

# California Air Resources Board

## Notice of Public Meeting to Consider the AB 617 Community Air Protection Program Statewide Strategy Update (Blueprint 2.0) and to Hear an Informational Update on the Community Air Protection Incentives Guidelines

The California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) will conduct a public meeting at the date and time noted below to consider approval of the first update to the Assembly Bill (AB) 617 Community Air Protection Program Statewide Strategy (Blueprint 2.0).

Date: October 26, 2023

Time: No earlier than 4:00 P.M.

In-Person Location:

California Air Resources Board  
Byron Sher Auditorium  
1001 I Street, Sacramento, California 95814

Remote Option:

Zoom

This public meeting may continue at 9:00 a.m., on October 27, 2023. Please consult the public agenda, which will be posted ten days before the October 26, 2023, Board Meeting, for important details, including the day on which this item will be considered and how the public can participate via Zoom if they choose to be remote.

## Background

The Board will consider approval of the update to the AB 617 Statewide Strategy, also known as the *Community Air Protection Program Blueprint 2.0 (Blueprint 2.0)*.

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, certain communities, particularly low-income and communities of color, still experience environmental and health inequities from air and other forms of pollution. AB 617 (C. Garcia, Stats. 2017, Ch. 136) was signed into law in July 2017. AB 617 requires new community-focused action to reduce health-harming emissions of toxic air contaminants and

criteria air pollutants in communities affected by a high cumulative exposure burden. CARB established the [Community Air Protection Program](#) (Program) to implement AB 617.

AB 617 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 statewide strategy, also referred to as the Program Blueprint, was adopted by the Board in September 2018, and guides AB 617 implementation. The statute requires CARB to update the statewide strategy every five years.

As part of the initial effort to develop concepts for the Blueprint update from environmental justice perspectives, CARB supported the development of the [People's Blueprint](#). The [AB 617 Consultation Group's](#) discussion of the [People's Blueprint](#) over 12 months from September 2021 to September 2022 began a robust and innovative engagement process to develop Blueprint 2.0. Engagement and outreach efforts to inform the Blueprint 2.0 revision began in Summer of 2022 and continued into September 2023 through focused small group discussions, three public workshops, and discussions in public meetings with the AB 617 Consultation Group. A [Draft Blueprint 2.0](#) was released on June 2, 2023, and was open for public comment until July 31, 2023.

The *Final Draft Blueprint 2.0* includes two parts:

Part One details the Statewide Strategy – a strategic plan to support the Program's focus on community-level toxic air contaminant and criteria air pollutant cumulative burdens over the next five years. Part One includes a vision, mission, guiding principles, goals, and priority actions that CARB commits to over the next five years.

Part Two offers practical guidance for partners to actively engage in improving air quality at the local level in the Program and in other CARB programs. Part Two provides guidance for air districts, communities, affected industries, and other potential partners on how to implement each component of the Statewide Strategy. This includes the legal foundation and program elements (statutory requirements under AB 617 and other laws), requirements for both CARB and air districts, recommendations for stakeholders working together in the program, as well as recommendations on transparency and accountability, the implementation of Community Air Monitoring Plans and Community Emissions Reduction Programs, and new pathways for communities and stakeholders to tap into resources and partnerships through this Program.

The *Final Draft Blueprint 2.0* reflects the experiences and lessons learned by community leaders and air districts and CARB staff in implementing the Community Air Protection Program over its first five years, while capturing new ideas and pathways for bringing additional benefits to more communities statewide over the next five years of implementation. If the Blueprint 2.0 is adopted in 2023, the next update to the Statewide Strategy would be required by 2028.

The Board will also hear an informational update on staff's efforts in working on updates to the Community Air Protection Incentives Guidelines (Guidelines) in parallel with development of the [Final Draft Blueprint 2.0](#). Updates to these Guidelines are centered around expanding project options statewide to include incentives-based measures developed by air districts to meet strategies in their Community Emissions Reduction Programs and enabling the types of projects that are available in selected communities to be replicated by air districts in all

disadvantaged and low-income communities statewide. These Guidelines updates are expected to be released by early 2024.

## Proposed Action

CARB released the *Final Draft Blueprint 2.0* to the public on September 29, 2023, and CARB staff will present it to the Board at this meeting. Documents related to this item can be found at <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/draftbp2pt0>. Please contact Bradley Bechtold, Regulations Coordinator, at [Bradley.Bechtold@arb.ca.gov](mailto:Bradley.Bechtold@arb.ca.gov) or (279) 208-7266 if you need physical copies of the documents.

Interested members of the public may present comments orally or in writing during 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 submitted during the meeting, must be received **no later than October 16, 2023**, 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 7920.000 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.

Further inquiries regarding this matter should be directed to Andrea Juarez, Air Pollution Specialist, at (951) 542-3222 or Brian Moore, Air Resources Supervisor I, at (916) 264-9721.

## Environmental Analysis

When the Community Air Protection Blueprint was proposed in 2018, CARB prepared an environmental analysis (EA) under its certified regulatory program (California Code of Regulations, title 17, sections 60000 through 60008) to comply with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Public Resources Code section 21080.5). The EA, included in Appendix G of the Community Air Protection Blueprint entitled *Appendix G: Final Environmental Analysis Prepared for the Proposed Final Draft Community Air Protection Blueprint*, dated September 14, 2018, determined the 2018 Blueprint could result in adverse impacts to aesthetics, agricultural and forest resources, air quality biological resources, cultural resources, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, transportation and traffic, utilities and service systems, and geology, seismicity, and soils. Staff has determined that, pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15162, a subsequent EA to the 2018 EA is not required for the current proposed amendments because there are no changes that involve new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in severity of previously identified significant effects than previously identified in the prior 2018 EA.

## 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 hearing;
- Documents made available in an alternate format or another language; and
- A disability-related reasonable accommodation.

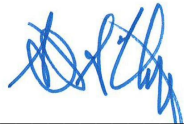
To request these special accommodations or language needs, please contact the Clerks' Office at [cotb@arb.ca.gov](mailto:cotb@arb.ca.gov) or (916) 322-5594 as soon as possible, but no later than ten business days before the scheduled Board hearing. TTY/TDD/Speech to Speech users may dial 711 for the 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 [cotb@arb.ca.gov](mailto:cotb@arb.ca.gov) o (916) 322-5594 lo m?s pronto posible, pero no menos de 10 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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Steven S. Cliff, Ph.D.  
Executive Officer

Date: September 29, 2023

*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 [CARB's website](http://www.arb.ca.gov) (www.arb.ca.gov).*