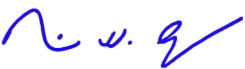


To: Mary D. Nichols, Chair  
Honorable Board Members

From: Richard W. Corey   
Executive Officer

Date: December 23, 2020

Subject: ANNUAL UPDATE ON AB 617 IMPLEMENTATION

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During the September 2020 California Air Resources Board (CARB) Meetings, the Board heard Assembly Bill (AB) 617 community emissions reduction program (CERP) updates. CARB staff, air district staff, and community stakeholders summarized progress made during this first year of implementation. Since the September Board Meetings, air districts have publicly posted annual reports on the status of the CERPs. This memo serves as a supplemental update, now that the annual reports are available.

AB 617 requires that air districts prepare an annual report for each CERP. CARB's Community Air Protection Blueprint (Blueprint) describes the required content, public noticing, and timing of the annual reports prepared by air districts. This is the first year that districts are required to prepare annual reports, and the first time that CARB staff have compiled this reported information for the Board.

The seven communities selected in 2018 for a CERP are the first to be required to provide annual reports. The links to the seven annual reports submitted by the air districts are attached to this memorandum and include:

- West Oakland,
- South Central Fresno,
- Shafter,
- San Bernardino/Muscoy,
- East Los Angeles/Boyle Heights/West Commerce,
- Wilmington/Carson/West Long Beach, and
- El Centro/Heber/Calexico.

In addition to the annual reports provided by the air districts for the seven communities selected for a CERP in 2018, for this update, CARB staff also summarize overall progress made in (1) program implementation, (2) statewide emissions reduction strategies, and (3) statewide supporting tools and resources.

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### **Program Implementation**

The Board selected communities for participation in two prior calendar years, 2018 and 2019. To date, thirteen communities have been selected by the Board to participate in the Community Air Protection Program (Program): two communities were selected for a community air monitoring plan only; one was selected for a CERP only; and ten communities were selected for both an air monitoring plan and a CERP. Each community has developed or is developing its respective plans.

Early actions to realize emissions reductions have been achieved through implementation of the AB 617 Community Air Protection Incentives. As of August 2020, \$211 million has been executed in over 1,600 statewide projects, yielding 490 tons of fine particulate matter reductions – the equivalent of removing 500 heavy-duty trucks from California’s roads and highways - and 10,500 tons of nitrogen oxide reductions– the equivalent of removing 6,000 passenger cars. Significantly, 92% of these funds are dedicated to projects that provide direct and meaningful benefits in disadvantaged and low-income communities.

CARB is required by statute to update the Blueprint every five years with public consultation. Now that the Program has been through its first full cycle of community selection and CERP development, key stakeholders such as steering committee members, community-based organizations, and the AB 617 Consultation Group have requested an update based upon practical application of the guidance. As with any new program, it was not possible to anticipate every issue that could be addressed in the first version of the Blueprint and, as such, CARB staff support updating the Blueprint. CARB has received a substantial list of community-proposed revisions. The AB 617 Consultation Group formed a subcommittee to incorporate these revisions, and is working on identifying and recommending changes to the Blueprint. This work is expected to continue into 2021 and will be presented for public comment and to the Board for consideration.

Each community steering committee has its own unique group dynamics, preferred methods for conducting meetings, frequency of meeting, decision-making process, etc. The committees of the seven 2018 communities with Board-approved CERPs have continued to meet with varying frequencies based on the preference of the committee and also have varying levels of involvement in the implementation. For example, West Oakland, South Central Fresno, and Shafter continue to meet monthly and have created several subcommittees focused on implementation of specific CERP strategies. Some committees have opted to meet less often and to be less directly involved in implementation of the measures.

### **Statewide Emissions Reduction Strategies**

Community-scale air pollution exposure is caused by many factors, including the cumulative impacts from multiple pollution sources. Effective solutions require multiple strategies at both the statewide and local level to deliver new emissions reductions directly within these communities.

The CARB Board has adopted a number of comprehensive statewide air quality and climate plans over the last several years that lay out new emissions reduction strategies. Along with a suite of incentive programs, these plans include:

- State Strategy for the State Implementation Plan, including CARB's 2020 Mobile Source Strategy,
- California Sustainable Freight Action Plan,
- California's 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan, and
- Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Reduction Strategy.

In October 2018, the initial Board-approved Blueprint further identified additional actions to reduce the air pollution burden in heavily impacted communities throughout the State (Table 1). In addition to the measures included in the Blueprint, CARB continues to take new regulatory actions and support existing regulatory goals that will reduce emissions in the State's most disadvantaged communities (Table 2). The tables below (also available on [CARB's website](#)) illustrate CARB's statewide role in the Community Air Protection Program, describing the foundational actions and status of the steps CARB has taken to reduce community-level emissions statewide.

**Table 1. Statewide strategies to reduce emissions that are included in Blueprint.**

<b>Statewide Strategies from Blueprint (Appendix F)</b>	<b>Status</b>
<a href="#">Commercial Harbor Craft Amendments</a>	Initiated
<a href="#">Cargo Handling Equipment Regulation</a>	Initiated
<a href="#">Emissions from Locomotives and Railyards</a>	Initiated
<a href="#">Chrome Plating Control Measure Amendments</a>	Initiated
<a href="#">Composite Wood Products Control Measure Amendments</a>	Initiated
<a href="#">Catalytic Converter Theft Reduction</a>	Initiated
<a href="#">Commercial Cooking Suggested Control Measure</a>	Initiated

**Table 2. Additional statewide measures to reduce emissions in disadvantaged communities.**

<b>Additional Statewide Measures</b>	<b>Status</b>
<a href="#">Advanced Clean Cars 2</a>	Initiated
<a href="#">Advanced Clean Fleets</a>	Initiated
<a href="#">Advanced Clean Trucks</a>	Adopted
<a href="#">At-Berth Air Toxics Control Measure</a>	Adopted
<a href="#">Heavy-Duty "Omnibus" Low NOx Rulemaking</a>	Adopted
<a href="#">Heavy-Duty Inspection &amp; Maintenance</a>	Initiated
<a href="#">Real Emissions Assessment Logging System</a>	Adopted
<a href="#">Short-Lived Climate Pollutant - Oil and Gas Systems</a>	Adopted
<a href="#">Short-Lived Climate Pollutant - Dairy and Other Livestock</a>	Adopted
<a href="#">Short-Lived Climate Pollutant - Organic Waste in Landfills</a>	Adopted
<a href="#">Small Off-Road Engines</a>	Initiated
<a href="#">Transport Refrigeration Unit Regulation</a>	Initiated

### **Statewide Supporting Tools and Resources**

AB 617 requires the development of three database systems: The Technology Clearinghouse, a database system to support the uniform reporting of emissions (e.g., required by the Criteria and Toxics Reporting Regulation), and an air quality data portal (AQview).

When completed, the Technology Clearinghouse will provide a database that contains information about advanced emission control technologies that are available (including zero-emission options). It will also include what control technologies are already required and in place by district air permits for stationary pollution sources. The Technology Clearinghouse will be accessible to air districts to use as they set control requirements for permitted sources. The Technology Clearinghouse will also be available to members of the public as a resource that allows them to consult with air districts during CERP development to assess existing and available measures for reducing emissions from sources impacting the community.

CARB staff are presently developing prototype solutions with user-friendly interfaces for database components of the Technology Clearinghouse. Staff have been reaching out to community members for critical direction on the design and functionality of these tools, by hosting virtual workshops with community residents and environmental justice advocates across the State. These prototypes will be used to inform final Technology Clearinghouse requirements and the design and development that will be under contract. Until a contract is completed, CARB staff will continue to engage with stakeholders using the prototypes to meet the short-term needs of both air districts and community members.

Once the Technology Clearinghouse is complete and populated, CARB staff will shift work to expand the next generation technology database to include alternative technologies for sources across the State, based on community needs. Additionally, CARB staff will be tasked with keeping the Technology Clearinghouse data current, providing training and assistance to community members and other stakeholders on how to use the Technology Clearinghouse for emissions reduction strategy development, assisting new and existing data providers, and making system updates based on evolving needs and user feedback. This work will be ongoing, as control technologies are not static. The long-term goal will be to deploy advanced and zero emission technologies within communities.

An emissions inventory reporting system is currently under development in parallel with the implementation of the Criteria and Toxics Reporting regulation (CTR). CARB is developing the CTR to implement a uniform statewide system for the annual reporting of criteria air pollutant and toxic air contaminant emissions data from facilities. The data collected through this regulation will be an important resource for all Californians affected by air pollution.

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Additionally, CARB has launched a preliminary air quality data portal called AQview to receive air quality data collected in AB 617 communities. While community air quality data are the focus for AQview, as it evolves users will be able to access air quality data from many data sources from this single, central hub to view air quality information across the state.

The Online Resource Center fulfills other AB 617 statutory requirements for CARB to provide additional information and tools, such as:

- A community air monitoring toolbox that provides an ongoing assessment of monitoring technologies,
- An emissions inventory toolbox,
- Emissions reduction strategies,
- Health information,
- Outreach and training material, and
- Information on land use and transportation planning, including the CEQA process.

Going forward, the intent of these annual updates will be to provide an annual summary of progress that reflects the evolution of the Community Air Protection Program and supports continued improvement of AB 617 implementation.

#### Attachments

cc: Evan Kersnar  
Board Member Liaison  
Office of the Chair

Mary D. Nichols, Chair  
Honorable Board Members  
December 23, 2020