

State of California
Air Resources Board

BOARD ITEM SUMMARY

ITEM # 20-10-3: Public Meeting to Consider Assembly Bill 617 Community Air Protection Program – Community Emissions Reductions Program for San Bernardino, Muscoy Community

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) approve the San Bernardino, Muscoy Community Emissions Reduction Program and direct CARB staff to work with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) to take additional actions to strengthen implementation.

DISCUSSION:

On September 6, 2019, the South Coast AQMD Governing Board adopted the Community Emissions Reductions Program for San Bernardino, Muscoy (Program) under the requirements of Assembly Bill (AB) 617. To develop the Program, South Coast AQMD convened a community steering committee comprised of residents, non-profits, business groups, and local government. The community steering committee met ten times from October 2018 – October 2019 and has been meeting quarterly in 2020. South Coast AQMD hosted one workshop in July 2019. On January 23, 2020, CARB hosted a community meeting in San Bernardino to hear directly from the community about the Program in preparation for the Board meeting.

Staff reviewed the Program to determine whether it meets criteria set out in the AB 617 legislation and the Community Air Protection Blueprint (Blueprint), and if it reflects community priorities. Staff based their recommendation on this review considering the progress made in developing the Program and comments from the community steering committee members. South Coast AQMD and the steering committee have recognized the need for continued discussion regarding potential emissions and exposure reducing strategies as well as continued discussion regarding implementation of the strategies outlined in the Program.

Implementation of the Program as proposed would benefit from additional specifics on reduction strategies and overall process. As detailed in the CARB staff report, staff have identified specific actions for the South Coast AQMD to take, in collaboration with CARB staff and the community steering committee, to strengthen implementation in the areas of reduction strategies, mobile and indirect sources, ensuring effective enforcement, and community-level technical foundation in the San Bernardino, Muscoy community.

SUMMARY AND IMPACTS:

Approving the San Bernardino, Muscoy Community Emissions Reduction Program and directing CARB staff and South Coast AQMD to take the recommended actions will result in these agencies continuing to work with the community steering committee to define and implement strategies to reduce exposure to air pollution in San Bernardino, Muscoy community. South Coast AQMD will provide annual reports to the Board with progress updates that include updates on the recommended actions as defined in the staff report. In conjunction with this work, CARB will continue to develop and implement our mobile source regulations and pursue enhanced enforcement in San Bernardino, Muscoy community.