

California Air Resources Board | Community Air Protection Consultation Group
December 3, 2025 | Meeting Summary
DRAFT

[Meeting Materials](#) from the December 3, 2025, Consultation Group Meeting #2

1. Roll Call

Rodney Andrews	V -Virtual	Cassie Lopina	V -Virtual
<i>Janice Lam Snyder</i>	<i>AIP -Alternate In-Person</i>	Arsenio Mataka	V-Virtual
Bishop Chris Baker	NP -Not Present	Kevin McKernan	NP-Not Present
Dr. John Balmes	IP -In-Person	<i>Kirsten Uchitel</i>	<i>AV -Virtual</i>
Jasmine Beltran	V -Virtual	Baldwin Moy	IP-In-Person*.*
Y'Anad Burrell	IP -In-Person	Dirk Piersma	IP -In-Person
Tim Carmichael	IP -In-Person	Maximilian Rosa	V -Virtual
Prithvi Deore	IP -In-Person	Dr. Rebecca E. Skinner	V -Virtual
Mary Elizabeth	V -Virtual	Diane Takvorian	IP -In-Person
Kevin Hamilton	V-Virtual*	Paula Torrado Plazas	NP- Not Present
Ryan Hayashi	IP -In-Person	Mary Valdemar	IP -In-Person
Dr. Anissa Heard-Johnson	IP -In-Person	Domingo Vigil	IP -In-Person
Belen Leon-Lopez	IP -In-Person	Christine Zimmerman	V -Virtual
Dr. David Lo	IP -In-Person	*Acknowledged after roll call +Mariela Nambo-Ramirez moved to public after Baldwin Moy arrived. <i>Alternates in italics.</i>	
Dr. Jonathan London	V -Virtual		

Quorum met. Representative Members Not Present: South Sacramento/ Florin, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and Yurok Tribe

2. Agenda Review

- [Agenda](#) topics presented.
- Request to include the presenter's name in the agenda item. [Mary Elizabeth]

3. Review and Approval of Meeting Summary

Consultation Group Co-Chair Dr. Balmes surveyed members on whether the summary provides enough detail for Consultation Group members:

- The [DRAFT Consultation Group Meeting Summary 9.8.25](#) was reviewed for content and level of detail.
- Several members vocalized that they felt it was the right level of detail.
- Co-Chair Dr. Balmes requested a motion to approve the September 8, 2025, meeting summary. Mary Valdemar made a motion to approve. Rodney Andrews

seconded the motion. Through a voice vote, the meeting summary was unanimously approved.

4. Draft Charter Discussion

CARB staff Kevin Olp provided background on the draft charter process:

- Following Kevin's overview, the meeting focused on gathering data points and reviewing all elements of the draft charter.
- The meeting materials were developed to guide the draft charter review. They were informed by his experience and lessons learned in a similar process at the Bay Area Air District.
- A summary sheet of all comments received was provided with the materials.
- A Consultation Group Ad hoc Group (Ad hoc, a smaller subset of members), led by Co-Chair Diane Takvorian and selected by CARB staff, will meet to discuss comments received and develop a draft final charter to present to the whole Consultation Group at its March 2026 meeting.
- Currently, the Consultation Group does not have meeting agreements in place, so CARB staff directed members to review Slide 20 for a draft of "Meeting Agreements" for the Group's consideration.

Review of Draft Charter by Section

Member comments received on the draft charter:

Section A: Purpose

- Suggest reviewing lessons learned from the first Consultation Group and the challenges faced by a sister CARB advisory group, the Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (EJAC).
- Add a historical framing that includes the environmental justice (EJ) movement in California. Members should acknowledge their privileges to be a part of this Consultation Group. Assembly Bill (AB) 617 did not emerge in isolation and was not universally embraced. Emphasizes persistence and the importance of aligning with community voices and recognizing those not in the room. Be aware of gender language. [Rodney Andrews, Dr. Jonathan London, Mary Valdemar]
- Consider comments after the fact for people not in the room, and posting a recording of the meetings. [Mary Elizabeth]

Section B: Background

- As part of the Background, include an origin story related to EJ. What is suggested needs to be broader, especially since some of the people here were not in this space in the early 2000s, who are still active, acknowledge the struggle, and things take time. Include the timeline of the Environmental Justice (EJ) movement and how the program was started. [Tim Carmichael, Dr. Anissa Heard-Johnson, Mary Elizabeth, Co-Chair Diane Takvorian]
- Add who was involved in the first Consultation Group (Consultation Group) as part of the origin and background. Blueprint 2.0 (BP2.0) speaks to the work of the first Consultation Group. [Y'Anad Burrell]
- The origin story of the EJ work done in the state and as related to the AB 617 process should be acknowledged and included. While this would be difficult, it should be included in some way to ensure everyone who was involved is not left out. This should be focused on the Consultation Group Members who served in the prior group. [CARB Deldi Reyes, Y'Anad Burrell]
- Offer a solution to add and expand as people need; this has been done for the climate education curriculum. Use a link that has current information and can be updated as needed. There is interest in including, as background information, a webpage that includes a living document summary, which is revisited and updated as needed. The webpage could include links to historical pieces (e.g., California Native American connection) and where other related information can be added. The Background link could be embedded in the draft charter document, which would link to a webpage that can be updated and more accurate. Dr. Skinner would be willing to help develop a source. [Mary Valdemar, Dr. Rebecca Skinner]
- The impact of the herstory and learnings can be included "in part" of the Background information. A resource of EJ history suggested as a resource: Evolution of a Movement by Tracy Perkins. Dr. Jonathon London is willing to help craft this paragraph. The Consultation Group Ad hoc can be used to develop the language. [Dr. Jonathon London]

Section C: Disclaimer

- Comment on typo in CARB Recommendation. This was noted and will be changed. [Mary Valdemar]

Section D: Conflict of Interest

- Appreciate the desire to use URLs, but suggest using a bitly link, which can have descriptive links, so when things change, the changes can be made on the back end [Mary Valdemar, Mary Elizabeth].
- Ethics training, which the Consultation Group Members must complete by the March 2026 meeting, can be accessed through the Department of Justice. [Mary Elizabeth]
- The question was asked, "Can a conflict of interest be disclosed to the rest of the Members?" CARB senior attorney Dana Grubaugh responded that it really depends on the context, and that CARB can look into this further if it arises.
- Request that Members stop using the word "other" when referring to people and suggest using "all". [Dr. Anissa Heard-Johnson, CARB Deldi Reyes]

Section E: Goals

- Originally labelled "CARB's Goals", CARB Office of Community Air Protection Director Deldi Reyes committed to renaming the section as "CARB's Role in Support of the Consultation Group". CARB will have shared goals with the Consultation Group Members. Goals to advise the CARB Board and staff. Then the Ad hoc will work on drafting language. [Dr. London, CARB Deldi Reyes, Co-Chair Diane Takvorian]
- Concern about the goal of encouraging Members to engage with Community Steering Committees (CSCs) when not all communities have CSCs. There are timing challenges with existing CSCs nearing the end of their CERP implementation. Encourage going to the CSC in the evenings. [Dr. Anissa Heard-Johnson, Dr. Rebecca Skinner]
- Provide a forum for cross learning with CSCs. Ensure the Consultation Group has a relaxed, community-friendly forum that is community-friendly to hear about the Blueprint and is open to feedback. Suggest including a brainstorming session, which could be helpful. Lifting comments made about naming barriers, calling out gaps, and considering perspectives from CSCs. Target outreach to past, present, and future CSC members. [Mary Valdemar, Dr. Rebecca Skinner]
- CARB can wield its resources to help reach people where they are. There is information overload when signing up for air district and CARB's electronic notices. Need to do a better job at outreach to reach people where they are. [Mary Valdemar]

- Consultation Group's information should be something that is accessible to the broader public in a meaningful way. The Consultation Group could look at the tools CARB uses and make suggestions for improvements for accessibility. Is there a communications plan for the Consultation Group? Not all communications are the same. Communication is visual and numerical. Does CARB have an expert communications staff that can develop a communication plan as part of the ad hoc process? Recognize that Members are representatives of other groups. [Y'Anad Burrell, Ryan Hayashi]
- CARB needs to narrow down its listservs more specifically and will take this feedback to its Communications Division. CARB has many listservs in general. [CARB Deputy Executive Officer Chanell Fletcher]
- Regarding the use of the word "feasible" in the draft charter, will CARB be able to throw out a recommendation of the Consultation Group? This language could be viewed as triggering, to say something can't be done. Suggest tightening this language to be transparent when CARB is unable to commit or promise. [Jasmine Beltran, Co-Chair Diane Takvorian]

Section F: Membership

F.1 Number of Members

- Proposal to shorten Member attendance confirmation from 14 days to 3 business days. CARB needs to post the final membership attendance 48 hours before the meeting, so there is an extra day to allow staff to post the information. [Janice Lam Snyder]
- There needs to be a robust orientation, intake, and onboarding for new Consultation Group members. A group changes when a new member joins the group. Everyone has a different origin story. Encourage mindful onboarding of new members, with a trauma-informed lens, to enable their contribution. CARB staff suggest intentionally adding onboarding to the Charter. When the charter reflects what the Consultation Group wants, it becomes a tool for the thought process that helps peer members participate in the group. [Dr. Anissa Heard-Johnson, Rodney Andrews, CARB Deldi Reyes]

F.2: Qualification of Members

- Need to have an infrastructure for Consultation Group representatives to have a space in the CSC meetings. Questions around this idea included, "How are we preparing people to be represented from the categories listed? How are we

preparing people to be representative of those communities? Do we have expectations that they speak to their community members? Do we have expectations that they will go back and get feedback from them?" [Dr. Anissa Heard-Johnson]

- Update the draft charter to include Academia and "community science" consistent with the website. [Dr. Rebecca Skinner]
- Encourage thinking of the most marginalized to consider the layers to shift power to those who do not have power. Spirit of community agreement includes progressive stacking. Justice does not mean equality; it means equity. Some members have inherent power (e.g., mic, voice, support, and resources) to be in the decision-making process. However, some members rarely have these capabilities. [Mary Valdemar]
- It is important to get feedback from CSCs, so there should be a structure and process to collect that information. [Jasmine Beltran]
- Group turnover considerations. As there is turnover in the group, there is nothing in place to ensure that a person in a certain category will cover the same category. Need to think about this as a natural turnover. [Tim Carmichael, Christine Zimmerman]
- There is power in the lived experience of people who live in the community. Do not minimize a community or its power in experience, even if there is no formal academic education. [Y'Anad Burell]
- There is concern of industry in the voting process. Assembly Bill 617, at a high level, is centered on the community. The Consultation Group represents members of the community. Twelve of the 28 members represent the community; every member is a voting member. By design, no constituent group can overrule anybody; decisions are made by consensus. The draft charter defines how we will work together. Using a progressive stack, the makeup prioritized the community in this group. The decision-making, per the Bagley-Keene Act, is 50 percent in attendance plus one. [Jasmine Beltran, CARB Deldi Reyes]
- Request for the chat from the meeting to be shared with the Consultation Group. CARB will share the chat transcript and a summary of meeting resources with the Members. [Tim Carmichael, Mary Valdemar]
- Recognize the involvement of the community members and the emotional toll on the community. Avoid "tokenism" and spread the emotional labor over several members. [Mary Valdemar]

F4. Appointment

- Would like to see geographic areas represented in member appointments to capture regions with different air quality concerns and priorities. [Mary Elizabeth]

F5. Term of Appointment

- Share the rationale for the four-year term length for the Member appointments. CARB's Blueprint implementation is five years. CARB wanted to provide some Consultation Group Member overlap of expertise in the implementation and update of the statewide strategy. [Dr. Anissa Heard-Johnson, Tim Carmichael, CARB Deldi Reyes]
- Please include a clear explanation of the Consultation Group's role in reviewing and contributing to Blueprint 3.0 in the charter. [Tim Carmichael]

F6. Resignation

- Add more details and the process to resign in charter, including the CARB position title of the person(s) to contact. [Rodney Andrews, Arsenio Mataka]

F7. Absences

- Question regarding attendance - "If circumstances change, my plan is to attend, when originally, I could not. Will that count as an absence?" CARB staff response, "No. [Ryan Hayashi]
- Caution on use of "consecutive meetings". This phrasing did not work and was used as an attendance loophole with inconsistent meeting attendance, so this language should be removed. There was language in the Imperial County CSC Charter that said "three consecutive" meetings, and a member would vary their attendance. They would come to one meeting and then miss the next. [Belen Leon-Lopez] CARB staff responded that this topic can be discussed in an ad hoc setting to ensure that an allowable number of missed meetings per year.
- In addition to clarifying attendance rules, questions arose about alternate members. If a Consultation Group does not have an alternate specified, it is not too late to add one. CARB staff should be notified if an alternate is needed, as their addition requires Board approval. [CARB Deldi Reyes, Cassie Lopina]
- Specify time in terms of calendar or fiscal years. Please clarify "days" - is that business or calendar days? [Dr. Anissa Heard-Johnson]
- Automatic removal due to absence. Clarify how automatic removal would apply if absences are due to alternate or primary members. [Ryan Hayashi]
- For community members who are not paid, it is important to recognize that their schedules may not be traditional. There are clear accommodations for individuals

who volunteer their time, especially in the Inland Empire, where these community members do not have the privilege of being paid for their involvement. [Mary Valdemar]

F8. Removal

- Questions regarding removal included, “How does the category a person is identified with change when people transition jobs? How does the charter deal with people’s changes in life? Does the position stay with the entity?” [Arsenio Mataka] CARB response, “Yes, the charter will reflect that the membership is tied to the organization. If one leaves that organization, then we need to revisit. This is covered in F6.1” [CARB Deldi Reyes]

F9. Alternates

- If unable to attend the meeting, request that the Member send their alternate. Include the capability to adjust to unforeseen circumstances, such as a family member’s loss.
- Represent education and environmental justice, with an intersectional background. Consultation Group member appointment proposals were determined by the information included in applicant applications. [Mary Valdemar, CARB Deldi Reyes]
- Request to reopen the application process to allow an alternate member. [Rodney Andrews] How would you match up an alternate with a primary member? [Dr. Rebecca Skinner] CARB prefers the primary member recommend their alternate as they will have to work together. For Rodney, CARB recommends that you go back to CSC to see if other members are willing and able to be an alternate. Adding alternates requires CARB staff to go back to the CARB Board for approval. [CARB Deldi Reyes]
- To clarify that point, once someone is identified, would they need to apply? [Co-Chair Diane Takvorian] Yes, the CARB Board generally has monthly board meetings. CARB staff will develop a timeline and share it with the Consultation Group. [CARB Deldi Reyes] Do not think there would be a problem to consult and decide on adding an alternate. [Co-Chair Dr. Balmes]

A public comment period was provided after the Charter discussion item was completed.

Section G. Roles and Responsibilities

G1. Co-Chairs

- It is a good practice to have a contracted facilitator. [Dr. Jonathan London]

- CARB had a facilitator in past Consultation Group meetings. Co-Chairs Dr. Balmes and Diane Takvorian now provide facilitate Consultation Group meetings. The State and CARB face budget challenges, and CARB does not want to bring on a facilitator for only a few months (due to the contract ending in Spring). CARB is trying to balance its resources and not be disruptive to the meeting dynamic. [CARB Deldi Reyes]
- Consider a co-host relationship for facilitation. In the San Bernardino Muscoy, Angie Balderas, co-host with Daniel Wong of South Coast AQMD, has a great working dynamic. The tone changed when the facilitation was adjusted to agency-led. The facilitation style is more welcoming and encourages community participation. [Mary Valdemar]

G2. Lead Members

- The draft charter allows lead members to develop an agenda and review so that it is not just CARB's point of view. [CARB Deldi Reyes] In the previous Consultation Group, we had a subgroup of members to help us frame the agenda. This could be more useful for the membership at large. [Co-Chair Dr. Balmes]
- Why are there only three members who may work on agenda setting, etc.? Our CSC holds an agenda-setting meeting open to anyone. [Mary Elizabeth] CARB will research that question about three members. [Co-Chair Diane Takvorian, CARB Deldi Reyes]
- Add information on the process of agenda setting to the charter. It is important and not all of the Consultation Group can comment on the agenda. [Ryan Hayashi]
- When a meeting is scheduled, CARB reserves time for the next meeting's agenda setting. CARB needs to comply with the Bagley-Keene Act and avoid creating a subgroup that would be out of compliance with Bagley-Keene. To avoid this, CARB can select volunteer members to create a subgroup. [CARB Deldi Reyes]

G3. Member Requirements

- G3 bullet 1, "provide true and accurate information"; failure to do so can result in the removal of the group. Consider adding a clause stating that a member will not engage in willful misrepresentation of qualifications to cover someone who forgot to note something in their past, such as a prior job, in their application. As written, concern about the materiality of the true and accurate information. [Cassie Lopina]
- People who can serve on the agenda setting committee should be a member who attended the meeting prior. This is ideal for the continuity of the meeting, and we want members to volunteer. [Janice Lam Snyder, [CARB Deldi Reyes]

- On page 27, the 4th bullet says, “Not engage in any behavior that is violent, discriminatory, or harassing as defined under CARB’s Workplace Violence Prevention Program and its Civil Rights Policy.” It should be clear that direct actions are sometimes labelled as violent. The definition of violence is very specific. Suggest stating that political action and political activism should not be defined as violent. [Mary Valdemar]

G4. Member Expectations and G5. CARB Staff - No comments.

H. Meetings

H1. Quorum

- Question on quorum, the CARB Board requires a quorum in person; others can be online. Is there anything for advisory committees in person or virtual? [Co-Chair Diane Takvorian] There are separate statutes for a State body, like the board and an advisory group, under the Bagley-Keene Act, such as this group. For advisory committees, we do not need a majority to be in-person. [CARB attorney Dana Grubaugh]

H2. Open Meetings

 - No comments.

H3. Meeting Agreements

 - See p. 12 for comments received in this section.

H4. Meeting Frequency and Dates

- CARB should provide the schedule for the following year by the end of this calendar year (including the days and times), and remember that not all have the same flexibility. If the meetings are outside of office hours, we should be mindful to remind people who are paid by the hour. [Dr. Anissa Heard-Johnson]
- Onboarding facilitated by CARB staff, p. 34, item 1c, suggest adding opportunities for CSCs to mentor new Consultation Group members to help build relationships and share resources. [Mary Valdemar]

H5. Meeting Locations and Format

 - No comments.

H6. Agenda Setting

- Do not let the “up to three Consultation Group members” discourage Members from participating in agenda setting meetings. As part of the first Consultation Group process, I learned so much as an alternate about this process and its requirements,

and got to know CARB staff. It is a great opportunity to learn a lot and get your voice heard. [Christine Zimmerman]

- Is there interest in joint meetings with similar advisory groups? Is there room for that in the Consultation Group? [Mary Valdemar] This is an excellent suggestion. There are other bodies in CalEPA. I can't tell you right now what we at CARB can do, but I can look into it and report back to you. [CARB Deldi Reyes]

H7. Decision Making and H8. Records - No comments.

I. Per Diem and Travel Cost Reimbursement

I1. Eligibility for Per Diems and Travel Cost Reimbursement - No comments.

I2. Per Diem Compensation

- Question for CARB Legal: Can the Consultation Group meetings be in two sessions? The government code says we can get paid for 4-hours? Could it be split into two sessions? [Rodney Andrews] CARB Legal can look into this. The Bagley-Keene Act does have provisions regarding continuous meetings and payments for such meetings. [CARB attorney Dana Grubaugh]
- The 4-hour limit does not apply in the Consultation Group context. Compensation for Consultation Group members is \$100 per meeting, regardless of meeting length. This \$100 amount is set in the statute. CARB will follow up with Rodney about this after the meeting. CARB will consult legal to explore flexible options for fair compensation and acknowledge current limitations that hinder meaningful participation. CARB is looking at the possibility of legislative changes, but it is a slow process. [CARB Deldi Reyes]
- If the Consultation Group has a meeting that is spread over two days or does not end until evening hours, is it possible to turn that into two meetings? What would differentiate it as two separate meetings? [Kevin Hamilton]

I3. Travel Cost Reimbursement

- Can CARB provide an example of a time statement or create a template to fill in expenses? Include this example/template in the member onboarding to explain what is needed for reimbursements. [Mary Elizabeth] CARB staff Eloy Florez can assist Members with providing templates and guidance for travel cost reimbursement. [CARB Kevin Olp]

I4. Compensation and Reimbursement for Alternates - No comments.

J. Effective Date, Amendments, Termination

- Pointing out South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Walter Shen's comment on page 44, 1c: Suggest avoiding administrative changes going to the Board before the Consultation Group is informed and has had a chance to approve them. [Tim Carmichael] CARB can make it explicit all changes the require the Consultation Group review and approval. The Consultation Group will need to approve the charter before CARB staff takes it to the CARB Board for approval. [CARB Deldi Reyes]

K. Acknowledgment and Approval of Charter

- Given short comment periods and response times, is there a goal for this meeting or EJ group that works to ensure advice to CARB is taken seriously? Will CARB responses and feedback be written in a way that is not dismissive nor invalidating? [Mary Elizabeth] I took that as broader than just AB 617. In the EJ space, CARB has been thinking about what that can look like, and am happy to talk and learn more from you. [CARB DEO Chanell Fletcher]
- Topic on what is missing, let's work to make sure there is inclusion of California native people as we talk about community air quality. A recent, good model for that is the United Nations document done for the United States Department of Education, which can be used as a model at the city, county, and all levels and agencies. [Mary Valdemar]
- Seen Robert's Rules of Order used in an oppressive way to silence people in the room. Be mindful of coming into this space; the document should be accessible, include an origin story. Have a time of year where there is a place to question the process; this should be allowed regularly. Opportunity for a living document. Would like to make the space comfortable and open to asking/providing recommendations, and make it normal to question the process. [Dr. Anissa Heard-Johnson]

Goal and Meeting Agreements

Feedback on the Meeting Agreements - Refer to the "Consultation Group Meeting Agreements and Goal Statements, Grouped by Theme. Reviewed themes and asked the authors for clarification:

- Impressed with the comments received and the feedback process. Thought we would go through each of the themes to note additions on what is missing. [Co-Chair Diane Takvorian]

Active Participation

- The expectation of active participation by all individuals does not acknowledge that lack of engagement can be due to processes that create barriers for active participation. What is our responsibility in setting up and providing information, training, and identifying barriers? We should aim to balance the responsibility of active participation with ease of access and adequate preparation for participation. [Mary Valdemar]
- Would it be fair to say CARB is looking for balance in organizational responsibility so everyone can participate effectively? This could be taking down barriers as much as we possibly can to ensure active participation. [Co-Chair Diane Takvorian]
- It is good to look at big picture goals and balance them with our individual goals and participation. [Mary Valdemar]
- There should be something on the facilitation side to promote active participation. For example, preparing prompts ahead of the meeting that would engage people more, rather than raising their hands. Deldi might have mentioned this, making sure there is time and space for them to contribute. [Domingo Vigil]
- Agreement to use structured reflection models (e.g., online forms) in the meeting as a feedback mechanism for improvement of participation, suggestions, and considerations for this included the following [Co-Chair Diane Takvorian, Dr. Anissa Heard-Johnson, Janice Lam Snyder, and Mary Elizabeth]:
 - Reflect on the bigger picture that highlights successes, areas for growth, and challenges (e.g., “roses, buds, and thorns”) to identify and address participation gaps [Mary Valdemar]
 - Transparent agendas in advance and offering post-meeting feedback options (e.g., online forms) to capture real-time input and prevent unresolved issues from resurfacing later [Dr. Jonathan London]
 - Being inclusive and inviting respectful feedback by offering different ways to provide feedback (e.g., anonymous polls or forms) and acknowledging diversity in conflict rather than negativity, by giving permission and time to think differently [Dr. Anissa Heard-Johnson and Mary Elizabeth]
 - Use of visual tools for gauging consensus and concerns from the participants to invite further discussion from quieter participants (e.g., CSC in South Sac Florin used colored popsicle sticks that displayed how a person felt about a topic) [Janice Lam Snyder]

Agenda Management

- Better agenda planning is needed, considering only three meetings per year. Suggest creating a sub-forum for ongoing idea collection and discussing what agenda items to add for the next meeting at the end of each meeting to maintain continuity. [Co-Chair Diane Takvorian and Ryan Hayashi]
- Set the tone for each meeting by emphasizing the importance of the work with reminders of the real-world stakes and emotional impacts to reconnect participants with the purpose of the work. An example provided was public testimony from directly impacted community members, and from scientists and researchers on relevant studies. [Mary Valedmar]

Community First - No comments.

Compassion

- Need to allow space for people to express discomfort or question intent without being invalidated by the assumption of good intent. [Christine Zimmerman]
- Need to balance intent and impact by fostering compassion, patience, and collaboration. This includes acknowledging when intent and impact do not align, and consider that difficult conversations with the community may mean not achieving a completely safe space 100 percent of the time for each person. Addressing this means pledging the body will prioritize people over agendas and efficiency, and will meet people at their level of consciousness and experience by pausing to give space and time to address triggers or harms experienced. It is requested to place meetings with people where they are at into the agreements. [Mary Valdemar]
- It is important to recognize the emotional impact of participating in community engagement, especially when implicit and explicit biases—such as assumptions based on body language or stereotypes—can negatively affect communication. While anger stemming from systemic issues is understandable, if allowed, it can undermine respectful and productive conversations by building up resentment and hindering collaboration. To be able to do the work they need to do, productive conversations are needed. These strong emotions should be acknowledged, but part of a healthier communication pathway(s) with the below suggestions: [Dr. Anissa Heard-Johnson]
 - Trauma-informed approaches to communication
 - Education on diverse communication styles
 - Creating safe spaces for people to express strong emotions without harming others

- Rejecting the idea that support means silently absorbing projected emotions, such as anger
- Encouraging healthy dialogue and healthy disagreement

Partial agreement with Dr. Anissa Heard-Johnson's points and suggestions. [Co-Chair Dr. John Balmes] Support of Dr. Anissa Heard-Johnson's points and suggestions, additionally suggests the ad hoc group explore these issues further and potentially serve as a model for other environmental justice bodies. [CARB DEO Chanell Fletcher]

Language

- Seeking clarification on item 18 in the meeting agreements regarding the term "you people". [Tim Carmichael]
 - Clarification provided that the term used was to refer to avoiding personal attacks (e.g., phrases like "you people"). [Mary Elizabeth]
- Agree with item 19 in the meeting agreements, but seeking further clarification on what preamble script is being used. Asked if responding to input shared with "what I hear you saying" fits the idea. [Tim Carmichael]
 - Clarification provided that it is suggested to use standard prompts or preambles to help participants introduce difficult topics respectfully, except for "I" statements. [Mary Elizabeth]
- Clarification on items 18 and 19, as well as some guidance from the expert facilitators and veterans from the consultation group, can go with the request for guidance around respectful disagreement. [Co-Chair Diane Takvorian]
- Suggest all criticism within the advisory body be considered constructive and encourage constructive critique, which includes separating personality and sometimes cultural assumptions that critique is disrespectful. Additionally, support the idea of popsicle sticks, hand signals, and temperature checks to help gauge group sentiment without verbal repetition, and any other tools that allow facilitators to assess agreement or disagreement efficiently and inclusively. [Mary Valdemar]

Process

- Agreement to debrief and evaluate. [Co-Chair Dianne Takvorian]

Respect - No comments.

Sharing Time and Space

- Suggestion to incorporate “Progressive Stack” as part of the process in the meeting agreements. Also, I would be able to provide training on it. [Mary Valdemar]

Goals (Section E.1)

Alignment

- To address the comment on aligning CARB goals and Consultation Group goals, CARB will change the heading in the charter that used to say, “CARB Goals” that then points to Consultation Group goals, to just be one heading that says, “Consultation Group Goals”. Will also add another heading “CARB’s Responsibilities to Support the Consultation Group Goals” which will house a lot of what was discussed in this meeting, such as how to recognize and balance. [Co-Chair Diane Takvorian, CARB Deldi Reyes]

Balancing Needs with Requirements

- Clarification sought from the air district on whether the Consultation Group’s goals should primarily focus on fulfilling AB 617 requirements and incorporate broader community needs. It is important to understand the overarching purpose before refining specific language in the goals. [Co-chair Diane Takvorian]
- Support keeping discussions centered on AB 617 to avoid diverging to unrelated topics with structured agendas due to limited time and number of meetings. Additionally, I suggest sharing resources and lessons learned to improve project outcomes and avoid redundant efforts for coordination and alignment between community projects and CARB initiatives. [Ryan Hayashi]
- Support suggestions with the addition of forming ad hoc meetings to address community-raised issues that may not fit the main agenda, to ensure inclusivity without compromising process. [Janice Lam Snyder]
- Support staying aligned with current programmatic responsibilities while also encouraging the group to embrace visionary thinking, proposed a “blue sky” approach, such as envisioning starting the work for Blueprint 3.0, and a balanced agenda that includes both programmatic refinements to improve existing efforts and strategic forward-looking discussions exploring new possibilities. [Dr. Jonathan London]

Coordination

- Suggest strengthening education, coordination, and deliverables through shared learning, such as:

- Inviting participants from across the state working on Local Community Emission Reduction Programs (LCERPs) to share insights to support a better understanding of what's working and what's not. [Tim Carmichael]
- Understanding misalignment between regional air districts and local communities, where air districts focus mainly on regional monitoring, whereas communities often seek localized protections from pollution, or a "band-aid" approach to their local community. There appears to be an opportunity to better integrate regional and local efforts beyond temporary fixes and more toward systemic pollution reduction (e.g., local blocking of air pollution by planting trees rather than addressing the source of air pollution regionally). [Kevin Hamilton]
- Suggest using the Consultation Group as a forum to review tools and resources to be practical, like AQView, ensuring the group is effective and responsive to community needs to uplift and educate community members. [Ryan Hayashi]
- Ask CARB to ensure the timely distribution of progress reports and documents that would enable members to engage in meaningful discussions and make informed decisions. The importance of the Consultation Group members being well-informed about statewide AB 617 efforts, and not just local efforts, is what may be relevant to the members locally. [Dr. Anissa Heard-Johnson]
- Encourage all members to review Blueprint 2.0, especially its goals and priorities, as part of their responsibility to support implementation. [Co-chair Diane Takvorian]

Ad Hoc

CARB requests 10 volunteers to form an ad hoc group to continue the conversation about refining the Consultation Group's charter outside of the main Consultation Group meetings. The goal of the Ad hoc Group would be to review and refine comments received during and before this Consultation Group meeting, and develop a tracked-changes draft of the charter to present at the March 2026 meeting for further discussion and potential finalization. The Ad hoc Group must remain under the quorum threshold of 15 members to comply with governance rules, so CARB is seeking 10 members that cover the diversity and represent different fields of the Consultation Group. After the Ad hoc Group is established, CARB will reach out to all members of the Ad hoc Group with advance notice to schedule around members' availability.

- Designated Ad hoc Group Chair: Board Member Diane Takvorian
- Two volunteers representing air districts:
 - i. Dr. Anissa Heard-Johnson (South Coast Air Quality Management District)
 - ii. Ryan Hayashi (San Joaquin Valley Air Control District)
- Three volunteers representing Community and Environmental Justice:
 - i. Mary Valdemar
 - ii. Mary Elizabeth
 - iii. Jasmin Beltran
- Two volunteers representing local or tribal governments:
 - i. Prithvi Deore of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)
 - ii. [none identified]
- Two volunteers representing Academia/Community Science, or Industry/Business:
 - i. Christine Zimmerman
 - ii. Dr. Jonathan London
- Noted that previously, during the development of Blueprint 2.0, an ad hoc group provided real progress after it was formed on its own to develop the People's Blueprint. [Co-Chair Dr. John Balmes]

5. Public Comment (on Draft Charter Discussion)

- Gave thanks and appreciation for hearing everything that was said at the meeting. I wanted to emphasize the communication discussion that happened. Shared that the discussion was interesting, and Margo thought of all the times that disenfranchised people become more disenfranchised because of communications that happen in a room. Upon hearing about the progressive stack, Margo was eager to learn more. When the facilitators came on board, Margo was curious to know their background and how well they could assist with that, because getting issues resolved is a lot better than shoving them under the rug. Margo wanted to thank Kevin Hamilton for Kevin's comments on taking action. Often, Margo sees "band aids," and what Margo believes is needed is a lot more than that. How can this Consultation Group move more towards that? Margo knows municipalities have some power, but wanted to ask what can be done to facilitate that? [Margo Praus]
- Proud previous member of the first Consultation Group. Listened to most of the meeting on and off. Wanted to echo the notion of staying connected with the AB 617 work broadly in existing official communities, the 19 across the state, and if and when

possible, connecting this Consultation Group with some of the community air grant work that is happening on the ground. At the more micro-community level, there is really a lot that is going on, and staying connected with that hand, having a feedback loop between the air grant communities, the AB 617 Consultation Group, and CARB at large, would be something extremely beneficial. For those working on the ground on the community air grants work, Gustavo would love to give the Consultation Group updates and reports. If there could be a more formal/informal space for his community-based organization to give updates on necessities and checkpoints, he and his team would love to be a vehicle for that funnel of information. [Gustavo Aguirre, Central CA Asthma Collaborative]

6. Program Update and 7. Public Comment (for Program Update)

These agenda items were moved to the next Consultation Group meeting.

8. Feedback on this Consultation Group Meeting.

- This first meeting was positive, where a lot was learned, the agenda was followed, and it was done with great timing. Appreciated the timing from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm and will be returning. Israel (Belen's alternate) was set to arrive at 2 pm as the alternate, but he is retiring, so a replacement alternate will be requested. [Belen Leon-Lopez]
- Appreciated the day and comments that over 90 percent agreed with. There is a concern that there will only be three Consultation Group meetings in the year, and feel that three meetings will not be enough to get briefed, absorb/understand, and give feedback on or engage. [Tim Carmichael]
 - Question if the charter can build in flexibility so that the Consultation Group, with CARB's agreement, can have additional meetings. [Janice Lam Synder]
 - CARB offers more for the Consultation Group members to participate in engagement with air districts and community steering committee members, such as the Peer-to-Peer Learning Series, connecting work from the community air grantees with broader community air protection efforts, as offered during public comment today, and the ad hoc meetings to cover discussions in between each Consultation Group meeting. CARB additionally participates in evaluation programs aimed at improving the effectiveness and implementation of AB 617. CARB does look toward the Consultation Group for help and guidance in collaborating on a work plan once the charter has been finalized, to ensure meetings are purposeful, efficient, and aligned with long-term goals. It is important to start early in planning and preparation for

Blueprint 3.0 as a lesson learned from the development of Blueprint 2.0. CARB will consider the need for additional meetings if there are enough resources and the circumstances demonstrate the need; however, this year has been a tight budget year for CARB, and the hybrid Consultation Group meetings use significant resources, which is why only three more than 2-hour-long meetings are being asked for this first year. One way that may be explored if additional meeting(s) is needed is to have fully remote options, a cost-saving option. [CARB Deldi Reyes]

- Request to add in breaks for longer meetings, such as today's Consultation Group meeting, to ensure you not missing anything, and allow discussion in between breaks. Also appreciates and applauds the information packet provided before and at the meeting. [Dr. Anissa Johnson-Heard]

9. December 3 Meeting Action Items

This is a list of action items and feedback collected from comments made during the Consultation Group Meeting:

- Next meeting will primarily focus on the charter and the program update. [CARB Kevin Olp]
- Need for legislative conversations, thinking ahead to support this program, including the branding of the program to be accurate, to proactively address the mixed and inaccurate messaging around this program by other people. Community members were upended tremendously by the May revise budget conversation. [Dr. Anissa Heard-Johnson]
- Support starting the next meeting with the program update and a brief legislative update. [Dr. Rebecca Skinner]
- Asked if it is possible to have a survey go out to all of AB 617 community steering members to seek feedback on what is working and what isn't, so that the Consultation Group can consider it in 2026. [Mary Elizabeth]
- Suggested taking a moment to reflect on the comments made in this meeting, including Kevin Hamilton's, and how other states have interpreted AB 617 in implementing and enhancing their own individual programs, so the program can review its strengths and weaknesses. [Cassie Lopina]
- Suggested having a process where the Consultation Group is a face for some dialogue with sister agencies also involved in AB 617 adjacent work (i.e., OEHHA, DPR, Caltrans, etc.) to work with the "ecosystem" important for optimal implementation of a number of CERP measures. [Dr. Jonathan London]

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- Thankful for the participation by all in person and online, it was a productive day. Agreed with Dr. Anissa Heard-Johnson on needing breaks for longer meetings. Thankful and proud of CARB's Kevin, Deldi, Co-chair Diane Takvorian, and the entire CARB staff for their work in this meeting. Looking forward to the ad hoc doing good work until the next Consultation Group meeting, which will hopefully finalize the charter. [Co-Chair Dr. John Balmes]

Additional Meeting Materials:

- Meeting Recording: [Consultation Group Meeting: Dec. 3, 2025](#)
- [Flip Chart Notes](#) (transcribed) picture of [Flip Chart Images](#)
- [Chat Record](#) (unmodified); [Chat Links](#)