

September 9, 2021

California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Public Meeting to Consider Assembly Bill 617 Community Air Protection Program – Community Emissions Reduction Program for Eastern Coachella Valley

To the members of the California Air Resources Board,

On behalf of the Healthy Air Alliance, we are writing today to support the CARB staff recommendation to approve the Eastern Coachella Valley community emissions reduction program developed pursuant to Assembly Bill (AB) 6171. We also support CARB staff working in collaboration with the South Coast Air Quality Management District and the Eastern Coachella Valley Community Steering Committee to take additional actions to strengthen implementation.

The Healthy Air Alliance (HAA) believes every person has the right to breathe clean air and recognizes that often what is harmful to the planet is also harmful to humans. We are determined to stop the exposure of another generation to dangerous toxins from fossil fuels and believe our best hope is to join together and share our collective voice. We work collaboratively with concerned citizens, community leaders, non-profit organizations, and government agencies to bring forth solutions that will immediately improve air quality – for everyone.

We would like to thank CARB staff, South Coast AQMD, and the Eastern Coachella Valley Community Steering Committee for all of their work to create this plan. We were also pleased to see that the Eastern Coachella Valley community was very active throughout the process. We believe that true progress on air quality can only be achieved with real community participation.

HAA appreciates the breadth of actions reviewed, and we particularly appreciate the focus on diesel mobile sources and the actions associated with the Greenleaf Desert View Power Plant.

We also support the recommended actions to strengthen the plan with regard to process, incentives prioritization, and agency collaboration. Given challenges imposed by the ongoing pandemic, we applaud all stakeholders for their quick work on this plan. With the recommended actions proposed, the plan will be even stronger.

Sincerely,

Jim Kennedy
Executive Director, Healthy Air Alliance

