

AB 617 Oversight Hearing
Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Air Resources Board Introductory Testimony
March 18, 2019

Slide 0: Title Slide

Good afternoon Chair Friedman and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide an update on implementation of AB 617 and the Community Air Protection Program. I will be sharing this overview presentation today with two members of my team who are responsible for the Program – Veronica Eady our Assistant Executive Officer for Environmental Justice, and Karen Magliano, the Director of the Community Air Protection Program, which we formed to implement AB 617.

AB 617, sponsored by Assembly member Christina Garcia, represents the most significant new air quality program in over thirty years. California's air quality programs have historically focused on improving air quality at the regional level as well as reducing toxics risk from individual sources. These programs have resulted in significant air quality improvements. Ozone levels have dropped over 40 percent in the South Coast since 1990, levels of lead are now 90 percent lower, and diesel particulate matter, which accounts for over two thirds of the total known cancer risk in the State, has dropped nearly 70 percent.

However too many of California's communities are still disproportionately impacted by poor air quality. AB 617 places a renewed emphasis on the need for focused action to clean the air in these communities across the State.

A great deal of progress has occurred over the last year and a half, but there is also a lot of work ahead of us in this brand new program and continued success will rely on the joint work of CARB and the local air districts in partnership with community members.

Slide 1: Building a Community-Focused Framework

AB 617 consists of multiple elements that are all designed to work together to support community focused action. This includes:

- Better data on emission sources and the impacts these sources have on the air residents are breathing
- And making this data more available and understandable.
- But most critically, it's using this information to inform and implement new state and air district actions to reduce emissions and exposure.
- This will include a broad set of approaches, from new regulations, to enhanced enforcement, to targeted incentive funding.
- We are also looking to enhance partnerships with local land use and transportation planning agencies, and other state agencies, as we all have a role in developing solutions to reduce air pollution in these communities.

Developing and implementing AB 617 is a joint effort shared by CARB, the local air districts, and most importantly, community stakeholders. This emphasis on

community participation is critical to achieving the goals of AB 617 and those of the Community Air Protection Program.

And now I'd like to turn the presentation over to Karen to provide an overview of the work to date and provide a little more detail about the different elements of the program.

Slide 2: Blueprint for Program Implementation

As one of the first steps in implementing AB 617, in September of last year our Board approved the Community Air Protection Blueprint, which outlines the overall requirements and operating instructions for the Program going forward. The Blueprint describes broad statewide strategies, as well as individual community-focused elements, with a strong focus on community engagement. This includes the process and considerations for selecting communities for additional focused action. For these communities the Blueprint lays out criteria for developing and implementing air monitoring designed to support subsequent action, and the scope and process for developing community emissions reduction programs, and tracking progress over time to make sure we see tangible improvements.

Slide 3: 10 Initial Communities

At the same time, the Board also selected 10 initial communities to launch the Program. The orange dots on this slide show the location of these communities. This initial set is spread across six air districts, shown here in blue. The group shown here are all highly burdened and represent a mix of: urban and rural

communities, different kinds of air pollution sources, and a variety of community sizes that reflect the diversity of pollution challenges and sources that impact communities across the State. The goal is for strategies developed in this initial set to provide models for action in other communities with similar challenges. To support that, we will be working to identify successful strategies so that they can be transferred to a broader set of communities. This is the start of a larger effort, and the number will increase as we learn and grow the Program.

Slide 4: Additional Action in the Initial Communities

Air districts are now working with each local community through community steering committees to deploy new monitoring, and develop community emission reduction programs. Air monitoring begins in July of this year, and the community emissions reduction programs must be adopted by the air district boards by October. There is clearly a lot of work to be accomplished over the coming months. The air districts will talk more about these individual efforts, so in the next group of slides I want to highlight some of the work going on supporting communities statewide, and CARB's ongoing role.

Slide 5: CARB's Ongoing Role

Cleaning the air in these communities is the shared responsibility of both CARB and the local air districts, and each element of AB 617 reflects this partnership.

Our ongoing role as AB 617 moves forward includes:

- Developing and implementing new statewide strategies for mobile sources, as well as leveraging the work of State programs to support investments in communities. This work supports not only targeted action in the 10 initial

communities, but also reducing pollution in heavily burdened communities statewide.

- Developing new tools and resources to support this much more detailed information needed at the community level, including sitting down with community members and other stakeholders to better understand their needs and how they want to access and use this information.
- We also work with local air districts on administration of incentive grant funding, and as you'll hear more about from Veronica, implementing a brand new grant program to support community based organizations.
- Our Board also has an ongoing role, including approval of the community emissions reduction programs, and an annual process for reviewing and considering additional communities.

Slide 6: New Regulations for Key Sources Impacting Communities

Starting with statewide strategies, many actions have been identified through our traditional criteria, toxics, and greenhouse gas programs that provide a strong regulatory foundation for community level action. The Blueprint includes further actions that together make up a comprehensive portfolio of regulations that will be coming to the Board in the next few years.

For example, many of these measures will focus on zero emission technologies in the freight sector, and in recognition of the need for reducing localized exposure under AB 617, in March of last year our Board identified additional freight related actions including new regulations for cleaner cargo handling equipment, harbor craft, and drayage trucks. There are also other measures underway to reduce

pollution from vehicles, such as the clean transit measure our Board adopted last December which will transition transit busses to zero emission technologies. And for other industrial sources, like refineries and cement plants, air districts will be updating their rules to require the best available retrofit control technologies. The districts have recently adopted schedules for these rulemaking efforts.

Slide 7: Investing in Clean technologies in Burdened Communities

The Legislature has also strongly supported AB 617 by providing nearly half a billion dollars to jump-start early reductions in burdened communities through targeted incentive funding. This included \$250 million in the 17/18 State budget. The map on the right hand side of the slide shows the allocation to the individual air districts, which was specified in the budget bill. Air districts have already begun distributing this funding for cleaner trucks, buses, and other mobile sources. For example funded projects include hybrid gantry cranes at the Port of Oakland, zero emission trucks in the South Coast, and zero emission school busses in the San Joaquin Valley.

The second half of these funds was provided in this year's budget, which now expands to include stationary sources. We are developing guidelines for these new types of sources which includes discussions with residents about what they would like to see in their communities. These guidelines will be considered by our Board next month. Unlike the first year, the budget language did not include a specific allocation amongst air districts, therefore we are currently working with CAPCOA on the appropriate distribution.

Slide 8: Emissions Reporting Regulation

Moving on to some of the other tools and resources, AB 617 called for enhanced emissions data reporting. Emissions data is the foundation for many of CARB's programs including informing emission reduction strategies, as well as tracking progress over time. We are working with the air districts on new emissions reporting requirements to provide more information on the sources of criteria pollutants and especially air toxics within communities, as well as development of uniform methodologies for estimating emissions.

CARB staff began the public process for the regulation last spring, which was adopted by our Board in December. The focus of this first phase of the regulation is to establish reporting requirements to support both AB 617 and AB 197, which focus on increased availability and accessibility of data to better inform ways we can reduce exposure, as well as evaluate how our programs are working.

During the December Hearing, our Board directed staff to take a broader focus to better support community level data statewide. A few weeks ago, we released draft changes that responded to this direction. We also just completed workshops in Sacramento, Oakland, Los Angeles, San Diego, and Fresno to go over the proposed modifications and discuss next steps. In the upcoming months, we'll continue to work with air districts, community organizations, and other stakeholders to finalize the regulation, including a formal process for public review and comment on the proposed changes.

Slide 9: Community Monitoring Tools

Along with enhanced emissions data, we are also working on a number of efforts to better support community air monitoring. There are a variety of methods that can be used to improve our understanding of air quality at the community level, many of which are highlighted on this slide. This is an area of rapid expansion and innovation. So as part of AB 617 we are assessing the capabilities of different technologies, in partnership with the South Coast air districts' AQ-Spec program. And as you've heard throughout this presentation, making it easier for people to access information about air quality in their community is also a key aspect of AB 617, so this summer we'll be launching a new website for community monitoring data called AQ-VIEW. Finally, as I mentioned earlier, the Blueprint also provides guidance for how to design community monitoring networks so that they can best inform needed action.

Slide 10: Online Resource Center

To house all this information, we've launched an online Resource Center. The Resource Center provides one location where air districts and community members can access multiple tools and resources. This includes development of a technology clearinghouse to provide information on control approaches in practice today, but also forward looking next generation technologies where incentive funding could play a role.

We will continue to update materials in the Resource Center as more information becomes available, which will also include resources for collaborating with land use and transportation agencies, and information on health studies.

And now I'd I'll turn the presentation over to Veronica.

Slide 11: Engaging with Communities in New Ways

Public engagement and community involvement is the heart of this Program. Many community members provided suggestions for improving our outreach. It was clear that engaging with communities required new approaches – not just our traditional daytime workshops. These include a new Consultation Group which has a broad group of stakeholders, and is chaired by one of our Board members, legislator town halls, and evening community meetings. But, it isn't only about finding new ways to bring people together, it was about having real conversations with residents to share their knowledge and experiences. Many local groups also invited us to tour their neighborhoods, to see first-hand the problems and challenges that they're facing. Continuing these conversations is very important so that their voices and concerns are reflected in the decisions we make.

Slide 12: Community Air Grants

We are also supporting community involvement through funding provided by the Legislature for grants to community-based organizations. This map shows the first \$10 million dollars awarded to 25 community groups and 3 Native American tribes all throughout the state. The grants provide funding for these groups to participate in the community air protection process. For example: in Ventura, Community Air Action Teams led by community members will help document air pollution sources; in Fresno, school students will learn how to identify unhealthy

air quality issues; and in East Los Angeles residents will learn about the long-term public health impacts of air pollution exposure and air pollution reduction measures at a public housing development. An additional \$5 million dollars will be awarded through a second round of grants this summer.

Slide 13: Community Steering Committees

The other critical step is a continuation of the public engagement and community partnerships that are fundamental to this Program. Air districts have convened community steering committees to guide the development of monitoring plans and emissions reduction programs. These committees bring together a broad group to the table, drawn from each selected community – people that live there, people that have businesses in the community, and public agencies that govern local policies. But the steering committee membership must be primarily community residents - that represent voices from across the community. These committees are working with the air districts throughout the process, from discussing monitoring needs, identifying strategies that reduce pollution, and tracking progress. You'll be hearing more about the extensive work going on in these committees from both the air districts and steering committee members.

Slide 14: Looking Forward

As we look ahead, there are many impacted communities and we will continue working with our partners in communities and air districts to help identify actions that will reduce emissions and exposure. We will also work with communities to develop the tools needed to better understand pollution sources and document

air quality impacts. This will be an ongoing effort that will evolve as we learn and adjust based on the initial years of the program.

Our Board has an ongoing role, including consideration of additional communities, and approval of the community emissions reduction programs submitted by air districts. We also look forward to continuing to work with the legislature, both through legislative committee reports, and discussions with individual legislators to address concerns in their communities. All of these efforts will continue to shape the Program and provide the critical public health protection that is needed.

Thank you - We would be happy to answer any questions you might have.