State of California
Air Resources Board

Assembly Bill 617 Community Air Protection Program

Recommendation to Approve the Community Air Protection Consultation Group Charter and Appoint Members to the Consultation Group

Resolution 26-9

June 25, 2026

Agenda Item No.: 26-4-2

Whereas, sections 39600 and 39601 of the Health and Safety Code authorize the California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) to adopt standards, rules, and regulations, and to do such acts as may be necessary for the proper execution of the powers and duties granted to and imposed upon the Board by law;

Whereas, section 39603 of the Health and Safety Code authorizes CARB to appoint advisory groups and committees;

Whereas, California's air quality programs have led to significant public health improvements; however, in part as a result of historic racist land use and housing practices, certain communities that are more likely to be people of color and low-income, continue to experience environmental and health inequities from air pollution;

Whereas, many of these communities are affected by multiple stationary, area, and mobile sources of air pollution, and are more likely to live near major roadways and suffer disproportionate health impacts;

Whereas, the high cumulative exposure burdens in these communities are a public health concern, contributing to health conditions, such as cardiorespiratory disease, increased cancer risk, and an increased risk of premature death;

Whereas, state law declares that it is necessary that the State ambient air quality standards be attained by the earliest practicable date to protect public health, particularly the health of children, older people, and those with respiratory diseases (California Clean Air Act of 1988, AB 2595, Stats. 1988, Ch. 1568);

Whereas, state law specifies legislative intent that CARB shall coordinate, encourage, and review the efforts of all levels of government as they affect air quality (Health & Saf. Code, § 39500);

Whereas, state and federal law requires CARB in its programs and activities to not discriminate or cause disparate impacts based on protected characteristics, which include race, color, national origin, sex, and age, among others (e.g., Title VI, United States Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d-2000d-7; Gov. Code, §§ 11135 et seq.);

Whereas, State law, known as Assembly Bill (AB) 617 (C. Garcia, Stats. 2017, Ch. 136) and as amended, requires CARB and the air districts to act at the community level to address criteria air pollutants and toxic air contaminants in communities affected by cumulative emissions exposure burdens including to develop a statewide strategy to reduce these pollutant emissions in these communities (Health & Saf. Code, §§ 39607.1, 40920.6, 40920.8, 42400, 42402, 42411, 42705.5, 44391.2, and 44391.5);

Whereas, AB 617 established the Community Air Protection Program (CAPP or Program);

Whereas, AB 617 is a significant step in transforming California's air quality programs to address air pollution disparities at the community level;

Whereas, AB 617 requires an air district containing a community selected for the development of a community emissions reduction program to adopt, in consultation with CARB, individuals, community-based organizations, affected sources, and local governmental bodies, a community emission reduction program (Health & Saf. Code § 44391.2.);

Whereas, AB 617 requires CARB to consult with environmental justice organizations, air districts, affected industry, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), the Scientific Review Panel on Toxic Air Contaminants, and other interested stakeholders in the development of its statewide strategy, known as the Blueprint, to reduce air quality toxic emissions and exposures in communities highly impacted by air pollution (Health & Saf. Code, § 44391.2);

Whereas, in January 2018, CARB first convened a Consultation Group to advise CARB on the development and implementation of the first statewide strategy, the Program Blueprint, for the Program;

Whereas, CARB approved the first Blueprint in September 2018, which guided Program implementation from then until October 2023;

Whereas, a writer's subgroup of environmental justice leaders on the Consultation Group, with CARB providing facilitation and writing support via a consultant, wrote the People's Blueprint which highlights equity, environmental justice, benefits of the co-leadership model, and recommendations to strengthen transparency and accountability for the Program;

Whereas, CARB engaged the Consultation Group about the People's Blueprint and gained feedback that significantly informed the development of Blueprint 2.0, which the Board approved in October 2023;

Whereas, Blueprint 2.0 calls for the reinvigoration of the Consultation Group to expand the representation of its membership to include consistently nominated communities and local government representation;

Whereas, in March 2024, in response to increased member attrition, CARB dissolved the Consultation Group to expand and reinvigorate the group per its commitment in Blueprint 2.0;

Whereas, on June 26, 2025, the Board adopted Resolution 25-5 to appoint 27 members and 13 alternates to the Community Air Protection Consultation Group;

Whereas, since June 2025, two primary members and two alternate members have resigned, and one member was appointed in October 2025, to bring the total number of Consultation Group members to 28;

Whereas, CARB staff reviewed each replacement primary and alternate member candidate's information and responses to assess how well they met the criteria outlined in their Consultation Group member application;

Whereas, CARB staff developed a recommended slate of candidates to propose the appointment of one new primary applicant and five alternates to fill the Community Air Protection Consultation Group vacancies;

Whereas, CARB staff solicited feedback from the Consultation Group in December 2025 to begin finalizing the draft Charter. A subset of Consultation Group members volunteered to work with CARB staff to discuss and incorporate edits into the draft;

Whereas, in February 2026, an Ad Hoc sub quorum of Consultation Group members worked with CARB staff to revise the draft Charter for the Consultation Group;

Whereas, the Consultation Group members provided comments between July 2025 and March 2026, which CARB staff incorporated into the draft Charter;

Whereas, on March 25, 2026, the Consultation Group members voted to approve the draft Charter unanimously;

Whereas, the Charter provides transparency into the Consultation Group's purpose, role, and functions to advise CARB on the implementation of the Community Air Protection Program and Blueprint 2.0;

Whereas, the Charter emphasizes equity and environmental justice by prioritizing overburdened communities, and promoting meaningful community input into Program air quality planning and decisions;

Whereas, CARB staff has determined that the proposed recommendation to approve Consultation Group new primary members and alternates, and the Charter, is not a "project" subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15378, subdivision (a); furthermore, CARB staff has determined that even if the proposed recommendation were a "project" subject to CEQA, it would be exempt under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061, subdivision (b)(3) ("common sense" exemption) because the record evidence shows with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed activity may result in significant adverse impacts on the environment;

Whereas, CARB staff's recommendation for Consultation Group membership includes nine members who represent environmental justice communities, community steering committees (CSC), and consistently nominated communities (CNC); nine members who represent six air districts, two local government agencies, and one tribal government; four members who represent business and industry; two members who represent academia and community

science; and two members who represent CARB's Scientific Review Panel for Air Toxic Contaminants and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA); and

Whereas, all meetings for the Consultation Group are subject to the Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act (Gov. Code, § 11120 et seq.), such that for all meetings of a quorum (majority) of Consultation Group members, CARB will issue a notice of agenda items released 10 days in advance of the meeting, the public must be allowed to attend and given an opportunity for public comment on agenda items, and CARB and the Consultation Group must meet all other procedural requirements of the Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the following individuals selected for participation as members of the Community Air Protection Consultation Group are hereby approved by the Board:

1. Primary – Natasha Dulik

   San Diego Association of Governments

2. Alternate – Ismael Garcia

   Imperial County Air Pollution Control District

3. Alternate – Kirstin Kolpitcke

   California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance

4. Alternate – David Edwards

   Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

5. Alternate – Lizette Ruiz

   Southeast Los Angeles CSC

6. Alternate – Charisma Acey

   University of California, Berkeley

Be it further resolved that the Board hereby approves the proposed Consultation Group Charter.

Be it further resolved that the Board finds that the proposed selection of applicants to the Community Air Protection Consultation Group is exempt from CEQA under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061(b)(3) because substantial evidence in the record shows with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposal may result in a significant adverse impact on the environment.

Be it further resolved that the Board directs the Executive Officer to provide staff support as appropriate and consistent with State and federal law, and available resources for the operation of the Committee.

Be it further resolved that the Board shall reimburse reasonable per diem and travel expenses, consistent with section 39603(a)(2) of the Health and Safety Code and State travel policy, for member's attendance at Committee meetings hosted by CARB that are subject to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Gov. Code § 11120 et seq.) or attendance at meetings pursuant to a CARB request.

I hereby certify that the above is a true
and correct copy of Resolution 26-9,
as adopted by the Air Resources Board.

Catalina French 2026-06-26

Catalina French, Clerk of the Board