



February 13, 2023

California Air Resources Board, Clerks' Office

1001 I Street

Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Support for Sacramento Communities in Round #5 AB 617 Community Selection

Dear CARB leadership and staff,

On behalf of the Sacramento Neighborhoods Activating on Air Quality (SNAAQ) coalition, which includes Valley Vision, Civic Thread, Breathe CA Sacramento Region, and Green Tech Education & Employment, we want to thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the annual AB 617 Community Selection process.

As a two-time Community Air Grant recipient working in two of the three communities nominated by the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD), we urge the formal designation of one or more of the North Sacramento, Oak Park/Fruitridge, and Meadowview communities for the AB 617 program.

Through the regional Cleaner Air Partnership, SNAAQ partners were able to successfully advocate for the selection of South Sacramento-Florin as a first-round AB 617 community. Since then, we have been implementing a two-time Community Air Grant project, "Sacramento Neighborhoods Activating on Air Quality" (SNAAQ). For three years now, we have been working with residents of Old North Sacramento/Norwood/Del Paso Heights and Oak Park/Fruitridge to build capacity to participate meaningfully in the State's AB 617 Community Air Protection process.

The SNAAQ coalition has achieved a great deal in roughly 24 months, including the placement of 19 solar-powered Clarity Node-S air monitors in locations determined by residents, development and deployment of educational curriculum, utilization of best practices in paying residents for their time, and partnership-building among residents, EJ advocates, air quality experts, local business representatives, and others.



As part of our current “SNAAQ 2.0” work, we are developing tools for communities to employ a “participatory budgeting process” in creating an emissions reduction plan, and plan to pilot an emissions reduction program as well. Residents, community-based partners, and others are eager to see air pollution measured quantitatively and emissions reductions realized in these project neighborhoods by way of a formal designation.

In summary, Valley Vision, Civic Thread, Breathe CA Sacramento Region, and Green Tech Education & Employment strongly support the SMAQMD’s nomination and the selection of one or more Sacramento communities in Round #5 of the AB 617 process. If you need further information or context regarding our comments, please do not hesitate to reach out to Adrian Rehn at adrian.rehn@valleyvision.org. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Evan Schmidt, CEO, Valley Vision

Kiara Reed, Executive Director, Civic Thread

Jennifer Finton, Interim Chief Executive Officer, Breathe CA Sacramento Region

Simeon Gant, Executive Director, Green Tech Education