

California Air Resources Board

Notice of Public Meeting to Consider Assembly Bill 617 Community Air Protection Program – Fourth Annual Selection of Communities

The California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) will conduct a public meeting at the date and time noted below to consider selecting additional communities under the Community Air Protection Program. This item is scheduled for the following date and time:

Date: February 10, 2022

Time: No earlier than 4:00 p.m.

Please see the Public Agenda which will be posted ten days before the February 10, 2022, Board Meeting for any appropriate direction regarding a possible remote-only Board Meeting. This item will be considered at the meeting of the Board, which will commence no earlier than 4:00 p.m., February 10, 2022.

Background

California's air quality programs continue to significantly improve public health statewide through various measures such as regional air quality planning, advancements in technology-based solutions, and risk reduction efforts near industrial facilities. However, despite these efforts across the State, certain communities, particularly low-income and communities of color, continue to experience environmental and health inequities from air and other forms of pollution. For example, 91% of the population that makes up the 10% most impacted census tracts, as ranked by the State's "California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool" (CalEnviroScreen), are people of color.

Communities near ports, rail yards, warehouses, and freeways continue to experience a higher burden of air pollution than other areas due to emissions from mobile sources such as cars, trucks, locomotives, and ships, while many also experience pollution impacts from stationary facilities such as oil refineries, oil and gas operations, chrome platers, and metal recycling facilities. Many rural communities contend with similar impacts as well as agricultural burning, fugitive dust and high pesticide use. Residents in these communities are also more vulnerable to the effects of cumulative exposure, as indicated by disparities in health and socio-economic indicators.

AB 617 (C. Garcia, Stats. 2017, Ch. 136) requires that the Board "shall adopt a

statewide strategy to reduce emissions of toxic air contaminants and criteria air pollutants in communities affected by a high cumulative exposure burden.” (Health and Safety Code § 44391.2(b).) The statute also requires CARB to annually consider selection of communities for the development and implementation of community air monitoring systems and/or community emissions reduction programs. In response to this statutory charge, CARB established the Community Air Protection Program (Program). Fifteen communities have been selected by the CARB Board and are currently implementing the Program.

Annual consideration of communities has been a constant since an initial 10 communities were selected in 2018. CARB staff are preparing for a transition year in 2022 to expand the number of communities receiving benefits from the program by applying lessons learned and developing additional actions as part of its statewide strategy. At the Board Meeting on February 10, 2022, the Board will hear staff’s recommendations for selection of additional communities into the Program. CARB staff’s recommendation is based on statutory requirements, the Board’s prior direction, community nominations received to date, lessons learned from communities in the program, and funding levels provided by the Legislature for Program implementation. Future Board items will focus on an update to the statewide strategy, including plans for developing actions to expand program benefits to more communities.

CARB, as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has reviewed the *Fourth Annual Community Air Protection Program Recommendations Staff Report* and concluded that the recommendations are exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15061(b)(3) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed action may result in significant adverse impact on the environment. A brief explanation of the basis for this conclusion may be found in the *Fourth Annual Community Air Protection Program Recommendations Staff Report*.

Proposed Action

CARB staff will present the *Fourth Annual Community Air Protection Program Recommendations Staff Report* at the meeting. The Board will act on staff’s recommendations for the selection of additional communities for the deployment of air monitoring systems and/or community emissions reduction programs. The report may be accessed from CARB’s website at <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/capp-selection> no later than January 19, 2022.

Because of current travel, facility, and staffing restrictions, the California Air Resources Board’s offices have limited public access. Please contact Bradley Bechtold, Regulations Coordinator, at Bradley.bechtold@arb.ca.gov or (279) 208-7266 if you need physical copies of the report.

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 Monday, January 31, 2022**, 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 Laura Zaremba-Schmidt, Air Resources Engineer at (951) 542-3436 or Adriana Hernandez, Air Pollution Specialist at (951) 542-3490 (Spanish).

Live Video/Audio Webcast

A live internet broadcast (webcast) will be available for the meeting. The webcast can be accessed on the day of the meeting at:
<https://www.cal-span.org>.

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 cotb@arb.ca.gov 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 cotb@arb.ca.gov 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



Richard W. Corey
Executive Officer

Date: January 19, 2022