

## **CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD**

### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO CONSIDER ASSEMBLY BILL 617 COMMUNITY AIR PROTECTION PROGRAM – COMMUNITY EMISSIONS REDUCTION PROGRAM FOR THE EL CENTRO-HEBER-CALEXICO CORRIDOR**

The California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) will conduct a public meeting at the time and place noted below to consider the Community Emissions Reduction Program for the El Centro-Heber-Calexico Corridor.

DATE: January 15, 2020

TIME: 4:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Old Eucalyptus Schoolhouse  
796 West Evan Hewes Highway  
El Centro, California 92243

This item will be considered at a meeting of the Board, which will commence at 4:00 p.m., January 15, 2020.

#### **Background**

Assembly Bill (AB) 617 (C. Garcia, Chapter 136, 2017) was signed into law in July 2017. CARB established the Community Air Protection Program (Program) to implement AB 617, which requires new community-focused action to reduce air pollution and improve public health in communities that experience disproportionate burdens from exposure to air pollutants. On September 27, 2018, the Board selected ten communities for the first year of this program to implement community emissions reduction programs, community air monitoring, or both. At the same meeting, the Board also approved the “Community Air Protection Blueprint” (Blueprint), which contains detailed requirements for community emissions reduction programs, community air monitoring plans, and other elements of the Program.

Once CARB selects a community to develop a community emissions reduction program, the applicable air district must develop and adopt the community emissions reduction program within one year of selection based on input from a community steering committee. The air district must then submit the community emissions reduction program to CARB for consideration.

CARB selected the El Centro-Heber-Calexico Corridor in Imperial County for a community emissions reduction program as one of the first ten communities in 2018. The Imperial County Air Pollution Control District (ICAPCD) partnered with Comité Cívico del Valle (CCV) to form a community steering committee and develop the

*Imperial County Year 1 Community Emissions Reduction Program Plan for the El Centro-Heber-Calexico Corridor (Plan)* to reduce exposure to air pollution in the El Centro-Heber-Calexico Corridor. The Imperial County Board of Supervisors approved the Plan on October 8, 2019.

CARB staff have reviewed the Plan to determine whether it: complies with the minimum criteria the legislation and the Blueprint established for community emissions reduction programs; reflects community priorities; and sets a foundation to deliver emissions and exposure reductions in the El Centro-Heber-Calexico Corridor. CARB staff also held a community meeting in Imperial on November 13, 2019, to hear directly from El Centro-Heber-Calexico Corridor community members and other stakeholders on their perspectives on the Plan. CARB staff have released the El Centro-Heber-Calexico Corridor Community Emissions Reduction Program Staff Report, which contains a summary of CARB staff's review of the Plan and staff recommendations to the Board.

### **Environmental Analysis**

CARB, as the responsible agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for approval of the Plan (Proposed Project), has prepared findings under its certified regulatory program (California Code of Regulations, title 17, sections 60000 through 60008) to comply with the requirements of CEQA (Public Resources Code section 21080.5). CEQA Guidelines, section 15096 dictates the responsible agency's role when reviewing a project that has been approved by a lead agency. Specifically, CARB, in approving a project, has responsibility for mitigating or avoiding only the direct or indirect environmental effects of those parts of the project which it decides to carry out, finance or approve. As such, since CARB is considering carrying out the Proposed Project's CARB implementation measures identified in Table 1 in Attachment C to the resolution (CARB Measures), CARB must independently review the CARB Measures for consistency with CEQA.

CARB staff has considered the Final Programmatic Environmental Analysis for the State Strategy for the State Implementation Plan (SIP Strategy EA), State Clearinghouse Number 2015102011, and the Final Environmental Analysis for the Community Air Protection Blueprint (Blueprint EA), State Clearinghouse Number 2018022025, which it certified in March 2017 and September 2018, respectively, to determine whether the CARB Measures, are within the scope of the SIP Strategy and Blueprint EAs and require no further environmental review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15168. CARB staff is proposing that the Board find that the CARB Measures are within the scope of the Community Air Protection Blueprint and State Strategy for the State Implementation Plan planning documents and the associated programmatic Environmental Analyses adequately describes the CARB measures for the purposes of CEQA. (14 California Code of Regulations § 15168(e)(1)-(2)). The full findings to support this "within the scope" analysis is in Attachment C to the Board's resolution. CEQA does not require CARB to circulate its CEQA "within the scope" determination for public comment. While the public may comment on CARB's CEQA

determination, CARB may, but is not required, to respond to public comments before Board action.

### **Proposed Action**

The Board will hear about the contents of the Plan and consider CARB staff's recommendations for Board action contained in the El Centro-Heber-Calexico Corridor Community Emissions Reduction Program Staff Report.

Copies of the El Centro-Heber-Calexico Corridor Community Emissions Reduction Program Staff Report may be obtained from CARB's Public Information Office, 1001 I Street, First Floor, Environmental Services Center, Sacramento, California, 95814, December 18, 2019. The Staff Report may also be obtained from CARB's website at <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/community-air-protection-program>.

Interested members of the public may present comments orally or in writing at the meeting and may provide comments by postal mail or by electronic submittal before the meeting. To be considered by the Board, written comments not physically submitted at the meeting, must be received **no later than January 7, 2020**, and addressed to the following:

Postal mail: Clerks' Office, California Air Resources Board  
1001 I Street, Sacramento, California 95814

Electronic submittal: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/lispub/comm/bclist.php>

Please note that under the California Public Records Act (Government Code section 6250 et seq.), your written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (e.g., your address, phone, email, etc.) become part of the public record and can be released to the public upon request.

CARB requests that written statements on this item be filed at least ten days prior to the meeting so that CARB staff and Board members have additional time to consider each comment. Further inquiries regarding this matter should be directed to Andrea Juarez, Air Pollution Specialist, State Strategy Section, at (626) 450-6158 or Laura Zaremba-Schmidt, Air Resources Engineer, State Strategy Section, at (626) 459-4394.

### **SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION REQUEST**

Consistent with California Government Code Section 7296.2, special accommodation or language needs may be provided for any of the following:

- An interpreter to be available at the meeting;
- Documents made available in an alternate format or another language; and
- A disability-related reasonable accommodation.



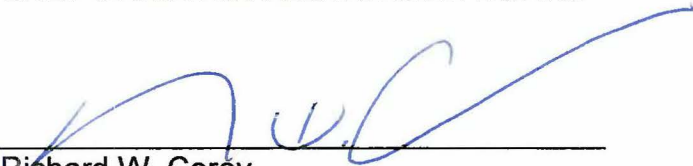
To request these special accommodations or language needs, please contact the Clerks' Office at (916) 322-5594 or by facsimile at (916) 322-3928 as soon as possible, but no later than ten business days before the scheduled Board meeting. TTY/TDD/Speech to Speech users may dial 711 for the California Relay Service.

Consecuente con la sección 7296.2 del Código de Gobierno de California, una acomodación especial o necesidades lingüísticas pueden ser suministradas para cualquiera de los siguientes:

- Un intérprete que esté disponible en la audiencia;
- Documentos disponibles en un formato alternativo u otro idioma; y
- Una acomodación razonable relacionados con una incapacidad.

Para solicitar estas comodidades especiales o necesidades de otro idioma, por favor llame a la oficina del Consejo al (916) 322-5594 o envíe un fax a (916) 322-3928 lo más pronto posible, pero no menos de diez días de trabajo antes del día programado para la audiencia del Consejo. TTY/TDD/Personas que necesiten este servicio pueden marcar el 711 para el Servicio de Retransmisión de Mensajes de California.

CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD

  
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Richard W. Corey  
Executive Officer

Date: December 18, 2019

*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website at [www.arb.ca.gov](http://www.arb.ca.gov).*