

**State of California
Air Resources Board
Board Item Summary**

**Item # 21-10-1: Public Meeting to Consider Assembly Bill 617
Community Air Protection Program - Community
Emissions Reduction Program for Portside
Environmental Justice Neighborhoods**

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) approve the Portside Environmental Justice Neighborhoods community emissions reduction program developed pursuant to Assembly Bill (AB) 617 (C. Garcia, Statutes of 2017) and direct CARB staff to work with the San Diego Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD or District) and the Portside Community Steering Committee to take additional actions to strengthen implementation.

Discussion:

The District worked with the Portside Community Steering Committee to develop the *Community Emissions Reduction Plan for the Portside Environmental Justice Neighborhoods* (Plan) to reduce exposure to air pollution in the community in two phases. The steering committee held 17 meetings between January 2020 and June 2021, and the District hosted four public meetings to discuss the Plan with the broader public. On November 18, 2020, the District adopted Phase I of the Plan, which contains a set of early-action strategies to provide expedited benefits to the Portside Community. Examples of these early actions include developing a plan to quantify the cumulative health risks, identifying the steering committee's incentives priorities, and developing a program to provide air purifiers and monitors for Portside residents. On July 16, 2021, the SDAPCD Governing Board adopted the *Community Emissions Reduction Plan for the Portside Environmental Justice Neighborhoods - Phase II*. The Board will be acting on both adopted documents as a single Plan.

CARB staff reviewed the Plan and summarized key findings in the *Portside Environmental Justice Neighborhoods Community Emissions Reduction Program Staff Report* (Staff Report) released on September 23, 2021. CARB also hosted a virtual community workshop on August 24, 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 SDAPCD and CARB staff to take, in collaboration with the community steering committee, to strengthen implementation in two key areas: updating the community planning emissions inventory and community-level air monitoring. 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 Community Emissions Reduction Plan for the Portside Environmental Justice Neighborhoods and directing CARB staff and SDAPCD 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 Portside Community. SDAPCD will provide annual reports 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 continue to provide technical assistance to the Portside Community.