

9/24/2018

California Air Resources Board (CARB)

Submitted online at:

<https://www.arb.ca.gov/lispub/comm/bclist.php>



Re: CBE Comments on disappointing proposed Final 617 Blueprint and Community Selection

- Communities like Richmond selected for monitoring-only have obvious need for emission cuts
- Other highly-impacted communities such as Southeast LA, East Oakland, and others were left out completely from emission reduction plan list without transparent reasoning
- Blueprint gives no direction to Districts to cut big emission sources including oil refineries, does not set specific metrics for emissions cuts and health, nor clearly go beyond existing requirements

Honorable Air Resources Board Members and Staff,

We appreciate CARB staff's extensive hard work in a short timeframe, but we are greatly disappointed at decisions to propose a weak and over-generalized Final AB 617 Blueprint for adoption September 27th, and to leave out so many impacted communities from emissions reductions. **We urge changes.**

This letter is a follow-up on our Draft Blueprint comments. (**Please see: *CBE Comments on Draft Community Air Protection Blueprint pursuant to AB 617; Need Strong State Mandated Refinery, Transportation, and Small Cumulative Source Cuts*, 7/23/2018, including CBE's description of Richmond, East Oakland, SELA, and Wilmington, and emission reduction needs.**) **We support CEJA's 617 comments** (the California Environmental Justice Alliance), and also **attach individual CBE community members' letters, summarized later in this letter.**

AB617 was supposed to address gaps in Cap & Trade, which only relates to greenhouse gases. But we were shocked that the biggest Cap & Trade stationary sources - Oil Refineries – which also emit major toxic and smog-forming co-pollutants in communities, had no requirements set in the draft blueprint. In response, CARB added a few new references to “refineries” in the final. However, describing that refineries exist without setting requirements, is lip service. The proposed final still does not include any specific refinery requirement. The proposal leaves decision-making to Air District discretion, with little basis for the state to fix weak District plans to be submitted next year, and no quantifiable metrics for emissions cuts and health measures. **We are hopeful the Board and staff will correct these gaps.**

Recommendation Set 1. Community Selection needs to increase beyond only seven Community Emission Reduction Plans. (Furthermore, it appears highly-impacted EJ communities with highest percent African American populations¹ are getting short shrift (Richmond and East Oakland).)

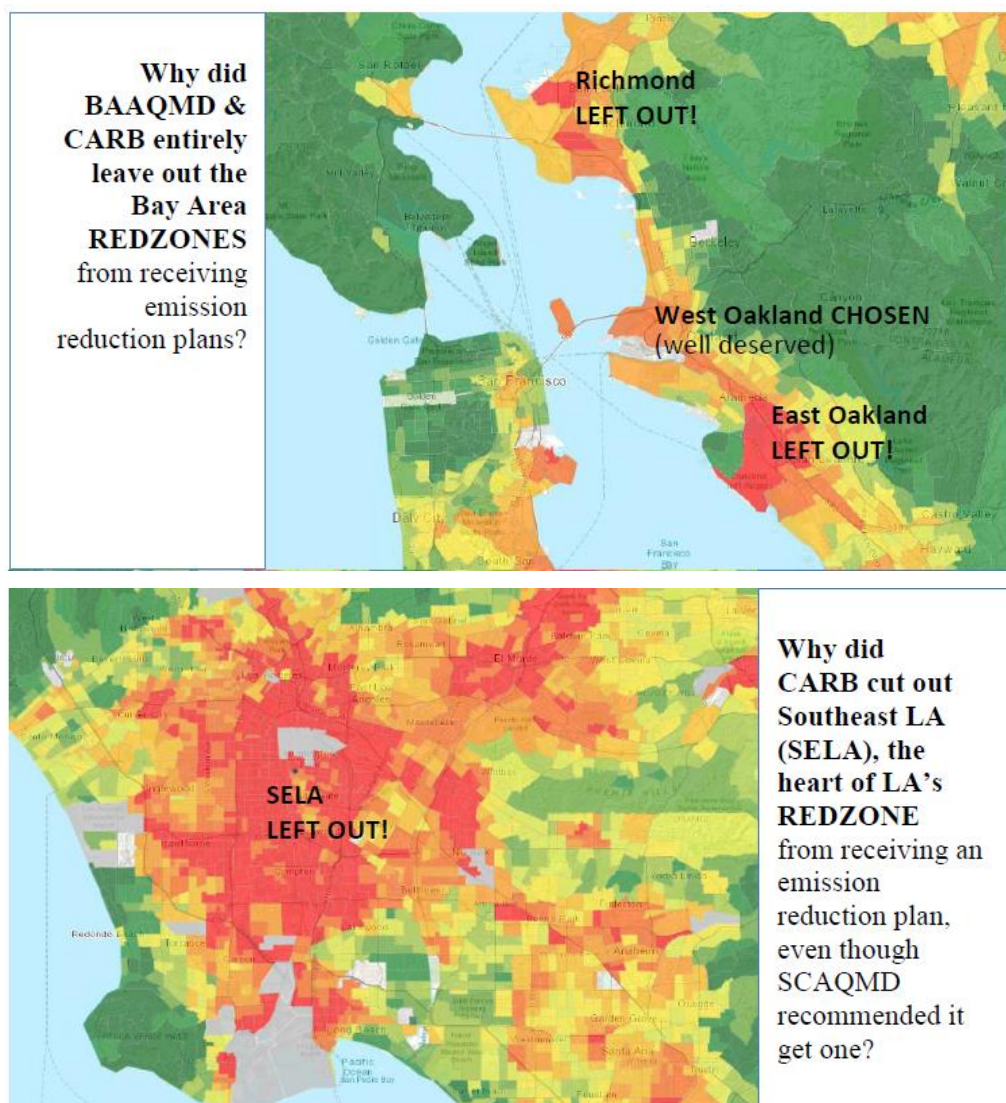
- **Richmond/Rodeo--Needs Emissions Reduction Plan – not Monitoring-only:** The BAAQMD selected Richmond for *monitoring-only*, in a blatant move to avoid emissions cuts the community has sought for years. Though CARB has authority, it made no correction.
- **East Oakland – Needs Emissions Reduction Plan – was not nominated by either BAAQMD or CARB, despite statements that 617 would take care of local emissions problems.** In meetings with CBE and other East Oakland community members, BAAQMD pointed to 617 as the solution, but didn't propose East Oakland for an emissions reduction plan.

¹ Evaluation of 2012-2016 census data, *10 California Cities With The Largest Black Population For 2018*, available at: <https://www.roadsnacks.net/most-african-american-cities-in-california/>

- **Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) – Needs Emissions Reduction Plan – CARB removed SELA even though SCAQMD recommended it.** (SELA should include Huntington Park, Southgate, Maywood, Bell, Vernon, Florence-Firestone, Walnut Park -- heavy transportation and stationary impacts.) This is the heart of the LA CalEnviroScreen redzone, as shown in our previous comments, and highest particulate matter measurements according to SCAQMD.
- **CBE supports our CEJA partners in East Coachella seeking an Emission Reduction Plan–** This is a highly impacted rural area of the SCAQMD that routinely gets fewer resources, is heavily impacted, was self-nominated, and deserves an emission reduction plan.
- **Many other self-nominated communities need emission reduction plans.**

We very much appreciate that Wilmington/Carson/W. Long Beach IS listed for an emissions plan. (It has the 5 oil refineries, the two largest ports nearby, largest urban oil drilling, and many other polluting fossil fuel activities.) - **We urge the CARB Board to affirm this nomination.**

The maps below vividly demonstrate our concerns about why the highest-impact CalEnviroScreen Red Zones of Richmond, East Oakland, and SELA --were not included for emission reduction plans.



The Final Community Selection document describes why the seven were chosen, but not why others with at least as high scores were rejected. CBE does not support removing any communities--we support expanding the list.

Recommendation Set 2. Blueprint needs clear requirements by CARB to Air Districts, mandating specific oil industry reductions, and setting metrics for quantified emission cuts and health improvements.

- CARB should require BAAQMD to adopt refinery Catalytic Cracker rule (BACT – such as wet scrubbers), and preferably require all Districts with refineries to do same;
- CARB should require SCAQMD and preferably all Air Districts to replace old refinery Boilers & Heaters to meet BACT (Best Available Control Technology);
- **Refinery expansions must stop**, and decommissioning plans by 2050 must be developed. Although regulators seem to believe their function is to approve all permits, allowing expansion of major fossil fueled sources in the state is directly inconsistent with state plans to avert climate disaster;
- We need setbacks for Oil Extraction of 2500 ft. from residences and sensitive receptors;
- **Stop emissions increases in EJ communities, including transportation and stationary sources;**
- Address **Cumulative Impacts** including large and small stationary and transportation sources;
- **Please see CEJA comments regarding the need to set specific, quantifiable metrics for emission cuts and health benefits by a date certain.**

Recommendation Set 3. Individual CBE community letters affirm the above recommendations and add detail. CBE held workshops with members in Northern and Southern California, members contributed to the issues expressed in this letter, and many also provided individual letters (see attached letters from youth and adults). Our members statewide face heavy disproportionate pollution impacts of stationary and transportation sources and have clear understanding of their own health impacts and priorities.

CBE members expressed a variety of concerns – that air monitoring does not suffice to address environmental racism in communities full of people already aware of the conditions; that CARB should also focus on clean energy, rezoning, directly regulating, stopping pollution expansions, removing cap & trade. Members identified their communities facing health impacts including asthma, cancer, cardiac issues, and birth defects, and concerned about overall exposure to toxic air through refineries, congested freeways populated by diesel-guzzling trucks, and more.

Member comments in summary found:

CARB should require:

- Rezoning
- Reduce/ transportation expansions (ex. 710 freeway)

- Funding transportation to community meetings
- No more pollution expansion, and bring funding into impacted communities,
- Create a mandate requiring trucks to zero emission – including electric.
- Supply trucks that aren't diesel-powered; move away from dirty fuel and not putting fiscal burden on workers to purchase clean trucks
- CARB develop and implement a plan to phase out oil refineries and move to clean technology
- Use solar-power and electric cars
- Fund more green zones
- Eliminate cap & trade
- Stricter enforcement
- Put lives before money
- Keep Cumulative Impacts in mind
- Local shelters for houseless folks in each city; hire locally and implement clean energy usage (note that freeway expansion is threatening displacement of shelters)
- Relocate industry to places with no human population
- Make sure CARB and AQMD do their jobs
- Tangible action against polluting industry
- Implement a plan to curb pollutants and only operate within certain routes
- Shut down factories that violate protocol

Address Health Issues:

- Widespread Asthma/Respiratory issues
- Diabetes
- Memory problems
- Birth defects
- Cardiac issues
- Cancer
- Lack of access to proper healthcare
- Lead poisoning

Most Concerned About:

- Refineries
- Pollution from 710 freeway, and expansion
- Transportation projects in general that will increase pollution
- Failure of AQMD, and companies filing for bankruptcy before being held fiscally accountable

- Heavy car & truck use
- People exposed to toxic air
- General community health
- Questioning sufficiency of monitoring
- Impacts to youth and children
- Air quality in general

CBE members in Southern and Northern California communities of Wilmington, Southeast Los Angeles, East Oakland, and Richmond face a wide variety of toxic impacts including a wide variety of transportation, refinery, oil drilling, metal processing, and many other stationary and area sources. CBE members are also aware of many other EJ communities facing a similar wide array of fossil fuel and other toxic impacts.

Addressing the root causes of these impacts can transform California to a clean energy economy, supporting EJ and all community health. Please modify the Blueprint and Community Selection documents as noted above.

Sincerely;

Milton Hernandez Nimatuj, Southern California Director, Communities for a Better Environment (CBE)

Ernesto Arevalo, Northern California Director, Communities for a Better Environment (CBE)

--Attachments