

State of California
Air Resources Board
Board Item Summary

**Item # 21-8-1: Public Meeting to Consider Assembly Bill 617
Community Air Protection Program - Community
Emissions Reduction Program for Eastern
Coachella Valley**

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) approve the Eastern Coachella Valley Community Emissions Reduction Plan (Plan) and direct CARB staff to collaborate with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) and the community steering committee to take additional actions to strengthen implementation.

Discussion:

On December 4, 2020, the South Coast AQMD Governing Board adopted the Plan for the Eastern Coachella Valley community under the requirements of Assembly Bill (AB) 617 (C. Garcia, Stats. of 2017). To develop the Plan, South Coast AQMD convened a community steering committee comprised of residents, local community-based groups, industry, and local government. The steering committee held 25 meetings from January 2020 to June 2021 and will begin meeting on a quarterly basis in September 2021. South Coast AQMD's adoption of the Plan on December 4, 2020, included a resolution that committed South Coast AQMD staff to continue working with the community steering committee to develop an amendment to the Plan that includes additional details on monitoring objectives, collaboration with other entities, and incentive strategies, as requested by the community steering committee. The amendment incorporating these additional details into the Plan was adopted by the South Coast AQMD Governing Board on June 4, 2021. CARB staff reviewed the Plan and summarized key findings in the Eastern Coachella Valley Community Emissions Reduction Program Staff Report (Staff Report) released on August 13, 2021. CARB also hosted a virtual community workshop on August 3, 2021, to solicit additional community perspectives to inform the development of the CARB Staff Report. After evaluation of the Plan, staff determined it meets the criteria established in AB 617 and the Community Air Protection Program Blueprint, reflects community priorities, and is likely to reduce emissions and exposure to air pollution in the community. Staff based their recommendation in the Staff Report to approve the Plan on this review and in consideration of the progress made in developing the Plan and comments from the community steering committee members.

The Plan as proposed would benefit from implementation of recommendations as detailed in the Staff Report. Staff have identified specific actions for South Coast AQMD and CARB staff to take, in collaboration with the community steering committee, to strengthen implementation in three key areas: process, incentives prioritization, and agency collaboration. Based on steering committee member input received in the August 3 workshop, CARB also commits to increase engagement in the process, be more proactive in

offering expertise and accessible technical information to support and oversee implementation, as well as supporting exchanges across AB 617 communities that are pursuing similar implementation strategies.

Summary and Impacts:

Approving the Eastern Coachella Valley Community Emissions Reduction Plan and directing CARB staff and South Coast AQMD to take the recommended actions will result in these agencies continuing to work with the community steering committee to define and implement strategies to reduce exposure to air pollution in the Eastern Coachella Valley community. South Coast AQMD will provide annual reports to CARB with progress updates that include updates on the recommended actions as defined in the Staff Report. In conjunction with this work, CARB will continue to develop and implement our mobile source regulations and pursue enhanced enforcement activities in the Eastern Coachella Valley community.