



Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Chanell Fletcher, Deputy Executive Officer of Environmental Justice  
Trish Johnson, Staff Air Pollution Specialist  
Rajinder Sahota, Deputy Executive Officer of Climate Change and Research  
Richard Corey, Executive Officer  
cc: Yana Garcia, Deputy Secretary for Environmental Justice, Tribal Affairs and Border Relations at the California Environmental Protection Agency  
*submitted electronically*

Re: Environmental Justice Advisory Committee recommendations

Dear CARB staff,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, please accept this initial feedback regarding the reformation of the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (EJAC). As you well know, the charge of the EJAC is imperative to achieving CARB's mission. To that end, we offer the following suggestions regarding the structure of the EJAC:

1. **Permanence:** The EJAC should be established as a standing committee of CARB.
2. **Compensation:** To sustain engaged participation from EJAC members, compensation should be increased. Compensation should be in line with funding for similar types of standing committees currently operating within CARB.
3. **San Joaquin Valley representation:** Given the severity of injustices in the San Joaquin Valley, which has the majority of disadvantaged communities as defined by California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool: CalEnviroScreen, as well as the diverse mix of sources in different parts of our vast region, we request that the EJAC have at least 4 representatives from the San Joaquin Valley.
4. Overall, **we strongly support the EJAC playing a role in all of the CARB's programs**, to work toward comprehensive integration of an equity and justice centered approach. Providing permanence and adequate compensation for members would help create the foundation necessary for this integration.

As CARB moves forward with the Scoping Plan, we urge you to keep in mind that efforts to clean the air and counteract human caused climate change are interconnected, and communities

of color and low income communities bear disproportionate impacts, thus any proposed solutions must take a justice centered, comprehensive, and integrated approach. Given the combination of pollution sources in the Valley, there is an urgent need to address emissions from major industries such as the oil and gas industry and industrialized agribusiness. Furthermore, given our experiences with the corrupt and insolvent Emissions Reduction Credit banking system in the San Joaquin Valley, CVAQ firmly believes that to truly achieve clean air, we must urgently move away from reliance on market based mechanisms and prioritize enforcement and direct reductions.

We appreciate staff's continued attention to these critical issues and look forward to a meaningful role for the EJAC in co-powering immediate protections and comprehensive solutions for frontline communities.

Sincerely,

Catherine Garoupa White, Executive Director  
Central Valley Air Quality Coalition

Dillon Delvo, Executive Director  
Little Manila Rising

Nayamín Martinez, Executive Director  
Central California Environmental Justice Network

Thomas A. Helme, Project Director  
Valley Improvement Projects (VIP)

Caroline Farrell, Executive Director  
Center on Race, Poverty, and the Environment

Shayda Azamian, Climate Policy Coordinator  
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

Rey León, Executive Director  
The San Joaquin Valley Latino Equity Advocacy & Policy Institute

Kevin Hamilton, Co-Director  
Central California Asthma Collaborative