

January 30, 2018
AB 617 Consultation Group Kickoff Meeting
SUMMARY

Consultation Group Members in Attendance

Alan Abbs, CAPCOA
Gustavo Aguirre Jr, CCEJN (conference call)
Martha Dina Argüello, PSR-LA (conference call)
Dr. John Balmes (Chair), CARB
Jack Broadbent, BAAQMD
Ms. Margaret Gordon, WOEIP (conference call)
Kevin Hamilton, CCAC
Bonnie Holmes-Gen, ALA
Roger Isom, CCGGA (conference call)
Dr. Michael Kleinman, SRP (conference call)
Jesse Marquez, LACEEN
Kate Meis, LGC
Wayne Nastri, SCAQMD
Luis Olmedo, CCV
Dr. Penelope (Jenny) Quintana, SDSU (conference call)
Cathy Reheis-Boyd, WSPA
Seyed Sadredin, SJVAPCD
Deidre Sanders
Janet Whittick, CCEEB (conference call)

Highlights

1. Mechanics of the Group

After introductions, the members discussed the purpose and role of the Consultation Group. CARB staff indicated the Consultation Group is not a decision-making body, but provides an opportunity for dialogue amongst members representing a variety of perspectives that are important to implementation of AB 617. Members discussed and provided the following suggestions:

- Ensuring transparency and accountability through documentation of the meeting discussions, webcasting, and multiple opportunities for public comment throughout the meeting.
- Defining metrics for evaluating the effectiveness of the Consultation Group.
- Using the Consultation Group as a sounding board and sharing lessons learned.
- Determining whether the Consultation Group should be seeking consensus, with both support for and concerns expressed about this approach, including a

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suggestion that meeting summaries characterize the range and intensity of discussion.

- Identifying specific objectives and products expected from the Consultation Group.
- Holding longer meetings to allow more time for discussion and dialogue and in different locations to facilitate participation.
- Providing an opportunity for the Consultation Group to review materials before being released publicly.

Action Items/Response:

- CARB will develop a proposed charter for the Consultation Group.
- CARB will develop meeting summary materials.
- CARB will rotate future meetings through different areas of the State and schedule longer meetings to provide time for more in-depth discussion and dialogue.

2. Expanded Outline for Concept Paper

CARB staff presented a short overview of the Expanded Outline for the Concept Paper. The Consultation Group provided several overall suggestions and had focused discussion on various elements of the Expanded Outline as described below:

- Recommendation to post an FAQ related to AB 617 on the website.
- Consider further discussion of the guiding principles.
- Leverage resources and learn from each other's efforts.

A. Identification and Selection of Communities

Factors and data sources for characterizing cumulative exposure:

The discussion included questions related to whether the assessment would be on air-related vulnerabilities or include other factors such as climate vulnerability and water; the role of CalEnviroScreen; and whether factors contributing to cumulative exposure will be weighted. CARB staff indicated the proposed weight of evidence approach is not a quantitative ranking, but rather an overall assessment of communities that are most impacted by multiple factors. Other specific recommendations included:

- Incorporation of factors characterizing health outcomes.
- Incorporation of data sources that reflect the impacts of both stationary and mobile sources.
- Providing guidance on how community boundaries should be defined.

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Community selection process:

Members asked about CARB's role with respect to selecting communities. CARB staff described that air districts and communities will provide recommendations based on the process and criteria proposed by CARB. These recommendations will be reviewed and presented to the CARB Board in September 2018.

B. Strategies to Reduce Emissions and Exposure and Criteria for Community Emissions Reduction Programs

Overall approach:

The discussion included recommendations that the emission reduction programs should be tailored to the individual community, not a one-size-fits-all template, and that solutions should be tied to the specific pollutants of concern. Additional discussion centered on using lessons learned and data from initial communities to support a broader set of communities; inclusion of metrics to evaluate the overall success of the program; and strong guidance to foster partnerships, build trust, and provide accountability.

Health-based Indicators:

There was broad discussion of the role of health-based targets and metrics and establishing health baselines within communities. Many members felt this was a key aspect of the program with respect to improving public health. Others expressed concern about expanding the scope of the program and confidentiality of health data. There was also discussion about the availability of data and the role of other factors that impact public health in addition to air pollution. Other recommendations included:

- Benefits of health impact assessments compared to health risk assessments.
- Ability to provide early warnings.
- Bringing in local public health officers.
- Developing a mid-way approach allowing for consideration of health impacts while also responding to challenges, complexities and limitations for air districts to assess health.

Strategy Recommendations:

The discussion included support for building from current programs, identifying where the gaps are in current regulations, thinking creatively beyond the existing regulatory framework and looking at different approaches than existing regional programs. Specific strategy suggestions/criteria included:

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- Maximize solutions that provide multiple benefits.
- Include urban greening, complete streets, active transportation.
- Include enforceable agreements.
- Role of enforcement to ensure limits are obeyed.
- Importance of regulations and how to regulate at the very local level.

Process for community engagement and partnerships:

The discussion included recommendations that community groups should have the opportunity to develop solutions specific to their community. With respect to outreach, there was discussion of how air districts should engage with communities. Discussion focused on ensuring engagement did not over-tax community members. For example, coordinate timing of outreach with other activities (rulemakings, district meetings, etc.). Members from the South Coast, Bay Area, and San Joaquin Valley air districts described their upcoming community outreach efforts including web sites and community meetings and workshops.

C. Criteria for Community Air Monitoring

The discussion included recommendations that many communities have sufficient data to identify and implement solutions, that monitoring and community emissions reduction programs do not need to be mutually exclusive, and that monitoring conducted as part of AB 617 should be focused on supporting specific actions to reduce emissions and exposure. Many members also emphasized the importance of including community-based science. CARB will provide guidance and criteria to ensure effective community air monitoring. Other specific discussion items and recommendations included:

- Not all pollutants can be monitored at the community-level with granularity.
- Data access and presentation is important.
- Monitor placement is also important to understand what is being measured.
- Monitoring should consider episodic sources of emissions, e.g. unique events or explosions.
- New monitoring should inform selection of future communities.

Parking Lot Discussion Items:

- Health metric and tracking.
- Assessment of how different monitoring methodologies can support action.
- Local authorities and role of CEQA.

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CARB Response to Recommendations:

Based on the discussion at the Consultation Group CARB staff made the following changes and additions to the Concept Paper:

- Expanded the list of potential strategies to include:
 - Strategies that support development of more sustainable communities such as reductions in vehicle miles traveled, active transportation, and urban greening.
 - Enforceable agreements.
- Expanded text on the role that CalEnviroscreen will play as an initial screening tool in identifying communities, with an emphasis on evaluating air quality related impacts and parameters as part of additional analysis.
- Added text on the role of health outcomes/indicators and the need for additional data and funding to support improved tracking.
- Added text throughout the document that the criteria for Community Emissions Reduction Programs are designed to ensure a consistent standard of quality and rigor, but the solutions for each community will vary based on the nature of the air quality challenge and contributing sources.
- Expanded discussion on a strong and effective enforcement program as an important element of each Community Emissions Reduction Program.
- Added text that as new data is collected (including from community air monitoring) it will inform the assessment and identification of communities in future years as part of an annual update.
- Expanded text on how different types of air monitoring data can be used to support various types of decision-making, the importance of providing strong criteria for monitoring plan development to provide robust data, and how we can learn and build from existing efforts.
- Added a guiding principle to emphasize the importance of leveraging resources and taking advantage of each other's lessons learned, and underscored this throughout the document.