view of how we
9 address these community concerns and how we partner with
10 communities on solutions.

11 OCAP PROGRAM ASSESSMENT & REPORTING BRANCH CHIEF
12 OLP: Thanks, Phil.

13 And I do think one of the hallmarks of this
14 program is the air districts learning how to be -- it's so
15 weird seeing my face up there.

16 (Laughter).

17 OCAP PROGRAM ASSESSMENT & REPORTING BRANCH CHIEF
18 OLP: I can't look that way -- is the creativity that
19 comes from this program. And, in fact, San Joaquin Air
20 Pollution Control District has led the way on incentives
21 creating the most new types of residential focus incentive
22 programs.

23 So Espe, using incentive funds to develop
24 programs targeted at residents seems to be a primary focus
25 of the Stockton Community Emission Reduction Program.

1 Some of those examples were featured in this video, but
2 others like electric lawn and garden swap outs and
3 electric vehicle rebate programs were also important to
4 the community steering committee.

5 Can you talk about why residential focus programs
6 are so important to your communities?

7 ESPERANZA VIELMA: Sure. So I give a little bit
8 excited about the electric lawn mowers because of the fact
9 that I've been serving on the EJAC for a while. And when
10 all the incentives came out, it was like how do we get our
11 community members to understand it.

12 And so I did kind of like beg and plead to
13 like -- for them to give us at least one, so we could like
14 tout it around town. So that wasn't possible, so we went
15 ahead and bought one. And then with the help of Valley
16 CAN, Valley Clean Air Now, we were also donated electric
17 vehicle. So we had our little Volkswagen Golf and our
18 lawn more. So we would go to the different events, like
19 Earth Day and other events and just even the vehicle
20 trade-in, the huge events that they have at the
21 fairgrounds.

22 So I think this helped, because then it's a
23 hands-on approach to see it and not just the community
24 members. Some people that were on the Committee for AB
25 617 saw that and they saw how folks would get so excited

1 about being able to see a tangible asset that they can own
2 and have. And then is, in essence, will help with the
3 education process of understanding the larger picture in
4 terms of what emissions means.

5 And so, that education process, like I said, even
6 with the steering committee was vital because they didn't
7 understand like, you know, how much like, you know, NOx
8 and how much reduction can happen with emissions just with
9 the lawn mower. You know, you think that's not going to
10 be a big deal, but I said you have to equate it to like
11 how many idling cars, or how many pounds, or what have
12 you, so that folks can understand that. You know, I'm
13 still waiting for the little, you know, cartoon guy to
14 show that, but, you know, something that the community can
15 understand, you know, why it's so important.

16 So I think like, you know, we were so like jazzed
17 up about this and we were -- like I said, this is like
18 before even AB 617, we were going around town with our
19 little, you know, show boat of everything. And so then
20 once it did happen, that we -- I think it was like Lamont
21 that had the trade in with the -- with the -- with the
22 lawn mowers. And then we're like, "Oh, we need that too,"
23 you know, because it makes it so easy, because we're
24 talking about language barriers, and access, and
25 everything else.

1 So we did have a little trickling effect, but
2 then once, you know, we were like pushed for it and we go
3 it, it was like so exciting, because we just saw like, you
4 know, lines of people lined up. There was like 200 plus
5 that turned in the lawn mowers. And then -- and so then
6 at the same point, they also had the in-room air filters
7 for those people who hadn't received them. So it was just
8 like this, you know, full explosion of people
9 understanding that. And I think that there's an ownership
10 in that, you know, for the individual community member.
11 You know, and so because it's the individual and the
12 industry, but then they own it and they appreciate it in
13 that way. And then so they then become a part of the
14 solution.

15 So some people disregard that, but I think it's
16 very important for us to do that. The same thing with the
17 vehicles, we're in that whole component. They've done the
18 trade-ins, but there's a lot of hand holding that goes on
19 with this. You know, and so again Valley CAN came and
20 stepped up with that and they're helping like going to the
21 pizza parlor and it's just packed with people. You know,
22 one of the ladies that came with me today, she had
23 information that was given to her. And this is vital for
24 our community members to have that information, and have
25 that access, and have it in-person with people who speak

1 their language. So I think that this change of behavior
2 from the individual then amplifies throughout the
3 community.

4 OCAP PROGRAM ASSESSMENT & REPORTING BRANCH CHIEF
5 OLP: Thank you, Espe. And I just want to continue with
6 this theme of creativity. And sometimes that's most
7 fortunate when regulatory frameworks are insufficient for
8 addressing community concerns.

9 So, Phil, I know the Air District is under -- oh,
10 wrong question. Rule development is a critical part of
11 the regulatory process to address community concerns and
12 reduce air pollution exposure from some of the most
13 important polluting sources. Can you share how the Air
14 District has used the rulemaking process within the
15 Community Emission Reduction Plans and to the expedited
16 Best Available Retrofit Control Technology process to
17 address community priorities and protect public health?

18 DR. PHIL FINE: Yeah. Thanks, Kevin.

19 Yeah, well, first of all, we know that the CERPs
20 are really the cornerstone of the community air quality
21 improvements that we're getting out of AB 617. I could
22 say, you know, back in 2017, the most immediate impact was
23 the provisions around the expedited BARCT requirements.
24 But it wasn't just that. Many of the CERPs that were
25 developed early on really complemented that rule -- those

1 rulemaking efforts around expedited BARCT by prioritizing
2 and influencing the shape of -- that those rules actually
3 took as they were being developed. So it was a
4 synergistic effect between both of those parts of AB 617.

5 I'll give a few examples here just so you can see
6 the magnitude of this. For the Bay Area Air District, our
7 Rule 65 will reduce 400 tons per year of PM2.5, the
8 largest source of PM at refineries. And for context, this
9 represents over a quarter of direct PM2.5 emissions in
10 that study area, Richmond, North Richmond, and San Pablo
11 with this one rule. So it's very impactful coming right
12 off of the expedited BARCT requirements.

13 That CERP in West Oakland has driven some
14 current rulemaking processes for both metal shredders and
15 wood-burning devices. The Richmond, North Richmond, and
16 San Pablo CERP has helped us prioritize reductions in
17 flaring. There's a rule commitment already in our draft
18 strategic plan and we're starting that rulemaking as we
19 speak. And then just even starting our work in Bayview
20 Hunters Point, one of their major concerns is fugitive
21 dust, along with other communities. So we're already
22 starting rulemaking there, even though that CERP is not
23 yet fully developed or adopted yet.

24 It's not just the Bay Area. At South Coast, the
25 infamous warehouse ISR Rule that many of you are familiar

1 with emerged from multiple CERPs from multiple
2 communities. The rule 1109.1 slashed 7.7 tons of NOx per
3 day from refineries. This was based both on the BARCT
4 requirements in AB 617, but also a CERP measure from the
5 community in West Long Beach, Carson, and Wilmington.

6 CERP measures there also led to toxics rulemaking
7 for metal shredding as well as chromium spraying
8 operations. And that CERP measure also led to enhanced
9 leak detection from storage tanks, again directly out of
10 those CERPs. And in San Joaquin Valley, there were about
11 eight BARCT strengthening rules that led to 265 tons per
12 year of NOx reductions, another 622 tons per year of VOC
13 reductions. These are real reductions. And again, they
14 were -- they were accelerated by the AB 617 law.

15 So there's rules, but there's other policies as
16 well that have been heavily influenced by the CERP process
17 that are very impactful. I'll just highlight one that
18 we're very proud of in the Bay Area. The Richmond area
19 CERP asked that collected penalty funds be returned to the
20 community where Violations occurred for community
21 benefits. We heard earlier about some SEPs. And this is
22 something we've heard from communities, you know,
23 statewide and actually around the country.

24 But in May, our Board adopted a policy to return
25 automatically without a SEP negotiation, without it being

1 in the settlement agreement close to 80 percent of the
2 funds collected from large settlements to be set aside for
3 local community benefits. And a large portion of the
4 remainder will also create a regional community benefit
5 fund to help other communities. This has already directed
6 tens of millions of dollars to impacted communities and we
7 expect it to do even more in the -- in the coming months,
8 as some -- there's some large penalties being prosecuted
9 now as we speak.

10 Would all of this have happened without AB 617?
11 Perhaps, but probably not. So while the program, I think
12 everyone would acknowledge, has been bumpy, and difficult,
13 stressful for pretty much every one involved, these
14 emission reductions and community benefits are real and
15 lasting and should really be recognized as major successes
16 of the program.

17 OCAP PROGRAM ASSESSMENT & REPORTING BRANCH CHIEF
18 OLP: Thanks, Phil. And just to underscore one of those.
19 Rule 65 that Phil mentioned in the Bay Area Air Quality
20 Management District, the rule development process did a
21 health risk assessment that estimated that annually 18
22 deaths -- mortalities will be reduced as a result of
23 passing that measure. And that's just one of the
24 rulemakings that Phil talked about. So it's -- you know,
25 we can't underscore enough how important that it as a

1 pathway for involving community members and accelerating
2 these very important health protective measures.

3 Maritza, in the video that we just watched, there
4 was a lot of focus between the port where there are a lot
5 of emissions that are impacting the nearby communities.
6 Can you share an example of a strategy that you worked on
7 in San Diego with the Port that was a meaningful victory
8 for you and the community steering committee and why was
9 that victory so important for your community?

10 MARITZA GARCIA: Yeah. So to give a little bit
11 of context. In our community, unfortunately historically,
12 you know, we haven't really been at the table to be able
13 to make these decisions. And at times when they seem to
14 be listening to our voice and a rule or something is
15 discussed, they basically don't walk the walk. What ends
16 up happening, it contradicts the rule or whatever was
17 decided upon. And that's kind of how our community has
18 always seen things. So we haven't had the best
19 relationship with industry and Port for that reason. We
20 don't trust that good.

21 And so during this process of creating our CERP,
22 the Port also was creating another document called the
23 Marine[SIC] Time -- Marine[SIC] Time Clean Air Strategy,
24 the MCAS, and it really does -- a lot of the goals line
25 up. And so when those two were passed, the community was

1 very excited, because these were concrete documents that
2 we can use to really fight for what we were trying to do,
3 which was to clean up our community.

4 And shortly after that was passed, there was
5 actually a cement corporation that came to try to become a
6 tenant in the port. And the -- their proposal was really
7 going to undermine all of the things that we just fought
8 for. It was not going to allow for the goals of a cleaner
9 port and cleaner air quality for the community to succeed.

10 And so community members from the steering
11 committee, along with other organizations, really came
12 together and use this document that we all greed upon that
13 not just community members, but industry, and people from
14 the Port, and the Air Pollution Control District all
15 worked, you know, years to create this document. And we
16 had this concrete thing to be able to use against this
17 corporation.

18 And we fought hard and we were able to rally
19 together. And it was just beautiful to see again not just
20 the steering committee but all of these other
21 organizations that sometimes don't work together. I mean,
22 there was parishes, there was youth organizations, there
23 was schools, all came together to protest this company
24 that was ultimately going to not only bring more diesel
25 particulate matters into the community due to their, you

1 know, trucking back and forth from the port, but the
2 materials that were being transported were really
3 hazardous to the community. And if any of those trucks
4 were to crash, which unfortunately a lot of that happens
5 in our community, it was going to be so bad, maybe not
6 short term, but just in general, for our health, because
7 these are little particulates that were going to stay in
8 our lungs.

9 So it was great to be able to have this document
10 and honestly our community are fighters. We are resilient
11 people and we will not stop until we, you know, get the
12 clean air that we deserve. And so to have something that
13 was concrete to be able to fight against this company, to
14 be able to show the Port like, hey, you guys agreed with
15 this and we're going to make sure that you continue to
16 fulfill what you agreed upon was just great to have. It
17 was -- it's not something that we get to do. And when I
18 talk about it, I try not to get super excited, but it's
19 really hard to not, because it really was a huge victory
20 and just so beautiful to see all of the community come
21 together.

22 OCAP PROGRAM ASSESSMENT & REPORTING BRANCH CHIEF
23 OLP: Thank you.

24 We're running a little behind on time, so I think
25 we have time for one more question. And I just wanted to

1 ask you, Espe, from our conversations, you're so
2 enthusiastic about the model for collaborative
3 decision-making that has arisen from the work you've been
4 doing in AB 617 in Stockton. What are the important
5 elements that you want to see replicated from this model
6 in other areas of government decision-making?

7 ESPERANZA VIELMA: Thank you for the question.
8 Because of the fact that we also work in Environmental
9 justice with water and energy, I would love for the State
10 Water Resource Board and the CPUC to adopt something close
11 to what AB 617 is. There's a lot of people who are
12 critics of it, but I think when it's implemented and it's
13 effective. Because of the fact that the residents are
14 held in high regard and there's input that is, you know,
15 genuine from the residents, and then that is then
16 amplified like I said from the District staff. And then
17 obviously, you know, it's reported back here to the Board.

18 I think that we're missing that in a lot of our
19 agencies. There's a lot of talk, a lot of checking the
20 box, Diversity and inclusion for grants, everything else.
21 But when it comes down to it if you really value the input
22 from our environmental justice communities, then you would
23 have them at the table and you would provide some sort of
24 incentive or stipend because of the fact that, you know,
25 their input is just as valuable as all of ours as

1 professionals, as agencies.

2 And so, I think that, again, there have been
3 different folks that criticize the model, but that's with
4 any good thing. And so I think that that being said, if
5 there's any way that we could integrate this, you know,
6 pass along the word to the other boards, because sometimes
7 we're like three or four hundred people deep making
8 comments and it's still going to go the way it's going to
9 go, where as if, you know, the water districts, there's
10 like what, 2,000 of them, you know, in the state of
11 California.

12 And I think that if we truly had something that
13 was at the level like AB 617, it would make things a lot
14 easier. And I think the term was used about EJing
15 everything or, you know, something to that effect. I
16 think we're past due that mark, especially here being that
17 we're supposed to be progressive moving forward State of
18 California. We really need to step it up and integrate
19 the -- you know, the positive work that's been done and
20 the -- you know, by the community members and the staff
21 all along through the process with AB 617. Something with
22 that core needs to happen throughout the -- throughout the
23 state in these other agencies.

24 OCAP PROGRAM ASSESSMENT & REPORTING BRANCH CHIEF
25 OLP: Thank you, Espe. And if you can indulge me, can we

1 give a huge round of applause for amazing panelists.

2 (Applause).

3 OCAP PROGRAM ASSESSMENT & REPORTING BRANCH CHIEF

4 OLP: With that, we'll open it up for questions from the
5 Board.

6 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Do we have questions for the
7 panelists before we hear public comment?

8 Dr. Balmes.

9 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: No question. Just really
10 thank you, Phil, Maritza, and Espe. I think it was great
11 to hear all of your perspectives and I appreciate it.
12 Thank you.

13 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Dr. Pacheco-Werner.

14 BOARD MEMBER PACHECO-WERNER: Thanks.

15 CHAIR RANDOLPH:

16 BOARD MEMBER RECHTSCHAFFEN: I was just getting
17 excited that I was going to talk.

18 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Board Member Rechtschaffen.

19 BOARD MEMBER RECHTSCHAFFEN: This might be a
20 question -- it might be a questions for Dr. Fine, or Dr.
21 Reul-Chen, or Espe, or Maritza. I was going to ask about
22 the enforcement piece and the extent to which CARB or
23 maybe the Bay Area Air District or other communities
24 provide resources for the community to help monitor,
25 investigate, and play some of the role that agencies

1 traditionally play in the enforcement process, because the
2 process you described in the pilot communities has the
3 community much more involved in the whole enforcement
4 process than normal. So are the -- are communities
5 getting resources to do monitoring, to do inspections, to
6 participate in the formulation of a SEP.

7 Actually, I was really excited to hear Dr. Fine
8 say that under the Bay Area's new policy 80 percent of the
9 funds go back to the community without the need for
10 negotiating a SEP. That's a really great idea that I
11 think other districts should follow suit. We're already
12 brainstorming about how the San Joaquin Valley might be
13 able to do that. So does anyone have an answer to that --
14 to that question?

15 MARITZA GARCIA: I can answer a little bit on the
16 company perspective. So in our community there was a
17 company that was really heavy polluting the smell. And it
18 was making it so bad that community members couldn't live
19 comfortably in their home. They couldn't open up their
20 windows during our heat waves. It was between suffocating
21 basically inside or suffocating from the fumes outside.
22 And the Air Pollution Control District has a reporting
23 system where, you know, you can either do it via app or
24 phone it in. And community members really got together.
25 Any time they smelled the -- anything, they would report.

1 But not only themselves, they had a whole group chat to be
2 able to say, hey, I'm smelling this, are you smelling it?
3 Can you report as well?

4 And so the amount of reports really sparked that
5 concern in the community and had that data for the Air
6 Pollution Control District to come and really start like
7 enforcing what they -- to the extent that they can, you
8 know, making citations, having all of these different
9 things and putting pressure on the company to ultimately
10 they had to invest their own money into be -- buying an
11 air filtration system to eliminate the odors.

12 Extra pressure was put onto the company, because
13 they wanted to expand and we don't want them there
14 ultimately. So it resulted in them actually closing down
15 half of their facility, because they just couldn't operate
16 in their own comfortability as they have been for decades.
17 And so to have that source, that resource of being able to
18 call or make that complaint via app was really empowering
19 for the community to organize and make a change.

20 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Thank you.

21 Board Member Takvorian.

22 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Sure. Did you want to
23 say something? I thought you said something else.

24 BOARD MEMBER RECHTSCHAFFEN: No. No. I'll -- I
25 can follow up on more detail with the Board staff about

1 what CARB does. I don't want to take any more time, but
2 thank you very much for that response.

3 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Okay. Thank you.
4 Sorry. Just to -- not to put too fine a point on it, but
5 that was a biodiesel company that was right across the
6 street from a senior housing project that was able to be
7 enforced as a result of a very responsive air district
8 too. So it was a real collaborative effort with the
9 community first using paper petitions and then moving on
10 to the app. So that's a great example.

11 I just wanted to congratulate OCAP. This was a
12 fabulous presentation. And the accomplishments are really
13 stunning, so great job. And I think the way in which that
14 you've told the story both here through the video, through
15 the reports really demonstrate the culture change and the
16 community change that we're all seeing. So it's worth the
17 late night from my perspective to hear from all of you.
18 And I really want to express my gratitude to Espe and
19 Maritza who are here, but all the other CSC members who
20 are out there toiling away, who are so dedicated, and
21 accomplishing so much. It's really, really important.

22 And, you know, it just struck me watching the
23 video that, you know, we really talk about this being
24 about equity. And when you see the clip about Heber and
25 the sidewalks, that's something people take for granted

1 that there's a sidewalk. But in many of our communities,
2 that's not the case at all. And so, yes, it will reduce
3 air pollution, which awesome, but it also increases
4 dignity in a community to have sidewalks that your kids
5 can walk to school on, that you can go to the grocery
6 store on. It's just -- it's fundamental. And so I know
7 you all know that, but I guess I just want to say out loud
8 that that -- this is way beyond I think what the stated
9 principles of 617 are and even of CARB, so it's really
10 fabulous

11 And then the last thing just to say, because I'm
12 pretty excited about it, is that there's so much more
13 that's happening as a result of 617 and all of the
14 partnerships that are being brought together from the
15 policy changes that Maritza has raised up and that Espe
16 has talked about to more money for the community. And so,
17 I just want to congratulate the Portside communities,
18 Environmental Health Coalition, and a bunch of partners,
19 including many who are part of the 617 project for
20 receiving TCC grant funding. And just today, it was
21 announced that they've received \$20 million in addition to
22 the 22 million to bridge the gap from EPA from the --
23 what's it called, the Community Change Grant Program. And
24 that's huge and it's going to accomplish a lot of the
25 goals that are incorporated in the CERP. And Maritza was

1 a big part of putting that grant application together. So
2 congratulations and to everyone.

3 (Applause).

4 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Congratulations.

5 I think we have one more question before we're
6 going to go to public comment.

7 Board Member Hurt.

8 BOARD MEMBER HURT: Thank you, Chair. I'll make
9 it really quick. I think we heard in the prior agenda
10 item as well as this one that resources is extremely
11 important. And I'm wondering if someone could speak to
12 the public, the community, where should they go to
13 advocate for more resources? Where are the places that
14 they really need to be speaking about them?

15 Uh-oh.

16 (Laughter).

17 OCAP CHIEF REYES: Deldi Reyes, Director of the
18 Office of Community Air Protection. Good evening. That
19 is an excellent question. And as I think we've seen
20 tonight, everything is local. Everything that we talk
21 about and struggle for and try to improve is experienced
22 on the ground. Those are -- those are the things that
23 count. And so I would recommend that anybody who is
24 interested in continuing this program and programs like
25 it, because 617 is just one tool, but any sort of tool

1 that helps empower communities, is to tell people about
2 what you like about it and tell people what you think
3 should be improved, so that we can actually get resources
4 to continue the program, right?

5 And we all know how the legislative process works
6 in the state of California. I'm not supposed to lobby, so
7 I probably should stop right there.

8 BOARD MEMBER HURT: Completely understand.

9 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Thank you, Deldi.

10 Okay. Let's go to public comment. I will have
11 the Board clerks call first the commenters in the room and
12 then the commenters online.

13 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Starting with Perry Elerts.
14 Perry, in-person commenter.

15 Okay.

16 Mauro Libre.

17 MAURO LIBRE: Hi. One way you could progress
18 today is by allocating three minutes of public comment
19 when people are here to speak about their local community.
20 There was five of us when I came up and we were started at
21 two minutes. The last time I came here was in October.
22 So that gives me four minutes over seven months to speak
23 up for my community.

24 I've heard people here and in the previous
25 meetings say how honored they are to be here. Some seem

1 odd. This isn't an honor for me. It's a burden, Almost a
2 curse. So, justice being so fundamental to people having
3 a voice being given two minutes, when there's only five
4 public comments makes me think you don't want to hear from
5 me, that you want to hear from people that are going to
6 tell you how great you're doing, and how much change
7 you're bringing to them, not from the people that are
8 saying, hey, you're leaving these other folks out.

9 Now, I can be pithy enough to reduce my comments
10 to two minutes and I can write fairly well, I think, if I
11 focus on it, but I know a lot of people who can't. I know
12 a lot of people who are afraid of speaking publicly, who
13 feel this is an intimidating place to speak up. Maybe
14 they need three minutes and, you know, it's as easy as
15 saving if there's only 10 public comments on a local
16 issue, we're going to give them three minutes, maybe four.
17 It's not asking for a lot. And doing that would be
18 progress just like that.

19 Thanks.

20 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

21 We'll move on to our Zoom commenters. And we're
22 going to start with Joonsik Maing. I have unmuted your
23 mic. Please go ahead.

24 JOONSIK MAING: Good evening. Thank you for the
25 opportunity to comment on this agenda item. My name is

1 Joonsik Maing. And I'm here on behalf of Range Energy, a
2 California company building battery electric trailer
3 systems to support the electrification of transport
4 refrigeration units, or TRUs. Range Energy supports
5 CARB's efforts to continue to implement the Community Air
6 Protection Program, including efforts to extend the
7 benefits of the program to other deserving communities
8 statewide.

9 We are encouraged by CARB's efforts to achieve
10 additional emissions reductions in overburdened
11 communities, both through incentive funding, as well as
12 regulatory commitments. Specifically, we are supportive
13 of CARB's commitment to adopt the TRU regulation part two
14 by 2026, which will benefit communities across California.

15 This regulation will deliver important emissions
16 reductions in disproportionately affected communities,
17 especially given recent advancements in the availability
18 of reduced and zero emissions TRU-related technologies.

19 For example, Range Energy's battery electric
20 trailer system allows TRUs to operate on clean electric
21 power and can reduce diesel consumed by existing
22 heavy-duty trucks. In fact, we are currently putting our
23 technology into the hands of local farms and food
24 distributors in helping them take a significant step in
25 decarbonizing their operations now.

1 We are interested in hearing from the community
2 about opportunities to prioritize the deployment of our
3 technology in overburdened communities ahead of the TRU
4 part two regulation. We also welcome any interest from
5 local warehousing and transportation service providers in
6 coordinating a trial of our battery electric trailer
7 system. Thank you for this opportunity to comment and
8 thank you for your continued efforts on the Community Air
9 Protection Program.

10 We also have submitted written comments with our
11 contact information for anyone interested in reaching out
12 to us. Thank you for your time.

13 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

14 Alison LaBonte.

15 ALISON LABONTE: Thank you. Thank you, Chair
16 Randolph, and Board members, and the panelists for sharing
17 their experiences with your communities. I'm Alison
18 LaBonte a with a la bonte advisors or Alba.

19 As a consultant to a co-lead organization of AB
20 617 communities selected to develop a CERP, I've attended
21 several community steering committee, or CSC, meetings in
22 the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. I applaud
23 the process in supporting members from impacted
24 communities to themselves develop their own CERP. CARB
25 and air districts have -- acting on goals, objectives, and

1 priority actions named and ultimately adopted by CARB in
2 the communities' CERPs is critical to respecting the
3 community's effort to create -- to the effort of their
4 creating the CERP, to maintain the trust of communities in
5 government that CARB -- that CARB and air districts are
6 committed to address the harms in front-line communities,
7 and most importantly to improve the health outcomes of
8 members in these communities.

9 I have a question about the funding and budget
10 process for CARB and air districts, and how that will --
11 hope that they follow through with implementing actions in
12 the CERPs approved by CARB. At the most recent Bayview
13 Hunters Point AB 617 CSC meeting, we learned that air --
14 that BAAQMD only has one inspector for all of San
15 Francisco County in their Compliance and Enforcement
16 Division to perform inspections.

17 Should CERP add as an action that more inspector
18 staff are needed, where is the budget line for this to
19 come from? In reviewing the 2023 annual report that was
20 posted today for this topic, I see that the implementation
21 funding under CAP is just for the development of CERPs.
22 So I'm not clear where the implementation is for --

23 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you, Alison.

24 ALISON LABONTE: -- implementing actions under
25 CERP. Thank you.

1 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Kevin Hamilton, I've
2 actives your mic. Go ahead and unmute.

3 KEVIN HAMILTON: Good evening. Kevin Hamilton
4 with Central California Asthma Collaborative. I wanted to
5 congratulate the Board and the air districts on the
6 progress that they've made, literally overcoming the fear
7 that we saw five years ago when this -- when this great
8 endeavor began. And now I see five years later, those
9 same entities moving forward mostly with excitement in
10 anticipation of the future. I think a lot of questions
11 still remain, a lot of work still remains to be done. But
12 five years, that's a good long walk. We still have many
13 miles to go, but at least we've made a start.

14 When we talk about funding, we know that there's
15 plenty of funding out there actually. It's just where is
16 it going and how does it get to where it needs to be? We
17 started this so many years ago in the valley at least with
18 two communities. Now, we have with our L-CERP project
19 eight. And, of course, we -- the standard ones that have
20 been added.

21 We have more calling us all the time. Can I be
22 added? Can I be added? This demonstrates the thirst for
23 this that's always been there and the idea that local
24 residents want to have control of their lives as much as
25 possible, and especially that they breathe. We are

1 regularly enrolling thousands now of families in our
2 asthma program, the need is so great. And when we talked
3 about South Sacramento earlier, I was struck by the fact
4 that a health plan reached out to recruit us to see asthma
5 patients in that area, the need is so great.

6 But we've come a long way and we've done good
7 work. Put that in front of us and we do more. So I look
8 forward to it. Have a good evening

9 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you, Kevin. That
10 concludes our commenters.

11 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Thank you.

12 I'll bring it back to the Board.

13 Dr. Pacheco-Werner had a question for staff, so
14 I'm going to let her go first then.

15 BOARD MEMBER PACHECO-WERNER: Thank you. Just
16 wondering how we're -- I like the presentation around the
17 air monitoring and how much -- how much has been done on
18 that front. And I'm just wondering what work has been
19 done or is in the -- in the works to help communities use
20 that data or understand that data, so they could take it
21 into other processes that are outside the 617 CERPs.

22 Thank you.

23 OCAP CHIEF REYES: Deldi Reyes, Director of
24 Office of Community Air Protection. Thank you, Board
25 Member Pacheco-Werner. It's an excellent question. And

1 it is actually one that we can explore in a lot of
2 different ways. It's not only the air monitoring data
3 that is resulting from the CAMPs, the Community Air
4 Monitoring Plans, but also I just want to note that our
5 community air grantee recipients, since the beginning of
6 this program, many of them have received grants to do
7 their own community monitoring. And, in fact, it was that
8 community-led effort, San Joaquin Air, that was actually
9 developed by our previous commenter Kevin Hilton and his
10 partners in the valley that helped them take the next step
11 with their work to come up with Local Emission Reductions
12 Plans.

13 So data can be powerful. Data can be very
14 useful. We have pledged in the Blueprint that one of the
15 things we want to do is bring the community steering
16 committees together. They have been asking this for a
17 very long time. We want to launch a peer learning network
18 and bring communities together to do that information
19 exchange. And we would love to partner with our
20 colleagues in the Monitoring and Laboratory Division who
21 play a very important role in reviewing the air monitoring
22 plans and supporting the CAG grantees in helping, you
23 know, organize how we might help communities learn from
24 each other about that data, as well as our colleagues in
25 our Air Quality Planning and Science Division.

1 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: Thanks, Deldi. Can I
2 just add --

3 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Oh, sorry.

4 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: -- we have a mobile
5 monitoring contract that we are kicking off soon and we
6 will be working with communities on communities that will
7 be monitored. So, it looks like in September, we plan to
8 kick that off, so we'll be able to do a public process
9 with community input on which communities will be
10 monitored as part of that as well.

11 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. Dr. Balmes.

12 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Well, I know it's late. I
13 could go on for a long time about AB 617, but I wanted to
14 highlight what Phil Fine said, because he was involved in
15 implementation of AB 617 right from the start. And he
16 mentioned the bumpy road at the start. There's no
17 question about it. I wasn't sure if we were ever going to
18 pull it off. AB 617 Consultation Group, which I chaired
19 initially -- now, at least I have a Co-Chair -- was
20 painful -- truly painful. That's why it's great to hear
21 Kevin Hamilton, who I've known for years -- be transparent
22 about that -- say basically that it's been a successful
23 program to -- despite the bumps in the road.

24 So I feel really pleased to see the success that
25 we've made over five years despite the bumpy start. I

1 really want to credit all the community members on the
2 CSCs for every one of the AB 617 designated communities.
3 The air districts, as Phil said, I think people at each
4 district have learned how to engage with communities and I
5 think that's made air quality better in those communities
6 and made our state, you know, the -- continued to make our
7 state a leader in community-focused air quality
8 improvement.

9 And I want to especially thank Deldi Reyes and
10 her staff. Yeah, I think I've seen her leadership really
11 make a difference. She's recruited a great staff. And I
12 especially like the L-CERP for the continually des -- what
13 is it, continually designated --

14 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Continually nominated.

15 OCAP CHIEF REYES: Consistently nominated
16 communities.

17 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Nominated, yes. I knew I
18 was going to stumble on that. But I think that's a great
19 addition to the program, which my colleague, Mr. De La
20 Torre, should be happy about, because he was always saying
21 we had to learn from the designated communities.

22 So I just want to say how proud I am of what
23 we've done. I know we have a lot more work to do. Phil
24 said it. Maritza and Espe said it. But we've come a long
25 way, baby.

1 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right.

2 DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER FLETCHER: Can I -- I'm
3 sorry. Really quick. I'd like to ditto your comments
4 about Deldi, and Kevin, and Femi and the whole team. I
5 just feel like -- and the communities that are here.
6 It's -- it has -- it was a very bumpy road. I think we've
7 all been through a lot, but like I just feel like -- I
8 know we're all tired, but like this was like an amazing
9 item, and it was really good to end on it. And I did want
10 to applaud your leadership and like it's just been a
11 pleasure working with like this whole team and like just
12 wanted to say that on be on the record, because that was
13 awesome.

14 OCAP CHIEF REYES: And all the other partner
15 divisions at CARB, our Monitoring folks, our Enforcement
16 folks, our AQPSD folks, and everyone who helps us make
17 this program work, right, including all the hiring, and
18 the grants, and the contracts. It's a huge -- it's a huge
19 effort. Thank you, all.

20 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: I forgot to mention the
21 enforcement part of it, because I think that is an equally
22 important part of our AB 617 journey. So thank you.

23 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Board Member Hurt
24 then Board Member De La Torre.

25 BOARD MEMBER HURT: Thank you, Chair.

1 I guess I'm going to continue with the many
2 thanks to all the community members who are doing the hard
3 work, working to save lives, and putting in a lot of time
4 and energy into this program and uniting to be
5 constructive.

6 I also want to thank the air district teams doing
7 the hard work of community engagement with minimal
8 resources and building trust where decades of non-trust
9 have been accruing due to social constructs that are
10 steeped in exclusion and discrimination. And so, I think
11 it's important to remember what is happening in these
12 communities and how we're trying to build back better.
13 That is very difficult.

14 AB 617 is a transformative compromise, where it's
15 integrating State and local funds into additional
16 community protections. And in that bumpy ride, I was
17 thinking a lot about making lemonade out of lemons and
18 really like turning challenges into opportunities for
19 cleaner air and healthier communities.

20 And at the end of the day, doing nothing is not
21 an option. And AB 617 is just an important tool. Even
22 though it's imperfect, it's still an important tool that's
23 going a long way in communities.

24 And I think California really understands and
25 recognizes, as I've traveled around the country and even

1 outside of the country, talking about Environmental
2 justice and the work that we're doing, it is uniquely
3 California and it's uniquely American. And I think it's
4 finding solutions and standards that can be mimicked all
5 over the state, as well as the rest of the country. And I
6 really want to thank CARB and the team for leaning in and
7 constantly improving and reimagining, and sharing, and
8 creating efficiencies that we can all be really proud
9 about.

10 I said in the prior agenda item too, resources,
11 resource, resources. I asked the question, because I
12 think we all need to unite on we are going to use our
13 resources, and think deeply, and have hard discussions,
14 because there's not as much as needed, but we need to do
15 what we can with what we have in a way that's strategic
16 and important.

17 And then, you know, building capacity in
18 communities is doing more than just affecting air quality
19 issues. It's also bringing communities together on so
20 many other issues. So AB 617, while we're talking about
21 air quality and reduction -- emission reductions, we're
22 also talking about creating good neighbors, people that
23 are talking to one another, and having a hopefully future
24 for a healthier community. And I don't know if we say
25 that enough, but I really want to underline how we can

1 grow just better communities.

2 You heard all the great stuff that's happening in
3 the Bay Area, so I won't repeat them. As the Chair of the
4 Air District there, that Board of directors have been
5 working really hard on trying to be different and trying
6 to evolve ourselves. With a community benefit funding
7 from penalties, you heard the numbers, refinery fence-line,
8 air monitoring, and Bay Air Centers, which is really an
9 innovative strategy that provides technical guidance,
10 resources, and training to the Bay Area community members
11 in organizations free of charge to support their efforts
12 to use air monitoring and data to raise awareness and
13 improve air quality.

14 With regards to CERPs in the Bay Area, West
15 Oakland, I mean, they're doing an amazing job enhancing
16 enforcement, growing interagency collaboration, and
17 proactive trucking parking measures. The list goes on.

18 I do want to just quickly say that I do hear the
19 frustration and the time it takes, and the compensation
20 that's needed. We've heard it in some of our public
21 comments. It takes a long time to eradicate decades of
22 injustices in communities. And so this is not going to
23 happen overnight. But I have spoken to my colleagues,
24 I've spoken to community members, and I would tell you
25 that we're all very much invested as well as the staff, in

1 doing what we can do to bring relief and help build back
2 healthy communities with building trust. It's going to
3 take time.

4 And then, you know, I think Maya Angelou said I
5 learn that I still have a lot to learn. And I would say
6 the same about this program that we will continue to grow
7 and get smarter as time passes, but we still have a lot of
8 work to do.

9 So thank you to everyone that has leaned in.

10 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you.

11 Board member De La Torre.

12 BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: Thank you. I'm going
13 to say roughly what I've been saying for five years. I
14 knew this was going to work in the beginning. I've said
15 it. No, I'm serious. This program, the concept was
16 created by this agency, not the Legislature. They ran the
17 bill and made it happen, but the concept of multiple
18 impacts in a community came from here. And to take that
19 to the Legislature and make it a reality, get it funded,
20 et cetera, et cetera, is a phenomenal accomplishment. But
21 from day one, it was never about this community, that
22 community, it was about what I call the sampler platter of
23 California.

24 It was always about these communities that have
25 the same challenges, rural communities, goods movement

1 corridors, industrial communities, et cetera. It was
2 always about that. It was what the commonality is and
3 learning from one to the other, to the other, to the
4 other. And we are seeing that momentum building up and
5 down this state, so that communities that are not AB 617
6 that have those characteristics are benefiting from it.

7 So it's working. We were never going to do a
8 hundred of these communities. We were never going to have
9 that kind of money. So it's working.

10 The spill over-effect that has been commented
11 here into other agencies and awareness is absolutely
12 happening. I can tell you within -- this calendar year, I
13 was having conversations with LA Metro and they had no
14 idea what AB 617 was. They do now, and they want to help,
15 and they want to focus some of their resources in these
16 communities. That's not the money that we have from
17 Sacramento. That's not our money. It's not Air District
18 money. That's a transportation agency that's going to
19 change the way they do business because we set the mark of
20 where it's needed. And there's others examples, but
21 that's one that I'm intimately familiar with.

22 Other agencies with funding opportunities or
23 funders non-profit funders, foundations, now they know,
24 oh, these are the communities that are low income, that
25 are diverse, that are disadvantaged that need the help and

1 are impacted by the pollution. That's where we need to
2 be.

3 And so now we're building a momentum outside of
4 our infrastructure and the things we're doing, which are
5 great. We're building this momentum around helping these
6 communities and giving them what they deserve outside of
7 the stuff we directly control.

8 I frankly think that that's going to be the next
9 challenge is how do we account for the stuff that's
10 happening outside of this program that is benefiting these
11 communities above and beyond. That -- I think that's the
12 next challenge as I -- as I'm looking ahead, because I see
13 this momentum happening in these communities.

14 Federal grants and others where you can say
15 you're an AB 617 community in California, and that gives
16 you a leg up on getting that funding, especially with
17 Justice40 at the federal level, which some would argue is
18 inspired by what we did here.

19 And then finally, just the community efforts.
20 You know, this is all done at the community level. It was
21 always intended to be done to incorporate the community.
22 Sometimes it's messy. Sometimes it's complicated, et
23 cetera, but these communities are coming up with solutions
24 for themselves and all we're doing is helping them to
25 attain that.

1 And again, the metrics are there. The numbers
2 are better in all of these communities. And I'm just --
3 I'm really, really proud of this agency for taking the
4 risk on something no other government entity on this
5 planet has done. That's us. And then we're doing it for
6 our people and we're having impact. So thank you all.

7 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you.

8 I just want to extend again my thanks to Chanell
9 and Deldi for just really doing an incredible amount of
10 work and thoughtfulness in steering this program. You
11 both and your staff are just amazing and it's really very
12 much appreciated.

13 And Femi, I know you're listening. Shout-out to
14 you as well. And then, of course, you know, the community
15 members that really put in that time, that uncompensated
16 hour -- hour after hour of time, and the air districts who
17 sort of have to do a lot of this heavy lifting. And all
18 of us public agencies struggle with resources. And so I
19 know sometimes it's difficult for them, so I appreciate
20 all the work they're doing.

21 And I think the most important thing is it's --
22 to me, it's not surprising that it has taken time to build
23 this program, because as my colleagues have noted, no one
24 else is doing this. We didn't have a blueprint that we
25 could use to model our blueprint on. And so, the work of

1 all of you in doing that, the work of the People's
2 Blueprint Committee -- Consultation Group, you know, has
3 been incredibly valuable in really thinking about how to
4 do things fundamentally different than the way they were
5 done before. And now, that's starting to bear fruit and
6 we are seeing that progress. So on that note, this is an
7 informational item, so we don't need a vote or anything,
8 but I just congratulate all of you on your work and really
9 appreciate this update.

10 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: They get our vote of
11 confidence.

12 CHAIR RANDOLPH: There you go, our vote of
13 confidence.

14 BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: Our admiration.

15 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Yeah. So we -- that ends this
16 agenda item. We already did open public comment, so this
17 meeting of the Air Resources Board is now adjourned.

18 Thank you, all.

19 (Thereupon the California Air Resources Board
20 meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.)

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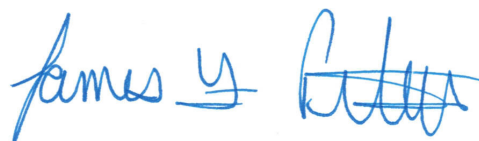
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2 I, JAMES F. PETERS, a Certified Shorthand
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13 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
14 this 4th day of August, 2024.

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