

## CHARACTERISTICS UNIQUE TO WEST OAKLAND PROCESS COMPARED TO THOSE REQUIRED BY THE CARB'S AB 617 BLUEPRINT

- **A Charter** is required by the Blueprint. The West Oakland Charter, however, is based on a contractual partnering agreement developed through activist collaboration in West Oakland with the USEPA Region 9. The partnering agreement structure and its principles, goals, and definition of roles for involved parties are now incorporated into CARB's AB 617 nomenclature. The West Oakland Charter is an example of a community-based model made formal public policy and may serve as a model for other AB 617 communities.
- **The Blueprint requires that community be an “active partner.”** The West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project (**WOEIP**, non-profit process partner), goes further and requires equal participation and representation in leadership roles and all activities.

“Most importantly, underpinning AB 617 is the understanding that community members must be active partners in envisioning, developing, and implementing actions to clean up the air in their communities” (page 2). CARB Blueprint.

- **The Blueprint mandates that communities will work together with Air Districts but does not specify how this will happen.** The West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project (non-profit lead) has introduced a consensus-based process called the Collaborative Problem-Solving model. This is the official method used by the Environmental Justice Division of the USEPA.
- **The Blueprint states that Air Districts will convene Steering Committees.** In the West Oakland process, WOEIP conducted outreach to recruit Steering Committee members. As one WOEIP co-director explained, “The community should convene the Steering Committee because whomever does the convening has power to shape the process agenda. The agencies [Air Districts] should provide communities with the assets needed to do this convening and to do so effectively. The moment an agency decides to do it themselves is a moment of community disempowerment.”

“...to create new, and foster existing, local partnerships, air districts will be responsible for convening a community steering committee using an open and transparent nomination process. The community steering committee will include community members who live, work, or own businesses within communities designated for focused action through community emissions reduction programs and community air monitoring, with the majority representation from community residents” (page 6). CARB Blueprint.

- **The Blueprint requires that local AB 617 processes be inclusive but does not specify how to operationalize inclusivity.** WOEIP uses the Collaborative Problem-Solving method to structure the engagement process. This method includes mechanisms such as consensus decision-making, neutral facilitation, and a co-lead structure that helps promote equity and distribute power equally between involved parties.
- **The Blueprint asks that solutions generated from AB 617 are above and beyond the existing State and regional programs but does not specify how this might be accomplished.** Community-originated ideas can be one successful method. “Unique processes and outcomes require unique approaches. This speaks directly the opening of the process to community perspective. Informed community members contributing to the process can generate original ideas. WOEIP's inclusion of land use for air pollution mitigation is original. It is a side door into getting the City to take more responsibility. When you get to unique strategy, they will never come out of established authority.”

“Identification of new actions that are above and beyond existing State and regional programs” (page 28). CARB Blueprint.