



September 21, 2018

Karen Magliano, Division Chief
Office of Community Air Protection
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814



Dear Ms. Magliano,

Thank you for meeting with us this week and for the time that you have spent over the past few months to listen and meet with residents of the Eastern Coachella Valley to learn more about their concerns and priorities. Being able to have those face-to-face conversations with community residents makes all the difference when it comes to addressing the impacts experienced by environmental justice communities.

Per your request at our meeting on Wednesday, September 19th, with CARB, SCAQMD, Comite Civico del Valle, Alianza Coachella Valley, and Leadership Counsel, we write this letter detailing AB 617 implementation and additional project opportunities that will complement AB 617 and greatly benefit the ECV communities.

We respectfully request that CARB and AQMD do the following:

1. Recommend the selection of the Eastern Coachella Valley for development and deployment of a regulatory air monitoring system in year 1, to the California Air Resources Governing Board.
 - a. In conjunction with the air monitoring system that Comite Civico will develop in the ECV with the Community Air Grant that they were awarded, the additional deployment of a regulatory air monitoring system will strongly position the ECV for development of a community emission reduction plan in year 2. At the meeting, we all agreed that a greater understanding of sources of pollution would be of benefit to all parties. We believe that doing so is in line with intent and goals of AB 617.
2. By November 2018, meet with community residents in the ECV at a time and date that is convenient for residents to identify and develop priority project proposals for funding from AB 134 funds provided to AQMD by the Legislature.
 - a. Some of these projects may include community rideshare programs, zero-emission school buses, public transit buses, clean truck projects, the pavement of mobile home parks and other locations that lack this infrastructure, and weatherization programs to mitigate the pollution and air contaminants that flow into dilapidated mobile homes. A few measures to look at include: the

Budget Act of 2017 (AB 134), the Goods Movement Emission Reduction Program, and the Carl Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards Attainment Program which allocate a significant amount of funds for projects in disadvantaged and low-income communities most burdened by air pollution.

3. In conjunction with the discussion of AB 134 funds, meet with community residents in the ECV to identify and develop project proposals for funding from the \$245 million allocation for the Community Air Protection Program in 2018-2019 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund expenditure plan.
 - a. AB 856 allows CARB and SCAQMD to work with community residents to identify priorities through a public process for AB 617 selected communities and for communities being considered for future selection. We ask that you commit to working directly with ECV residents to develop proposals, engage other relevant agencies and provide technical assistance to ensure successful funding awards.
4. Partner, fund, and complete a health assessment by December 2019 to determine the source of health impacts raised by residents, such as nosebleeds, asthma attacks, allergies, etc. CARB and OEHHA shall commit to meeting with community residents by November to develop the scope and process of this assessment.
 - a. Work with Dr. Ryan Sinclair at the Loma Linda University School of Public Health to validate the high asthma prevalence found in the North Shore and Oasis communities of the ECV. The original 2014 assessment was conducted by the CIRS, Loma Linda University and organized through Alianza Coachella Valley (formerly, Building Healthy Communities of the ECV). The study is titled “Environmental Health Assessment”.
5. Develop and implement avenues to integrate community-owned data into the regulatory process and statewide tools like CalEnviroScreen.
 - a. This will provide a greater opportunity for tools, such as CalEnviroScreen, to more accurately reflect the environmental impacts in rural and agricultural communities with lower population density.
6. Recommend the ECV for a Community Emission Reduction Plan in year 2 of AB 617 implementation.

By following the efforts outlined above, we will begin to develop a stronger partnership between our respective organizations and the ECV community. These efforts will reflect the extensive environmental impacts experienced by community residents and reassert the need for further investment and consideration that the ECV has minimally received.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration with CARB and AQMD and greatly appreciate your time and consideration of our comments. If you require additional information or have any questions, please contact Rebecca Zaragoza at rzaragoza@leadershipcounsel.org or call (760) 774-3528.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Zaragoza
Policy Advocate
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

cc: Richard Corey, Executive Officer, CARB
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