



Appointment of New Members to the AB 32 Environmental Justice Advisory Committee

May 20, 2021

Overview

- Background
- AB 32 Environmental Justice Advisory Committee for 2022 Scoping Plan Update
- Different Approach
- Returning members
- 2021 Process for new members
- Application Review Process
- Criteria to select new members
- Principles of Environmental Justice
- Proposed New Members
- Areas not currently represented
- Comments received
- Recommendation

Background

- Assembly Bill (AB) 32 directed CARB to convene an Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (EJAC or Committee) to advise the Board in the development of the Scoping Plan and any other pertinent matter in implementing AB 32.
- It requires that the Committee be comprised of “representatives from communities in the State with the most significant exposure to air pollution, including, but not limited to, communities with minority populations or low-income populations, or both.”

Background (cont.)

- On January 25, 2007, the Board appointed the first EJAC to advise it on the Initial Scoping Plan and other climate change programs.
- The Committee was reconvened in 2013 to advise on the development of the First Scoping Plan Update.
- Most recently, the Committee was convened in 2015 to advise on the Board on the development of the 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan.

AB 32 Environmental Justice Advisory Committee for 2022 Scoping Plan Update

Proposing to reconvene the EJAC to advise on the development of the 2022 Scoping Plan Update.

Goals include:

- Advise CARB as it evaluates progress towards the 2030 target and charts a path to carbon neutrality no later than 2045.
- Incorporate best practices and lessons learned from AB 617 implementation, SB 350 Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group, and 2017 Scoping Plan EJAC Recommendations.

Different Approach

- Actively building relationships and trusting community expertise
- Advancing community driven solutions, and
- Partnering and co-creating with the EJAC and residents in the most impacted communities to create a more just and sustainable future

Returning members

- Martha Dina Argüello, Physicians for Social Responsibility – Los Angeles
- Kevin Hamilton, Central California Asthma Collaborative
- Mayor Rey León, LEAP Institute
- Luis Olmedo, Comité Civico del Valle

2021 Process for new members

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|----------------|---|
| April 12, 2021 | Request for applications open – posted to website and emailed to EJ, AB 617, Climate Change, Sustainable Freight and Tribal email lists |
| May 3, 2021 | Application deadline |
| May 7, 2021 | Public Agenda for May 20, 2021 Board Meeting posted |
| May 13, 2021 | CARB staff's recommended new Committee members posted to EJ website (all applicants notified by CARB's EJ Office) |
| May 14, 2021 | Proposed Resolution posted |
| May 19, 2021 | Board meeting materials posted (Item summary, hearing presentation) |
| May 20, 2021 | Public meeting to consider new members |

Application Review Process

- CARB Office of Environmental Justice received 68 applications by the deadline of May 3rd, 2021 at 5:00 pm.
- A panel including representatives from CARB, CalEPA, and existing EJAC members proposed the following new members for approval by the Board.

Criteria to select new members

- Representatives from communities in the State with the most significant exposure to air pollution, including, but not limited to, communities with minority populations or low-income populations, or both
- Regional representation across California faith-based organizations, neighborhood organizations, non-profit organizations, tribes
- Expertise in transportation; fossil gas grid and electricity grid decarbonization and infrastructure; natural and working lands; clean fuels and technology; public health

Criteria to select new members (cont.)

- Complement the perspectives of existing active committee members
- No personal conflict of interest (financial interest, personal activity, or relationship) that could impair the ability to act impartially and in the best interest of the EJAC
- Rooted **IN** environmental justice principles

Principles of Environmental Justice

WE, THE PEOPLE OF COLOR, gathered together at this multinational People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, to begin to build a national and international movement of all peoples of color to fight the destruction and taking of our lands and communities, do hereby re-establish our spiritual interdependence to the sacredness of our Mother Earth; to respect and celebrate each of our cultures, languages and beliefs about the natural world and our roles in healing ourselves; to ensure environmental justice; to promote economic alternatives which would contribute to the development of environmentally safe livelihoods; and, to secure our political, economic and cultural liberation that has been denied for over 500 years of colonization and oppression, resulting in the poisoning of our communities and land and the genocide of our peoples, do affirm and adopt these Principles of Environmental Justice:

www.ejnet.org/ej/

Principles of Environmental Justice (EJ)

- 1) EJ affirms the sacredness of Mother Earth, ecological unity and the interdependence of all species, and the right to be free from ecological destruction.
- 2) EJ demands that public policy be based on mutual respect and justice for all peoples, free from any form of discrimination or bias.
- 3) EJ mandates the right to ethical balanced and responsible uses of land and renewable resources in the interest of a sustainable planet for humans and other living things.
- 4) EJ calls for universal protection from nuclear testing, extraction, production and disposal of toxic/hazardous wastes and poisons and nuclear testing that threaten the fundamental right to clean air, land, water, and food.
- 5) EJ affirms the fundamental right to political, economic, cultural and environmental self-determination of all peoples.

Principles of EJ (cont.)

- 6) EJ demands the cessation of the production of all toxins, hazardous wastes, and radioactive materials, and that all past and current producers be held strictly accountable to the people for detoxification and the containment at the point of production.
- 7) EJ demands the right to participate as equal partners at every level of decision-making, including needs assessment, planning, implementation, enforcement and evaluation.
- 8) EJ affirms the right of all workers to a safe and healthy work environment without being forced to choose between an unsafe livelihood and unemployment. It also affirms the right of those who work at home to be free from environmental hazards.
- 9) EJ protects the right of victims of environmental injustice to receive full compensation and reparations for damages as well as quality health care.

Principles of EJ (cont.)

- 10) EJ considers governmental acts of environmental injustice a violation of international law, the Universal Declaration On Human Rights, and the United Nations Convention on Genocide.
- 11) EJ must recognize a special legal and natural relationship of Native Peoples to the U.S. government through treaties, agreements, compacts, and covenants affirming sovereignty and self-determination.
- 12) EJ affirms the need for urban and rural ecological policies to clean up and rebuild our cities and rural areas in balance with nature, honoring the cultural integrity of all our communities, and provided fair access for all to the full range of resources.
- 13) EJ calls for the strict enforcement of principles of informed consent, and a halt to the testing of experimental reproductive and medical procedures and vaccinations on people of color.

Principles of EJ (cont.)

- 14) EJ opposes the destructive operations of multi-national corporations.
- 15) EJ opposes military occupation, repression and exploitation of lands, peoples and cultures, and other life forms.
- 16) EJ calls for the education of present and future generations which emphasizes social and environmental issues, based on our experience and an appreciation of our diverse cultural perspectives.
- 17) EJ requires that we, as individuals, make personal and consumer choices to consume as little of Mother Earth's resources and to produce as little waste as possible; and make the conscious decision to challenge and reprioritize our lifestyles to ensure the health of the natural world for present and future generations.

Proposed New Members

- Connie Cho, Communities for a Better Environment
- Dillon Delvo, Little Manila Rising
- Catherine Garoupa White, Central Valley Air Quality Coalition
- Thomas Helme, Valley Improvement Projects
- Neena Mohan, California Environmental Justice Alliance
- Sharifa Taylor, Communities for a Better Environment
- Paulina Torres, Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment

Areas not currently represented

The following geographies and ethnicities are not currently represented on the Committee:

- Tribal
- Bay Area
- Inland Empire
- Sacramento
- San Diego/Border

Comments received

- Central Valley Air Quality Coalition:
 - Permanence
 - Compensation
 - San Joaquin Valley representation
 - Strongly support EJAC playing a role in all of CARB's programs
- Central California Asthma Collaborative:
 - Fund each EJ organization who sacrifices their leaders time for EJAC; maybe \$10k/yr paid quarterly, based on attendance and participation, in lieu of the present per-diem and expenses. Members could potentially choose one or the other.

Comments received (cont.)

- Little Manila Rising:
 - Outreach continues to only reach people already engaged with CARB
 - Recommend reserving seats for representatives from the worst pollution burden percentiles as identified by CalEnviroScreen
 - Equitable access is CARB's responsibility
- California Environmental Justice Alliance:
 - Scoping Plan Process and Community Participation.
 - Development of the Scoping Plan Must Give Meaningful Weight to the EJAC Recommendations.
 - In 2017, CARB Did Not Adopt Any of the EJAC's Recommendations.
 - CARB Must Implement Overdue Recommendations from the 2017 EJAC.

Recommendation

- Staff recommends that the Board approve the following individuals to serve on the AB 32 Environmental Justice Advisory Committee:
 - Connie Cho, Communities for a Better Environment
 - Dillon Delvo, Little Manila Rising
 - Catherine Garoupa White, Central Valley Air Quality Coalition
 - Thomas Helme, Valley Improvement Projects
 - Neena Mohan, California Environmental Justice Alliance
 - Sharifa Taylor, Communities for a Better Environment
 - Paulina Torres, Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment
- Discuss addressing gaps in the EJAC