



JOSE HUIZAR
COUNCILMEMBER, 14TH DISTRICT

September 24, 2018

Mary Nichols, Chair
California Air Resources Board
1001 "I" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
via email to cotb@arb.ca.gov

Re: Support for East Los Angeles Communities in Year 1 of AB 617 Implementation

Dear Chair Nichols:

I am writing to support the nomination of the East Los Angeles Area as a "Year 1" community under Assembly Bill 617's Community Emissions Reduction Program.

AB 617, authored by Assemblymember Cristina Garcia, intentionally prioritizes the most environmentally-burdened and vulnerable communities for increased monitoring efforts and/or local emissions reduction plans and strategies. At full implementation, these plans and strategies include expedited investments, enhanced regulatory tools, stricter pollution control requirements and greater community engagement and empowerment. The robust implementation of AB 617 in this region is much needed and will build upon existing air quality improvement efforts currently underway at the local and state levels.

Boyle Heights and areas of East Los Angeles are surrounded by freeways and impacted by railyards and by one of the busiest rail corridors in the nation. As a result, the area experiences persistently high levels of cancer-causing diesel particulate matter. Boyle Heights and East LA are also polluted by heavy industry that has been historically concentrated in lower-income neighborhoods. Today, these neighborhoods are dealing with the legacy of pollution, such as the lead and arsenic released by the former Exide Technologies.

The Boyle Heights and East LA area is uniquely positioned to take advantage of the opportunities provided by AB617 implementation. The City of LA has increased its commitment to reducing emissions, and a system of community engagement currently exists, including through the Clean Up Green Up program, which my office helped to create to prioritize incentives and coordination in environmental justice areas such as Boyle Heights.

I urge your support of Boyle Heights and the East Los Angeles Community area for Year 1 of AB 617 implementation to help address critical air quality and public health needs.

Sincerely,

JOSE HUIZAR
COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT 14