

Summary of Themes from Consultation Group Meeting, June 15

(includes open-ended responses to polls, chats and verbal comments from CG members and public)

What issues should the Consultation Group focus on?

Theme: Charter and Purpose of CG

- Dialogue across sectors and interests is critical
- The charge is missing environmental equity component
- Needs a stronger EJ focus

Theme: Conflict resolution

- Commit to working together to find a way to resolve conflicts expeditiously.
- Transparency is an issue across communities and air districts. Where is this conversation being had?
- How do we resolve them?
 - Draft of People's Blueprint contains chapter on conflict resolution

Theme: Justice and Equity / Climate

- Advocate to add "equity" on a par with cost for all actions and decisions and link to the discussions on climate policy in and around the EJAC.

Theme: Budget and Funding

- Need long term and sustainable funding, how to keep adding communities when funding does not increase
- Increase revenue from polluters
- Getting past jobs vs the economy myth
- Funding questions – Moyer and CAP

Theme: Health

- How to track health benefits
 - Metrics needed
- Does CERP mention a Health Impact Assessments or public health surveys
 - If Health Impact Assessments were brought up during CERP process, they were not included
 - Need to clarify how this can be included
 - Bring in local health departments
- Value of CASPER evaluations: <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/casper/overview.htm>

Theme: Communicating Data and Accountability

- How emissions data should be collected and communicated so that it is meaningful to communities, transparent, and accurate.
- The successes should be determined by emission reductions, mitigation of exposure and improved health and wellness of community members.

- Transparent tracking of emission reduction programs
- AB 617, Section 2(5)(c)(1), BARCT updates by December 31, 2023."
 - Is there an audit of where the Air Districts are on this piece?

Theme: Implementation Opportunities / Challenges

- Innovative community solutions
- Having standardized best practices for community-led process across implementation in many districts
- The key question will be how the agencies learn to be facilitators of the changes communities are advocating for including participatory budgeting and community enforcement.
- Adding to the scope of this group
 - (1) a focus on SOLVING THE PROBLEM of allocation of disproportionate burden of pollution to communities of color and lower income leading to environmental injustice. Don't get hung up on things that are inadequate about the existing statutes but think about how to work beyond them.
 - (2) Seek to improve coordination and action including but not limited to the 617 entities to better address community scale impacts. This would include monitoring and data issues for example.

What one thing do you want CARB to know about the AB 617 program?

Theme: Strengthen Program / Legislation / Approaches

- More teeth + transparent district progress toward AB 617 required activities -- particularly statewide mandates.
- Enhanced penalties
- Polluter pays
- High emission legacy sources should be phased out
- Focus on enforcement and community driven solutions
- CARB will need to be more aggressive in its compliance and enforcement authorities as a cornerstone of equity in emission reductions.
- Need to understand authorities. Many of the issues we face can only be addressed by the legislature
- It's a program with intention, but stuck at a lack of willingness

Theme: Evaluation and Reporting

- We need quantifiable metrics to show real reductions in emissions and exposures are being achieved.
- Data analysis and interpretation. Who will do? How will it be reported? How often and where? How will proportionate contribution to health impacts be determined.
- Not comfortable that the implementer should be the evaluator of their success or failure.

Theme: Collaboration

- Collaborate with public health agencies for better health outcomes information
- Other local governments need to be supportive for the process to work

Theme: CERP Development

- There needs to be a more formal and structured process for improving AB 617 CERP development and implementation with the newer communities, based on lessons learned from the older communities
- There are differences in how the CERPs are being developed and implemented across communities
- AB 617 tasks CARB with approving or rejecting CERPs, therefore doesn't CARB have the ability to set requirements for what approval is contingent on? And, who would then be responsible for ensuring CERPs are developed over time to fulfill these requirements? Seems to me that CARB is still best positioned and not barred from playing this role.

Theme: Expansion

- The program needs to be funded and expanded to all CA LIC and DAC's as a standard.
- All parts of California should have clean air.