

State of California
Air Resources Board

BOARD ITEM SUMMARY

ITEM # 20-11-6: Public Meeting to Consider an Update on Race, Equity, and the California Air Resources Board's Activities

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This is an update to the California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) that includes a resolution directing continued staff work to increase internal diversity at CARB and to ensure external programs appropriately serve communities of color. Staff recommends passage of the resolution.

DISCUSSION:

The air Californians breathe is often determined by the color of their skin. California's legacy of racial discrimination, and the way it affects exposure to air pollution, is coming into sharper focus at CARB, as is the ways CARB's own processes can disfavor recruitment and advancement for people of color. The calls for social and racial justice this past summer have further underlined the need to consider how racism affects our work. In a previous hearing, Chair Nichols asked Board Member Serna to lead efforts to ensure CARB's programs, internal and external, do not discriminate on the basis of race. At this meeting, the Board will consider a report from Board Member Serna, and engage in discussion with staff, on CARB's efforts to better understand and address the ways race, and other factors such as gender, have affected climate and air quality risks in California and CARB's own internal operations. The discussion will focus on CARB's efforts to address these issues, internally and externally. The Board will provide staff guidance via resolution on work to remediate race-based harms within CARB's jurisdiction and increase diversity in the work force.

SUMMARY AND IMPACTS:

The proposed resolution recognizes the many ways racism can affect our work, condemns racism in all its forms, directs staff to continue work on its newly-created Diversity and Racial Equity Task Force regarding internal processes, and establishes an expectation that CARB will review its process and policies affecting external stakeholders to address improper burdens caused by racism.