Assessing the Effects of AB 32 Climate Change Mitigation Programs in Environmental Justice Communities

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To the extent feasible:

* Ensure activities undertaken to comply with the regulations do not disproportionately impact low-income communities

* Direct public and private investment toward the most disadvantaged communities in California and provide an opportunity ... to participate in and benefit from statewide efforts to reduce GHG emissions
Objectives

* Develop a proposal for assessing the effects of AB 32 climate mitigation programs in environmental justice communities
* Approach as a joint agency effort
* Seek Committee input on indicators that can be directly tied to AB 32

Methods and Indicators

- CalEnviroScreen
- AB 32 Tracking
- Cap-and-Trade Adaptive Management
CalEnviroScreen

* Statewide: environmental pollution burden
* Multiple indicators to rank communities
* Can not provide quantitative information for assessing specific sites, projects, or programs
* Developed as a screening tool

Methods and Indicators

CalEnviroScreen

AB 32
Tracking

Cap-and-Trade
Adaptive
Management
Adaptive Management Process

- Program specific: Cap-and-Trade
- Proposal to add reporting requirement to Mandatory Reporting on GHG increases
- In development to identify and respond to concern about the potential for localized emission increases due to the Cap-and-Trade Regulation

Methods and Indicators

- CalEnviroScreen
- AB 32 Tracking
- Cap-and-Trade Adaptive Management
AB 32 Tracking

- Suite of AB 32 climate change mitigation programs
- In development to assess the impacts and benefits of AB 32 programs in specific communities
- Must use data that can be tied directly to actions under AB 32 programs

Potential AB 32 Program Indicators

- Emissions of GHG, short-lived climate pollutants
- Stationary & mobile sources
- Adaptive Management/Mandatory Reporting
- Reductions of criteria pollutants and air toxics from ARB’s AB 32 measures
- Auction proceeds investments in (and benefitting) disadvantaged communities
- Job creation from proceeds investments
Questions to Consider (1) of (2)

1. Should the emphasis be on potential adverse effects, benefits, or both? What is the relative priority?
2. What are the available indicators that can be readily tied to AB 32 programs? What are the sources of information for these indicators? What is the level of geographic resolution (i.e., facility, community, region, state)? How often are these indicators updated? Where are they accessible to the public?

Questions to Consider (2) of (2)

3. Given the resource-intensive nature of these evaluations and agency staffing constraints, should the focus be on detailed analyses of a few communities or general reviews of more communities? How should the communities be selected for analysis?
4. What are the highest priority data gaps or needs that further research could address to enhance the longer-term effort?