



Gavin Newsom, Governor
Jared Blumenfeld, CalEPA Secretary
Mary D. Nichols, Chair

April 24, 2020

Wayne Nastri, Executive Officer
South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, California 91765

34 Community Steering Committee Members

Dear Mr. Nastri and Community Steering Committee Members,

As you are aware, the California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) has postponed consideration of the community emissions reduction program (Program) for the East Los Angeles, Boyle Heights, West Commerce community, previously scheduled for March 16, 2020. The postponement is in recognition that community participation is a critical aspect of the Board hearing and that we are not able to hold meetings in person at this time. CARB will schedule a future meeting on an appropriate date that will allow for full, in person community participation. This letter is intended to provide the South Coast Air Quality Management District (District) and the Community Steering Committee with recommended guidance on how to proceed in the interim, until the Board has an opportunity to hold such a meeting to consider the Program for this community. But, I first want to recognize the District, its staff, and the Steering Committee on developing the community emission reduction program. It is a key milestone reflecting the ongoing work with the community to develop and implement effective strategies to reduce emissions and exposure to air pollutants in our most impacted communities.

CARB applauds the District and the Community Steering Committee as they have already begun implementing the Program. Our goal is to ensure that we support your collective efforts to reduce air pollution and improve public health within this heavily impacted community. As such, we encourage the District and the Community Steering Committee to continue its implementation of the Program with consideration of the Recommended Actions to Strengthen Implementation included in CARB's East Los Angeles, Boyle Heights, West Commerce Community Emissions Reduction Program Staff Report, released on February 24, 2020¹. These recommendations reflect community input as well as discussions with the District, and are intended to

¹ Staff Report located at: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/capp_2018_ad_cerps.

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help strengthen the Program going forward. A summary of these recommendations are as follows:

1. Prioritize project types for incentive funding based on Community Steering Committee recommendations.
2. Further define implementation steps and milestones for actions within the Program to provide additional clarity.
3. Establish what constitutes a successful action by refining metrics to track progress.
4. Update emissions reduction targets for actions that currently do not have defined benefits, as new information is available.
5. Provide the Community Steering Committee with ongoing reports related to the District's interaction with other agencies to designate truck routes and parking away from sensitive receptors.
6. Continue work on reducing impacts from railyards, with consideration of any additional mechanisms that may be needed to ensure anticipated exposure reductions are achieved.
7. Work with the Community Steering Committee to continue to advance implementation strategies outlined in the Freight Handbook Concept Paper.
8. Collaborate with CARB staff as they work towards fulfilling CARB's commitment to supporting a one-week ALPR pilot study using a mobile ALPR measurement station in the community and subsequently train District staff to take ALPR measurements independently. CARB staff will also work with the District to design, build, and operate a PEAQS-style system. This collaboration will be iterative as the District, CARB, and the Community Steering Committee work to develop the system for specific objectives that support the Program.
9. Review the results of enhanced enforcement activities conducted by the District and CARB and provide those results to the Community Steering Committee so steps can be taken to refine enhanced enforcement as necessary.
10. Continue with community air monitoring and improving inventory and air quality modeling and, as that data becomes available, incorporate it into the Program to provide current air quality information in the community.

To date, CARB has held Board meetings in communities to consider Programs in West Oakland, Imperial County, South Fresno, and Shafter. These community-focused meetings have been important opportunities for members of these communities to participate meaningfully by talking directly to the Board and for the Board members to tour and see the communities themselves. CARB believes these meetings serve an important purpose and still need to be held as soon as possible. Therefore, we will be working with you to identify a new date for the meeting as soon as feasible.

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Given the tight deadlines under AB 617, as well as the need for full engagement with communities to implement the programs, it is anticipated that some adjustments to the implementation calendar may be warranted. For example, CARB continues to move forward on several important freight related regulations, but has recently extended the public comment periods in consideration of current circumstances. We will continue to work closely with the District to determine the impact and extent of these challenges on the Program. The communities will need to be part of those discussions as well. Another factor we will plan to discuss is the importance of ongoing funding to support effective implementation of the Program.

We recognize that it will also be necessary for CARB and the District to consider new ways to engage actively with the Community Steering Committee on implementation of the Program. CARB and the District are already taking new approaches to carrying out some broader agency-wide responsibilities, such as relying on conducting meetings remotely. To that end, in place of an in-person Board meeting in the near-term, we think it would be helpful to organize a meeting with the Community Steering Committee, CARB, and District executive leadership. The agenda could focus on implementation of the Program including potential revisions to the Blueprint, as well as the ten recommendations in CARB's staff report. I have asked CARB staff to contact you to discuss ways to make that meeting as effective and meaningful as possible.

If you have questions or would like to discuss further you can contact me at (916) 322-7077 or follow-up with Vernon Hughes, Acting Director with the Office of Community Air Protection, at (916) 764-5932. If you prefer to speak to someone in Spanish, please contact Liliana Nunez at (626) 350-6561.

Regards,



Richard W. Corey
Executive Officer

cc: Vernon Hughes, Acting Director
Office of Community Air Protection
California Air Resources Board