

## **Comment 1 for The People's Blueprint written by the CARB advisory working group (capp-peoplesbp-ws) - 1st Workshop.**

First Name: Mauro

Last Name: Libre

Email Address: humildad.es.sabiduria@gmail.com

Affiliation: resident

Subject: Reparations for injustices created as a result of the initial AB 617 process

Comment:

Dear CARB,

Thank you for your consideration.

The purpose of this comment letter is to share insights and suggestions I believe were not considered in the development of the People's Blueprint. Although I'm in a great mood, I'll make a conscious effort to not seem angry while writing about the injustices suffered by many in South Sacramento. As James Baldwin said, "To be Black in this country and to be relatively conscious is to be in a rage almost all the time." I am not Black, but can empathize, and imagine.

To commit

an injustice and not correct it, when it is correctable, is to double down on that injustice. As I skimmed through the People's Blueprint, and watched recordings of the meetings, I found an attempt to prevent conflict and progress from happening again, "moving forward." What I didn't find, was how to correct the injustices that were allowed to happen to several South Sacramento neighborhoods as part of the AB 617 process. California governmental and non-profit environmental justice circles were aware of the issues; and so were you because residents came here and told you. You deferred the issues to your Board colleague, that also sits on the Board of the Air District, and the Board of Supervisors. The only folks I recall who genuinely tried to help South Sacramento residents frustrated with the process were Ms. Ladonna Williams, Ms. Margaret Gordon, and Ms. Katie Valenzuela. They listened and either provided technical assistance or used their voice to call out the injustices. But there are no public participants, that are also residents, (in the South Sacramento AB 617 process) left for them to help now.

Like many others, I also

quit the South Sacramento AB 617 process. It was a waste of my time, and many others felt the same, who are no longer there. However, I recently attended the latest AB 617 Community Steering Committee meeting for South Sacramento, via Zoom. I immediately noticed that the meeting only had three members of the public in attendance, including myself. The two others were non-profits with strong relationships to the local government. Using the chat feature, I asked about the seeming lack of residents at a meeting which was often touted as a community led process. The

responses were more than a little bit surprising.

First, one of the

non-profits in attendance tried to explain away the lack of community participation by stating that "the community is tired." My

community is largely unaware of the AB 617 process; I'd guess that less than 1 out of every hundred residents knows about AB 617; that's not being tired, its being unaware. I think what was meant is that the same 10 people paraded at every outreach event, and photo-op are tired. The Blueprint should push OCAP and community based organizations to continuously strive to diversify

the public participation at AB 617 meetings; otherwise, you risk creating a monopoly on community voices, which is contrary to EJ principles.

The other non-profit

responded by stating that "we lost community trust and need to rebuild that trust again for this process to work." I asked why they were speaking on behalf of the government, and not letting the air district answer my question for themselves. I also mentioned that I have never lost the community's trust, and don't understand why I would need to build trust between the community and the local air agency. Then the AB 617 Community Steering Committee responded to the conversation.

First, one of the new CSC

members asked if the AB 617 CSC meetings were public meetings. The other new steering committee member also expressed uncertainty about whether they are public meetings, or not. Finally, a long-standing CSC member stated that they are public meetings, but the topics are so niche and technical that community isn't interested. I responded by stating that other, similar communities do have lots of residents interested in the local air pollution and its effects on the health and well-being of their children. I don't recall if the air district responded because my eyes glazed over and I tuned out by this point. If the meetings are recorded, it's all there.

To those uninformed about

the history of South Sacramento's AB 617 process, it would seem to be working well today. Peace exists there, in the absence of tension or anger. The community members who showed up initially with tension and anger, driven by love for their community, were pushed away. They are no longer there seeking peace based on the presence of justice.

Sadly, it has been my

experience that every time I tried drawing attention to those unjustly left behind from the AB 617 process, OCAP management felt compelled to rebut my comments with bureaucratic talking points that only deepen the injustice. An example of this would be calling out the pollution and marginalized people existing immediately outside the AB 617 boundaries, and receiving a response along the lines of "the boundaries were selected by a community steering committee, through a process that was intended to empower the community, and nothing can be done about it now." I would much rather hear an acknowledgement of the injustice and a commitment to seek redress for them, not a talking point for why it happened. In this case, CARB is basically blaming the community to absolve the government of responsibility. The folks left out of South Sacramento's AB 617 process were never informed of the process and excluded from targeted outreach, thus the opportunity to inform the steering committee of their plight, based on not living within the originally proposed boundaries (which also initially excluded an industrial park surrounded by dense housing). Those folks never had a say in their air quality future, or their kid's health. The were not made aware of AB 617; they aren't tired or distrustful, yet.

I've taken the time

to film who was left out of the AB 617 process, for you to see who was denied the justice that AB 617 was intended to provide. The back wall of the park in this video abuts Highway 99 where traffic is often stalled. It also sits about one quarter of a mile from a Title 5 facility that is across the street from the AB 617 boundaries. It's also about a half mile from an industrial park and the associated truck routes for the many logistics centers located there. As you can see in the video, the park is packed with children and families. The park has been home to many marginalized ethnic communities, and even a few gangs. Now, it is rapidly becoming a predominantly Arab immigrant community. The park serves as the main greenspace for the low-income housing that surrounds the park, all a quarter mile from the AB 617 boundaries. Here's a link to

the video: <https://youtube.com/shorts/nvVcnm0VQIM?feature=share>

The injustice of allowing

the people in the video to remain unaware, and without a voice in the health of their air, when the "first of its kind" harbinger of equity is only a quarter mile away, becomes twofold if you only look forward in your Blueprint, or limit all opportunities for redress to the AB 617 process, or OEJ. They've had plenty of time to seek alternative means of justice for this community, having been made aware years ago. In addition to looking for models in some of the AB 617 communities that worked well, for a variety of reasons that included CARB's commitment to them, as compared to South Sacramento, you should also look for models of what still needs fixing, and fix them, before looking to start new AB 617 communities using successful models that often required political capital you didn't distribute equally.

If not already included,

the AB 617 Blueprint needs to include something that allows CARB to revoke AB 617 status and funding from Air Districts not acting in good faith, or without any public participation. It also needs to provide redress for those who experienced injustices at the start of the AB 617 process. AB 617 cannot be the promised harbinger of justice for South Sacramento if the Blueprint moves forward without a mechanism that provides redress for the people in the video: the people who were excluded from AB 617 in a way that does serves as a model...for injustice, systemic racism and, inequity.

My apologies if CARB and

the AB 617 Consultation Group provided for all my concerns in the People's Blueprint and I missed it. It's my belief that community shouldn't need to read large government documents to share their concerns about the issues in their community and then ask how you plan to fix them. I'll leave reading those fat documents to the folks getting paid to advocate or explain them. I do this for spirit, and am fighting on several fronts, so my time is limited.

"In the end, we will

remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

Thank you,

Mauro Libre

Attachment:

Original File Name:

Date and Time Comment Was Submitted: 2022-09-23 13:12:48

No Duplicates.

**Comment 2 for The People's Blueprint written by the CARB advisory working group (capp-peoplesbp-ws) - 1st Workshop.**

First Name: Catherine

Last Name: Reheis-Boyd

Email Address: creheis@wspa.org

Affiliation: Western States Petroleum Association

Subject: Western States Petroleum Association comments on The People's Blueprint  
Comment:

See attached document for comment letter.

Attachment: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/BARCU/barcu-attach/4-capp-peoplesbp-ws-UCcBdFQIBzVRCAh4.pdf>

Original File Name: WSPA PB Comments Final 09262022.pdf

Date and Time Comment Was Submitted: 2022-10-11 18:19:26

No Duplicates.

**Comment 3 for The People's Blueprint written by the CARB advisory working group (capp-peoplesbp-ws) - 1st Workshop.**

First Name: Dan  
Last Name: Singer  
Email Address: dsinger@spcity.org  
Affiliation:

Subject: League of California Cities Comments on the Draft ACF Public Fleets Regulatory Language  
Comment:

Attn:  
Craig Segall, Deputy Executive Officer  
California Air Resources Board  
Please find attached our comments.

Attachment: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/BARCU/barcu-attach/5-capp-peoplesbp-ws-UzBTNAZYAzEGaVMh.pdf>

Original File Name: CA Air Resources Board\_Craig Segall.pdf

Date and Time Comment Was Submitted: 2022-10-26 09:53:30

No Duplicates.

## **Comment 4 for The People's Blueprint written by the CARB advisory working group (capp-peoplesbp-ws) - 1st Workshop.**

First Name: LaDonna

Last Name: Williams

Email Address: zzeria@aol.com

Affiliation:

Subject: The Peoples Blueprint comments

Comment:

My name is LaDonna Williams, I'm sending this letter in response to a recent comment letter regarding the People's AB 617 Blueprint. The letter was signed by Mauro Libre.

After reading the letter, I decided to lend my voice. What is described in the letter, and the accompanying video, is "redlining in the United States. Redlining is a discriminatory practice in which services (financial and otherwise) are withheld from potential customers who reside in neighborhoods classified as 'hazardous' to investment; these neighborhoods have significant numbers of racial and ethnic minorities, and low-income residents. While the most well-known examples involve denial of credit and insurance, also sometimes attributed to redlining in many instances are: denial of healthcare and the development of food deserts in minority neighborhoods."

It's no stretch to say that denying the people (in the video) who live a quarter mile from the AB 617 boundaries the resources that AB 617 was intended to provide them, is tantamount to the description of redlining provided in the previous paragraph. However, the area is not only hazardous to investment; the letter mentions an industrial park and Title V facility adjacent to the residents, making it hazardous to the community's health as well. Industrial parks are generally managed by the county and Board of Supervisors; the letter indicated the CARB Board deferred to them, through their colleague. This raises serious concerns about CARB's commitment to real equity and real justice and paints a

picture of politics as usual.

Given the described injustices, and systemic racism to the people of South Sacramento and the mention of CARB political capital possibly being distributed unequally amongst AB 617 communities, I would like to request that you publish a list of every AB 617 community along with the names of your Board and Executive Officers that have attended or participated in a tour of each. I believe that looking at communities supported overwhelmingly by CARB, as models for future AB 617 communities, sets future communities up for failure unless you can commit the same support and resources to those that have received the most. I support the suggestion in the letter to look at communities that aren't models of success and find solutions to the problems there, before moving forward with new communities. Being complicit in redlining a community is something worthy of reflection and correction, or redress as stated in Mauro's letter. I encourage you to look at South Sacramento for solutions, and then talk about successful models using their example as well.

I've been told that you should expect another letter with metrics and suggestions regarding the recommendation for agencies and community-based organizations to continuously strive for outreach and community engagement throughout the AB 617 process. Without this requirement, it's easy to get lax about hearing from a wide array of community residents. As a scientific agency, you know very well that the very small amount of people regularly informing you about the plight of EJ communities can't possibly be representative of all EJ communities or ethnicities in the State. You wouldn't accept this level of data for anything else besides equity and justice work; and I could show you communities like South Vallejo and Bayo Vista in Rodeo both that are majority Black American residents that are facing as many if not more cumulative impacts as any, and have not been advocated for, or supported to any noticeable degree, for inclusion in AB 617 by your EJ advisors or your staff, with the exception of Jose Saldana our previous staff community support person who displayed what real environmental justice, equity and inclusion should be in historically disadvantaged long term highest exposed communities being impacted by the highest health burdens, outcomes, and compounding hits from source pollution.

I hope you took note of the public comments during the recent Los Angeles City Council meeting to address the vile racist comments of Council member Nury Martinez, complicit Council members Kevin De Leon, and Gil Cedillo towards black people by these members. In addition, leader Ron Herrera was included as well with these City Leaders on how the City's council district boundaries should be redrawn to further disenfranchise American Blacks in LA. As you may or may not recall I've previously complained in 2019 (and prior)

during your Board hearings about similar actions taken by Sacramento air district, their coveted Latino organizations, and some CARB staff who've silenced, and disenfranchised American Blacks particularly Black women by firing, and or removing them from jobs, and committees preventing their involvement and voices being heard and included. This prompted a CARB inter-agency anonymous 18 page letter outlining the deeply engrained racism existing within CARB. Although CARB responded with Resolution 20-33, A COMMITMENT TO RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE, on October 22, 2020, the recently attended tours in LA areas supporting Latino communities, while bypassing the previously repeated requests made in 2021 and 2022 from Black Americans in Bay View Hunters Point in the Bay Area were put on the back burner forcing the Black community to jump through hoops to date for a CARB tour of their community. This in addition to the Legislative 2021 audit report labeling CARB poverty pimps is proof much has not changed for historically disadvantaged long term highest risk communities particularly Black American communities and neighborhoods least supported or overlooked by CARB.

I am requesting info on the funding amounts spent on each AB 617 communities to date, and if applicable projected in the future.

Although the letter from Mauro doesn't accuse you of racist comments, it does reflect the same frustrations with your decisions as those that the community shared in their public comments during the Los Angeles City Council meeting.

Sincerely,

LaDonna  
Williams

Community  
Advocate/Resident

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Attachment:

Original File Name:

Date and Time Comment Was Submitted: 2022-10-27 09:05:59

No Duplicates.

## **Comment 5 for The People's Blueprint written by the CARB advisory working group (capp-peoplesbp-ws) - 1st Workshop.**

First Name: Ed

Last Name: Ward

Email Address: ed.ward@vppls.net

Affiliation: Valley Pacific Petroleum

Subject: In opposition to the "Peoples Blueprint"

Comment:

My name is Ed Ward. I am a member of South Central Fresno and Stockton AB 617 communities.

Without business interaction the AB617 process will fail.

Business is the front line of environmental adoption, and has to date spent billions adapting new technology to increase community air quality. The weak wording regarding business input is hollow and unnecessary.

Business believes that human flourishing/dignity is critical to all community success. Unfortunately the consideration that business of any size only exists for profit only is unreasonable. Without the ability to be an active part of the AB617 process the best solutions cannot be achieved.

Actually there are CARB board members who are business owners that could potentially not be allowed to have input in an AB617 community based on the Peoples Blueprint wording. With the implementation of Community CERP monies, I believe that input from business is critical to assure effectiveness.

I urge you to not adopt the "People Blueprint". A balanced group of business, homeowners, environmental justice, CARB and Air District staff could build a more equitable/ dynamic document.

Respectfully Submitted

Ed Ward

Attachment:

Original File Name:

Date and Time Comment Was Submitted: 2022-10-28 14:08:41

No Duplicates.

**There are no comments posted to The People's Blueprint written by the CARB advisory working group (capp-peoplesbp-ws) that were presented during the Workshop at this time.**