

California Air Resources Board

Notice of Public Meeting to Consider Fifth Annual Community Recommendations and Update the Board on the Annual Assembly Bill 617 Implementation Memorandum

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 and receive an update on the Annual Assembly Bill (AB) 617 Implementation Memorandum. This item is scheduled for the following date and time:

Date: February 23, 2023

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

This public meeting may continue at 8:30 A.M., on February 24, 2023. Please consult the public agenda, which will be posted ten days before the February 23, 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

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 impacted 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 the Board to "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 the selection of communities for the development and implementation of community air monitoring systems and/or community emissions reduction programs. In response to these statutory charges, CARB established the Community Air Protection Program (Program) and adopted the Program Blueprint as the statewide strategy guidance document. Seventeen communities have been selected by the CARB Board since 2018. These communities as well as air districts, other communities, and stakeholders have roles in implementing elements of the Program.

Annual consideration of communities has been a constant since an initial 10 communities were selected in 2018. At the Board Meeting on February 23, 2023, the Board will hear staff's recommendations for selection of two 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.

CARB, as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has reviewed the *Fifth Annual Community Air Protection Program Recommendations Staff Report* and concluded that the recommendations are exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14 § 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 *Fifth Annual Community Air Protection Program Recommendations Staff Report*.

AB 617 Implementation Update

CARB staff's presentation will include an update on the development of the Annual AB 617 Implementation Memorandum. This update will summarize staff's draft progress report (attachment), which highlights the efforts on community selection, enforcement, resources, related tools for communities, next steps to update the Program statewide strategy (also known as the Program Blueprint), and actions to incorporate new concepts for re-envisioning the Program.

Proposed Action

CARB staff will present the *Fifth Annual Community Air Protection Program*

Recommendations Staff Report at the meeting. The Board will consider approving 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 20, 2023.

Because of current travel, facility, and staffing restrictions, CARB's offices have limited public access. Please contact [Bradley Bechtold](#), Regulations Coordinator, at 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 than Monday, February 13, 2023**, and addressed to the following:

Postal mail: California Air Resources Board,
Clerks' Office
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 (Gov. Code §§ 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 Zarembo-Schmidt, Staff Air Pollution Specialist at (951) 542-3436, or Andrea Juarez, Air Pollution Specialist at (951) 542-3222 (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



Steven S. Cliff, Ph.D.
Executive Officer

Date: January 24, 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).