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From: Matt Holmes <matt@littlemanila.org>
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2021 9:28 AM
To: Johnson, Trish@ARB
Subject: AB32 Public Comments

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Ms. Johnson,

Please accept these comments for the AB32 EJAC agenda item at the California Air Resources Board meeting on May 20th.

I believe this AB32 Environmental Justice Advisory Committee and the other advisory bodies serving the CARB are vital pathways for communities to impact policy. I want to ensure that their input is timely and reflects the urgent priorities of California's highest pollution burden percentile communities. The grotesque inequalities that mar California's social landscape didn't happen by accident and they will only be addressed if we are clear in our intent and are systematic in our pursuit of equity.

As an air quality & public health advocate I continue to observe asymmetries in the representation of California communities in any number of advisory committees that serve the CARB.

It appears to me that the practice of soliciting applications for this and other advisory bodies generally comes to the attention of people who are already engaged with the CARB or various iterations of the cap and trade program. This only amplifies existing inequalities within the advocacy community. We will not accidentally address these asymmetries without intentionally recruiting from underrepresented communities. As evidence, I submit the absence of representation from Stockton, (a city of over 300,000 people, a major inland port, a tangle of explicitly racist freeways & the largest logistics hub west of Houston and home to multiple 100%ile census tracts) on previous EJAC, AB617 Consultation, and The Economic & Technological Advisory groups. In my not so humble opinion, all roads to environmental justice lead through Stockton.

To address any future errors of omission when it comes to communities I recommend reserving seats for representatives from the worst *pollution burden percentiles* as identified by the Office of Environmental Health Hazards Assessment screening tool, CalENVIROSCREEN. They're usually clustered pretty close together and one representative can often stand for several census tracts.

I propose an inventory of all rosters of CARB advisory bodies be juxtaposed with the OEHHA tool; that any disproportionate representation from across regions be analyzed and discussed within those bodies to ensure that their input truly serves California's highest pollution burden percentile communities; and finally, that targeted solicitation be developed for future calls for applicants to ensure that representatives who live or work in California's most impacted communities end up populating this and other influential committees.

I understand that perhaps members of my community were unaware and did not pursue inclusion in these bodies. I also think that the onus for equitable access does not fall on the communities it falls on the agency. I also understand that this work is iterative and that these requests may need to be part of future calls for committee members.

For my part as a person who lives and works in Stockton's AB 617 study area I will do everything I can to ensure that Stockton finds it's voice on these issues, but there are other *Stocktons* out there and these processes are missing their input. I need your help to go find them.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment before the board.

In partnership, Matt

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