

MEETING
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

ZOOM PLATFORM

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
BYRON SHER AUDITORIUM
1001 I STREET
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025
10:05 A.M.

JAMES F. PETERS, CSR
CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER
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APPEARANCES

BOARD MEMBERS:

Liane Randolph, Chair

John Balmes, MD

Hector De La Torre

John Eisenhut

Dean Florez (Remote)

Todd Gloria (Remote)

Eric Guerra

Lynda Hopkins

Assemblymember Corey Jackson

Gideon Kracov (Remote)

Dawn Ortiz-Legg (Remote)

Tania Pacheco-Werner, PhD (Remote)

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:

Edna Murphy, Deputy Executive Officer, Internal Operations

Femi Olaluwoye, Deputy Executive Officer, Southern
California Headquarters and Mobile Source Compliance

Rajinder Sahota, Deputy Executive Officer, Climate Change
and Research

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

Andrea Delgado, Air Pollution Specialist, Office of Racial
Equity, Executive Office

Jessi Fierro, Attorney III, Legal Office

Alora Franco, Air Pollution Specialist, Incident Air
Monitoring Section, Monitoring and Laboratory Division

Walter Ham, Chief, Monitoring and Laboratory Division

Bonnie Holmes-Gen, Chief, Health and Exposure Assessment
Branch

Meena Kaypour, Attorney, Legal Office, Executive Office

Amy MacPherson, Information Office II, Chair's Office

Radhika Majhail, Air Resources Supervisor II,
Environmental Justice and Equity Branch, Executive Office

Liliana Nunez, Air Resources Supervisor I, Office of
Racial Equity, Executive Office

Charles Pearson, Air Resources Supervisor I, Incident Air
Monitoring Section, Monitoring and Laboratory Division

Elizabeth Scheehle, Chief, Research Division

Lisa Yacoubian, Assistant Division Chief, Emissions
Certification and Compliance Division

APPEARANCES CONTINUED

ALSO PRESENT:

Veronica Aguirre, HEAL

Cher Arabalo

Clarisa Baltazar, Citizens for Chiquita Canyon Closure

Will Barrett, American Lung Association

Katherine Blauvelt, Industrious Labs

Katie Dalton, Citizens for Chiquita Canyon Closure

Abigail DeSesa

Sarah Deslauriers, California Association of Sanitation
Agencies

Jennifer Elkins, Citizens for Chiquita Canyon Closure

Kayleigh Elkins, Citizens for Chiquita Canyon Closure

Luke Elkins, Citizens for Chiquita Canyon Closure

Nathan Elkins, Citizens for Chiquita Canyon Closure

Randahl Elkins, Citizens for Chiquita Canyon Closure

Noam Elroi, Californians Against Waste, Elders Climate
Actions NorCal & SoCal, Climate Action California

Raul Engle, Citizens for Chiquita Canyon Closure

Gabriela Facio, Sierra Club California

Kerry Frohling, Citizens for Chiquita Canyon Closing

Riana Ghazdrian, Citizens for Chiquita Canyon Closure

Micah Howse

Steven Howse

Greg Hurner

APPEARANCES CONTINUED

ALSO PRESENT:

Elizabeth Jeffords, Citizens for Chiquita Canyon Closure

Nathan Kruger, Kruger Law Firm

Julia Levin, Bioenergy Association of California

Joshua Lovelace, Miller Industries

Jason Low, PhD, South Coast Air Quality Management
District

Cindy Mahon, Sacramento Metropolitan Air District

Leilah Martinez, Citizens for Chiquita Canyon Closure

Robert Mittelstaedt, E-Bike Access

Craig Murray, Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District

Oshea Orchid, Citizens for Chiquita Canyon Closure

Ruben Rodriguez

David Rothbart, Clean Water SoCal

Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo, Assembly District 40

Darcy Stinson

Sara Stinson, Citizens for Chiquita Canyon Closure

Claire Sullivan, City of Roseville

Jose Valdivia

Yasmina Valdivia, Citizens for Chiquita Canyon Closure

Adelaide Vasquez, Citizens for Chiquita Canyon Closure

Tim Williams

Delia Yoguez, Citizens for Chiquita Canyon Closure

<u>INDEX</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Call to Order	1
Roll Call	1
Opening Remarks	2
Item 25-2-1	
Chair Randolph	16
Executive Officer Cliff	17
Motion	21
Vote	21
Item 25-2-2	
Chair Randolph	22
Executive Officer Cliff	24
Staff Presentation	26
Board Discussion and Q&A	37
Item 25-2-3	
Chair Randolph	56
Executive Officer Cliff	58
Staff Presentation	59
Will Barrett	73
Board Discussion and Q&A	74
Open Public Comment	
Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo	90
Veronica Aguirre	94
Sarah Deslauriers	96
Cindy Mahon	98
Noam Elroi	99
Julia Levin	100
Kerry Frohling	102
Micah Howse	103
Steven Howse	103
Gabriela Facio	105
Cher Arabalo	107
Nathan Kruger	108
Oshea Orchid	110
Adelaide Vasquez	112
Randahl Elkins	113
Kayleigh Elkins	114
Nathan Elkins	115
Luke ELkins	115
Jennifer Elkins	116

INDEX CONTINUED

	<u>PAGE</u>
Open Public	
Leilah Martinez	118
Clarisa Baltazar	119
Riana Ghazdrian	120
Raul Engle	120
Katie Dalton	122
Tim Williams	124
Sara Stinson	126
Darcy Stinson	126
Elizabeth Jeffords	127
Yasmina Valdivia	129
Delia Yoguez	130
Jose Valdivia	131
David Rothbart	132
Craig Murray	134
Robert Mittelstaedt	135
Katherine Blauvelt	136
Claire Sullivan	138
Greg Hurner	139
Joshua Lovelace	140
Abigail DeSesa	141
Ruben Rodriguez	143
Adjournment	154
Reporter's Certificate	155

PROCEEDINGS

CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Good morning,
everyone. The March -- oh, wow. That was instant quiet.
Thank you. The March 27th, 2025 public meeting of the
California Air Resources Board will come to order.

Board clerk, will you please call the roll

BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Dr. Balmes.

BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Here.

BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Mr. De La Torre.

BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: Here.

BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Mr. Eisenhut.

BOARD MEMBER EISENHUT: Here.

BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Senator Florez.

BOARD MEMBER FLOREZ: Florez here.

BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Mayor Gloria.

BOARD MEMBER GLORIA: Here.

BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Mr. Guerra.

BOARD MEMBER GUERRA: Here.

BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Ms. Hopkins.

BOARD MEMBER HOPKINS: Present.

BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Senator Jackson.

Mr. Kracov.

BOARD MEMBER KRACOV: Here.

BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Mr. Ortiz-Legg.

BOARD MEMBER ORTIZ-LEGG: Here.

1 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Dr. Pacheco-Werner.

2 BOARD MEMBER PACHECO-WERNER: Here.

3 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Mr. Rechtschaffen.

4 BOARD MEMBER RECHTSCHAFFEN: Here.

5 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Dr. Shaheen.

6 BOARD MEMBER SHAHEEN: Here.

7 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Senator Stern?

8 Ms. Takvorian.

9 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Here.

10 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Chair Randolph.

11 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Here.

12 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Madam Chair, we have a
13 quorum.

14 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. So we will start
15 with our housekeeping items before we get started this
16 morning. We are conducting today's meeting in person as
17 well as offering remote options for public participation
18 both by phone and in Zoom. Anyone who wishes to testify
19 in person should fill out a request-to-speak card
20 available in the foyer outside the Board room. Please
21 turn it into a Board assistant prior to the commencement
22 of the item. If you are participating remotely, you will
23 raise your hand in Zoom or dial star nine, if calling in
24 by phone. The Clerk will provide further details
25 regarding how public participation will work in just a

1 moment.

2 For safety reasons, please note the emergency
3 exit to the rear of the room through the foyer. In the
4 event of a fire alarm, we are required to evacuate this
5 room immediately and go down the stairs into the lobby and
6 out of the building. When the "All Clear" signal is
7 given, we will return to the auditorium and resume the
8 hearing.

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

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

1 commenters to speak slowly and pause intermittently to
2 allow the interpreters the opportunity to accurately
3 interpret your comments.

4 (Interpreter translated in Spanish).

5 CHAIR RANDOLPH: I will now ask the Board clerk
6 to provide more details regarding public participation.

7 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you, Chair Randolph.

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

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

1 indicated which item you wished to speak when you
2 registered, you must raise your hand at the beginning of
3 the item to be added to the queue.

4 For anyone giving verbal comments today in
5 Spanish, please indicate so at the beginning of your
6 testimony and our interpreter will assist you. During
7 your comment, please follow any instructions the
8 interpreter provides.

9 When the comment period begins, the order of
10 commenters is determined by who raises their hand first.
11 We will call each commenter by name and will activate each
12 commenter's audio when it is their turn to speak. For
13 those calling in, we will identify you by the last three
14 digits of your phone number. We will announce the next
15 three or so commenters in the queue, so you are ready to
16 testify when we come to you. Please note, your testimony
17 will not appear by video.

18 For all commenters, please state your name for
19 the record before you speak. This is especially important
20 for those calling in by phone. Each commenter will have a
21 time limit of two minutes, although this may change at the
22 chair's discretion. During public testimony, you will see
23 a timer on the screen. For those calling in by phone, we
24 will let you know when you have 30 seconds left and when
25 your time is up. Your time will be doubled if you require

1 Spanish interpretation.

2 To submit written comments, please visit CARB's,
3 "Send us your comments" page or look at the public agenda
4 on our webpage for links to submit your comment. Written
5 comments will be accepted on each item until the Chair
6 closes the record for that Board item.

7 If you experience technical difficulties, please
8 call 0 -- (805)772-2715 so an IT person can assist.

9 Thank you and I'll turn the mike back to Chair
10 Randolph.

11 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you. Before we get
12 today's agenda items, I want to take a few moments to
13 recognize some changes to the membership of our Board. It
14 is my distinct pleasure to introduce and welcome the three
15 newest members of the California Air Resources Board who
16 were appointed by Governor Newsom in February.

17 First, representing the San Diego Air Pollution
18 Control District, I would like to introduce Mayor Todd
19 Gloria of San Diego, a former State Assembly Member
20 representing the 78th Assembly District. He was sworn in
21 as Mayor on December 10th, 2020 and reelected in November,
22 2024. A third generation San Diegan of Filipino, Dutch,
23 Puerto Rican, and Native American decent, Mayor Gloria has
24 deep roots in the community. He's a graduate of the
25 University of San Diego, an enrolled member of the

1 Tlingit, Haida Indian tribes of Alaska, and the first
2 person of color as well as the first LGBTQ person ever to
3 be elected as Mayor of San Diego.

4 Linda Hopkins was appointed as the Bay Area Air
5 Quality Management District member of the Board.
6 Supervisor Hopkins currently serves as the Sonoma County
7 District 5 Supervisor, as well as a range of other duties,
8 including the Chair of the Regional Climate Protection
9 Authority, Sonoma County Transportation Authority, and
10 Sonoma Clean Power, as well as Director of the Russian
11 River Watershed Association, Santa Rosa Groundwater
12 Sustainability Agency, and Northern Sonoma County Air
13 Pollution Control District. And she's got three little
14 kids, so... A graduate of Stanford University, she is
15 also the co-owner of Foggy River Farms, where you can find
16 her picking apples and tending to her heard.

17 Dawn Ortiz-Legg the representative of District 3
18 on the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisor --
19 Supervisors. Supervisor Ortiz-Legg was born in rural
20 Illinois, but has been a resident of San Luis Obispo since
21 1992. A graduate of Pepperdine, she also holds a master's
22 of public policy from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced
23 Studies. In addition to her role as supervisor, she is
24 chair of First Five, Vice President of the Central Coast
25 Community Energy Policy Board, San Luis Obispo Local

1 Agency Formation Commission, San Luis Obispo Council of
2 Governments, and the San Luis Valley Groundwater
3 Stakeholder Group. Ms. Ortiz-Legg is the 2025-2027
4 Chairperson for the Latina Caucus of California Counties,
5 and is on the Parks California Advisory Board.

6 In addition too the gubernatorial appointments,
7 we would also like to introduce our newest ex-officio
8 member, Dr. Corey Jackson. Dr. Jackson represents the
9 60th Assembly District, including the towns of Moreno
10 Valley, Perris, and San Jacinto. He was elected to the
11 Assembly in November 2022 and reelected for a second term
12 in 2024. He has chaired the Human Services Committee and
13 is the current Chair of Budget Subcommittee Number Two on
14 Human Services.

15 He also served as the founder and CEO of SBX
16 Youth and Family Services, which works to break the cycle
17 of poverty and violence through mentoring, education, and
18 community organizing. Dr. Jackson is a graduate of CSU
19 San Bernardino and received his master's and doctorate of
20 social work from California Baptist University.

21 So welcome to all of you. We're very happy to
22 have you join us here on the Board, and we really
23 appreciate your willingness to take on this really, really
24 important work.

25 So, that also means we must say goodbye to

1 several deeply valued members of our Board. So those
2 members are Davina Hurt, V. Manuel Perez, Nora Vargas, and
3 Eduardo Garcia. Ms. Hurt is going to be joining us a
4 little bitter in the meeting, so we will have a more
5 detailed chance to say goodbye to her in a few minutes.

6 Supervisor V. Manuel Perez joined CARB after the
7 retirement of long-running Board member Barbara Riordan,
8 representing Riverside County's 4 District. He brought
9 extensive knowledge of the needs of residents affected by
10 the goods movement industry and really brought his
11 knowledge of those impacts to his work on the Board, and
12 we very much appreciate his work.

13 Supervisor Nora Vargas was sworn into the San
14 Diego County Board of Supervisors in January of 2021, and
15 represented the San Diego Air Pollution Control District
16 on CARB's Board. As the San Diego -- your phone --

17 (Laughter).

18 CHAIR RANDOLPH: As the San Diego representative
19 on our Board, she worked tirelessly on efforts to mitigate
20 the effects of climate change and freight pollution on
21 disadvantaged and border communities, and we appreciate
22 her service.

23 Eduardo Garcia was appointed as ex-officio member
24 to the Board back in February of 2030 -- sorry, of 2017,
25 by Speaker Rendon. His achievements include co-authoring

1 SB 32 with Senator Fran Pavley, which requires a reduction
2 of GHG emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030,
3 along with AB 197, this bill was signed into law by
4 Governor Brown in September of 2016. In 2017,
5 Assemblymember Garcia authored AB 398, which extended the
6 operation of the State's Cap-and-Trade Program from 2030
7 to 20 -- sorry, from 2020 to 2030. So we really
8 appreciated his perspective and expertise as we
9 implemented those laws that he brought to life. So, we
10 will miss former Senator Garcia.

11 Finally, today, is Gideon Kracov's last meeting
12 as a CARB Board member. He has served as the
13 representative of the South Coast Air Quality Management
14 District, since being appointed by Governor Newsom in
15 December of 2020. Board Member Kracov has shown
16 incredible leadership on the Board, as we worked on
17 critical issues in the goods movement sector and on the
18 Environmental Justice Advisory Committee charter, and
19 much, much more. So because Board Member Kracov is here
20 for his last voting meeting, I wanted to give him the
21 opportunity to say a few words.

22 BOARD MEMBER KRACOV: Thank you, Chair Randolph.
23 You know I can't help but say a few words, right?

24 (Laughter).

25 BOARD MEMBER KRACOV: This decision has not come

1 lightly, but after careful consideration, it's the right
2 time for me to step down from CARB and South Coast AQMD to
3 focus on my family obligations in the aftermath of the
4 Eaton Wildfire. I'm sorry I can't be there today. I
5 don't want to continue to serve unless I can give it my
6 all. You all deserve that, and the Californians we
7 represent deserve that.

8 I'm so thankful to Governor Newsom for the
9 opportunity to serve. It's been the thrill of a lifetime.
10 It's been the work much of a lifetime. And I honestly
11 never thought I'd be in these kinds of positions. You
12 know, I wasn't born in California. My mother, a single
13 mother, and I journeyed here in 1981. We drove cross
14 country in a Volkswagen Rabbit seeking opportunity,
15 quality of life, a fresh start. And I've always seen
16 public service as a way to pay that forward to pay forward
17 all that California has given my family and so many others
18 on this journey.

19 And we know that our public service work is a
20 family affair. My wife Misty, for some reason, I can't
21 figure out, is so supportive of me and all the things that
22 I do.

23 Colleagues, I'm so proud of the work we've done
24 together since 2020. Chair Randolph Davina, Tania, and I
25 were appointed together with an enormous to-do list.

1 There was so much on the docket, on our plates when we
2 started, you know, and we did it all.

3 Let me go through this: Small off-road engines,
4 phasing out ag burning, heavy-duty smog check, TRUs,
5 commercial harbor craft, Advanced Clean Cars II, in-use
6 off-road diesel, locomotives, Advanced Clean, Fleets,
7 hexavalent chromium, the Scoping Plan, aerosol coatings,
8 the Clean Truck Partnership on Omnibus, forklifts, the Low
9 Carbon Fuel Standard, committing to dairy regulation. I
10 mean, wow. In each of these considering both innovation,
11 and pragmatism, breathers, and ratepayers, fenceline
12 communities, and the regulated communities. Making sure
13 we post our draft resolutions the week before our meetings
14 and in hearing from all interested parties before finding
15 the right equilibrium.

16 We successfully managed the transition of a new
17 Board Chair, Liane Randolph and a new Executive Officer,
18 Dr. Cliff, a new Southern California Headquarters in
19 Riverside opened in the midst of a pandemic that we
20 navigated through together. We distributed billions of
21 dollars to jump-start clean technologies and
22 infrastructure, for cars, trucks, buses. I just read we
23 have more electric chargers in this State than gasoline
24 pumps. That's because of our work colleagues.

25 While also working to better incorporate

1 environmental justice, restructuring our Office of
2 Community Air Protection, managing our 617 programs with a
3 new blueprint, creating permanent Environmental Justice
4 Advisory Committee for our climate programs, creating an
5 Office of Racial Equity. And we're going to hear more
6 about community engagement today in our agenda.

7 And internally too. We stood up the DaRE
8 Program, to focus on staff morale and well-being, all
9 while managing strong internal controls, governance, and
10 budget, and minding the store on the complex market-based
11 programs that we manage with the world watching like
12 Cap-and-Trade and LCFS.

13 And I'll finish soon, Chair.

14 I'm also proud of the partnership, allegiance,
15 and communication we fostered between my air district, the
16 South Coast, with 18 million people and CARB. We've done
17 enormous work in the South Coast during my tenure,
18 including securing the largest air grant in U.S. history
19 with CARB help.

20 During this time, this journey together, I've
21 marveled at the culture of this agency, CARB, its staff,
22 such high-performing public servants. Creativity,
23 competence, a culture, colleagues, of excellence that we
24 all inherit, each of us, from our predecessors here, staff
25 and Board, my support team and consultants.

1 But what I'm most proud of really is the
2 relationships built with each of you Board members, each
3 one of you - you know who you are - each different and
4 special in its own way. We're always going to be friends.

5 Liane, it's not easy to follow an icon like Chair
6 Nichols. Yet, you did it. You do it every day. We learn
7 so much from you about public service and about
8 leadership. And now five years later, there are new
9 entries on the docket, carbon capture, climate reporting,
10 along with making sure that we execute on the policies
11 adopted these past five years. And I know that in doing
12 so, each of you, and all of our great new Board members
13 that were just introduced, will build on and protect our
14 inheritance, our culture of excellence at CARB.

15 And I'll speak honestly. I know that there is
16 uncertainty now, frustration, fear, some federal fights,
17 but there's an old saying, "If you're not moving forward,
18 you're moving backward." Does anyone here want to move
19 backward when it comes to air quality, pollution control,
20 or combating climate change? No. We Californians are not
21 going to move backward. We've already been there. These
22 tragic wildfires are a reminder of what is at stake, as we
23 work to meet our climate and air quality goals. Do these
24 fires show that Californians value the air we breathe,
25 managing climate risk? Darn right. These are our values

1 as Californians, and we have an agenda item on that today
2 too.

3 So today, despite adversity, we will move forward
4 at CARB. You know, you can't do something worthwhile,
5 can't build the abundant California we all want without
6 overcoming adversity on that journey. We're going to move
7 forward at CARB, steady, steadfast to meet our air quality
8 and climate goals, our quality of life goals for the next
9 generation, the same California values that brought my
10 mother and I here when I was a young boy. I won't be on
11 the dais with you colleagues, as you continue this
12 journey, but will always be a partner and ally in your
13 work.

14 Governor Newsom knows I'm committed to ensuring a
15 smooth transition and am happy to assist in any way during
16 this process. Thank you again for your collegiality, for
17 the trust you placed in me, and I look forward to the
18 continued success of the California Air Resources Board,
19 our common inheritance of excellence, an inheritance
20 shared by everyone in this meeting today and the 40
21 million Californians that we serve.

22 So thank you for letting me say a few words Chair
23 Randolph.

24 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Always, Gideon. Always.

25 So we will -- we will very much miss you and

1 appreciate that you, you know, are -- have been one of the
2 most engaged and hard working Board members. And that's
3 on top of all the incredible work at South Coast, all of
4 which is unpaid. So, just really appreciate your
5 dedication to serving the people of California.

6 Okay. So, now we are moving on to the consent,
7 calendar, the first and only item on the consent calendar,
8 as noted on the public agenda, is item number 25-2-1, 2025
9 Updates to Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets for California
10 Ozone State Implementation Plans.

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

19 Pollution that comes from cars and trucks has a
20 significant impact on the air we breathe and our health.
21 To support State efforts to meet National Ambient Air
22 Quality Standards, the federal Clean Air Act establishes
23 requirements known as transportation conformity to ensure
24 that transportation planning by transportation agencies
25 does not interfere with air quality planning.

1 State implementation plans establish motor
2 vehicle emissions budgets for each region in California.
3 Once motor vehicle emissions budgets are approved by CARB
4 and then by U.S. EPA, transportation agencies must
5 demonstrate for all future transportation plans or
6 projects that their emissions do not exceed the limits set
7 in the motor vehicle emissions budget. This is known as
8 transportation conformity. This process ensures that
9 expected changes in vehicle miles traveled, or VMT, due to
10 transportation activities, do not interfere with air
11 quality progress needed to attain federal standards.

12 Reductions in VMT remain critical to supporting
13 attainment of ambient air quality standards, as well as to
14 our efforts to reduce greenhouse gases and meet other
15 State mandates. Today, we will be considering updates to
16 the motor vehicle emissions budgets for San Diego County
17 and the San Joaquin Valley 8-hour ozone State
18 Implementation Plan.

19 Dr. Cliff, would you please summarize this item.

20 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: Thank you, Chair
21 Randolph. Wow. That is loud.

22 (Laughter).

23 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: I don't how to
24 calibrate. That's -- we're going to get this way far away
25 from my -- from my mouth.

1 Okay. For the 70 and 75 parts per billion 8-hour
2 ozone standards, CARB submitted State implementation plans
3 to U.S. EPA over the last several years that included
4 motor vehicle emissions budgets developed using the
5 California On-Road Mobile Source Emission Estimation
6 models, or EMFAC 2017 and EMFAC 2014.

7 In 2021, California released a new version of the
8 EMFAC model, which has been approved by U.S. EPA and is
9 now in effect for transportation purposes. Due to the
10 updated data and methodology changes in the model, even
11 with the same vehicle activity, EMFAC 2021 more accurately
12 shows California will get higher emissions from the
13 on-road vehicle population in many areas of the state
14 compared to estimates from prior versions. As such, the
15 San Diego County and San Joaquin Valley transportation
16 agencies are currently not able to demonstrate conformity
17 against motor vehicle emissions budgets established using
18 the older EMFAC models in their existing SIP-approved
19 plans.

20 To align the motor vehicle emissions budgets in
21 the 70 and 75 parts per billion 8-hour ozone standard
22 plans for San Diego, and the San Joaquin Valley with EMFAC
23 2021, staff is proposing the Board approve the updated
24 motor vehicle emissions budgets developed using EMFAC 2021
25 and direct staff to submit the 2025 ozone budget update to

1 the U.S. EPA as a revision to the State Implementation
2 Plan. The only comments received on this item were not
3 directed at this proposal.

4 Before I conclude, I'd also like to take a moment
5 to recognize a member of the team that developed this item
6 and has been an integral part of every California SIP
7 revision over the last 15 years, Sylvia Vanderspek, Chief
8 of the Air Quality Planning Branch in our Air Quality
9 Planning and Science Division is retiring next week after
10 an impressive 36 years of State service --

11 (Applause).

12 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: -- most of which have
13 been spent here at CARB. Sylvia joined the SIP team in
14 1999, took over as Branch Chief in 2013, and has been
15 involved in at least 100 Board items since then.

16 In her time leading this team, Sylvia has
17 established herself as the indisputable expert on
18 California's many, many SIPs, and has continually
19 impressed all with her seemingly endless knowledge of the
20 Clean Air Act. Her ability to remember unique issues and
21 details from countless SIPs and to use that knowledge to
22 come up with creative solutions to ever-evolving issues
23 has been vital to the SIP progress we have made in recent
24 decades.

25 It has also gained her deep appreciation of the

1 air districts across California, as well as, of course,
2 with the Executive Office. Sylvia's wealth of knowledge,
3 pragmatism and creativity have prevented countless SIP
4 emergencies and conformity crises over the last 30 years.
5 It cannot be overstated the impact she has had on the
6 success of SIPs in California, and thereby the positive
7 impact she has had on air quality across the state.

8 While we wish Sylvia the very best in retirement,
9 she will be greatly missed here at CARB. Thank you,
10 Sylvia. This concludes my summary of the item.

11 (Applause).

12 CHAIR RANDOLPH: I -- Sylvia is just amazing and
13 I will -- I will miss her very much, because she's always
14 extremely clear in her explanations, and as Steve
15 mentioned, also has come up with creative solutions, and
16 has worked incredibly well with EPA Region 9 and our local
17 air districts, but you've built an incredible team. So, I
18 feel like you're leaving us in good hands.

19 So, okay. Board Clerk, have any witnesses signed
20 up to testify on this item?

21 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: We do not have any
22 commenters in person or over Zoom for this item.

23 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. So I will now close the
24 record on this agenda item. The Board has before them
25 Resolution 25-3. Do I have a motion and a second?

1 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: I move that we adopt this
2 resolution.

3 BOARD MEMBER EISENHUT: Second.

4 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Board Clerk, will you please
5 call the roll.

6 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Dr. Balmes?

7 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Yes.

8 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Mr. De La Torre?
9 Mr. Eisenhut?

10 BOARD MEMBER EISENHUT: Yes.

11 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Senator Florez?

12 BOARD MEMBER FLOREZ: Florez, aye.

13 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Mayor Gloria?

14 BOARD MEMBER GLORIA: Aye.

15 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Mr. Guerra?

16 BOARD MEMBER GUERRA: Aye.

17 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Ms. Hopkins?

18 BOARD MEMBER HOPKINS: Yes.

19 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Mr. Kracov?

20 BOARD MEMBER KRACOV: Yes.

21 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Ms. Ortiz-Legg?

22 BOARD MEMBER ORTIZ-LEGG: Aye.

23 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Dr. Pacheco-Werner?

24 BOARD MEMBER PACHECO-WERNER: Yes.

25 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Mr. Rechtschaffen?

1 BOARD MEMBER RECHTSCHAFFEN: Yes.

2 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Dr. Shaheen?

3 BOARD MEMBER SHAHEEN: Aye.

4 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Ms. Takvorian?

5 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Yes.

6 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Chair Randolph?

7 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Yes.

8 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Motion passes.

9 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Congratulations to
10 our new members on your first vote.

11 Okay. The next item on the agenda is Item number
12 25-2-2, an Informational Update on CARB's Community
13 Engagement Model.

14 If you are here with us in the room and wish to
15 comment on this item, please fill out a request-to-speak
16 card as soon as possible and submit it to a Board
17 assistant. If you are joining us remotely and wish to
18 comment on this item, please click the "Raise Hand" button
19 or dial start nine now. We will first call on in-person
20 commenters followed by any remote commenters when we get
21 to the public comment portion of this item.

22 As you may remember, the Board adopted Resolution
23 20-33 a commitment to racial equity and social justice in
24 October 2020 to establish and advance equity in all CARB
25 activities. This effort is essential to furthering CARB's

1 mission, given that race remains the single most important
2 determinant of who bears the burden of air pollution.

3 To achieve critical air quality and climate
4 change goals, we must consider and embed equity in all
5 that we do. For that reason, our agency's stated vision
6 for racial equity is to support just social change by
7 working at all levels within the organization and
8 externally to address environmental injustices and advance
9 racial equity in the achievement of our mission. This
10 work includes identifying and implementing best practices
11 for community engagement that build trust and strong
12 relationships with the communities CARB serves, and that
13 engage communities throughout development of CARB programs
14 to ensure equitable outcomes for all Californians.

15 In recent years, and in partnership with
16 community members, CARB developed the Community Engagement
17 Model, or "model," to give our staff a consistent approach
18 to meaningfully engaging in communities, particularly
19 those most impacted by pollution and where race plays a
20 role in inequitable outcomes. Racial equity
21 considerations are engrained in the model as is the
22 importance of working transparently, developing
23 relationships that are mutually beneficial, and
24 incorporating diverse perspectives to ensure that CARB
25 decisions incorporate and reflect community voices. The

1 Community Engagement Model a crucial step forward in
2 CARB's effort to advance racial equity and all staff are
3 encouraged to use this guidance when engaging with
4 communities.

5 I will now hand it over to Dr. Cliff to introduce
6 the item before staff present an informational update on
7 CARB's community engagement.

8 Dr. Cliff.

9 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: Checking. Okay.

10 Thank you, Chair Randolph. I'm also very excited
11 about the development of CARB's Community Engagement Model
12 and other racial equity tools to help staff better
13 consider and advance racial equity throughout our agency's
14 work. The goal of this tool is to standardize best
15 practices for community engagement throughout CARB and
16 provide guidance and resources for consistent design And
17 effective implementation of community engagement plans.

18 Through the Community Engagement Model, staff
19 will better -- be better equipped to utilize best
20 principles of community outreach and engagement, develop a
21 deeper understanding of the importance of community
22 engagement to CARB's work, and achieve mutually beneficial
23 outcomes.

24 The Community Engagement Model aims to advance
25 racial equity and social justice in a number of ways. The

1 model encourages meaningful community engagement and the
2 integration of community input throughout CARB's actions,
3 including the initial design to ensure that CARB
4 priorities are directly informed early on by communities,
5 and that they have the opportunity to lead outcomes that
6 best align with their community needs.

7 Racial equity and environmental justice
8 principles are embedded in the model. This helps advance
9 our agency's vision for racial equity that race no longer
10 predicts life outcomes. It also ensures that those
11 impacted by structural racial inequities are meaningfully
12 involved in the creation and implementation of ongoing and
13 future CARB actions that may impact their lives and lead
14 to outcomes that are more just and equitable.

15 CARB staff co-created the Community Engagement
16 Model with input from community experts and through
17 community partnerships over the past three years.
18 Eighteen staff from 13 divisions coordinated with 19
19 community experts and held nine public community dialogue
20 sessions, along with individual conversations with
21 community-based organizations to ground truth the model.
22 Based on thorough feedback, CARB staff launched a revised
23 version of the Community Engagement Model in January of
24 this year. The model is available in English and Spanish
25 on the CARB's -- on CARB's Community Engagement Model

1 website.

2 CARB values the involvement and engagement of
3 communities in our work. Now, that the tool is finalized,
4 CARB staff will apply the Community Engagement Model and
5 all relevant CARB activities, where appropriate and
6 feasible, as described in the model.

7 The Office of Racial Equity is leading
8 coordination of agency-wide support on the model. The
9 lead staff will provide a detailed overview of the model,
10 its development process, ongoing implementation efforts,
11 and its use throughout CARB.

12 I will now ask Andrea Delgado of the Office of
13 Racial Equity to begin the staff presentation.

14 Andrea.

15 (Slide presentation).

16 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST DELGADO: Thank you, Dr.
17 Cliff. Good morning, Chair Randolph and members of the
18 Board. It's a pleasure to be here today. My name is
19 Andrea Delgado and I am an Air Pollution Specialist in the
20 Office of Racial Equity. Today, I will present an update
21 on CARB's Community Engagement Model. I will share its
22 purpose, overview the sections, discuss the development
23 process, and then end with the efforts led by the Office
24 of Racial Equity to support staff's use of the Community
25 Engagement Model.

1 [SLIDE CHANGE]

2 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST DELGADO: What does
3 racial equity have to do with community engagement? As
4 Chair Randolph mentioned, the Board's Resolution 20-33
5 calls on CARB to meaningfully advance racial equity by
6 addressing institutional and structural racism through
7 several mechanisms that include establishing and enhancing
8 proactive measures to ensure racial equity in all CARB's
9 work, both internal and external, as well as identifying
10 and implementing best practices for community engagement
11 throughout all CARB actions.

12 Racial equity is described as both a process and
13 an outcome in CARB's Racial Equity Framework. This
14 framework was released in 2022 as part of our commitment
15 to provide a shared understanding to become an anti-racist
16 organization. Racial equity as a process ensures those
17 impacted by structural racial inequities are meaningfully
18 involved the creation and implementation of CARB actions
19 that impact their lives. Community engagement is an
20 essential part of the process.

21 Racial equity as an outcome means race will no
22 longer predict life outcomes, and that all outcomes for
23 all groups are improved. If we improve the process to
24 engage and partner with community, our outcomes should
25 reflect communities' influence and ultimately be more

1 equitable.

2 [SLIDE CHANGE]

3 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST DELGADO: CARB is
4 embedding equity in our work by developing and using
5 equity-focused data-driven tools to help staff deepen our
6 engagement efforts, better incorporate community
7 expertise, and operationalize racial equity in our work.
8 One of the tools is the Community Engagement Model.

9 The model standardizes best practices to help
10 staff better collaborate with communities, including
11 diverse and hard-to-reach groups by placing equity at the
12 forefront of community engagement. This ensures those
13 impacted by inequities are meaningfully engaged.

14 The overarching goal of this model is to ensure
15 that engagement and CARB actions address environmental
16 injustices and advance racial equity.

17 [SLIDE CHANGE]

18 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST DELGADO: The Community
19 Engagement Model is an agency-wide guidance document
20 designed to provide comprehensive guidance to equip CARB
21 staff with the essential knowledge, tools, and confidence
22 to incorporate community perspectives into their
23 engagement plans.

24 The model contains practical tools and best
25 practices throughout that are intended for staff to

1 reference and incorporate into their plans for engagement.
2 This includes templates and other resources that address
3 topics, such as accessibility, transparency, logistics,
4 and methods for outreach and engagement. The model begins
5 by grounding staff in some of California's history
6 regarding environmental injustices that necessitate this
7 work.

8 The following five sections of the model direct
9 staff to collaborate with communities and be transparent
10 about the purpose and impact of engagement as they
11 prepare, plan, and carry out engagement activities,
12 perform a thorough follow-up with communities, and
13 evaluate the processes.

14 [SLIDE CHANGE]

15 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST DELGADO: Let's walk
16 through the five sections of the model. The first section
17 is prepare, which happens before any outreach is
18 conducted. It helps identify the objectives, resources,
19 and who to engage with.

20 In the plan section, staff think through meeting
21 logistics for creating inclusive and engaging events.
22 Questions like where to locate an event, so it is easily
23 accessible by community members or how to create
24 accessible materials are answered in this section.

25 Through the implement section, staff can access

1 interactive engagement tools, guidance for facilitation,
2 and checklists for hosting meetings.

3 The follow-up section guides staff to continue
4 building relationships by informing communities how their
5 feedback was considered, how it influenced the CARB
6 action, and any next steps.

7 The last section helps comprehensively assess the
8 overall engagement efforts to understand impacts and
9 lessons learned for future improvements.

10 [SLIDE CHANGE]

11 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST DELGADO: It was very
12 important that the model be meaningfully co-developed with
13 communities. The Community Engagement Capacity Building
14 Workgroup, a team of CARB staff across 13 divisions, was
15 formed in 2022 to develop a model. The team was initially
16 led by Christal Love-Lazard and worked in collaboration
17 with Sarah Rubin at the California Department of
18 Conservation.

19 Nineteen community experts were contracted from
20 across California to co-develop the model through in-depth
21 feedback based on their lived, professional, and
22 leadership experiences. Experts were from disadvantaged
23 communities, had experience with community engagement or
24 outreach, and had previous experience working with
25 government agencies.

1 The workgroup held four online meetings with
2 community experts where they provided written and verbal
3 recommendations. Each expert was compensated up to
4 \$5,000. The workgroup also hosted extensive public
5 engagement through a series of eight public dialogue
6 sessions, in person and virtually, to receive comments and
7 recommendations from the public to help improve the model.
8 Throughout these engagement efforts, over 2,800 comments
9 were received. The workgroup took a "yes" approach to
10 comments and were able to incorporate about 90 percent of
11 comments into the model.

12 These comments are reflected in the revised model
13 that was launched at a public dialogue session in early
14 January this year. The model, along with the workbook,
15 are publicly available. This collaborative process with
16 communities resulted in a model that is -- has been
17 thoroughly vetted by communities and CARB staff. CARB's
18 Office of Racial Equity is leading the implementation of
19 the model.

20 [SLIDE CHANGE]

21 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST DELGADO: As previously
22 mentioned, about 90 percent of comments were incorporated
23 into the model, and communities expressed that they felt
24 heard and their voices were represented within the model.
25 On this slide are the themes of the comments that helped

1 shape the model. The workgroup added resources for staff
2 to increase their cultural competency and facilitation
3 skills. To include diverse voices and better engage with
4 affected communities and hard-to-reach groups, the model
5 strongly recommends partnering with community-based
6 organizations. The model offers guidance for equitable
7 practices, including fostering accessible spaces tailored
8 to community needs, as well as evaluating events by
9 setting measurable goals and approaches.

10 To increase transparency, the model provides
11 recommendations to close the loop with communities about
12 how their comments helped shape the CARB action. The
13 workgroup prepared a public comment table that captures
14 each comment received, along with detailed responses
15 stating if each comment was included or not and why.

16 Along with this table, the workgroup prepared a
17 document that summarizes comments and a document outlining
18 public recommendations that require additional resources
19 to implement. You can visit all three documents through
20 our Community Engagement Model webpage linked on the
21 screen.

22 [SLIDE CHANGE]

23 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST DELGADO: Over 30 CARB
24 staff contributed to the development of the model. The
25 next two slides feature some of the staff in the Community

1 Engagement Capacity Building Workgroup, not including
2 former members that phased out.

3 [SLIDE CHANGE]

4 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST DELGADO: A crucial
5 aspect of model development was bringing diverse
6 perspectives from across the agency. We recognize and
7 thank CARB staff for their dedicated time and effort.

8 [SLIDE CHANGE]

9 BOARD MEMBER DE LA TORRE: The next two slides
10 showcase the 19 contracted community experts from across
11 the state.

12 [SLIDE CHANGE]

13 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST DELGADO: CARB is very
14 grateful for the time, efforts, and insights from
15 community experts during the model's development.

16 [SLIDE CHANGE]

17 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST DELGADO: Now, we will
18 share a video with testimonials from a community expert
19 and CARB staff sharing their experiences.

20 (Thereupon a video was played.)

21 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST DELGADO: Special thanks
22 for Mr. Falcon, Joyce, La'Shaye, Deidre and Emma for their
23 testimonials.

24 Next slide, please.

25 [SLIDE CHANGE]

1 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST DELGADO: The Office of
2 Racial Equity was established in response to Board
3 Resolution 20-33 in order to operationalize CARB's
4 commitment to just social change by working at all levels
5 to address environmental injustices and advance racial
6 equity in the achievement of CARB's mission.

7 To help meet CARB's commitment, the Office of
8 Racial Equity is coordinating agency-wide support of the
9 Community Engagement Model by offering technical guidance,
10 and co-developing resources to support future
11 implementation. CARB aims to foster consistent
12 application of the model to improve effectiveness, ease of
13 model use, and identify and address areas for improvement.

14 In terms of next steps, the Office of Racial
15 Equity is supporting CARB staff by hosting weekly office
16 hours, as well as appointments for tailored one-on-one
17 support with the model. We are developing agency-wide
18 trainings for staff shaped by community voices to ensure
19 the model is used effectively and with proper support.

20 We will collect data to track model usage and
21 feedback from staff and communities to improve
22 implementation and staff support, assess outcomes and
23 impacts, and update the iterative model as necessary in
24 the future. We will also provide regular updates to the
25 Board on racial equity efforts throughout CARB, including

1 progress on model implementation.

2 [SLIDE CHANGE]

3 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST DELGADO: There are
4 various actions that helped reinforce the learnings from
5 the model. We are building staff capacity by providing
6 equity tools and trainings to advance racial equity. We
7 will be supporting more and more efforts to ground truth
8 projects with community members so that we are
9 co-developing programs with communities to better fit
10 their needs.

11 To ensure that the model is creating change at
12 CARB, we will be working closely with the teams using the
13 model to analyze the pre- and post-evaluations that are a
14 critical component of the model. We will also gather
15 additional data to ensure community voices are being heard
16 and incorporated.

17 To provide a holistic view of what CARB is doing
18 to advance racial equity, we are putting together a
19 document to share regular updates on our equity efforts,
20 the first of which will be released this spring. During
21 this process, we heard the need to develop a Tribal
22 Engagement Model. CARB's Office of Environmental Justice,
23 Tribal Affairs, and Border Relations will be engaging with
24 tribes, and leveraging existing tribal engagement work
25 done by the California Climate Investment Group for this

1 effort.

2 We also heard the need to remove barriers to
3 participation in CARB's engagement and partnership
4 activities. CARB is working with CalEPA to explore
5 opportunities to address existing barriers such as
6 monetary compensation.

7 [SLIDE CHANGE]

8 AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST DELGADO: To conclude,
9 the Community Engagement Model aligns with the
10 implementation of the Board's directive in Resolution
11 20-33 to meaningfully advance racial equity and
12 environmental justice. We hope the practical guidance and
13 considerations this model and its accompanying workbook
14 continue to assist all CARB staff to more meaningfully
15 engage the communities we serve. For more information,
16 you can contact us or visit CARB's community enragement
17 model webpage.

18 Once again, this informational item does not need
19 a Board vote. Thank you all for your time. Chair
20 Randolph, I'll pass it to you.

21 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you, Andrea. That was a
22 great staff report and I really appreciated the video. So
23 thanks to the whole team that put together. It was
24 excellent. Okay. We will now hear from the public who
25 signed up to speak on this item, either by submitting a

1 request to speak card or a raised hand in Zoom, and I will
2 ask the Board clerks to call any public comment.

3 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: We do not have any
4 commenters signed up to speak or in Zoom for this item.

5 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. Great. So now, I will
6 bring this item back to the Board. This is informational,
7 so we don't need to have a vote, but, you know, happy to
8 open it to questions and comments. And I know Dr. Balmes
9 had something to say.

10 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: It's supposed to be on.
11 There it is.

12 Thank you, Chair Randolph and thank you to all of
13 the staff, maybe especially the Office of Racial Equity
14 for leading this effort. I'm the longest serving Board
15 member since 2008. And I say that, because I've seen the
16 culture of this organization, which was always about
17 excellence and evidence, embrace environmental justice.

18 Those of you who know me well, I'm practically
19 tearing up, because it's so important to me that we made
20 this transformation. And, you know, I was the Co-Chair --
21 or I guess I still am the Chair, if not Co-Chair of the
22 Consultation Group for AB 617. And we had our butts
23 kicked about the fact that we were not trained to engage
24 with people. It wasn't in our DNA. It wasn't really in
25 our culture. I mean, there were individuals that did

1 great work earlier on, but it really wasn't part of the
2 agency's mission really, but it is now, and I'm so proud
3 of that.

4 You know, Board Member Kracov, you know, who
5 often says things very well, talked about how important
6 our work has been in terms of environmental justice. And
7 that's more important than ever now that the current
8 federal administration has canceled environmental justice,
9 literally. They're removing all funding from any grant
10 that has environmental justice in it, whether it's the
11 national science foundation or the NIH. I know some of
12 that firsthand.

13 So, I am very happy to see an implementation plan
14 for community engagement that's going to take us to the
15 next step, the training that you've put together to help
16 staff throughout the agency work better with communities.
17 And I can't be more proud of that. So, we have -- you
18 know, I know there's a lot of work to do, but you've --
19 this is an incredible first step, so thank you.

20 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you.

21 Dr. Shaheen.

22 BOARD MEMBER SHAHEEN: Okay. Looks like we got a
23 green. Okay. All right. Thank you, Chair.

24 And I just wanted to echo a comment that Dr.
25 Balmes made about the attack on science, and the grants,

1 and the role of environmental justice. So, you know, I'm
2 just so proud of CARB in developing this model and its
3 reflection on process, and bringing in lessons learned,
4 and particularly delighted to see the step on follow-up,
5 where there's a lot of communication with the members of
6 the community where I think that may be really helpful for
7 reinforcing the transparency that you got so many comments
8 on. That I think is going to take us a long way into the
9 future, and hearing from the community, and having them
10 feel like they were heard, and that the vision is
11 reflective of the local needs of that community. So thank
12 you for that.

13 I just had a quick question around in the
14 development of the model. And I believe you've tested the
15 model, correct? You know, what challenges did you
16 encounter that brought you some lessons learned that may
17 have affected your thinking about how to go forward?

18 EJEB AIR RESOURCES SUPERVISOR II MAJHAIL: Some
19 of the challenges that the team, the workgroup that it
20 encountered when we were going through the process were
21 people showing up to the meetings even though we were
22 engaging with the communities. We were making sure that
23 we are advertising in their communities, doing door to
24 door, the turnout at times was not what was expected, but
25 then that was a learning -- you know, learning curve for

1 us, so that we can pivot and change our model based on
2 that. So the team got firsthand experience in reaching
3 out to the people and getting them to the -- to the
4 meetings. So that was one of the big challenges that we
5 noticed.

6 BOARD MEMBER SHAHEEN: Well, thank you, and
7 congratulations on this. I'm looking forward to hearing a
8 lot more about how it's used in the policymaking process.
9 Thank you.

10 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Board Member Eisenhut.

11 BOARD MEMBER EISENHUT: I also would like to
12 acknowledge Dr. Balmes. My original -- originally, just
13 two -- just short of two years ago, Member Takvorian were
14 in (inaudible) a process that while it's a little bit
15 personally intimidating is also instructive. And as I
16 reflect on that conversation, there were three of the five
17 Rules Committee members who were laser focused on this
18 topic. And at that period in time, our efforts were
19 embryonic, I think, at best. And both Member Takvorian
20 and I made assurances to that Committee that we -- this
21 work would proceed, that we would get feedback, and that
22 that feedback would be shared with, at the very least,
23 frankly the three Democratic members of the Rules
24 Committee.

25 And I would request we, I guess meaning David

1 Garcia, implement that feedback in some formal and
2 meaningful way. I personally considered it and would
3 volunteer to be involved if he deemed it appropriate, but
4 I think it closes the loop -- partially closes the loop on
5 our efforts in that arena.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you.

8 Board Member Takvorian.

9 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Thank you, Chair. I'm
10 so excited that we're here today. Express huge thanks to
11 the staff who is here who have made this happen and
12 obviously to the hundreds of people who participated, and
13 comments. And I so appreciated your "Let's Say Yes"
14 approach within the model. I think it's really where we
15 all want to be and it's tough to be there when you've
16 created a document or a policy and you want to move it
17 forward, and somebody says, yeah, but did you think about
18 this or that.

19 And from a neighborhood perspective, it's really
20 important that you're acknowledging that and that really
21 community members are the experts. And I think that was
22 really evident throughout the document. Having spent the
23 majority of my career advocating in environmental justice
24 organizations, this is incredibly meaningful to me. I
25 join Dr. Balmes in being very moved by this.

1 And I just want to remind us about a couple of
2 things. I had the privilege of co-chairing the first
3 California Environmental Justice effort in 2004. So, when
4 we think about how long environmental justice
5 organizations have been advocating for their rights and
6 for a clear, transparent, and meaningful Community
7 Engagement Model, it really dates back a number of
8 decades. So while I'm proud of us and excited that we're
9 here, we're still catching up I think, and I appreciate
10 that we're part of this.

11 I guess I want to join Drs. Balmes and Shaheen in
12 saying that we didn't know that this would be completed at
13 this point, but we are here. And in some ways, it could
14 not be more timely. And as we think about the attacks on
15 environmental justice and on the Federal EPA, I think we
16 need to think about how strong CARB is standing up. And
17 I'm really proud about that.

18 The other thing I want to say is that I know that
19 many Board members were not here when the 2020 resolution
20 was adopted. So I just wanted to acknowledge that I want
21 to encourage you to read it, if you haven't had a chance
22 to read it. And to read the letter -- the very courageous
23 letter from Black employees -- Black CARB employees that
24 was sent to us, the Board. And that was the impetus for
25 the resolution. So, we have decades of environmental

1 justice and environmental racism that we are addressing
2 and I'm proud of that, but we also addressing our own
3 employees who stepped forward and were very courageous in
4 talking about some of the inequities here at CARB and in
5 our -- in our communities and our State.

6 And so I think we're still on that path.
7 Obviously, it's not -- as Phil Serna, who crafted the
8 resolution said, it's not one and done, but we are -- but
9 we're here and we're making progress, I think.

10 The one thing I would ask, and I talked to staff
11 about this, but I really feel that -- and I don't think it
12 was the job of this project, but Board enragement is
13 really not (inaudible). Perhaps that's what Ms. Eisenhut
14 was saying (inaudible) a lot from the Senate Committee and
15 I think we call feel it.

16 So I really want to suggest that while there's
17 plenty that happens at CARB that doesn't involve the
18 Board -- shockingly we're not involved in everything. And
19 I think this guidance is excellent for staff. Community
20 engagement (inaudible) that are -- that do come to the
21 Board is critically important. And you noted that
22 following up with communities on how their input is used
23 is -- was noted, and that we need to be transparent about
24 that, but that it really wasn't the subject matter of
25 this -- of this guidance document.

1 So I'd like to really suggest that we figure out
2 a away that we can follow up with that to talk about what
3 is the -- what is the Board's role, how can we be more
4 responsive? You know, when this was (inaudible) out and
5 having tours and talking with people (inaudible) and where
6 they worked, and I think that may or may not be practical.
7 And the pandemic put an end to that, but there's other
8 ways. And I know that you all probably have really good
9 ideas for that.

10 But I think that's transparency is critically
11 important to continue to build trust that this model is
12 obviously going to -- so that would be my request that we
13 think about ways to do that for the future. (Inaudible)
14 staff in moving this forward. So thank you so much.

15 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. That's a great point.
16 Thank you.

17 Board Member Rechtschaffen.

18 BOARD MEMBER RECHTSCHAFFEN: Thank you. In Board
19 Member Kracov's terms, I have a few words. No, I'm just
20 kidding. I I'm just kidding. I won't be that long.

21 (Laughter).

22 BOARD MEMBER RECHTSCHAFFEN: You usually are
23 short-winded compared to Gideon.

24 BOARD MEMBER RECHTSCHAFFEN: Okay. I'll try to
25 be short-winded.

1 My colleagues have said how important it is to be
2 moving this forward now and to underscore our commitment
3 to racial justice at a time when it's under fierce attack.
4 I want to emphasize too that the whole notion of community
5 engagement is also under very fierce attack. So it's
6 really vital, and important, and noteworthy that we're
7 standing up and forwarding community engagement
8 principles.

9 I have three quick comments or just to underscore
10 what was said and what Andrea and her colleagues talked
11 about with me at my briefing with you guys. One is that
12 this is an agency-wide program, an agency-wide effort.
13 The goal is to have all parts of the -- of the Board
14 working on this. I'm happy to hear that you're talking
15 about trainings, and office hours. I have one suggestion,
16 Steve, and Courtney, and others to think about is perhaps
17 having a liaison for each Division to work directly on
18 implementing the community engagement principles, so that
19 it's centered in all the specific division's work.

20 Second, I'm happy that we are going to be working
21 on a specific Tribal Engagement Model. The needs of
22 tribes are different and it's important that we recognize
23 that, and craft our policy to address those needs. So I
24 know that's on the to-do list.

25 And then third, I know it was beyond the mod --

1 this particular model, but I heard you say that, and Board
2 Member Takvorian touched to this, that one of our tasks
3 going forward is to try to show the community the extent
4 to which their comments were incorporated into decisions.
5 That's not always an easy thing to do. It's -- there's a
6 lot that goes into that, but that's an important ask that
7 we've heard from the community over time.

8 I think that, as well as continued work on
9 barriers to participation, and better facilitation are
10 critical. The compensation piece is somewhat novel and
11 innovative, but we realize more and more how important
12 that is. So I'd urge us to lean into that and think about
13 creative ways we can fund compensating groups who don't
14 traditionally have the resources or ability to participate
15 to get involved.

16 So thank you very much for this outstanding work.

17 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you.

18 Supervisor Hopkins.

19 And also, I have been informed that when we turn
20 our heads when we talk, the microphones don't pick us up
21 anymore. So while you're talking, get right on top of the
22 microphone and don't make eye contact with anyone.

23 (Laughter).

24 BOARD MEMBER HOPKINS: On that note, I'll try to
25 do both. I want to thank the Office of Racial Equity for

1 the briefing that I received in advance. And I'm honestly
2 so excited to join a board that holds racial equity and
3 environmental justice as core values. And to have this
4 item at my first meeting feels like a real gift, so thank
5 you for that as well.

6 I also just wanted to express my gratitude for
7 the community experts that were part of this process and
8 the input of the residents with lived experience who
9 participated in this process. It is a true testament to
10 genuine community engagement that you've received 2,800
11 comments and incorporated 90 percent of them.

12 I also concur with all of the comments of my
13 colleagues and really appreciate Board Member Takvorian's
14 comments about Board member relationships. And I just
15 want to call out the fact that this, right here, this
16 creates a power dynamic. And the more that we can
17 actually be out in the community hearing from the
18 community on the community's turf, the better off we all
19 will be. And yet, of course, we all have only so many
20 hours in the day and it's a very large state. So trying
21 to figure out how we can be accessible in ways that don't
22 sort of exacerbate the feeling this empowerment that this
23 creates, I think is very, very important.

24 And that brings me to -- I just wanted to touch
25 base briefly on building trust with impacted communities.

1 I really think that building trust is an iterative
2 process, and it's something that is very challenging to
3 build and very easy to lose. And so I was really
4 interested in the part of the model that talks about
5 evaluating change over time. And I was just wondering if
6 there was any more information to share about what that
7 looks like and potential metrics that we will be looking
8 at to ensure that this really truly is incorporated into
9 the day-to-day business and the decision-making processes
10 of CARB.

11 EJEB AIR RESOURCES SUPERVISOR II MAJHAIL: So one
12 of the processes that we are -- we baked into the model is
13 the -- sorry. Radhika Majhail from Environmental Justice
14 and Equity Branch. So one of the ways we incorporated
15 into the model for the eval -- is the pre- and the
16 post-evaluations what. So, the model recommends staff,
17 who are engaging with the community, to take those pre-
18 and the post-surveys to make sure that the community
19 voices are being heard, because those -- that information
20 will then input -- will put -- give us an input if the
21 model -- if the voices are being heard, if the materials
22 were accessible, if the meeting -- you know, meeting was
23 appropriate for them. So all this -- that is one off the
24 baked in processes.

25 Apart from that, Office of Racial Equity is going

1 to do their own pre and post when we meet with CARB teams.
2 So that is going to take another layer of evaluation and
3 making sure that our teams are following through. And if
4 we see -- if we see a disconnect, then we can help them
5 bridge the gap.

6 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Board Member Guerra.

7 BOARD MEMBER GUERRA: Thank you, Chair. I want
8 to thank right off -- right off the bat all of our CARB
9 staff who -- not only for this briefing, but for
10 (inaudible) And, you know, many of you are in Sacramento,
11 and so obviously I want to thank all my fellow
12 Sacramentans. I'm not forgetting those in Riverside as
13 well, and in Southern California, but I'm extremely proud
14 and want to recognize the sheer only diversity and lived
15 experiences that are own staff are involved in this
16 process.

17 You know, as I -- and I want to make sure that
18 the staff recognize that I also support and associate
19 myself with the very eloquent remarks by my colleagues
20 here recently. And as Board Member Takvorian mentioned,
21 some of us weren't here, and I wasn't here in 2020, but I
22 was literally across the street in my office, and watching
23 my predecessor Supervisor Serna there, and to see the
24 sincerity and the focus on advancing what is true
25 community engagement and not just checking the box, and

1 the evaluation of it, because so often, and, in fact, some
2 of those who criticize and have criticized most recently
3 this agency and its staff for say not being out in front
4 of the public, this is a clear example of how it has been,
5 and not only just for notification purposes, but for true
6 engagement and valuation of what the value of the
7 information means to our everyday Californians.

8 So I'm very proud of where we're moving in this
9 direction, because it is, I think, a better model of
10 community engagement. And as all work is local, I also
11 want to, you know, thank, you know, Richard Falcon and the
12 United Latinos who have been helping out in the greater
13 Sacramento air basin for ensuring that their voices are
14 heard in this process.

15 And most -- and to say that, I hate to say that
16 this is complete, because, you know, I think we are going
17 to learn from this evaluation process moving forward. So
18 I do want to thank again my predecessor in this seat,
19 Supervisor Serna, for that work, and my current colleagues
20 who have watched this, and moved it, and made sure that we
21 are where we are today.

22 I also want to thank the Chair for making sure
23 that this, you know, did not become just something that an
24 agency can or needs to just got accomplished, that there
25 is actually true engagement going on. Former Board Member

1 Davina Hurt who is in the audience, I know her sincere,
2 and time commitment, and engagement in this as well, on
3 top of her conflicts with -- as many of us have, with
4 family and trying to get back and forth. So I appreciate
5 that.

6 Thank you, Chair. And again, as where I started,
7 I'll end, and nothing happens without our great CARB staff
8 and I want to thank the staff for that effort.

9 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you.

10 Dr. Jackson.

11 ASSEMBLYMEMBER JACKSON: All right. Thank you so
12 very much, Madam Chair. I also want to thank the staff
13 for this incredible document and strategy. I would also
14 say that, number one, it's great that we got to 90
15 percent. I think, as we've discussed before in the
16 briefing, the importance of also explaining to the
17 community why we couldn't get to the hundred percent,
18 right? Some of it could be capacity. Some of it could be
19 resources. But then also outlining what was the plan to
20 be able to get to -- close to a hundred percent as
21 possible, right, and whether it is additional request that
22 needs to be made to the Legislature or other things, I
23 think equally as important is also making sure that the
24 community knows that how much more we would like to do,
25 and what is our plan to get there, and current roadblocks

1 in terms of being able to get there. So I would encourage
2 you all to create that plan and make sure the community
3 understands that plan, so that they can also do their part
4 in helping to get to that hundred percent.

5 Thank you very much.

6 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you.

7 Dr. Pacheco-Werner.

8 BOARD MEMBER PACHECO-WERNER: Hi. Yes. Thank
9 you, Chair. I wanted to just thank you all who have
10 worked on this. This is so wonderful and I know really
11 responsive to a lot of -- a lot of the things that have
12 been raised over the last few years.

13 Two things on this. I want to say that I do see
14 this, and I hope that staff, as they see workbook, see
15 this as an opportunity to actually document a lot of what
16 they already do. As someone that has seen staff either be
17 with a community that's monolingual in the middle of an
18 incorporated area to being in a fairground big building,
19 taking some very tough questions from industry, I have
20 seen our staff engaged. And I hope that they see this as
21 an opportunity to really document more of what they've
22 already been doing and then seeing those opportunities for
23 growth.

24 One of the things that is just very minor, but
25 goes with how we leverage resources is that I think as we

1 have a more intentional outlook of how we engage with
2 communities and actually have them be more part of the
3 process, I really see in terms of the report back section
4 of the workbook how there can be opportunities for
5 collaboration, so that the reporting back isn't even
6 always being done necessarily or coordinated by CARB
7 itself, rather the community is taking back that
8 information and telling the story in their own
9 communities. So I just wanted to point those two things
10 out. Thank you.

11 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you and thanks so much for
12 all the Board member comments. I agree with much that has
13 been said. And I think Board Member Takvorian's point is
14 well taken, that we should think about what the Board
15 engagement potential might be as we think about, you know,
16 the Board has been engaged in various work, like the SB
17 617 Consultation Group that Dr. Balmes mentioned, other
18 various workgroups. And so there might be an opportunity
19 for further Board engagement on this effort.

20 And I want to give a special thanks to our Deputy
21 Executive Officer Chanell Fletcher for her work leading
22 this team, and see if you wanted to add anything to the
23 discussion?

24 DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER FLETCHER: Sure. And
25 I'm going to try to follow the directions, not make eye

1 contact, and be in the mic, but I just would say this that
2 I think -- I know we have some new Board members. So for
3 those that don't know me, my name is Chanell Fletcher.
4 I'm the Deputy Executive Officer of Equity, Communities,
5 and Environmental Justice. It is a mouthful.

6 But one of the things that I wanted to say is
7 that I started at CARB in 2021, so it was right after we
8 adopted Board Resolution 20-33. And that was one of the
9 resolutions that called for an Office of Racial Equity.
10 It called for us to standardize best practices. There's a
11 lot in that resolution. And I remember when I came into
12 CARB, I had the Office of Community Air Protection, which
13 was like maybe 25 people and I had a staff of five. And I
14 remember thinking I have no idea how I am going to build
15 the infrastructure to do, I think, the work that is in
16 this resolution.

17 And so, it is now 2025 -- March 2025, so my four
18 years at CARB, so I'm still a baby, but four years in, and
19 it's just been really such a pleasure to see where we have
20 come from, so right? So like you're -- I mean, you guys
21 are seeing the staff that are here, but we have an entire
22 branch that's about 18 people that are working on, you
23 know, the work that we're talking to all of you about,
24 right? OCAP has grown significantly from 25 to 40, right?

25 So I think just seeing that and being able to

1 come to all of you, and present, and say, hey, look, you
2 passed this resolution five years ago and, yeah, we now
3 have an Office of Racial Equity, we have an Office of
4 Environmental Justice. We're significantly growing and
5 continually committed to growing our Office of Community
6 Air Protection and our AB 617 work.

7 I mean, those are things that I think --
8 especially in this climate, and what we're seeing
9 happening at the federal level, it's just really powerful.
10 So I just wanted to make sure that people understood that
11 I know that there's a lot of kind of conversations round
12 DEI, environmental justice and equity. So I think to be
13 at a public Board meeting, to be able to share out how
14 we're following through with our commitments, and I think
15 to have this entire leadership team really being behind
16 the work that we are all committed to doing, and all of
17 you on the dais, it really I think helps us support all of
18 us.

19 So just thank you all so much for I think being
20 thought partners with me, for talking me through things,
21 talking me down from things, and the same for all of my
22 colleagues at this table, and the people that I can't see
23 behind me, I just really wanted to say a lot of gratitude
24 and appreciation.

25 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Thank you. And

1 thanks to all the staff who worked on this again. What --
2 it's incredible work that is ongoing, so appreciate it.

3 Okay. Dr. Balmes wants to say a few words.

4 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Just to echo --

5 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Very briefly.

6 (Laughter).

7 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Yes. No. Those were
8 wonderful words, and -- but just to bring it home what you
9 said. When we were in Fresno and you and Rajinder were
10 trying to work out something, it was -- it was wonderful
11 the way you -- that showed me how your work is woven into
12 the rest of the organization.

13 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Thank you, Dr.
14 Balmes. That was appropriately brief.

15 Okay. So this is an informational item. Nor --
16 no vote is necessary.

17 The last item on the agenda is Item 25-2-3, an
18 informational update on CARB's Los Angeles Fire Incidence
19 Response Activities. If you are here with us in the room
20 and wish to comment on this item, please fill out a
21 request-to-speak card as soon as possible and submit it to
22 a Board assistant. If you are joining us remotely and
23 wish to comment on this item, please click the "Raise
24 Hand" button or dial star nine now. We will first call on
25 in-person commenters followed by any remote commenters

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

2 On January 7th, 2025, two unprecedented fires
3 erupted in Los Angeles County, now known as the Palisades
4 Fire and the Eaton Fire. These fires account for the loss
5 of approximately 16,000 structures, most of which are
6 residential homes, and tragically they cost 29 people
7 their lives.

8 The emergency response from local and State and
9 federal agencies is ongoing. CARB is collaborating
10 closely with partner agencies on the response and we are
11 actively engaged in several activities in the debris
12 removal recovery phase.

13 CARB's Incident Air Monitoring Section has been
14 deployed, and along with other CARB staff, has been working
15 with local agencies to understand and address air quality
16 concerns in the burn scar areas and surrounding
17 communities.

18 We have been sharing information and resources
19 with the public on recovery operations, air quality
20 concerns and monitoring, public health impacts, and steps
21 individuals can take to protect themselves and their
22 families. This is the largest mobilization of CARB staff
23 ever to work on an emergency incident, and I want to thank
24 them, especially the staff who have been deployed to the
25 field.

1 Dr. Cliff, would you please introduce the item.

2 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: Thank you, Chair
3 Randolph.

4 Shortly after the fires broke out in the Los
5 Angeles area in early January, CARB staff was quickly put
6 on notice to prepare support -- to prepare to support the
7 South Coast Air Quality Management District with air
8 monitoring, if needed, during -- if needed during both the
9 wildfire response and the recovery phase, which takes
10 place once the fires are extinguished.

11 Since January, over 40 CARB staff have spent over
12 1,000 plus hours working with our local, State, and
13 federal partners to monitor air quality, analyze the data,
14 interpret the results, and communicate with the public.
15 Efforts include community level fieldwork on-site within
16 the burn scars, at the FEMA joint field office in
17 Pasadena, and remote coordination from Sacramento.

18 In today's presentation, you will hear about the
19 efforts and activities that CARB is actively engaged in
20 during this particular emergency response and proactive
21 measures staff are contemplating to enhance our already
22 existing emergency response capability to be more prepared
23 for future events.

24 I will now ask Alora Franco of the Monitoring and
25 Laboratory Division to begin the staff presentation.

1 Alora.

2 (Slide presentation).

3 MLD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST FRANCO: Thank you,
4 Dr. Cliff. Good morning Chair Randolph and members of the
5 Board.

6 [SLIDE CHANGE]

7 MLD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST FRANCO: In today's
8 presentation, I will be providing background on CARB's
9 incident response program as well as information about how
10 our team has been assisting efforts to understand and
11 communicate air quality in the wake of the Los Angeles
12 wildfires.

13 I will also discuss potential partnerships and
14 research opportunities to assist us in being better
15 prepared for future incidents. Before we move on to the
16 body of the presentation, we'd first like to acknowledge
17 the devastating impact the LA wildfires have had on
18 everyone living in the area, some of whom include our own
19 CARB colleagues, and express our deepest sympathies to
20 those who have been impacted.

21 [SLIDE CHANGE]

22 MLD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST FRANCO: CARB's
23 incident response program was established in 1991. The
24 Program has expanded over the years in response to the
25 9/11 terrorist attacks, and Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Or

1 Our emergency responsibilities are outlined in the
2 statewide emergency plan and the California Emergency
3 Services Act.

4 CARB's role is to provide air quality monitoring,
5 interagency coordination, and technical support during
6 incidents related to wildfires and uncontrolled releases
7 of hazardous materials.

8 Incident response is initiated by the local
9 government. However, in many cases, for air quality
10 impacts, they look to CARB for support and resources. Key
11 support during State level emergencies can include: air
12 quality information to support decision making; air
13 monitoring and analyses; modeling and forecasting; health
14 impact analysis; and public communication.

15 [SLIDE CHANGE]

16 MLD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST FRANCO: CARB's
17 Incident Air Monitoring Section, also known as IAMS, which
18 is the team that I'm a part of, is the primary contact and
19 coordinator for CARB's emergency air incident responses.

20 Our primary responsibilities include supporting
21 air districts with air monitoring requests during natural
22 and industrial emergencies, actively participating in
23 CalEPA's Emergency Response and Disaster Preparedness
24 group, and taking part in emergency preparedness
25 coordination and training events to enhance readiness and

1 response capabilities.

2 Our team responds to a variety of incidents,
3 ranging from industrial incidents to wildfires. However,
4 our primary work has been focused on the wildfires, as
5 wildfires in California have become more frequent and
6 severe to the effects of climate change.

7 To rapidly respond to incidents, we've staged
8 particulate matter monitoring equipment, supplies, and
9 sensors at nine locations around the state and trains
10 local air district staff to deploy the equipment. When an
11 incident occurs and assistance is needed, either a local
12 air district or the Governor's Office of Emergency
13 Services, known as OES, contact our unit. Depending on
14 the incident, our staff will either deploy equipment to
15 the location or air district staff will access the stored
16 equipment and set it up themselves. Data from this air
17 monitoring is communicated and shared with the air
18 district and local public health officials who then use
19 the information to develop public health messages and
20 advisories.

21 [SLIDE CHANGE]

22 MLD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST FRANCO: On January
23 7th, fires broke out throughout the Los Angeles area, and
24 over the course of 24 days, devastated the communities of
25 Palisades and Altadena. Typically, CARB supports the

1 short-term response phase by conducting air monitoring
2 while the fire is active. Once the fire is out and air
3 quality returns to typical background levels, the recovery
4 phase begins and no additional monitoring is required.

5 There are a multitude of entities involved in the
6 recovery phase depending on the size and complexity of the
7 event. For this event, CARB is working within an OES/FEMA
8 joint field operation, which oversees broad recovery
9 efforts and coordinates with a variety federal, State, and
10 local partners, as you can see on this slide. Multiple
11 task forces and subgroups were formed to address all
12 aspects of recovery to which CARB leads the OES Debris
13 Task Force Air Quality subgroup. To date, by far, this is
14 the largest effort of the history of CARB's incident
15 response program.

16 The unprecedented destruction caused by the LA
17 wildfires come an unprecedented cleanup and rebuilding
18 effort. As the Palisades and Eaton fire response
19 transition to the long-term recovery phase, residents
20 express concerns about potential toxics being present in
21 the debris. Increased truck traffic, potential dust and
22 ash resuspension during hazardous waste removal, debris
23 clearing, and rebuilding efforts have driven public
24 concern about local air quality and requests for
25 additional air monitoring. This has led to CARB's close

1 collaboration with South Coast AQMD to expand air
2 monitoring efforts to address new questions about what's
3 in the smoke from urban fires, and potential community
4 level air quality impacts from debris removal operations.

5 Next, we will hear from Dr. Jason Low, Deputy
6 Executive Officer of the South Coast Air Quality
7 Management District. Dr. Low and his team have been
8 invaluable partners in expanding the already robust air
9 monitoring network, as we try to understand how debris and
10 remaining ash may affect air quality in local communities.

11 Dr. Low.

12 [SLIDE CHANGE]

13 DR. JASON LOW: All right. Hello, Chair Randolph
14 and members of the Board. As Alora stated, my name is Dr.
15 Jason Low from the South Coast Air Quality Management
16 District. Our district is the regulatory agency
17 responsible for improving air quality for large areas of
18 Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino
19 counties, including the Coachella Valley.

20 South Coast AQMD air monitoring networks provided
21 regional air quality information during the periods of the
22 active fire. As part of the expanded air monitoring
23 effort to evaluate more localized air quality in both the
24 Eaton and Pacific Palisades burn scar areas, South Coast
25 AQMD conducted four mobile surveys in January and February

1 of this year.

2 Overall the findings of the mobile monitoring
3 surveys showed concentrations where most pollutants were
4 within background levels. However, in some locations,
5 lead, arsenic, chromium and nickel were above background
6 levels.

7 I do want to go back and say that these mobile
8 surveys were conducted using vans equipped with
9 instruments to measure a variety of air pollutants,
10 including air toxic metals, volatile organic compounds,
11 and they drove in and around the burn impacted areas.

12 While mobile surveys do not sample long enough
13 to -- at a location to establish risks to human health,
14 they were used to identify potential hot spots and helped
15 guide where stationary monitoring sites may be needed.

16 [SLIDE CHANGE]

17 DR. JASON LOW: Following the mobile surveys, we
18 worked closely with CARB to identify and establish sites
19 for stationary air monitoring. The sites were chosen
20 based upon mobile survey results, cleanup activity,
21 proximity to sensitive receptors, such as residents and
22 schools, meteorological conditions, and access to power
23 and security for the monitoring equipment.

24 In total, five air monitoring sites were
25 established in February. Each of these sites measure

1 PM2.5 and PM10, providing data every hour. Air toxics
2 metals and asbestos are being sampled and collected every
3 three days and taken for expedited laboratory analysis.
4 All of the results are posted on our wildfire data
5 dashboard.

6 [SLIDE CHANGE]

7 DR. JASON LOW: This slide shows a screenshot of
8 a dashboard that we've developed specifically for this
9 expanded air monitoring initiative. The blue dots
10 represent the five temporary air monitoring sites that we
11 have established. Users may click on the locations to
12 view current and historic air quality data for PM, air
13 toxic metals, and asbestos, and also download the data and
14 view laboratory reports for additional information.

15 Air toxics that have established background
16 levels are shown as shaded regions on the chart. Typical
17 background levels are based on concentration ranges
18 measured at the Central Los Angeles, CELA, air monitoring
19 station during MATES V. MATES V is a comprehensive air
20 toxics monitoring program used to characterize long-term
21 regional air toxics levels in the South Coast Basin.

22 For both burn areas, PM2.5 and PM10 so far have
23 met federal standards. Likewise, most air toxics and
24 asbestos samples collected have been within typical
25 background levels. For some samples, air toxic metals,

1 such as arsenic, manganese, nickel and chromium, were
2 above typical background levels, but did not pose an
3 immediate health risk. Asbestos was detected at two of the
4 Altadena sites on March 5th, and once at a Palisades site
5 on March 11, but has not been detected since.

6 We'll continue to collaborate with the Debris
7 Task Force and Air Quality subgroup to evaluate and
8 interpret incoming data, assess potential community health
9 impacts, and publish results online as they become
10 available.

11 We appreciate CARB's support in providing some
12 air monitoring equipment, identifying potential monitoring
13 locations, and organizing and coordinating efforts with
14 all our recovery partners. In addition, we especially
15 would like to acknowledge Chair Randolph's visit to
16 Southern California in late January to see our team's work
17 in action. We look forward to our continued partnership
18 with CARB as we conduct enhanced air monitoring activities
19 and provide critical air quality information to residents
20 impacting the LA Fires.

21 I will now turn the presentation back to Alora,
22 who will provide additional information on CARB's incident
23 response activities.

24 [SLIDE CHANGE]

25 MLD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST FRANCO: Thank you,

1 Dr. Low, for providing those details. We appreciate the
2 hard work and dedication you and your team have
3 demonstrated to support the LA wildfire recovery efforts.

4 Now, we'd like to share a short video showing the
5 breadth of air monitoring activities in the LA region and,
6 in particular, the Eaton and Palisades area.

7 Video, please.

8 (Thereupon a video was played.)

9 MLD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST FRANCO: We would
10 like to give a heartfelt thank you to MLD staff and the
11 Communications Office for preparing that video and for
12 MLD's very own Dr. David Ridley for providing narration.

13 Next, we'd like to discuss other ways we are
14 providing support and information to local communities.

15 [SLIDE CHANGE]

16 MLD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST FRANCO: In addition
17 to air monitoring, we're working through CARB's program to
18 streamline the recovery process. This includes working
19 with Enforcement Division's regulation compliance and
20 expansion of Supplemental Environmental Projects Policy.

21 In response to concerns about the availability of
22 portable generators, CARB published an advisory on January
23 10th that allows manufacturers, subject to certain
24 restrictions, to sell of 49-state certified generators
25 through the end of June 2025. CARB will monitor both the

1 sale of 49-state generators and on-the-ground needs for
2 portable electricity to assess whether an extension of
3 this advisory is needed later this year.

4 With an extraordinary four million tons of
5 combined debris from both fire footprints needing removal
6 more heavy-duty and off-road trucks, including
7 out-of-state vehicles and equipment, will be required to
8 support the scale of this operation. In line with the
9 Governor's emergency declaration for expedited debris
10 removal, we've worked with fleet managers to assist and
11 ensure compliance with CARB's regulations and emergency
12 provisions, while supporting recovery efforts.

13 One need that communities and residents have
14 recommended for future incidents is to expand the
15 availability of indoor air filtration systems. This has
16 opened up the opportunity to explore the development of a
17 statewide supplemental environmental projects, which would
18 allow important relief to be put in place more quickly.

19 [SLIDE CHANGE]

20 MLD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST FRANCO: Public
21 outreach has also been a critical element of CARB's
22 recovery response thus far. Although local agencies are
23 the primary conduit for communication with the public,
24 CARB continues to support the community engagement efforts
25 with South Coast AQMD and LA Department of Public Health

1 to address community concerns going forward.

2 During the fires and in the weeks immediately
3 following them, we were able to leverage CARB's existing
4 smoke resources to help get information to the public
5 quickly. These includes the Smoke Ready California
6 webpage, California Smoke Spotter app, and the California
7 Clean Air Centers Map. Together, these resources provide
8 information about current air quality conditions, and
9 visual guidance for how to protect yourself from smoke.
10 Additionally, over the last several weeks, CARB staff have
11 also developed new resources, to address ongoing air
12 quality concerns, and questions as the recovery phase
13 continues.

14 In February, we hosted a collaborative EPA CARB
15 webinar that provided critical information to answer many
16 common questions related to air quality after the fires.
17 Speakers from CARB, South Coast AQMD, California
18 Department of Public Health, U.S. EPA, the Army Corps of
19 Engineers, and our very Dr. Balmes addressed recovery
20 operations, air quality concerns and monitoring, public
21 health impacts, and health protective guidance.

22 We've created a new frequently asked questions
23 webpage, answering common questions about smoke, ash, and
24 air quality in the Los Angeles area, and we've also
25 launched a new email to take questions from the public on

1 air quality.

2 [SLIDE CHANGE]

3 MLD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST FRANCO: With many
4 air health concerns, CARB's research team is delving into
5 important questions about the emissions and public health
6 impacts of wildfires with increasing focus on fires in the
7 wild -- wildland urban interface. For example, we're
8 studying toxics emissions from structures and vehicle
9 fires to better understand potential health and air
10 quality impacts.

11 Current research is focused on developing a
12 clearer picture of health impacts from short-term smoke
13 waves that can last several days. This study will help us
14 understand health impacts, such as hospitalizations for
15 heart and lung illnesses. We're also helping support the
16 work of UCLA and UC Davis researchers in Los Angeles that
17 have conducted indoor and outdoor monitoring near the
18 Eaton and Palisades Fire areas.

19 There are many questions about the long-term
20 health impacts of wildfire smoke. To help answer these
21 questions, we're initiating a contract with UC Davis to
22 study health impacts in a Northern California group that
23 experience several smoke events. We are partnering with
24 the LA Fire HEALTH Multi-Institutional Group led by
25 Harvard University doing a 10-year study and plan to help

1 through in-kind and other support.

2 We're also studying options to help people
3 improve indoor air quality during and after wildfire
4 events. For example, we're evaluating indoor air --
5 indoor filtration systems that can remove toxic chemicals
6 in smoke.

7 [SLIDE CHANGE]

8 MLD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST FRANCO: As you can
9 see on this slide and throughout the presentation, we're
10 working with a large number of partners to provide air
11 quality information during the response and recovery
12 process. The large scale and far-reaching impacts of the
13 wildfire has required CARB to quickly build new
14 partnerships and foster existing ones to support residents
15 impacted by these fires.

16 These partners range from federal, State, and
17 local regulatory agencies, subject matter experts, and
18 academic researchers. For example, we're working with
19 local researchers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and
20 California Institute of Technology to provide additional
21 air quality information in the EATON burn scar area.

22 We'd like to express our gratitude to South Coast
23 AQMD for their continued partnership and providing
24 critical air quality information to those impacted by the
25 fires. We appreciate Dr. Low joining us today to

1 highlight collaboration and look forward to supporting
2 recovery efforts together.

3 [SLIDE CHANGE]

4 MLD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST FRANCO: The LA
5 wildfires were a catastrophic event destroying more than
6 16,000 structures and nearly 40,000 acres in the Eaton
7 Palisades footprints.

8 In the aftermath of those fires, CARB staff are
9 continuing to work closely with our partners to both
10 support a safe and rapid recovery and to ensure that we
11 are better prepared for future events. Wildfires are
12 becoming more frequent and intense due to climate change
13 effects like rising temperatures and prolonged droughts.
14 Fire risk will continue to increase, so we must lay the
15 groundwork now to understand what toxic air contaminants
16 are emitted from wildfires and potential impacts of those
17 emissions. We must continue to stay vigilant and prepared
18 and ensure that we can effectively monitor air quality, so
19 we can inform the public how they can best protect
20 themselves, not just during a wildfire, but also during
21 the recovery phase.

22 Effective partnerships and sufficient resources
23 are essential to the success of our incident response
24 program, enabling us to deliver actionable information and
25 safeguard public health during emergencies and incidents.

1 CARB will continue to focus on building and maintaining
2 these relationships to ensure we're prepared for future
3 air quality incidents. Thank you and we'd be happy to
4 take any questions.

5 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Thank you so much.
6 Are there any public commenters who signed up to comment
7 on this item.

8 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: We have one in-person
9 commenter, Will Barrett.

10 You want to give us just one minute. We'll get a
11 timer up on the -- you may begin.

12 WILL BARRETT: Great. Hi. I'm Will Barrett with
13 the American Lung Association. And really to start, I
14 just wanted to say quick thank you Sylvia, to Gideon, to
15 Davina for your service to the breathers of California.
16 It's really critically important to recognize that great
17 work and thank you again. I appreciate it.

18 And to the new members of the Board, I really
19 look forward to working with you to fulfill the mission of
20 protecting and improving public health through --
21 throughout California. So I look forward to working with
22 you as well.

23 So for the CARB and district teams working on the
24 research monitoring, public education and engagement work
25 around the wildfires and the response, thank you. Thank

1 you for highlighting this critical work that you've just
2 laid out. We know how vital these efforts are during and
3 after these wildfire events, and it's something that the
4 Lung Association, other nonprofits throughout the state
5 have been asked to provide resources, and information, and
6 education throughout these kind of tragedies. And this
7 kind work is really going to help, I think, everybody out,
8 in terms of, you know, giving more effective messaging and
9 more effective data as quickly as possible, and really do
10 appreciate that work, and look forward to working and
11 learning more about the CEP process for indoor filters as
12 well as just again the need for ongoing accessible,
13 effective public messaging around the harms during the
14 fires but especially during the cleanup, which is where we
15 got a lot of our questions as well.

16 And then finally just to reflect several of the
17 member comments earlier, I just want to say thank you
18 again, the research, outreach, and expertise held in this
19 agency are critically important right now, as our federal
20 government is posing such a tragic, outrageous threat to
21 public health through their actions and proposals. So
22 thank you all and really appreciate all the efforts.

23 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you. That concludes
24 our commenters for this item.

25 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Any questions and

1 comments from the Board?

2 I guess I'll kick off with a thanks to Dr. Low
3 for coming up and sharing all the incredible work that
4 South Coast is doing. And thank you to all the staff.
5 The level of coordination, and dedication, and
6 collaboration has just been incredible. And I really
7 appreciate all the amazing work and all the work that's to
8 come many, you know, to understand these impacts, to
9 understand what the right solutions are. So really
10 appreciate that.

11 Questions or comments?

12 Board Member Takvorian.

13 BOARD MEMBER TAKVORIAN: Thank you. I just also
14 wanted to add my thanks. And this is an incredible
15 tragedy and I got a lot of phone calls from folks and
16 emails. And the CARB information on -- I know this is not
17 the topic you're addressing right now, but I just want to
18 give a shout-out to CARB. I think that the resources that
19 are available on the CARB website, as it was in real-time,
20 were incredibly useful to people. And I just want to make
21 sure that people know that, and I know your conning to do
22 it, especially with the monitoring information that you
23 show. Thank you for that -- for that work.

24 I also -- there's a small analogy, I think. Some
25 of you may remember in 2020 when the Navy fire happened in

1 San Diego and the ship burned. And it burned in the
2 portside community of National City, but was next to
3 Barrio Logan and CARB really helped to help to evaluate
4 that -- the response to that. And as a result of that and
5 the work with the San Diego Air Pollution Control District
6 and the Port District there, they started a PAIR Program
7 where they distributed monitors and air filters in
8 people's homes. And just this week, Dr. Zavala from SDSU
9 issued a report on the air filters in particular. And
10 there's a bunch of results, but one of them is 76 percent
11 of the respondents with health conditions that were using
12 medication were using less medication, as a result of
13 having the filters in their homes and there were also
14 results that they felt better.

15 So I think your idea that perhaps those filters
16 could be more widespread and, you know, none of us are
17 going to be immune from having a wildfire probably
18 somewhere near us, and so, probably we all could utilize
19 that resource. So I think that's good. And just
20 anecdotally, I was very near the Eaton Fire area for my
21 aunt's funeral. And on her very residential street, there
22 was just a non-stop train of diesel trucks taking debris
23 away from the fires, which is not at all normal. This
24 isn't a street that trucks would be on. So I imagine, and
25 you reference that, that that's going to be happening for

1 a lot of folks that don't have these kind -- this kind of
2 traffic normally. So I appreciate that you were
3 acknowledging that and that more information needs to get
4 out to folks that might not have previously thought they
5 needed that kind of a resource.

6 So thank you very much.

7 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Thank you.

8 Mayor Gloria.

9 BOARD MEMBER GLORIA: Thank you, Madam Chair.

10 And I would echo the comments of Member Takvorian
11 appreciate her words. San Diego certainly has had its
12 share of wildfires and our hearts go out to our neighbors
13 to the north as they deal with this tragedy and the
14 recovery. I appreciated this informational item,
15 particularly as a new Board member. And I was curious,
16 obviously any expense and any effort should be taken to
17 help folks in Los Angeles recover. But I'm curious, not
18 just in terms of our programmatic or service response,
19 what is the budgetary impact of this disaster response to
20 our agency? Is any of that recoverable cost because of
21 the State and federal declarations? And to the extent
22 that there is a federal component to this, are we at any
23 risk with regard to reimbursements from our federal
24 partners?

25 PRINCIPAL DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER SMITH: Thank

1 you, Board Member Gloria. Courtney Smith, Principal
2 Deputy Executive Officer. Yes, because this is a
3 federally declared emergency, and we have been supporting
4 South Coast in carrying out its mission task, we have been
5 able to document and we plan to get reimbursement for the
6 time that we have been spent supporting this particular
7 disaster.

8 That being said, of course, there are efforts
9 underway to expand our resources for future events and
10 also research that doesn't fall within the purview of a
11 federally supported disaster that gets recovered, but we
12 see that as an important investment in ensuring that we're
13 addressing public health concerns for the -- for future
14 incidents that we do anticipate to come.

15 BOARD MEMBER GLORIA: Can you estimate at this
16 point what this has cost the Board.

17 MLD AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST FRANCO: Hi. Alora
18 Franco. I'm an Air Pollution Specialist in the Air
19 Monitoring Section. As of right now, we are still
20 complying -- or compiling all the numbers. I think our
21 numbers at the end of February were around 130,000. And
22 we are working on March's numbers right now to kind of see
23 what that kin of looks likes, but I would say 130. We're
24 probably under 200,000 as of right now.

25 BOARD MEMBER GLORIA: Very good. Thank you,

1 Madam Chair.

2 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Supervisor
3 Ortiz-Legg.

4 BOARD MEMBER ORTIZ-LEGG: Thank you, Madam Chair.
5 I just wanted to acknowledge what an incredible effort
6 this is in regards to the public health in Los Angeles as
7 they go through this tragedy and the cleanup. I also just
8 want to relate it back to the last item that we had on our
9 agenda is that it's a really good opportunity to put forth
10 on this community outreach effort that has been completed.

11 So here, we have an example that was not
12 necessarily in the plan, but it's going to be really
13 important for us to be able to reach out to the
14 communities that are so impacted that may not understand
15 so many of the ways that they can monitor their air
16 quality and get the utilities and tools that they need.
17 So kudos to the staff and I just wanted to make those
18 comments. Thank you.

19 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you.

20 Senator Stern.

21 SENATOR STERN: Thank you, Chair Randolph, and
22 thank you to the staff for the presentation. A couple
23 questions on this one. One on the -- on the immediate
24 emergency response piece. You know, we've seen public
25 reports certainly using non-CARB or government air

1 monitoring that chlorine and lead levels were up to 40
2 times background levels. There was a Pico Rivera ASCENT
3 site that showed, you know, 11 miles south of the burn
4 zone that levels were there. I didn't hear any of that
5 discussed in the presentation. Do we have the data we
6 need to understand the full public health impact of the
7 fire during the incident?

8 DR. JASON LOW: So this is Jason Low, South Coast
9 AQMD. Great question. So I believe you're referring to
10 the ASCENT Program that's being run by some of the
11 universities out there. So we are aware of that data. We
12 actually collaborate with them considering they are using
13 one of our permanent air monitoring stations in Pico
14 Rivera. So, we also have not only our regional air
15 monitoring network, which does the U.S. EPA methods, we
16 have a station that's in Central Los Angeles. So we have
17 that data available on our website. But in short, it did
18 show within the first few days of the fire, there were
19 elevated levels of metals on the regional level that we
20 were observing on that station, but those levels quickly
21 declined after three or four days when the fires started
22 back to typical background levels.

23 In addition to that, we have some of our kind of
24 non-EPA methods as well that was similar to what was done
25 on the ASCENT Program at Pico Rivera. We have -- we have

1 a real-time metals monitoring station over at our
2 Huntington Park AB 617 site. And that was also showing
3 similar results, elevated levels of metals, but then
4 declining back to more typical after three or four days.

5 SENATOR STERN: So going back to my question
6 then, do we have the data we need to know what those --
7 that multi-day exposure to those elevated metal levels was
8 on public health in key sensitive receptor sites in the
9 impacted areas?

10 DR. JASON LOW: Jason Low again. So on the
11 regional level, there is data that's available and that is
12 on the EPA-based methods. So an evaluation of what those
13 pollution levels could be done on a health basis.

14 I want to stress that when exposure to metals is
15 typically a long-term exposure, especially if you're
16 looking at kind of long-term effects. There also are some
17 short-term levels that can be looked at from the Office of
18 Environmental Health Hazard's Association[SIC]. They do
19 have some recommend levels in terms of safety health
20 thresholds. Those short-term ones, at least according to
21 the data that we were looking at were not exceeded. And
22 as mentioned, the levels did decline after three or four
23 days. So when you're looking at kind of that long-term
24 exposure portion, there was a little less of that
25 immediate concern.

1 However, that did stem us to do the expanded air
2 monitoring effort, because again these air monitoring
3 stations are more looking at regional air quality.
4 Whereas, what we're looking for in the public and in the
5 community that's impacted by the burn areas is to get more
6 localized air pollution data, and thus, the collaborative
7 effort to be able to get with CARB to be able to get our
8 stationary monitoring sites out there in the community, so
9 we get that more localized air quality for me those
10 metals, asbestos, and PM.

11 RESEARCH DIVISION CHIEF SCHEEHLE: And I just
12 wanted to --

13 SENATOR STERN: And so -- yeah, sorry. Jump in,
14 yeah.

15 RESEARCH DIVISION CHIEF SCHEEHLE: Hi. This is
16 Elizabeth Scheehle. I am the head of the Research
17 Division at CARB. And I just wanted to add that we are
18 also looking into research on the long-term effects. So
19 one of the things that was mentioned in the presentation
20 was that the Be Safe Cohort that we're looking at, and
21 then the LA Fire HEALTH study is also looking to set up an
22 LA-specific longitudinal study, and we've been talking to
23 them about that effort as well, so I just wanted to
24 mention that.

25 SENATOR STERN: Yeah, I appreciate you mentioning

1 that, because, you know, the Stanford research we saw from
2 the wildfire smoke study from, you know, a few years back
3 said even, you know, three days of exposure to sen --
4 at -- for sensitive populations, maybe not on a metals
5 basis, but on a PM basis could have permanent genetic
6 damage to lungs for, you know, say a child like I've got,
7 a one and a half year old and a three-year old, that that
8 PM exposure over even a two- or three day-period is enough
9 to permanently impact that child.

10 So are you all saying that Angelenos did not have
11 that level of exposure and therefore do not have those
12 long-term risks, or do we not know yet, or can we not
13 know?

14 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Dr. Balmes actually has some
15 thoughts about this topic, so I'm going to pitch it over
16 to him our public health member who is uniquely qualified
17 to address this question.

18 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Thank you, Senator Stern.

19 So what we don't know very much about are the
20 long-term health effects if of wildfire smoke on
21 especially kids and their development. That said, this
22 wasn't really mostly a wildfire. These fires were massive
23 urban fires. We also need to know more about long-term
24 effects of urban fires, where structures -- man-made
25 structures, and motor vehicles are primarily the source of

1 those heavy metals and asbestos that has been monitored.

2 The work that you mentioned from Stanford
3 involves PM2.5, fine particular matter, which is usually
4 the major pollutant of concern from wildfire smoke. As
5 Dr. Low said, the levels of PM2.5 weren't that bad,
6 despite the fact these were horrible fires. The way the
7 wind went most people were not exposed to high levels of
8 PM2.5, certainly on a regional basis. I mean, there was
9 enough to cause people some acute health effects. I'm not
10 trying to minimize that, but the Stanford work actually
11 was mostly from exposures to PM2.5 that were much higher.

12 So, I'm actually more worried about the long-term
13 effects of toxic air contaminants that people may have
14 been exposed to for a few days and will -- the studies
15 that are starting to get off the ground, as Elizabeth
16 mentioned, hopefully will continue to be funded and we'll
17 be able to look at long-term health effects of these
18 exposures. But I'm not particularly -- I wouldn't want to
19 connect the Stanford work with the current fires that
20 much, because it was on PM2.5, which is a different kettle
21 of fish than --

22 SENATOR STERN: Yeah. No. I appreciate that Dr.
23 Balmes. I mean, I -- that's why I mentioned PM2.5, but I
24 was in the San Fernando Valley with super elevated levels
25 of PM2.5, which is not a regional issue. It's a -- you

1 know, it's about a pre-school, one particular sensitive
2 receptor site at a time, and the lack of air monitoring as
3 the mapping showed throughout the region, at any sort of
4 cohesive way to know what that exposure was, on multi-day
5 basis, that's the concern, is that I don't know if we have
6 the data to assure the public that everyone is fine. I
7 mean, we made a personal decision to evacuate because of
8 the air quality, and we couldn't get any public data as to
9 what that AQI index was because they weren't -- they
10 weren't monitoring that in our area.

11 And so, you know, it's -- anyway, I appreciate
12 that there's long-term studies being done, and at a
13 regional basis, we can make that sort of broad
14 determination, but that belies the concentrations that
15 occurred throughout the burn incident and -- and, yeah,
16 I'm just trying to find out from staff, do we have that
17 data or not to make a sort of public reassurance?

18 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: One of my comments --

19 SENATOR STERN: So it sounds like yes is what
20 we're saying, and that there isn't a concern at this
21 point. Is that -- is that the fair conclusion to draw?

22 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Well, just one more
23 comment, Senator Stern.

24 SENATOR STERN: Yeah

25 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: You know the researchers

1 that are working on health effects are incredibly skilled
2 at spatial variation. Just for an example, one of my
3 long-time colleagues Michael Jerrett from UCLA is involved
4 with some of the research that's primarily funded out of
5 Harvard, I guess. He will be able, using both the air
6 quality monitoring data that the South Coast has - it's
7 actually the best monitored place in the country - and all
8 the low-cost-monitors that Alora showed on a map, which is
9 greatly increase our ability to look at spatial variation.
10 They will be able to recreate the spatial variation that
11 you're concerned about, whether -- you know, it wasn't
12 necessarily available as fast as you'd like it to be, and
13 that's something we can think about for the future.

14 CHAIR RANDOLPH: And also, Senator Stern, we are
15 happy to, you know, make staff available for some further
16 detailed discussions.

17 SENATOR STERN: Thanks. Yeah. Thank you for
18 that. And, you know, the one other thing I just want to
19 touch on this point -- thanks for letting me go deep on
20 it, but, you know, there's an ongoing issue during the
21 recovery phase as well. And I -- you know, we saw in the
22 mapping, the ongoing monitoring that's occurring around
23 certain landfill and debris removals. We know what
24 there's pretty active monitoring around the burn zones
25 where the immediate removal is occurring, but my

1 understanding, at least from my discussions with CalEPA
2 and the Board, is that there is -- there is not the same
3 level of air monitoring around the actual landfill sites,
4 and that that's sort of just based on defaults of whatever
5 South Coast has sort of already available.

6 But are there no -- I mean, I'm thinking of
7 sensitive receptor sites around all the key landfills,
8 where there is active concern and active debris, you know,
9 dumping going on. Is there a -- is there an effort to
10 make sure that every single landfill, where there's phase
11 2 removal occurring has continuous air quality monitoring
12 data?

13 Can we -- can we rightly say that there
14 continuous air monitoring going on around all those sites?
15 Is that something we can assure people?

16 DR. JASON LOW: So this is Jason Low from South
17 Coast again.

18 SENATOR STERN: Yeah.

19 DR. JASON LOW: So thank you for the question.
20 So at the current moment, there is no air monitoring being
21 conducted at all the landfills. I think right now it's --
22 our strategy is to focus on the air monitoring that is
23 prioritizing where debris is not controlled. And that is
24 in the burn scar area. So right now, there's a lot of the
25 debris, a lot of the dust, a lot of the movement of the

1 material that's in the burn scar area that is not
2 controlled. And that would be the likelihood of the
3 highest exposure for community members, and residences, et
4 cetera.

5 So, we're emphasizing the monitoring in those
6 areas. We also emphasize following the data. So we are
7 looking at the data extensively to kind of see are there
8 levels that are so high that, you know, if it is packaged
9 and moved around, would that, you know, potentially cause
10 other issues elsewhere. But since we're at the -- what we
11 feel is the maximum, we are carefully evaluating that data
12 with our partners, CARB, the Los Angeles Department of
13 Public Health, California Public Health, et cetera.

14 The other aspect too is that, you know, at the
15 landfills, there is a lot of -- you know, it's a permanent
16 landfill, so they must follow some procedures to be able
17 to make sure that the emissions are reduced. They have
18 on-site inspectors, not only the -- from the local
19 enforcement for the landfills, but also there are
20 inspections from the Department of Public Health, as well
21 as the South Coast AQMD to make sure that those trucks are
22 following those processes to make sure that the debris
23 from the wildfires is being disposed of appropriately with
24 extra mitigation, making sure they're following the
25 control rules with the winds, et cetera.

1 SENATOR STERN: But just to -- I appreciate the
2 detail, but the answer to my question sounds like there
3 is -- the answer is no, there is not continuous air
4 monitoring occurring around the landfill sites. And so if
5 you're a sensitive receptor within the immediate radius,
6 you're on your own to check on the air quality?

7 DR. JASON LOW: Well, right now, we're fully
8 deployed at the debris zone area. So right now, you know,
9 there is no current plan. There are kind of contractors
10 that would be available to be able to do that type of air
11 monitoring.

12 SENATOR STERN: Okay. Thank you.

13 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Okay. Thank you, Senator Stern.
14 Again, this is an informational item, so there
15 will be no Board vote on this.

16 It is now time for open public comment for those
17 who wish to provide comment regarding and item of interest
18 within the jurisdiction of the Boar that is not on today's
19 agenda. The clerk will call on those who have submitted a
20 request to speak card. And if you are joining us remotely
21 and wish to comment, please click the raise hand button or
22 dial star nine now.

23 Will the Board Clerk please call on our public
24 commenters?

25 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you, Chair Randolph.

1 We will start the commenters with Assemblymember Pilar
2 Schiavo. Untimed.

3 ASSEMBLYMEMBER SCHIAVO: Hello. I think it's
4 good afternoon now. Yes, it is. Thank you. You guys
5 have a fancy hearing room, I have to say. This is very
6 nice.

7 Before everybody leaves, I want to say hello. I
8 want to say thank you, first of all, to the hard work and
9 dedication of South Coast AQMD who has been doing so much
10 incredible work around Chiquita Canyon Landfill. And I
11 know are community is incredibly grateful for their
12 diligence, and hard work, and focus on what is a growing
13 disaster in our community, which is one of the reasons why
14 I'm here today. So incredibly grateful. Thank you.

15 So I am Assemblywoman Pilar Schiavo. I represent
16 California's 40th District, which is north LA County. And
17 as I tell people these days quite often, I am blessed to
18 have three landfills in my district. I have Lopez Canyon,
19 Sunshine Canyon, and the burning Chiquita Canyon, where we
20 now have the only fire that is still burning in LA County.

21 During the past year and a half, I've learned
22 much more about landfills than I expected to due to the
23 ongoing fire at Chiquita Canyon Landfill. We just -- it
24 was just reported recently when we did a legislative tour
25 that it has tripled in size from 30 to 90 acres that's

1 burning underground. And it's emitting methane, benzene,
2 other toxins that are making our community sick. And if
3 your community could stand up here so you know.

4 They all came up today, because they thought this
5 was such an important issue for our community. And you're
6 going to hear from them later about the impacts that
7 they're experiencing because of this burning landfill next
8 to, within hundreds of feet of homes. Specifically when
9 it comes to landfills, the gas collection and control
10 system that extract, convey, and prevent unnecessary and
11 harmful releases of methane or other gases I have learned
12 a lot about. And when I found out that the regulations
13 designed to monitor and ensure effective containment of
14 gases haven't been updated in 15 years, I was concerned to
15 say the least.

16 I am very grateful that you're holding workshops
17 on this issue and starting the process of moving these
18 regulations forward, but communities next to landfills
19 need you to speed up the process. We -- you know, 2010,
20 we -- I was, I think, using a flip phone probably and
21 Google maps was just five years old. We know that
22 technology has imaging data and data collection has grown
23 leaps and bounds since then. And we need to make sure
24 that our regulations are including that technology and
25 really updated to reflect what's happening in the current

1 day.

2 Satellite images and remote sensing technologies
3 of methane plumes from landfills, such as Chiquita Canyon
4 are readily available. We have seen the dark, you know,
5 black and purple images of our own landfill. The
6 technology is accurate, viable, and residents deserve to
7 see it for themselves what sources of greenhouse gases and
8 other harmful pollutants exist around them.

9 In addition to remote sensing, communities
10 deserve to have access to raw data in a streamlined
11 fashion that can neither hide nor overly complicate the
12 picture on the ground. You know, our neighbors are now
13 having to become experts in what is the, you know, REL for
14 benzene or, you know, methane, or what hydrogen sulfate.
15 You, know. They're having to become mini scientists that
16 the -- the Superintendent of our schools, they have to
17 check the air quality every hour to see if it's safe for
18 children to go outside and breathe the air and play.

19 And so we need to make sure that when we're
20 making this information accessible to the community, that
21 it is understandable, that they know if they see
22 something, benzene at eight parts per billion, is that bad
23 or is that okay for me?

24 CARB, I think, you know, it's really important to
25 have the same information for satellites or other remote

1 sensing technology to quickly identify leaks, and ensure
2 landfills or third-party operators quickly repair them.

3 And we know that when the proposed improvements
4 to the landfill gas monitoring regulations would not have
5 prevented the growing disaster at Chiquita Canyon, you
6 know, I hope it would have helped us sense it sooner and
7 been able to stop this growing disaster that we're now
8 experiencing in our community.

9 I hope that CARB will take a look -- or take
10 quick action on these regulations to ensure that these
11 system are effectively removing gas from beneath the
12 landfill as designed, and ensure that we're not working --
13 and if they're not working as designed, that the
14 regulations have real teeth and real strength behind them
15 that's necessary to get them fixed quickly when they are
16 not working properly.

17 My community, as I said, I know folks are here
18 today. They took time off work, out of school, and
19 hobbled together resources to be able to be here. They're
20 going to be speaking today about this issue, and we're
21 going to be watching really closely to see how this
22 process unfolds and how quickly it moves. We are, you
23 know, really grateful that you are moving this forward and
24 grateful that you are looking at moving it more quickly.
25 And we just want to support that wholeheartedly, anyway

1 that we can to update these regulations sooner rather than
2 later.

3 Thank you so much.

4 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you. Our next
5 speaker is Veronica Aguirre.

6 All right, Veronica, if you want to give us just
7 one minute to get the timer up and we'll get you going,
8 okay?

9 You may begin.

10 VERONICA AGUIRRE: Good afternoon, Chair and
11 Board members. My name is Veronica Aguirre. I am from
12 the community of Avenal, California. We also have the --
13 I guess the pleasure of having a landfill right near our
14 community, homes, schools, health centers. I'm here today
15 with these warriors I'd like to call them, because they
16 have actually lived our biggest fear, the fear that my
17 community faces every day is what these -- this community
18 is coming today to present to you.

19 And so as I stand here today, I would like to ask
20 CARB, you have the authority to push -- you know, to push
21 these regulations and protect these communities. I heard
22 Senator Stern mentioning earlier in regards to air
23 monitors. That is important. Communities need access to
24 this information, because that data is what's going to
25 continue to protect us. Information that is also

1 accessible and understandable, especially for farm working
2 communities like the one that I'm from, that they're able
3 to come, and interpret that information, and be able to
4 present that to you, and why they feel they have fear for
5 themselves and their families.

6 I also want to thank you for the opportunity to
7 be here today and to speak and bring this to your
8 attention. And I do stand in solidarity with these
9 people. And also, I appreciated the presentation earlier
10 in regards to community engagement. I also work as a
11 community organizer for Central California Environmental
12 Justice Network. So I do appreciate having programs such
13 as that to be able to present to, you know, communities,
14 especially front-line communities. But I'd also like to
15 take the time to invite you to come to communities like
16 ours, so that you can meet the people personally and get
17 an understanding of what they deal with. Thank you awe
18 very much.

19 Also, I'd like to mention Zoe Etchison, she's
20 still on her way from class, so she's probably not going
21 to be able to speak right now, but she -- maybe if they
22 can put her at the bottom or something.

23 Thank you.

24 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

25 On that note, we do have a total of 32 speakers

1 for open comments.

2 We will move on to Sarah Deslauriers. If you see
3 your name, please begin to make a single file line at one
4 of the platforms.

5 SARAH DESLAURIERS: Hi. My name is Sarah
6 Deslauriers. Good afternoon, Chair Randolph, Board
7 Members, and staff. I serve as the Director of Air,
8 Climate and Energy Programs at the California Association
9 of Sanitation Agencies, or CASA, and representing more
10 than 90 percent of the sewered population in California.
11 This sector is responsible for cleaning what society
12 flushes to protect public health and environment, while
13 also recovering renewable resources, including wastewater
14 derived biomethane to achieve community resilience.

15 Locally, Sac Sewer is implementing a biogen
16 facility, combining fuel cell and engine technologies to
17 further reduce emissions, increase renewable energy
18 production, efficiency, and lay the groundwork for
19 hydrogen production.

20 Since the adoption of the Advanced Clean Fleet
21 regulations and Board Resolution 23-13 in April 20234,
22 CASA has remained engaged in meetings and workshops. With
23 staff supporting implementation. And we continue to
24 participate in the AB 1594 amendment process. We greatly
25 appreciated the Board's resolution, recognizing the

1 critical need for coordination across State agencies, as
2 well as air districts and CASA for successful
3 implementation of Senate Bill 1383 by identifying multiple
4 reliable uses for non-fossil biomethane to maintain those
5 markets while working to transition to use it in
6 hard-to-decarbonize sectors.

7 The Interagency Work Group was also tasked with
8 reporting back to the Board by the end of 2025 on progress
9 toward confirming alternative uses of biomethane. To our
10 knowledge, the Interagency Work Group has not been
11 established yet. And we wanted to recall that the State
12 Water Board's co-digestion capacity analysis of 2020
13 determined that available digestive capacity across
14 California's municipal wastewater sector could accept all
15 divertible and digestible food waste, which could achieve
16 24 of the 40 percent methane reduction mandated by Senate
17 Bill 1583.

18 However, without assurance of the markets to
19 beneficial utilize the by-products of wastewater digestion
20 including the biogas, our members are not in position to
21 accept that diverted food waste.

22 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you. That concludes
23 your time.

24 SARAH DESLAURIERS: Thank you.

25 We have a couple other members who will speak up

1 as well

2 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Okay. Next speaker will be
3 Cindy Mahon. If I could please have Noam, Julia, and
4 Kerry, Micah, and Steven all form a line at one of the
5 podiums.

6 Thank you.

7 Cindy, you may begin.

8 CINDY MAHON: Chair, Randolph, members of the
9 Board, my name is Cindy Mahon. I oversee the Clean Cars 4
10 program with the Sac Metro Air District.

11 We agree with Assemblymember Connolly's letter
12 and want emphasize that consistent funding is needed for
13 the Clean Cars 4 All administering districts. We do
14 support the California DriveClean Assistance Program, but
15 believe there's inconsistencies between the programs that
16 may cause confusion, such as the no scrap requirement in
17 areas where existing Clean Cars 4 All Program exist.

18 Sac Metro Air District provides a robust Clean
19 Cars 4 All Program that provides a comprehensive EV
20 charging and EV car package. We are currently processing
21 applications and are estimated to run out of funds next
22 year. We look forward to continuing to partner with the
23 California Air Resources Board and drive Clean Assistance
24 Program staff to ensure the success of the statewide and
25 district-run Clean Cares 4 All programs. We all share the

1 mutual goal of continuing to ensure to meet the needs of
2 applicants that need this program the most.

3 Thank you very much.

4 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

5 Noam.

6 NOAM ELROI: Hello, Chair, and Board members, and
7 staff. Thank you very much. My name is Noam Elroi. I'm
8 here on behalf of Californians Against Waste, Elders
9 Climate Actions NorCal, Elders Climate Actions SoCal, and
10 Climate Action California.

11 We welcome the recent announcement to updating
12 the landfill methane regulation will be a priority for the
13 Board this year. And thank you for the discussion on
14 everything happening around landfills in the State. We
15 also appreciate the workshop in December and hope that
16 those comments will be taken into consideration.

17 We were glad to hear about the progress on
18 satellite methane monitoring and the Governor's new
19 position as Co-Chair of America is All In. And in line
20 with America is All In's goal of having emissions by 2030,
21 we need impactful updates to California's Landfill Methane
22 Regulation as soon as possible.

23 New regulations should be updated to, among other
24 things, require more frequent full service drone surveying
25 of landfills, require all landfills that are regulated by

1 the LMR to use most effective methane monitoring
2 technology, require earlier installation expansion of gas
3 capture control systems, as well as frequent monitoring
4 for gas collection, system leaks, and reduce the threshold
5 methane concentration limit from 500 PPMV to 200 PPMV.

6 Importantly, these updates need to be carried out
7 this year. And we hope for an even quicker and firmer
8 timeline. Thank you for your continued time, attention,
9 and work on these issues. We hope to see regulations
10 soon.

11 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

12 Julia Levin.

13 JULIA LEVIN: Good afternoon, Julia Levin with
14 the Bioenergy Association of California. I'd like to
15 follow up on the comments from Sarah Deslauriers with
16 CASA.

17 We, too, are hoping that the Air Board will move
18 forward quickly and with robust public and stakeholder
19 participation on the development of new biomethane
20 markets, as you recognized the need for in the Advanced
21 Clean Fleets resolution. You know how urgent it is to
22 reduce short-lived climate pollutants, particularly
23 methane, and black carbon, which are also both very
24 powerful air pollutants that harm public health.

25 This Board, as well as panels all over the world

1 have stated that the reduction of short-lived climate
2 pollutant is the most urgent thing we can do to tackle
3 climate change, because it's one of very few things that
4 actually can benefit the climate right away. Despite
5 that, California is way behind in meeting the requirements
6 of SB 1383 and our broader climate goals.

7 Developing the markets for biomethane is a
8 critical tool to reduce short-lived climate pollutants.
9 We are behind, in large part, because there aren't
10 sufficient markets and the markets that are there are
11 going away quickly. The Biomatch Program for small scale
12 electricity from organic waste expires at the end of this
13 year. The pipeline biomethane program at the PUC is not
14 working.

15 The LCFS is sending strong signals that this
16 Board wants to move biomethane out of the transportation
17 sector to hard-to-electrify end uses. The market is fine
18 with that, but there is no pathway to get to those
19 hard-to-electrify end uses. We really need the Board to
20 move forward and to move forward with stakeholder and
21 public participation through workshops, through staff a
22 proposal that can be vetted. We are -- we are behind time
23 to move forward on this, so we are asking the Air Board
24 please move forward this year as your resolution calls
25 for, so we can adopt those markets and make greater

1 progress more quickly on short-lived climate pollutant
2 reductions.

3 Thank you.

4 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

5 Kerry Frohling.

6 KERRY FROHLING: Good afternoon. Thank you for
7 hearing us. I am a 20-year resident of Castaic and who
8 lives 2.3 miles from our local landfill, Waste
9 Connections, Chiquita Canyon Landfill. CARB needs to
10 update the regulations now. We need them strengthened,
11 and we need the information public for all the neighbors
12 and -- of landfills to know.

13 Our current landfill has taken in fire waste in
14 the past. And we have now seen what's happened with it
15 burning and exceeding all kinds of, you know, emissions.
16 They get thousands upon thousands of NOVs every year. We
17 have drones that can monitor, and measure the methane, and
18 speciate the harmful gas. You know that the current
19 levels are not enough to keep us from getting sick. There
20 are 10 neighbors in Val Verde who have -- they live so
21 close to the landfill and they all have cancer.

22 I live 2.3 miles away from the landfill and I've
23 had cancer twice. I don't want our other -- the ones in
24 the -- from the wildfire where they're receiving the
25 wildfire or urban fire waste. We don't want them to go

1 through what we're going through. The landfills need
2 greater regulation. It's business that they do the bare
3 minimum to follow the rules and they often break them that
4 follow the laws. They are not watched very carefully.
5 They -- our local landfill has been caught pumping
6 leachate out into the Santa Clara River at night by a
7 citizen. They videoed it. They do this when the EPA is
8 sleeping. Please update your rules this month.

9 The fire in Chiquita --

10 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you. That concludes
11 your time.

12 KERRY FROHLING:

13 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Micah Howse.

14 STEVEN HOWSE: This is my son Micah. He's very
15 nervous and he didn't really want to speak.

16 So do you want to say anything at all.

17 MICAH HOWSE: No.

18 STEVEN HOWSE: My name is Steven. My name is
19 Steven Howse. I moved to Val Verde in 1998 with my wife
20 and my one-year old. We fell in love with the quiet, and
21 rich history, and close community. We settled in and had
22 three more kids. We moved there. We about a thousand
23 feet away from the landfill boundary, but we were told,
24 hey, don't worry. The landfill is closing. Two
25 expansions later, in 2022, the landfill had a leachate

1 blowout on the hillside causing numerous health issues in
2 the community as you've heard today.

3 Over ten of my close neighbors have had types of
4 cancer. Unfortunately, in February of 2024, my wife was
5 diagnosed with Stage 3 breast cancer. We got her plane
6 ticket and she was going to come out here today, but
7 unfortunately, she was too sick and was not able to come.

8 In July of 2024, my 19-year old daughter was
9 diagnosed with a rare autoimmune disease, exasperated by
10 the landfill toxins and gases, where she must take allergy
11 medications, carry an epi pen, and an inhaler. My 13-year
12 old son, Micah, right here, he gets constant nose bleeds,
13 and he can't spend much time outside playing. I started
14 suffering a loss of -- sinus infections constantly that
15 can't be explained by my doctor.

16 During the 2017 landfill expansion hearings, I
17 spoke and sent emails cautioning officials not to allow
18 this latest expansion for fear that it would cause more
19 harm to our community. LA County followed all the
20 existing rules and approved the expansion. In 2022, my
21 fears were realized when the landfill had an underground
22 fire. It had grown to 40 acres, and last month CalEPA
23 reported it's now over 90 acres with a potential to grow
24 up to 160 acres according to CalRecycle.

25 I call on CARB now to step up, act. Do not wait

1 on years of research. Update your 15-year old methane
2 rules. Methane is a carrier gas. It carries lots of
3 other cares that cause serious health issues. Use
4 technology like drones, remote sensing capability, and
5 lots of other things you can do. Maybe if these rules
6 were already in place --

7 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you. That concludes
8 your time.

9 STEVEN HOWSE: I started a little bit late. Is
10 that okay?

11 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Sorry. We're going to go
12 ahead an --

13 STEVEN HOWSE: I've got one sentence. Okay.

14 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Next, Gabriela Facio.

15 If I could please have Cher Arabalo, Nathan
16 Kruger, Oshea Orchid, and Adelaide Vasquez. Please form a
17 line at one of the podiums.

18 GABRIELA FACIO: Good afternoon.

19 BOARD MEMBER PACHECO-WERNER: Gabriela.

20 GABRIELA FACIO: Thank you. Good afternoon. My
21 name is Gabriela Facio. I am speaking on behalf of Sierra
22 Club California. We represent over half a million Members
23 and supporters statewide. We appreciate the Board's
24 prioritization of the -- of updating the Landfill Methane
25 Regulation this year, and thank the staff for the December

1 workshop. We hope those comments as well as the comments
2 made here today, but especially the comments made here
3 today by the community who have traveled a ways to be here
4 are not getting paid today on a weekday to be here and
5 make comments.

6 So, I'm hoping that all of those are carefully
7 considered. So I'm here to urge the Board to consider
8 that new regulations should address the following key
9 issues including, but not limited to: requiring all
10 regulated landfills to use the most effective methane
11 monitoring technology; expanding the frequency and scope
12 of surface emissions monitoring; using advanced remote
13 sensing technologies to cover entire landfill surfaces;
14 mandating earlier installation expansion of gas capture
15 systems; and, frequent monitoring for leaks.

16 Expediting methane reduction is one of
17 California's most effective actions to limit near-term
18 global temperature rise. This urgency aligns well with
19 the Governor's recent commitments to the America is All In
20 initiative and the satellite data project to track and
21 reduce methane emissions, which is critical in addressing
22 impacts to both public health and the environment.

23 On behalf of Sierra Club California, we
24 appreciate your attention to these issues and hope to see
25 these strong regulations implemented soon.

1 Thank you.

2 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

3 Cher Arabalo.

4 CHER ARABALO: Good afternoon and thank you for
5 hearing us today. My name is Cher. I live in Castaic
6 California. And I am here to ask CARB to set a clear
7 public deadline for updating its landfill methane rule,
8 just because we can't wait any longer. We've waited two
9 years, two and a half years for regulations to be updated
10 on our situation in Castaic and Val Verde and the fire has
11 tripled in size. It's gotten out of control and we really
12 need your help.

13 I bought -- personally I bought my home in 2022.
14 I had no idea that this was happening 2.5 miles from high
15 house. I soon became sick. My husband was sick. My
16 daughter who graduated and came home from college, she
17 became sick. She actually had to move out recently,
18 because she was too sick. I have five large medical grade
19 air filters that run in my home continually. Imagine the
20 electricity bills behind that and I have solar.

21 The only good thing about this thing is I've met
22 some wonderful members of this community and heard their
23 stories. And if you heard all of their stories, you would
24 definitely take action to try to protect them. And we
25 appreciate what you do. But some of these kids are

1 getting nose bleeds. They're getting headaches and
2 migraines in the -- in their schools.

3 And I'm just asking that CARB acts to improve
4 landfill methane regulations for the community, because we
5 need to leave a better legacy for these kids, and for our
6 children, and for our children's children. And I'm asking
7 that CARB take immediate action to protect the families
8 like mine and the thousands of other Californians living
9 near landfills.

10 I really think it's a great idea to do the
11 monitoring around the other landfills, because
12 currently -- I know you were talking about PM2.5s with the
13 fire. We can't get a 2.5 is one level of it, but the
14 gases that come with the methane, that's harder to
15 measure. And if I can look at a monitor and I can see,
16 oh, there's -- benzene is at this level the VOCs are here,
17 I know to stay inside and the kids know. And we
18 appreciate your time.

19 Thank you.

20 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

21 Nathan Kruger.

22 NATHAN KRUGER: Good afternoon. My name is
23 Nathan Kruger. I'm with Kruger Law Firm. Our firm
24 represents over a thousand victims of the Chiquita Canyon
25 landfill. I know Oshea Orchid and there's other firms

1 that I represent as clients as well.

2 I will say working on this case, it's been a
3 challenge. You know, when you have disasters like the LA
4 wildfires, which are so awful happen, it's really hard to
5 get really any understanding of the silent killer that's
6 happening at Chiquita Landfill. I mean, it doesn't make
7 front page news. There's no flames. There's no destroyed
8 homes. There's just invisible gas. And those gases, as
9 you know, are methane, benzene, dimethyl sulfide. What
10 we're advocating for today is stronger methane controls.
11 What I wanted to do is highlight a little bit of the
12 timeline working on this case and quantitatively how it's
13 affecting these victims and our clients.

14 Two years ago in the beginning of -- when the
15 reaction was really beginning to expand, we were getting
16 calls. People were having bloody noses. They were having
17 allergy-like symptoms. And it's awful, terrible symptoms.
18 But as the year goes on, asthma -- there was increase in
19 number of asthma diagnoses, which we know is heavily
20 associated with methane exposure.

21 So if you look at our clients over -- if I'm
22 looking at it quantitatively, about 14 percent of our
23 clients have been diagnosed with asthma. If you look at
24 the national incidence of asthma in the U.S., it's about
25 7.4 percent. So we have double the incidence of asthma

1 with our client base that lives within, you know, three to
2 four miles of the landfill.

3 So just moving on more aggressively, we have five
4 acute myeloid leukemia patients that just diagnosed this
5 last year. That's 40 times the incidence of leukemia in
6 the U.S. So, it's a silent killer. This is happening
7 fast. It's expanding, so you have to act fast. You have
8 to give the AQMD more teeth to control this early on.

9 So please pass further regulation.

10 Thank you.

11 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

12 Oshea Orchid.

13 OSHEA ORCHID: Hi. My name is Oshea Orchid.
14 This is my daughter Adelaide Vasquez. As Nathan
15 mentioned, I'm one of the attorneys working representing
16 many of the community members here, working on the
17 litigation. Also working on behalf Citizens for Chiquita
18 Canyon Closure, an organization which really just means
19 our community who cannot let this continue to happen, and
20 has had to take legal action.

21 All of this is happening because we don't have
22 enough regulations in place to begin with, and that's why
23 the situation at the landfill has gotten so out of
24 control, because it wasn't caught early enough. We
25 learned years later through litigation, through the

1 agencies finally getting involved that we have a serious
2 problem. But the problem is now, we're being told this is
3 maybe an unstoppable problem, that we could go on for
4 decades having benzene, having hydrogen sulfide methane,
5 at just uncontrollable levels. As Assemblymember Schiavo
6 mentioned, it's 90 acres that's basically on fire. And
7 that's all coming into our community.

8 As Nathan mentioned, we're seeing elevated levels
9 of all kinds of concerning conditions. I'm basically, at
10 this point, becoming a cancer researcher, spending time
11 with public health doctors from across the country who are
12 looking into the levels of cancer. And we know it's too
13 many, because when I started this case, as Nathan
14 mentioned, we had some healthy clients, people that were
15 just coughing, getting bloody noises, saying they
16 experience a headache. And now, we have more people
17 saying my three-year old was diagnosed with cancer. I'm
18 in Children's Hospital. We can't figure out what's wrong
19 with us, but we do test after test, and this is because of
20 toxics exposure to these chemicals. It's imperative that
21 people action now. And what you guys can do for us is you
22 can get regulations into place that cause other
23 communities like Avenal, like other landfills in the LA
24 area that really need it to have monitoring in real-time,
25 that's going to make it so that the community can protect

1 themselves by leaving the area and the landfills can do
2 what they need to do to clean things up when there's a
3 problem. Thank you.

4 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

5 Adelaide Vasquez.

6 ADELAIDE VASQUEZ: Hi. My name is Adelaide
7 Vasquez. I go to Castaic Middle School. I cannot tell
8 you how many days I've gone home or just not going to
9 school because I felt sick from the landfill. It's a big
10 problem.

11 One time recently I got sick and I had nausea. I
12 felt like I was going to throw up. I was so lazy. It was
13 like the worst thing ever. And it wasn't the flu. I know
14 it wasn't the flu. I didn't have a fever. I didn't have
15 anything like that. One day I woke up, I had a nose bleed
16 so bad, like it lasted 25 minutes. Nothing would help me.
17 It just would not stop. And this is a big problem.

18 I don't want people to live in fear of getting
19 cancer one day, just because of a dump. I can guarantee
20 you that like a lot of people have had cancer in my
21 neighborhood and it is a big problem. I don't want to
22 live in fear of my friends getting cancer, or me getting
23 cancer, or anyone that I know getting cancer because of a
24 freaking dump. It's a very bad issue and I think it needs
25 to get fixed now.

1 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

2 Randahl Elkins

3 RANDAHL ELKINS: Hi. My name is Randahl Elkins.

4 I moved to Val Verde in 2016 with my wife and young
5 children. We chose to buy a home in this community
6 because it had great schools and a small town feel. While
7 we were signing our closing documents for the home, we
8 were informed that there was a landfill close by, but not
9 to worry, it was closing the next year.

10 A year passed, the landfill did not close.
11 Instead of given -- instead, it was given an extension by
12 LA County to expand for another 30 years. In early 2023,
13 we started noticing foul smelling odors. We started
14 having weird health symptoms. And when I talked to
15 neighbors, they were all having similar symptoms.

16 My kids come home from school daily with
17 headaches, skin irritations. They city severe nose
18 bleeds, ear infections, eye infections, and they
19 constantly are congested. My wife regularly gets severe
20 Headaches and joint pain. My body has broken out into
21 like hives all over that couldn't be explained by doctors.
22 We don't let our children play outside. We no longer do
23 barbecues with friends and neighbors.

24 I can't take care of my garden as much as I'd
25 like to and we've seen several animals die on our property

1 the last few years. I buy my kid a trampoline and a plays
2 structure and it just sits abandoned across the street our
3 outside, because the air is not safe to play. We urge you
4 to implement stricter regulations to landfills and protect
5 the health and safety of nearby communities. How is it
6 even possible for a landfill to be allowed to destroy so
7 many lives?

8 This should never have happened. I am pleading
9 with you, CARB needs to come out with a public deadline
10 for updating a Landfill Methane Rule as soon as possible.
11 My family can't afford more delays. I am frustrated that
12 the State of Colorado, which has a much less -- much less
13 resource than California is moving much faster.

14 Thank you.

15 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

16 Kayleigh Elkins.

17 KAYLEIGH ELKINS: Hi. My name is Kayleigh Elkins
18 and I am 11 years old. I live in Val Verde very close to
19 the landfill and I go to school only a few miles away.
20 The landfill has stopped me from being and becoming a
21 normal kid. Me and my brothers have to play -- can't play
22 outside, ride our bikes, or even have friends over. We
23 have to drive away to even go hang out. We can't have
24 birthday parties or summer barbecues at our house. We
25 can't even open our windows. I get headaches at school

1 and my skin gets itchy. And sometimes I feel like I can't
2 even breathe. A few of my pets have died suddenly in the
3 last year. My parents have talked about moving to get us
4 away from the landfill. Thinking about this makes me sad,
5 because I would have to leave all my friends and my dance
6 studio. It is not fair we have to move and suffer because
7 of the landfill's mistake.

8 Why do we have to live -- leave -- why do we have
9 to leave everything we love when it's the -- when it's
10 their mistake? Please make stricter regulations that hold
11 landfills accountable to keep communities safe.

12 Thank you.

13 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

14 Nathan Elkins.

15 NATHAN ELKINS: Hi. My name is Nathan Elkins.
16 I'm eight years old. When I talk to my friends, we agree
17 that we would rather get hurt than continue to smell the
18 landfill and get sick. If I fall on the playground and
19 get hurt, I know I will get better, and I will be okay.
20 But when -- but I know we -- oh -- but we know that the
21 landfill problem is not going away for a long time. And
22 it's what -- and it will keep making us sick. Please help
23 us and stop the landfill from making me sick.

24 Thank you.

25 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

1 Luke Elkins.

2 LUKE ELKINS: When I have to go outside, then the
3 air is not good. Go inside, clean my room, play.

4 JENNIFER ELKINS: A few words from a five year
5 old.

6 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Jennifer Elkins.

7 JENNIFER ELKINS: Hi. My name is Jennifer
8 Elkins. I'm a resident of Val Verde and also a community
9 organizer for people living near Chiquita Canyon Landfill.
10 Chiquita Canyon Landfill has been making us sick for many
11 years and the landfill operator says they're following all
12 regulations. This tells me that regulations are flawed.

13 Our community has just -- was just informed that
14 the reaction has almost tripled in size. I am deeply
15 concerned for my family, my neighbors, and especially the
16 children in my community. People are getting very sick
17 and our quality of life has been stripped from us, I
18 recently made the decision to transfer my three children
19 out of our school district, because I fear for their
20 health and safety. I fear for their future.

21 Children are playing outside during recess and PE
22 and are exposed to a cocktail of toxic chemicals like
23 benzene, toluene, hydrogen sulfide, and more daily. Then
24 they come home and they're exposed to the same toxic air
25 in their own backyards. Clean air is a basic human right

1 and my community doesn't have that. I have suffered two
2 miscarriages since moving to Val Verde, and just learned
3 that this is a commonality amongst the women in my
4 neighborhood.

5 Many of my neighbors have been diagnosed with
6 cancer and rare autoimmune disorders. These are
7 life-altering health consequences. Methane is 80 times
8 more potent than CO2 at warming the planet and it carries
9 dangerous Pollutants like benzene and hydrogen sulfide.
10 So CARB can really make a difference for people if it
11 updated its requirements for landfills so that more gas
12 was captured.

13 I listened to the six-hour long CARB webinar on
14 landfill emissions standards back in December, and I was
15 appalled that you handed the mic to landfill operators for
16 hours to tell us they didn't need more regulations, that
17 they were doing enough already, and how new regulations
18 could hurt them financially.

19 CARB gave no time to people who are the most
20 harmed. My community is just one example that enough is
21 clearly not being done. This is so disappointing, and
22 even worse, CARB continues to do nothing. I am asking you
23 to start the process for updating your Landfill Rule as
24 soon as possible, set a clear public deadline for updating
25 your Landfill Methane Rule. CARB has a duty to protect

1 lives. We urge you to enforce stricter regulations and
2 oversight for landfills, put people and their health
3 first, hold landfill operators accountable and ensure that
4 they aren't polluting communities. Regulations haven't
5 been updated in over 15 years and it's residents that are
6 paying the price.

7 Thank you.

8 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

9 If we could please have the next five speakers
10 form a line at one of the podiums. We have Leilah
11 Martinez, Clarisa Baltazar, Riana Ghazdrian, Raul Engle
12 and Katie Dalton.

13 And Leilah -- or Leilah Martinez, you may speak.

14 LEILAH MARTINEZ: My name is Leilah Martinez and
15 I am 12 years old. And every since I moved back to
16 Castaic, I've been experiencing horrible headaches,
17 nausea, and random dizziness almost every day. It's
18 affecting how I do in school, because I'm going home a
19 lot. It's not safe to go to school anymore, because of
20 how bad the air quality is over at my school. I need to
21 switch school districts to go to school in an area that is
22 not as affected by the landfill, just so I can be safe.

23 My grades are being affected because I'm missing
24 so much school from feeling sick. Please make stronger
25 regulations to stop the landfills from polluting our

1 cities. Young kids shouldn't have to grow up being sick
2 constantly and dealing with disgusting odors.

3 Thank you.

4 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

5 Clarisa Baltazar.

6 CLARISA BALTAZAR: Hello. My name is Clarisa
7 Baltazar. The Chiquita Canyon landfill has caused my
8 family many health issues. I lived in Val Verde
9 previously, very close to the landfill. During my time
10 living there, I experienced fatigue and severe migraines
11 to the point of it being a struggle to get out of bed for
12 days at a time, which wasn't normal for me. I now live in
13 Castaic, seven miles away from the Chiquita Canyon
14 Landfill. I still experience the same symptoms.

15 My son attends the local middle school and
16 suffers with migraines and fatigue. My daughter's
17 elementary school is just a few miles away from the
18 landfill. She is constantly experiencing the same
19 symptoms as myself, but much worse. Sorry.

20 She's also getting bloody noses while at school
21 due to the terrible gases and odors coming from the
22 landfill. My children always have to come home early from
23 school or stay at home sick for the day. We had to make
24 the tough decision to take my daughter out of our local
25 school district for the next school year out of fear that

1 the Middle school isn't far enough from the landfill.

2 We can't enjoy being outdoors anymore. We are
3 basically forced to stay indoors or risk getting sick. I
4 am worried for our health and safety, current and long
5 term. The Landfill Methane Rule hasn't been updated in
6 over 15 years. Our local residents, as well as residents
7 living near other landfills in California, shouldn't have
8 to stuff. Our health matters. We need CARB to bring land
9 fill regulations up to date immediately.

10 Thank you.

11 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

12 Riana Ghazdrian.

13 Apologies for mispronouncing any names.

14 RIANA GHAZDRIAN: Hi. I'm Riana Ghazdrian. I'm
15 here to mostly support -- Raul has lived here for much
16 longer. But as someone that frequently visits and comes
17 in, I have noticed that I'm very sensitive to the
18 environment around me. And, you know, anytime I come in
19 right over that hill, my eyes start burning. I feel like
20 my lungs are on fire, and it's just really like a night
21 and day difference. But I'd like to give the rest of my
22 time to Raul.

23 RAUL ENGLE: Thank you. My name is Raul. Good
24 afternoon, Chair and Board members. My name Raul. I
25 am -- like I said, I'm a resident, a parent to two young

1 children that go to the local schools in the area, Castaic
2 and Live Oak. Live Oak is the closest. And as well, I'm
3 a teacher as well.

4 I stand for -- with you today with a heavy heart
5 but also a determined spirit. We are here because of our
6 homes, our health, and our future are under threat. We
7 are here because of the harm happening right now in the
8 shadow of Chiquita Canyon and it must stop. For far too
9 long, the residents near Chiquita Canyon have endured
10 unbearable -- the unbearable. The air we breathe, the
11 water we rely on, the very ground beneath our feet is
12 being compromised by this landfill. And we are witnessing
13 firsthand the devastating consequences of this toxic
14 pollution on our health and well-being. And I fear from
15 my children's health in the future as well.

16 This is not a distant problem. It's happening
17 right now, as they've told you, in our community. And
18 students in my community are getting bloody noses. Some
19 residents are have -- developing nerve damage. I recently
20 moved back to Val Verde and now I'm getting green mucus
21 buildup. I grew up there as a young child. Never had
22 this issue until recently. I'm a runner as well. I like
23 to run in the area. I can't run outside anymore. I have
24 to drive out of the town in order to do that, and my kids
25 can't go play outside just like some of the kids mentioned

1 here.

2 It's affecting their well-being. Now, this isn't
3 about the Chiquita Canyon. It's about also setting a
4 precedent. We must send a clear message that toxic
5 landfill pollution will not be tolerated in any community
6 across California. We demand the California Air Resources
7 Board set a clear and firm deadline to update the methane
8 regulations. We need robust standards and stringent
9 enforcement to ensure that the landfill operators are held
10 accountable for controlling their emissions and protecting
11 our air quality.

12 We're not asking for much. We're simply asking
13 for the right to breathe clean air, drink safe water, and
14 live in a healthy community and we are asking for our
15 leaders to prioritize our well-being.

16 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: All right. Thank you,
17 Raul.

18 RAUL ENGLE: Thank you for hearing me out.

19 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Katie Dalton.

20 KATIE DALTON: I am Katie Dalton. I'm a 30 plus
21 year resident of Val Verde. I'll go anywhere to ask
22 anybody for help on our problem. And I'm here today to
23 try and get help, whatever that is. A possible fix might
24 be sell your home and move away. Our property value has
25 gone way down because of this. Sell my home for nothing

1 compared to what I should get for it. Move where?

2 That money, I can't buy something somewhere else
3 in California, on top of the fact I don't want to move. I
4 love Val Verde. I've been there 30 years. It's my home.
5 Every time I come to a meeting, including this one, where
6 we're all gathered from Val Verde, I learn something new
7 about our health. Today, I learned, which I didn't know -
8 I thought it was just me - I have foggy vision. Imagine
9 six other people I talked to have foggy vision, along with
10 a long list of other physical problems that we all have.
11 I keep learning over and over. I thought it's just me
12 that has these problems. No. It's many of us.

13 And we need help. We need to go somewhere that
14 will listen to us and help us. Doctors won't touch us.
15 They don't want anything to do with us with these physical
16 problems. They say, oh, okay. Sinus issues I've have had
17 for three years now. Not one doctor has offered to help
18 me. I'm now doing it on my own, over-the-counter stuff,
19 which is finally helping because I'm being proactive. Why
20 can't someone else be proactive? We need help. We're
21 dying -- literally dying. We need help from somebody
22 somewhere.

23 Thank you.

24 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

25 Our next speaker is Tim Williams, but if I could

1 have Sara Stinson, Darcy Stinson, Elizabeth Jeffords, and
2 Yasmina Valdivia, please form a line at one of the
3 podiums.

4 Tim, you may begin.

5 TIM WILLIAMS: Hello, everyone. My name is Tim
6 Williams, long-time resident of Val Verde since 1959,
7 that's 65 years or so. When I first came to Val Verde, it
8 seemed like when I was six years old going on seven, it
9 was always an issue with Val Verde as far as challenges
10 from the Park Director, a guy named Leon Perdue would
11 always complain about we didn't have enough shuffleboards
12 or ping pong balls, stuff like that. So Val Verde has
13 always had its challenges.

14 I guess I'm here to speak on the historical place
15 of Val Verde itself. Val Verde was created in 1924, 101
16 years ago. We tried to have a -- we tried to have a
17 parade last year, but we couldn't do it because of the
18 landfill because of the odor. Val Verde was created
19 because of the Jim Crow laws way back. And so 1924, it
20 was created.

21 So I went to school from Castaic Elementary,
22 Placerita Junior High School, Hart High School, and I
23 graduated in 1971. In 1972, the landfill was created. So
24 it's been going on what 53 years or so. So it has been
25 a -- one of Val Verde's top priorities as far as a

1 challenge. As some of my friends were talking about,
2 things going on, cancer, what have you, a lot of elements.
3 I haven't been affected personally, but I know other
4 people who have.

5 My girl friend, Leah Whitaker, she passed away
6 like 2023 at the end of '23 from cancer. So I don't know
7 if it was from that or what, but all these stories are
8 real. So, hopefully we can have something on a state of
9 emergency for Val Verde, for our little community, which
10 we all love.

11 Thank you.

12 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

13 Sara Stinson.

14 SARA STINSON: Hello. My name is Sara Stinson.
15 My husband and I bought out first home in Val Verde as
16 newlyweds in 2008. Over time, I suffered lethargy due to
17 the Chiquita Canyon Landfill. I was tired. I'd always
18 have to call in work sick, because I couldn't get up out
19 of my bed. I soon had to quit my job and join my husband
20 and work from home.

21 Later on, I was diagnosed with chronic depression
22 and anxiety. I do take medicine for those things. I
23 became less active in my social group. I was literally a
24 prison in my own home. I didn't want to see my friends or
25 even my family at times. It's damaged my marriage and

1 really put a lot of stress on my marriage. Thank, God.
2 We are still together.

3 My husband, he suffers from cancer, and now my
4 best friend and neighbor, Steve Howse's wife, has Stage 3
5 cancer, breast cancer. It's so hard to see her surgery
6 after surgery. She's my hero. And I just ask that we
7 could have cleaner air that we don't have to breathe in
8 these toxins, that our children don't have to suffer nose
9 bleeds, and headaches, and that we could just be
10 understood for once and not be called crazy.

11 And I pray that we could all just have clean air
12 and it's not that hard. We now have to leave our house
13 and live in a smaller home. And I'm now like dealing with
14 mover's grief.

15 So thank you.

16 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

17 Darcy Stinson.

18 DARCY STINSON: Hi. I'm Darcy Stinson. I
19 appreciate the Board. I sit on the Castaic Town Council.
20 I've been the President of the Community Advisory
21 Committee. I understand a lot of this stuff that's going
22 on. I should not know all the things that I do, because I
23 didn't go to school for it. I'm sorry when I say this,
24 but I think because of CARB and other regulatory agencies
25 that are not doing their jobs, people like myself have

1 cancer. I'm a disabled veteran. I served to protect all
2 of you, everybody in the United States. I have a lot of
3 friends that didn't come home. I'm home, and I'm lucky,
4 and I'm thankful for that, but I'm now in -- I'm in
5 Castaic and I have cancer, a high mortality, very
6 aggressive cancer and I'm going to die. My doctors tell
7 me that I need to get my affairs in shape and in order.

8 This, you guys, I hope understand, because I
9 learned at a CalEPA meeting that tremors. I've gone to
10 multiple doctors. They don't know why I have tremors.
11 They don't know why I have brain fog. They don't know why
12 I have blurred vision, nothing.

13 CalEPA, they said benzene poisoning causes brain
14 fog, causes tremors, causes all the effects that I'm
15 having. My house is less than a thousand feet from the
16 landfill. If there was regulations put in place that were
17 strict, that were not for the benefit of the landfills to
18 create -- I mean, they make billions of dollars. Please
19 help us and please help other communities. It's dire
20 need. Please don't let them be like me.

21 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

22 Elizabeth Jeffords.

23 ELIZABETH JEFFORDS: Thank you. Hi. I'm
24 Elizabeth Jeffords. I live in Castaic. I've only been
25 there five years. I moved relatively close, so still

1 within five miles before that.

2 But as soon as we moved into my house, I got
3 really, really sick, and it's been years and we haven't
4 known what or why or what's causing it. I have all of the
5 symptoms that were already mentioned. And I have a lot of
6 things to talk about, but after hearing what everyone has
7 said here, I think it's pretty clear we need to do
8 something now.

9 I'm very sick. No doctors can tell me what's
10 going on. No one can save me. I couldn't get up to go to
11 work. And unfortunately, I have my own business. So,
12 working from home is impossible, and therefore I cannot
13 make an income. I cannot contribute to society. I cannot
14 do my part. I'm forced and I'm stuck in my house. I have
15 a for sale sign. No one is buying. I can't get out. We
16 need stricter policies put in place, so that people like
17 me unsuspecting, don't move into these neighborhoods. If
18 you want to have these landfills make all this money and
19 control the grounds that we walk on, then don't put houses
20 next to them. We need strict policies in place, and we
21 need public awareness.

22 These monitors that I have to check every single
23 minute of my life have become my life to see if I can go
24 outside. But it doesn't stop there. It's not just with
25 the smell. I went three years without smelling anything

1 before I knew there was even a landfill that existed three
2 miles from my house. We need to have stricter policies in
3 place and regulations and not allow these landfills to
4 self-regulate themselves, and tell you guys what to do and
5 what's harmful, because they're making the money and we're
6 getting sick.

7 And I'm literally paying the price for it with my
8 life and my life savings. I moved here to California 25
9 years ago. I thought you guys were the groundwork in
10 environmental, everything in health. And I see everybody
11 running outside. And I used to be a track runner. I
12 can't run. I can't even walk. I have a walker in my
13 house. I can't breathe. You need to help us. Thank you.

14 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

15 Yasmina Valdivia.

16 YASMINA VALDIVIA: Yes. Hi. My name is Yasmina
17 Valdivia. I'm a 48-year and multi-generation Val Verde
18 resident and I serve on the Val Verde Civic Association.
19 I stand here with my family. I'm representing the
20 residents of Val Verde. My husband Jose Valdivia is here,
21 my mother Delia Yoguez, my son, Roberto Rios, and my
22 granddaughter Yasmina Rios.

23 We are here to express our deep concerns over the
24 toxic chemicals we are being -- we are breathing and being
25 exposed to on a daily basis. These harmful toxins are

1 emerging from Chiquita Canyon Landfill. Poor landfill
2 management comes with a high cost to our health and
3 well-being. And California residents, like my community
4 of Val Verde, are paying the price. I've seen firsthand
5 the impact of health-harming chemicals and odors that leak
6 through the -- these facilities, including cancer,
7 migraines, respiratory problems, burning eyes, nausea,
8 stomach problems, heart palpitations, thyroid, female
9 reproduction organ problems and more.

10 CARB must act quickly to protect the well-being
11 of communities like Val Verde. CARB must update its
12 15-year old outdated landfill methane standards and
13 require operators to adopt proven effective strategies
14 that deliver cleaner air.

15 We urgently need better management and
16 regulations by making 21st century updates. CARB needs to
17 require drone monitoring to find methane leaks and could
18 dramatically reduce the emissions and deliver cleaner air
19 to communities like Val Verde.

20 And my husband, Jose Valdivia is going to finish
21 my speech, unless i'm able to continue.

22 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: No, we have Delia Yoguez
23 next.

24 YASMINA VALDIVIA: Okay.

25 DELIA YOGUEZ (through interpreter): My name is

1 Delia Yoguez and I've been a resident of Val Verde for
2 over 50 years. And the toxins have been very harmful to
3 my husband, my children, my grandchildren. The doctors
4 have diagnosed me with some spots in my lungs. I've had
5 pneumonia and we have had a lot of problems. And I have
6 allergies and I am in a prison in my own house, because I
7 cannot get out. I will have severe allergies as soon as I
8 step out of my house.

9 That's it. Thank you.

10 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

11 Jose Valdivia.

12 JOSE VALDIVIA: Hi. I'm Jose L. Valdivia. I've
13 lived in the community of Val Verde for the last 11 years.
14 I want to continue my wife's speech.

15 So my family and I are experiencing many symptoms
16 due to toxics chemicals, myself. We bought our home
17 town/suburb within that city with the thought of being
18 able to enjoy our home for many, many years. Those plans
19 and dreams had been shattered.

20 In 2024 holiday, we spent in the hospital with my
21 31-year old daughter when we went through 15 years -- a
22 15-hour surgery. The medical team seen coming out of the
23 surgery and included coma and straight to ICU. She
24 started to have problems with her productive organs at age
25 15. My son at the age of 15 was diagnosed with

1 diverticulitis. In 2023, had a partial colectomy. My
2 wife and I, we have asthma has worsened since living in
3 Val Verde for the past 11 years.

4 I'm now doing inhalers, oral inhalers, plus
5 medication, and also diagnosed with(inaudible).

6 Sorry. Also, my father-in-law there was -- they
7 have so many issues, health issues. My father-in-law gets
8 frequently nose bleeds and skin rashes. When my
9 granddaughter got to visit us, she couldn't even stay
10 outside. She had nose bleeds, harp palpitation, rashes,
11 nausea, stomach cramps, joint muscle. Thank you. Please
12 help us on this issue.

13 Thank you

14 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you. And we have one
15 last in-person speaker, Zoe Etchison.

16 Okay. We'll go ahead and move on to our Zoom
17 commenters. We currently have eight with their hands
18 raised.

19 David Rothbart, I have activated your mic. You
20 may unmute and begin.

21 DAVID ROTHBART: Am I unmute now?

22 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Yes, you're good.

23 DAVID ROTHBART: Thank you. Good afternoon. I'm
24 David Rothbart with Clean Water SoCal. Clean Water SoCal
25 represents 80 public wastewater agencies in Southern

1 California. Our members manage wastewater for about 20
2 million people.

3 First, our members would like to express their
4 support for the comments made by Sarah Deslauriers with
5 CASA. The wastewater sector is required to treat
6 society's waste 24/7, 365 days a year. In other words, we
7 can't request the public stop flushing their toilets.

8 The process of treating this waste creates a
9 non-fossil fuel, which is known as digester gas. And this
10 gas should be used productively. Unfortunately, most of
11 this wastewater-derived gas cannot be directed into the
12 natural gas pipeline, as envisioned by staff. The
13 Legislature passed SB 1383, which will divert food waste
14 from landfills to wastewater treatment plants and could
15 exponentially increase wastewater-derived non-fossil fuel
16 generation.

17 The wastewater sector explained this dilemma to
18 the CARB Board during the adoption of the Advanced Clean
19 Fleet regulations and we appreciate the Board's resolution
20 23-13 that recognized the need for coordination meetings
21 with other State agencies, including CASA, to implement SB
22 1383 and SB 1440. The resolution directed staff to
23 prioritize policy discussions related to SB 1383 and SB
24 1440 implementation regarding how to transition biomethane
25 into hard-to-decarbonize sectors.

1 To our knowledge, the interagency workgroup has
2 not been established. We respectfully request that this
3 workgroup be established as soon as possible. Without
4 your support, the wastewater derived non-fossil fuel is
5 going to be burned in flares rather than be used
6 beneficially.

7 Thank you for your support.

8 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

9 Craig Murray, I have activated your mic. You may
10 unmute and begin.

11 CRAIG MURRAY: Good afternoon, Madam Chair, Board
12 members, staff. Thank you for your service. My name is
13 Craig Murray. I'm a board director of Las Gallinas Valley
14 Sanitary District in San Rafael. We serve approximately
15 32,000 residents. We're the largest public solar power
16 producer in Marin County. We have developed a modern
17 water recycling facility that serves the region and
18 implemented a renewable natural gas facility for combined
19 heat and power as well as transportation fuel, and a
20 CNG-fueled heavy vehicle for essential services to our
21 customers.

22 California wastewater sector is key to helping
23 achieve goals of SB 1383 that are upon us. Las Gallinas
24 Valley Sanitary District is looking at a regional
25 biosolids facility to serve our region as well.

1 California wastewater agencies will need more tools not
2 less. Developing markets for biogas is important.

3 The request to CARB is to hear my fellow
4 associate in CASA and those that provide local services
5 and to keep space available in the ACF regulations, and
6 work for bioenergy and for the wastewater sector, and
7 allow for an interagency workgroup to address SB 1440, and
8 additional future transitions of biomethane to
9 hard-to-decarbonize sectors.

10 Thank you.

11 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

12 Robert Mittelstaedt, I have activated your mic.
13 You may unmute and begin.

14 ROBERT MITTELSTAEDT: Thank you. My name is Bob
15 Mittelstaedt. I'm a co-founder of E-Bike Access, which is
16 a Marin County based non-profit focused on increasing the
17 use of legal e-bikes and curbing the illegal throttle
18 devices.

19 CARB has an e-bike incentive program, which has a
20 very laudable goal, which is to help lower income people
21 buy e-bikes, but it also has a serious problem. Whoever
22 drew up the list of eligible e-bikes included numerous
23 motorcycles that don't meet California e-bike require
24 comments, so CARB unintentionally is subsidizing And
25 encouraging the purchase of dangerous motorcycles that are

1 not street legal. This is not just a bad look for CARB
2 and improper expenditure of State funds, but it also
3 exposes, at least the purchasers, to legal liability and
4 to the risk of serious injury.

5 CARB didn't do this deliberately or knowingly,
6 it's more difficult though to say the same thing about the
7 project administrator, Pedal Ahead. It's current point of
8 contact is Scott Anderson, who worked as the Chief
9 Marketing Officer for a company called Juiced Bikes.
10 Juiced Bikes makes motorcycles not e-bikes. And one of
11 their models is included on the eligible list of e-bikes,
12 along with many others.

13 I've talked recently with CARB staff. I believe
14 they're now taking this seriously and want to get to the
15 bottom of it. My written comments provide some suggested
16 remedial actions, including a full staff report on how
17 this happened and potentially a referral to the Attorney
18 General to consider investigating consumer fraud by these
19 manufacturers.

20 I note finally that there's a consumer fraud
21 class action in Marin Superior Court against one
22 manufacturer, Super73, and it might provide a model for
23 the AG to consider.

24 Thank you very much.

25 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

1 Katherine Blauvelt, I have activated your mic.
2 You may unmute and begin.

3 KATHERINE BLAUVELT: Thank you. Thank you, Madam
4 Chair Randolph, members of the Board. Thank you for the
5 opportunity to speak this afternoon and provide public
6 comment regarding the updates to the LMR. My name is
7 Katherine Blauvelt. I'm Circular Economy Director for
8 Industrious Labs. We work to decarbonize heavy industry,
9 including waste, and to mitigate and prevent harm to the
10 community that live around that -- those industries. And
11 we work across the country, including in California. I've
12 also worked in multiple states in rulemakings and updates
13 to their flawed and outdated regulations.

14 California has landfills that are the sleeping
15 giant of the climate crisis. And the air emissions that
16 come out of landfills and that are regulated through the
17 LMR are a mixture of methane of carbon dioxide, benzene,
18 and list goes on. Unfortunately, there's a shameful
19 legacy of injustice and how those landfills were placed in
20 the state of California. Seventy percent of California's
21 highest emitting landfills when it comes to methane are by
22 communities that are over half BIPOC within one mile of
23 that landfill. That is the state of play in California
24 today.

25 The good news is that CARB has done a lot of

1 research and there has been a lot of technological
2 improvements that mean we don't have to live with the
3 status quo. And I just want to read a U.S. Environmental
4 Protection Agency report that on the -- as you know, the
5 U.S. EPA regulates air emissions of landfills and requires
6 landfills to not exceed certain allowances of methane.
7 This is what the EPA wrote to a landfill operator that was
8 in violation of methane exceedances.

9 "The EPA has found that the violations have
10 caused or can cause excess emissions of hydrogen sulfide,
11 volatile hazardous air pollutants, volatile organic
12 compounds, and methane. Hydrogen sulfide can lead to
13 irritation, headaches, nausea, and respiratory stress."

14 All that to say, when you regulate for methane,
15 you also help people. Please help the people around the
16 state of California.

17 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

18 Catherine -- or Claire Sullivan, I have activated
19 your mic. You may unmute and begin.

20 CLAIRE SULLIVAN: Thank you. Good afternoon to
21 you, Chair Randolph and thank you to you and to the Board.
22 My name is Claire Sullivan and I'm here today on behalf of
23 the City of Roseville, Department of Electric Utilities in
24 support of all my CASA colleagues comments.

25 We are asking CARB to activate the implementation

1 of the workgroup to enable stakeholders to work towards
2 more sustainable waste management and electric generation.
3 Thank you for your time and for all you do for this great
4 state.

5 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

6 Greg Hurner, I have activated your mic. You may
7 unmute and begin.

8 GREG HURNER: Thank you. Just with the
9 retirements of the Board members today and moving on, I
10 wanted to bring up some very good news. Flagship Cruises
11 and Events received a grant for over \$15 million from
12 CARB. Although the waiver wasn't approved for in-use for
13 short-run ferries under the Commercial Harbor Craft Rule,
14 Flagship Cruises and Events worked with the Air Board and
15 CARB and decided to go ahead and move forward and is
16 developing two zero-emission ferries to replace the
17 ferries that travel from San Diego to Coronado, you know,
18 which will obviously bring significant air quality
19 benefits to San Diego. And they'll join some other great
20 projects down there, one of which was the electric cranes,
21 which I had the privilege of attending that dedication
22 with the Chair.

23 So, San Diego is becoming a real hub for
24 innovation and I just want to compliment Flagship for
25 moving forward and thank the CARB staff that helped work

1 on the grant and helped move this project forward.

2 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you. We have three
3 more commenters, left in Zoom, Joshua Lovelace, Abigail
4 DeSesa, and Ruben Rodriguez.

5 Joshua, I have activated your mic. You may
6 unmute and begin.

7 JOSHUA LOVELACE: Thank you. Can you hear me?

8 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Yes.

9 JOSHUA LOVELACE: Okay. Thank you. My name is
10 Joshua Lovelace. I work for Miller Industries. We are
11 the world's largest manufacturer of towing and recovery
12 equipment.

13 I'd like to bring up that I am disheartened to
14 see no update on how the ACT and the Omnibus rules are
15 working currently when the Chair called for this very
16 thing to happen back in the January meeting. We still
17 can't get lower emission -- new lower emission chassis in
18 California. As highlighted earlier in the portion about
19 the wildfires, down in the Los Angeles area, which is
20 where I live, we're using tow trucks to clear those burned
21 up vehicles. And there are many, many, many burned up
22 vehicles.

23 I heard a call for heavy equipment to be utilized
24 to help clear this debris. I think the number was
25 somewhere in the roughly four million pounds of debris.

1 That just highlights the value that we provide to economy,
2 to keep roads open and safe. And I'd like to highlight
3 again that we are out of options unfortunately. The ask
4 is either to delay implementation of these regulations
5 until suitable alternatives can be found. And we're here.
6 We want to have cleaner air. I personally have taken part
7 in research with various electric vehicle manufacturers,
8 and it just simply doesn't work given the space that we
9 need for our vehicles. So I ask that we find some sort of
10 a workaround. I appreciate your time and have a good day.
11 Thank you.

12 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Abigail DeSesa, I have
13 activated your mic. You may unmute and begin. I do want
14 to make one quick comment that sign-ups and raising your
15 hand has closed for this comment -- for open comment.
16 Thank you.

17 ABIGAIL DESESA: My name is Abigail DeSesa and
18 I've been a resident of Val Verde for over 26 years.
19 Clean air should not be a luxury. For years now, because
20 of Chiquita Canyon Landfill there are many things my
21 family can no longer do at your home or in our
22 neighborhood, barbecue or dine outside, have company
23 over - it is incredibly embarrassing how bad it smells
24 here - have our grandchildren come for a visit and play
25 with our outdoor pets, watch the sunrise, sunset, or view

1 the stars and moon on our patio, walk our dogs, safely
2 care for our outside animals and spend quality time with
3 them, spend time gardening in our yard over an acre of
4 land, bike ride or hike the trails in our neighborhood,
5 wash our cars, clean and organize our garage, never able
6 to open our windows for fresh air ever.

7 Here is what you Chiquita Canyon Landfill has
8 done to my daily physical and mental health, headaches,
9 episodes of tremors, shaking internally and externally,
10 excessive fatigue, and yet can't sleep through the night,
11 constricted dry throat no matter how much water I drink,
12 restricted breathing, dizzy and off balance, falling or
13 you tripping a lot, disoriented and confused easily,
14 nauseous stomach with episodes of diarrhea, episodes of
15 feeling like my heart is racing, increased blood pressure,
16 ringing or noise in my ears, burning eyes, irritability,
17 depression and anxiety, petrified to go to the doctor,
18 hopelessness, fear will this every go away.

19 We are living like prisoners, worse than the
20 pandemic. We have skyrocketing electric bills, our
21 quality of life has diminished to just surviving. I cry
22 every day and pray for a miracle. Our property value is
23 gone. Our quality of life is gone. My health is gone and
24 I feel hopeless.

25 CARB needs to immediately require the expanding

1 and installation of landfill gas capture systems earlier
2 and improve surface emissions monitoring, frequency, and
3 coverage. I'm asking CARB to take immediate action to
4 protect families like mine living near landfills. Clean
5 air should not be a luxury. Thank you.

6 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

7 Our last Ruben Rodriguez. I have activated your
8 mic. You may unmute and begin.

9 RUBEN RODRIGUEZ: Awesome. Can you hear me?

10 Can you guys hear me?

11 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Yes, we can hear you.

12 RUBEN RODRIGUEZ: Awesome. I would like to do my
13 own interpretation just to keep it within the flow and not
14 having pauses, if that's a possibility.

15 (Spoke in Spanish.)

16 RUBEN RODRIGUEZ: Thank you for allowing me to
17 translate myself.

18 My name is Ruben Rodriguez. I speak to you today
19 from the unceded land of the indigenous Yokuts also known
20 Coalinga. I want to make it perfectly clear that my
21 comment is not meant to be disrespectful or targeted
22 towards anybody specifically.

23 I want to start off by saying that it is shameful
24 that we continue to receive such a short period of time to
25 share such an important message. Two minutes is not

1 enough. You are hearing individuals share that they are
2 sick and dying. We need more than two minutes to share
3 this truth in an honorable and respectful way. We need
4 those that are supposed to protect us to step up or step
5 back, and allow someone else to step in that will. I
6 think it is important for you to come and visit
7 communities that are asking you for help. I think it is
8 unethical if you were not to push for stronger
9 regulations.

10 We are living in -- living in times where the
11 agencies that are supposed to protect us and defend us
12 have fallen asleep at the wheel. In the community of
13 Avenal, we have documented 230 odor complaints to the air
14 district coming from the regional landfill, from June 2007
15 to September 2022. We are talking about 15 years of
16 documented complaints with only 12 confirmed reports and
17 only one notice of violation issued in those 15 years.

18 I have heard many residents share their truths
19 and say -- and I say to those that allow this corruption
20 to continue shame on you and all that you do. Remember,
21 what the purpose of your job is and who you were meant to
22 represent. And if you find yourself confused in the
23 search for that answer I say to you, I think it might be
24 time for a change of jobs. Maybe look for something with
25 a little less responsibility. We need stronger

1 regulations that are for the benefit of the people and not
2 for favoring the landfill.

3 BOARD CLERK LEVRINI: Thank you.

4 Madam Chair, that concludes our time for
5 commenters. Thank you.

6 CHAIR RANDOLPH: All right. Thank you very much.
7 So I would like our Executive Officer to give us an update
8 on the next steps and process around the landfill methane
9 regulation. I think it's important to -- I want to hear
10 sort of what your plans are but also talk a little bit
11 about kind of the public engagement aspect of it. You
12 know one of the commenters mentioned that there was a
13 workshop in December and there was a lot of industry
14 representation, not as much community representation. And
15 I think, you know, the Challenge is that these -- a lot of
16 folks don't understand how critical these workshops are to
17 the process, because that really is the first step.

18 And so I think it's incumbent upon us to make
19 sure that the community understands the importance of the
20 workshop process and each step of the way. And so maybe
21 you could talk about some strategies for how to involve
22 the community more closely in the process.

23 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: Yeah. Thanks, Chair
24 Randolph. So as I mentioned in the January Board
25 presentation on CARB's priorities, that we plan to update

1 the landfill methane regulation later this year. And so
2 that's on track for this fall. The staff have been doing
3 a variety of workshops, updating -- looking for approaches
4 to how to update especially the monitoring aspects of that
5 regulation. As has been noticed -- noted, there are many
6 new technologies out there. And we've recently
7 established an arrangement to get satellite data as well.
8 And so, those are the types of new data sources that we
9 could incorporate into the regulation for determining when
10 leaks occur and to more quickly address those leaks to
11 reduce the climate impacts of the regulation.

12 The workshops are a critical part of developing
13 any regulatory proposal, not only because we need to hear
14 back from communities, the regulated industry and others
15 about concerns and how regulations can actually be
16 successfully implemented. And because this is a
17 regulation that hasn't been updated in about 15 years,
18 there's also just new things that we'll learn as part of
19 that. There's new staff that are involved. We're
20 developing kind of a new knowledge base here at CARB as
21 well. So, this is for us a really critical item. We're
22 looking forward to bringing that back to the Board later
23 this year. And in addition, committing to more workshops
24 as part of this process and as part of the regulation
25 development.

1 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Is there an opportunity to
2 perhaps have one of those workshops in the community in
3 the area near the landfill?

4 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: Yeah, that's a great
5 idea. I think we could certainly do that. We'd like to
6 reach out to colleagues and other agencies as well to see
7 if they can join us. And really appreciate the members of
8 the Val Verde community coming today, taking time out of
9 their schedule and expressing their concerns. That seems
10 like a place where we could look for a potential community
11 meeting. So we'd like to work with them to see if there's
12 an appropriate venue for doing so.

13 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Yeah. I think that would be a
14 good idea. And to your point engaging the other agencies
15 I think is really important. I know they've been doing a
16 lot of work on this both at the local and the State level,
17 and there's a lot of nuances to, you know, those in a
18 different regulatory frameworks around them. So having
19 some, you know, some participation from them I think would
20 be very good.

21 EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLIFF: Yeah, we'll certainly
22 do that. Thank you.

23 CHAIR RANDOLPH: And thank you to the community
24 for coming and sharing your perspective. We know it's a
25 lot of work and time, so thank you very much.

1 Okay. So we have one last thing to do, which is
2 to honor our former Board member. Davina Hurt.

3 Davina Hurt was appointed to the Board by
4 Governor Newsom in December 2020. Her dedication to
5 public service is exemplified in her commitment to clean
6 air policy and environmental justice. As Chair of the Bay
7 Area Air Quality Management District, she has represented
8 her district on the CARB Board with a keen eye to help
9 shepherd California's transition to zero-emission
10 vehicles. Despite that massive workload at Bay Area, she
11 really rolled up her sleeves at CARB, including her work
12 with former Vice Chair Berg to lead a working group
13 centered around incentive program improvements, her work
14 on the AB 617 Consultation Group, and she was always
15 incredibly accessible to stakeholders in discussing their
16 critical issues that we have to balance.

17 So, I want to express our thanks to you for your
18 work and really express how much we're going to -- we're
19 going to miss you here on the Board.

20 BOARD MEMBER HURT: Thank you. Thank you so much
21 for those words. And I have some prepared words, because
22 I didn't want to tear up and make sure I got everything I
23 wanted to say, because this organization has meant so much
24 to so many people, as well as myself, and has actually
25 inspired me to do the work that I will do in the future

1 around maritime decarbonization.

2 But before I go there, I also want to thank the
3 community, and acknowledge you all for coming out here. I
4 think your presence is very powerful. And I think you all
5 are the reason this work matters. California Air
6 Resources Board isn't just a regulatory body, it's a life
7 line. It is supporting CARB means standing up for health,
8 for justice, and for communities that have been overlooked
9 for far too long. And I always tell folks when I'm out in
10 my community, when you hear the word "CARB", those are the
11 front-line defenders on the environment. And we have got
12 to figure out ways to support and uplift.

13 So to Governor Newsom, my former Board members,
14 our dedicated staff, and most importantly the community
15 members who continue to hold us accountable, serving on
16 the California Air Resources Board has been one of the
17 greatest honors of my career. I stepped into this role as
18 a public servant, an environmental justice advocate, and a
19 mother, a mother determined to protect the air we breathe,
20 and the future we're leaving behind.

21 I now step away even more resolute deeply
22 grounded in the belief that California must continue to
23 lead. In time when Washington, D.C. is rolling back
24 environmental protections and threatening the progress of
25 the environmental justice movement, California stands as

1 the first line of defense. What we're witnessing at the
2 federal level is not just a shift in policy, it is a
3 direct challenge to science, equity, and our shared
4 humanity. And yet, here in California, we persist. We
5 persist because our communities deserve better. We lead
6 because the stakes are too high, and we act urgently and
7 boldly, because the work of protecting our health, our
8 climate, and our future cannot wait.

9 To my fellow Board members, thank you for your
10 courage, collaboration, and your fierce commitment to
11 doing what is right, not just what is easy. To the
12 Governor, thank you for appointing leaders who reflect the
13 full breadth and depth of California's diversity and for
14 holding the line in the face of political headwinds. And
15 to the community, thank you for showing up, for speaking
16 truth to power, and for reminding us that public service
17 is a promise not a position.

18 I'm proud of what we've accomplished together.
19 Chair, you've spoken to some of those things, the
20 implementation of AB 617 to pushing forward our
21 zero-emission transportation goals. These are victories
22 that belong to all of us. And they were hard fought, but
23 I know the road ahead will require even more resolve,
24 creativity, and courage.

25 After this latest election, we stand on the

1 precipice of a new world and I'm reminded of the words of
2 Ruha Benjamin who said, "We must dismantle the worlds that
3 is and imagine the world that could be." Those words live
4 at the heart of why I do this work, why we fight, why we
5 organize, and why we dare to dream of a future shaped by
6 justice and possibility. Ruha Benjamin reminds us that
7 true change is not just about putting new faces on broken
8 systems, it's about reimagining the world entirely,
9 building something new, something that reflects the full
10 diversity, inclusivity, and spirit of belonging that
11 defines the best of who we are.

12 In the coming years, there will be those who drag
13 their feet on the changes we know are necessary. They
14 will point to the cost of living, to technology
15 limitations, or to the burdens our communities face as
16 reasons to delay action. But I want to share something
17 I've learned firsthand during my time at the International
18 Climate Conferences. These challenges are not unique to
19 the Bay Area, or California, or even the United States.
20 People everywhere across borders oceans are grappling with
21 the same crises. The cost of inaction, however, is far
22 greater than the cost of progress. We cannot let fear or
23 inertia become an excuse. We cannot allow economic
24 hardships to be wielded as a reason to deny environmental
25 justice.

1 Instead, we must turn our attention to those with
2 the resources, the power to help us shift the tides. The
3 question is no longer whether we can afford to change, but
4 whether we can afford not to.

5 A I step out this formal role, I do so, not with
6 farewell, but with a renewed commitment. You'll still
7 find me in coalition with all of you in policy rooms and
8 in the community, building a future rooted in justice,
9 science, and a deep love for this planet that we share.

10 And I thank you all for the work that you do and
11 the vision and I will be watching, maybe not for the eight
12 hours I think I've been in the meeting, but definitely
13 here and there. So with gratitude and solidarity, thank
14 you, all.

15 (Applause).

16 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Thank you so much, Davina. We
17 will -- we will miss you very much.

18 Oh, Dr. Balmes, wanted to say a word oh and new
19 Board member, Board Member Hopkins would like to say a
20 word as well.

21 BOARD MEMBER BALMES: Dana, as usual, I'm going
22 to tear up, because I'm really doing to miss you. But as
23 usual, your words were beautiful, right from the heart,
24 and also of impact. And I'm going to miss that most about
25 you, your words at Board meetings. But on another

1 personal level, I'm going to miss you in terms of AB 617
2 Consultation Group, because I wouldn't have survived that
3 group without you. And so thank you for all you did to
4 support me.

5 CHAIR RANDOLPH: Board Member Hopkins.

6 BOARD MEMBER HOPKINS: I promise I will keep this
7 short, because I think I set a record for the long
8 resolution ever in honor of then Chair Hurt at the Bay
9 Area Air Quality Management District and it was because
10 truly, you have accomplished so much. And, you know, you
11 used the word I think fierce, and that is exactly how I
12 would describe you as a fierce and fearless leader, who is
13 always focused on future generations and champions
14 environmental justice.

15 And somehow it feels appropriate that we had an
16 hour and a half of poignant powerful personal testimony
17 before we had the opportunity to honor you, because you
18 have always put community first.

19 And you leave a tremendous legacy of improvements
20 to clean air, but also honestly more powerfully and more
21 important trusting relationships with community, because
22 they were actually genuinely heard and honored by your
23 work. So thank you so much and I can't wait to see what
24 you do next, because I know that you are going to continue
25 to change the world.

1 (Applause).

2 CHAIR RANDOLPH: And with that, the March 27th
3 2025 CARB Board meeting is now adjourned.

4 Thank you.

5 (Thereupon the California Air Resources Board
6 meeting adjourned at 1:47 p.m.)

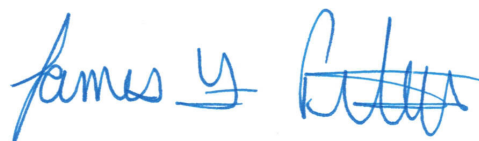
CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, JAMES F. PETERS, a Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of California, do hereby certify:

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

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 11th day of April, 2025.



JAMES F. PETERS, CSR
Certified Shorthand Reporter
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