

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

**Item # 21-11-3: Public Meeting to Receive Informational Update
on the Assembly Bill 617 Community Air
Protection and Air Toxics Programs**

Staff Recommendation:

This is an informational item only. No action is required.

Discussion:

The California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) established the Community Air Protection Program to implement Assembly Bill (AB) 617 (C. Garcia, Stats. of 2017). AB 617 is a significant step to transform California's air quality programs to address air pollution disparities at the neighborhood level. It requires new, community-focused actions that go beyond existing State and regional programs to reduce air pollution exposure in disproportionately burdened communities throughout the State, including statewide strategies and community-specific emissions reduction programs.

AB 617 requires enhanced stationary source reporting requirements for both criteria and toxic air pollutants, accelerated retrofit of pollution controls on certain stationary industrial sources, increased penalty fees, greater transparency and availability of air quality and emissions data, and incentive funding to reduce emissions and exposures locally within communities ahead of regulation deadlines.

AB 617 is also helping to refocus the Air Toxics Program to prioritize reducing toxics exposures in communities most impacted by air pollution. California has a comprehensive Air Toxics Program designed to identify and control toxic air contaminants, inform the public of significant emissions of air toxics from stationary sources, and assess and reduce the health risks from those exposures. The Air Toxics Program addresses the health impacts of air toxics exposures to communities and includes measures to reduce exposure to children and other sensitive receptors. In September 2020, CARB staff updated the Board on its Air Toxics Program. As part of that update, the Board directed staff to build upon the knowledge gained from AB 617 implementation and to continue to reduce adverse health impacts in communities. Staff will update the Board on its current and future air toxics work to reduce air toxics exposures in the most impacted communities.

CARB staff will update the Board on the AB 617 and the Air Toxics Programs. This informational item will take the form of two panel discussions:

- The first panel will highlight external partners that are crucial to the success of the Community Air Protection Program; community members who participate in the Community Steering Committees and grant programs, and Air District representatives.

- The second panel, focused in part on the Air Toxics Program and how AB 617 is influencing CARB's approach in communities, this panel will feature CARB staff representing several essential division partners, including the Transportation and Toxics, Enforcement, Research, and Air Quality Planning and Science Divisions.

Together these panels will present the current state of the programs and discuss their direction moving forward.

Summary and Impacts:

Not Applicable