

Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617) Meeting Summary

Eastern Coachella Valley (ECV) Community Steering Committee (CSC) #2

Meeting Date: May 20th, 2020

Meeting Time: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting <https://scaqmd.zoom.us/j/92008993035>

Staff held the first virtual AB 617 CSC meeting for ECV with more than 120 participants. The agenda focused on foundation level issues that the CSC will build upon throughout the year including meeting format, charter, stipends and air quality priorities.

Additional topics for discussion included the meeting format to maximize community participation at remote locations due to limited internet access. The meeting was attended by community members, government representatives, staff from elected officials' offices, businesses, and other stakeholders.

Agenda Item #1: Newsletter Update & Estimated Timeline

Arlene Farol, Senior Public Information Specialist presented the newsletter recently sent out to CSC and interested parties which included handouts on air quality priorities list, fugitive dust and agricultural burning.

Pedro Piqueras, Air Quality Specialist presented on the estimated CERP and CAMP timeline for the Eastern Coachella Valley (ECV) community. The timeline provided an overview of the AB 617 process for CERP and CAMP development, completion, and implementation.

Agenda Item #2: CSC Discussion – Meeting Format/Process

The facilitator led a roundtable seeking suggestions from CSC members. The CSC discussed their ideas for committee meeting process, recommending subgroups or working groups to move forward on certain issues, such as the charter. CSC members suggested to use this process to have a community forum with full transparency and accountability using the Brown Act requirements.

Stacey Pruitt, Sr Deputy District Counsel shared a fact sheet that provided an overview that provided an overview of requirements for meetings subject to the Brown Act and common practices for AB 617 CSC meetings. Additionally, staff shared the challenges, consequences and restrictions of conducting CSC meetings pursuant to the Brown Act. The ECV CSC is not required to follow the Brown Act.

CSC members commented that the community should be heard and uplifted, rather than highlighting the consequences and violations of the Brown Act. CSC members suggested to pull elements of the Brown Act to strengthen the charter. These elements could be adapted into the charter through a smaller subcommittee to discuss specific topics.

Agenda Item #3: CSC Discussion – Charter

A small group of CSC members, comprised of residents and community organizations proposed a revised draft charter, which was shared with the larger body of the CSC at this meeting. CSC members commented that these representatives should be considered trusted members of the community who took initiative to amend South Coast's original draft charter.

CSC members suggested to share CSC contact information, such as email and phone numbers among CSC members to better communicate with each other.

Additionally, CSC members requested stipends, transit, child care, availability of alternative community locations with internet access for future meetings, air quality training and workshops, and that materials be provided far in advance of the meetings.

Agenda Item #4: CARB Blueprint Training

Andrea Juarez, Air Pollution Specialist with the California Air Resources Board, presented an overview of the Community Air Protection Blueprint (Blueprint) which helped explain how community members, air districts, and the public could better understand and participate in the Community Air Protection Program. The Blueprint specifically outlines the process for identifying impacted communities, statewide strategies to reduce emissions of criteria air pollutants and toxic air contaminants, as well as criteria for development of community emissions reduction programs and community air monitoring plans. CARB notified attendees that they will continue to develop additional trainings on community air monitoring and other topics, some of which were already provided in the ECV newsletter sent out to CSC members and interested parties on May 8, 2020.

CARB has developed a series of online trainings to support community members, air districts, and the public in understanding and participating in the Community Air Protection Program. The full set of online trainings can be found online by visiting: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/capp-training>.

Agenda Item #5: CSC Roundtable Suggestions for Next Meeting Agenda Items

CSC members asked about the AB 617 budget and monitoring efforts in ECV and requested a discussion on the Air Quality concerns list at the next CSC meeting on Thursday, June 25, 2020.

Public Comment

Public Comment was then received from meeting attendees.

This meeting was recorded and can be watched in its entirety at the link provided below:
https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=1200836036933848&ref=watch_permalink