

From: [Mariela Loera](#)
To: [Reyes, Deldi@ARB](mailto:Reyes,Deldi@ARB); [ARB Community Air](#)
Cc: david.rogers@maderacounty.com; AB617@valleyair.org; samir.sheikh@valleyair.org; jaime.holt@valleyair.org
Subject: Nomination of the South Madera with Boundaries Inclusive of La Viña as an AB 617 Community for the Fifth Annual Selection of Communities
Date: Monday, February 13, 2023 2:09:36 PM
Attachments: [AB 617 Fifth Annual Selection of Communities.pdf](#)
[La Viña AB 617 nomination 2019-2022.pdf](#)
[Nomination of the South Madera with Boundaries Inclusive of La Viña as an AB 617 Community for the Fifth Annual Selection of Communities.pdf](#)

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Dear Ms. Deldi Reyes,

Please find the attached letter detailing our nomination of the South Madera community with boundaries that include the community of La Viña as an AB 617 community in the fifth year of community selection.

Along with this letter, we submit the previous four nominations for the community of La Viña, as well as, a letter nominating South Madera as a larger community that includes La Viña. Please reach out with any questions or inquiries.

Best,
Mariela

Mariela Loera (she/her)
Policy Coordinator - Climate Programs
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability
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February 13th, 2023

Clerk of the Board
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Submitted electronically

Re: Assembly Bill 617 Community Air Protection Program – Fifth Annual Selection of Communities

Dear Chair Randolph and members of the California Air Resources Board,

On behalf of the undersigned, please accept these comments for the Fifth Annual Selection of Communities of the Community Air Protection Program.

San Joaquin Valley communities are breathing some of the most polluted air in the United States. The Community Air Protection Program is a long overdue investment in addressing localized air pollution in some of our most impacted neighborhoods: South Kern, Stockton, Shafter, and South Central Fresno. For the fifth annual selection, the undersigned express strong support for south Madera, south Modesto, and Lost Hills, communities that have been building capacity for several years and have expressed that they are ready, willing, and welcome the investment to build on their momentum. We urge the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District to recommend them as part of the ongoing expansion of the program and to scale up immediate protections and long term investments for clean air and health equity across the region and state.

The undersigned support the south Madera communities of La Vina, Parkwood, Parksdale, Borden, Italian Swiss Colony, Irrigosa and Ripperdan for selection. These unincorporated

communities in South Madera are all severely disadvantaged as defined by SB 535 and AB 1550, and as an example, the community of La Viña has nominated itself three years in a row, and in 2020 had been nominated by the SJV Air District for community air monitoring and an emission reduction plan. La Vina is a prime example of the burden these communities are faced with, the need for resources, and community willingness to implement solutions. La Vina is in the top 14% most overburdened communities on CalEnviroScreen, and ranks in the top 2% most pollution burdened. The community ranks in the top 5% for PM 2.5 pollution, top 8% for pesticides, and top 15% for ozone.

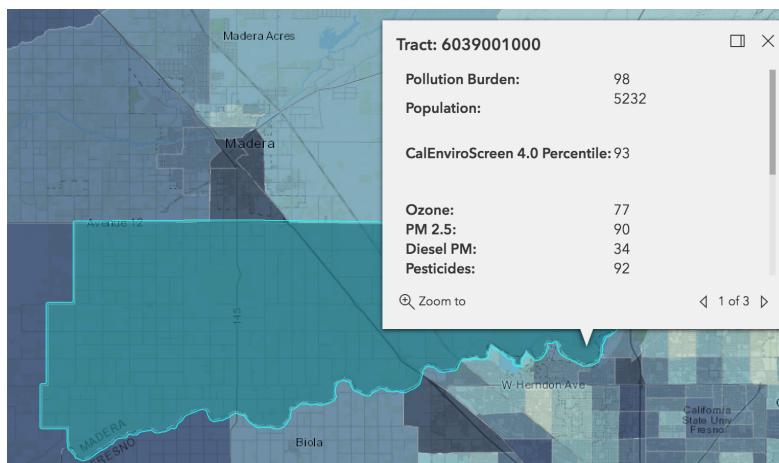


Figure 1.1: South Madera Census Tract¹

Residents of South Madera are concerned with a variety of pollution sources. Because of the lack of transit and transportation options, as well as lack of job opportunities in the community itself, residents must drive long distances for work and other services. Pollution from passenger vehicles as well as diesel emissions from tractors and freight are large contributors to the area's poor air quality. Truck traffic is particularly increased during the harvesting seasons. There are 6 schools within a mile of these communities including a K-8 one mile from La Vina and High School the same distance from Iragosa and Ripperdan. Due to the lack of infrastructure and the danger of speeding diesel trucks and tractors, children are forbidden from walking to school and face suspension if caught by the school staff. There are virtually public parks, no community centers, a significant lack of basic infrastructure, and severe road issues due poor maintenance and heavy use by agriculture. Additionally, residents are concerned with pesticides and dust from agricultural operations as these communities are completely surrounded by various crops. A nearby winery, Mission Bell, on the northern end of the community as well as the Ardagh Glass manufacturing facility also create negative localized impacts. According to CARB's Pollution Mapping Tool, Ardagh Glass is a significant emitter of not only carbon dioxide, but also nitrous and sulfur oxides.

¹ Figure 1.1: <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-40>

The undersigned organizations also nominate south Modesto for monitoring and an emission reduction plan. To date, the community has been a part of establishing a network of monitors throughout the county and South Modesto, including black carbon monitors.

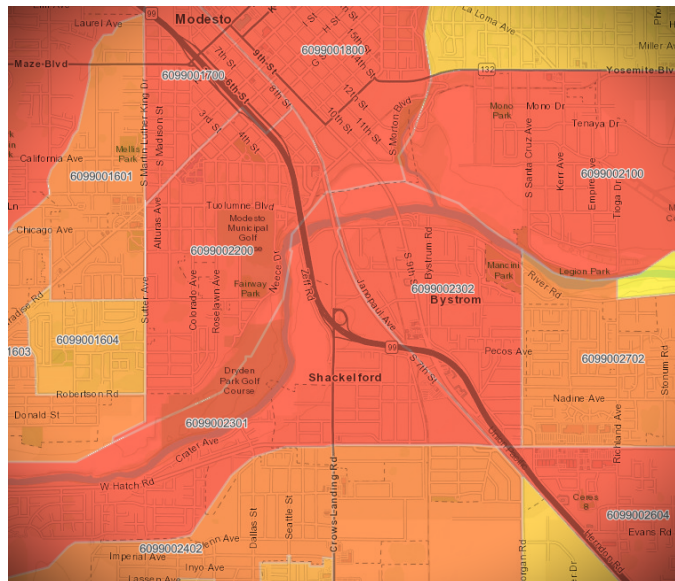


Figure 1.2: South Modesto Census Tracts²

This community encompasses the urban areas of Southwest Modesto and the bordering unincorporated county pockets. Its boundaries are, roughly, Hwy 132 (Maze Blvd/Yosemite Blvd) to the North, MLK Dr./Sutter Ave. to the West, the Modesto Airport and Richland Ave. to the East, and Hatch Rd. to the South. It includes the South Modesto neighborhoods of Bystrom, Shackelford, Bret Harte, and Parklawn, the Airport Neighborhood, as well as parts of Downtown and West Modesto and North Ceres. This community has a population of approximately 30,000 people throughout its urban neighborhoods. Virtually all of the census tracts that compose this community are ranked in the 90-99th percentile in CalEnviroScreen. Their “Pollution Burden” scores range from the 82nd to 94th percentile and their “Population Characteristics Burden” scores range from the 82nd to 99th percentile. They rank especially high in Diesel PM (averages in the 90th percentile), Asthma (92nd), Education (90th), and Poverty (95th). This community has a lot of diesel truck traffic and particulate matter emissions from industrial facilities, a railroad, Hwys 99 and 132, the downtown transportation hub, and traffic from the major thoroughfares. The Airport Neighborhood has the nearby airport, a glass manufacturing plant, and a major diesel truck route for Gallo wine/glass and various canneries along Yosemite Boulevard/Hwy 132 to Hwy 99.

² Figure 1.2: <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-40>

Last year, the Air Districts demanded more resources for implementing this program, though current spending lacks transparency and accountability. Community engaged work is a durable, decades old model introduced to air agencies by AB 617 that must be integrated into existing programs and staffing to truly achieve environmental justice. Community groups receive a tiny fraction of program resources yet provide critical inputs and support to planning and implementation. Air Districts should increase efficiencies with available resources by scaling up and cross pollinating lessons learned from the program’s first 3 years and by training all staff in community engagement, racial justice, and cultural humility.

The undersigned organizations also support the nomination of Lost Hills, an unincorporated community approximately 40 miles Northwest of Bakersfield, for both community air monitors and an emissions reduction plan. The community is located west of I-5, east of Blackwells Corner on HWY 46, south of Lost Hills Rd., and north of the California Aqueduct & the Lost Hills Airport. The Lost Hills community is heavily industrialized and surrounded by Kern County oil fields and almond farming. It is directly north of California's largest active oil & gas production field, Belridge North-Belridge South, & Midway Sunset oil fields. Lost Hills is surrounded by two very large corporations, the Wonderful Company and Area Energy. According to the Kern County Agricultural Commissioner, Lost Hills is the number one location in Kern for pesticides use.

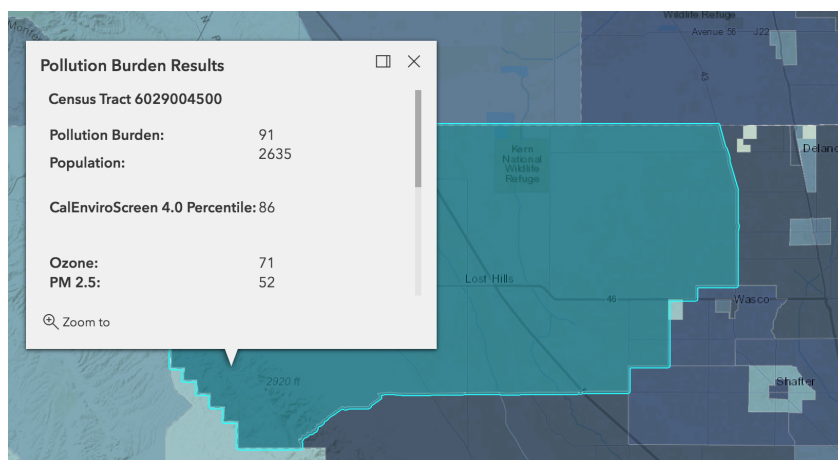


Figure 1.3: Lost Hills Census Tract³

According to census data, Lost Hills has a population of 2,400 people and a median household income of just \$36,000. The community is 98% Latino/Hispanic, 1% White, and the other 1% split across African American, Asian, and other backgrounds. Over the past couple of years Lost Hills residents have been committed to environmental justice through mobilizing locally and working with our organizations. They have been engaging in community science events in which

³ Figure 1.3: <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-40>

they capture and track pollution over time. For years, Lost Hills residents have organized tours for regulators, participated in public comment at key hearings, and have been active in voicing their concerns with air pollution from oil and gas operations, diesel pollution from the I-5 and HWY 46, and the overwhelming practice of pesticide application.

Please support these communities for the 5th annual selection process and continue to work collaboratively with community groups on process improvements and program expansion.

Sincerely,

Catherine Garoupa White, Executive Director
Central Valley Air Quality Coalition

Jesus Alonso, Community Organizer
Clean Water Action

Thomas Helme, Co-Founder/Project Director
Valley Improvement Projects

Linette Lomeli, Executive Director
Madera Coalition for Community Justice

Kevin D Hamilton, RRT, Co-Executive Director
Central California Asthma Collaborative

Nayamin Martinez, Executive Director
Central California Environmental Justice Network

Byanka Santoyo, Community Organizer
Center on Race, Poverty, and the Environment

Mariela Loera, Climate Policy Coordinator
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability



[Sent via email]

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
Samir Sheikh, Executive Director
samir.sheikh@valleyair.org

Jaime Holt, Communications Officer
jaime.holt@valleyair.org

California Air Resources Board
Veronica Eady, Assistant Executive Officer
veronica.eady@arb.ca.gov

September 18, 2019

Good afternoon,

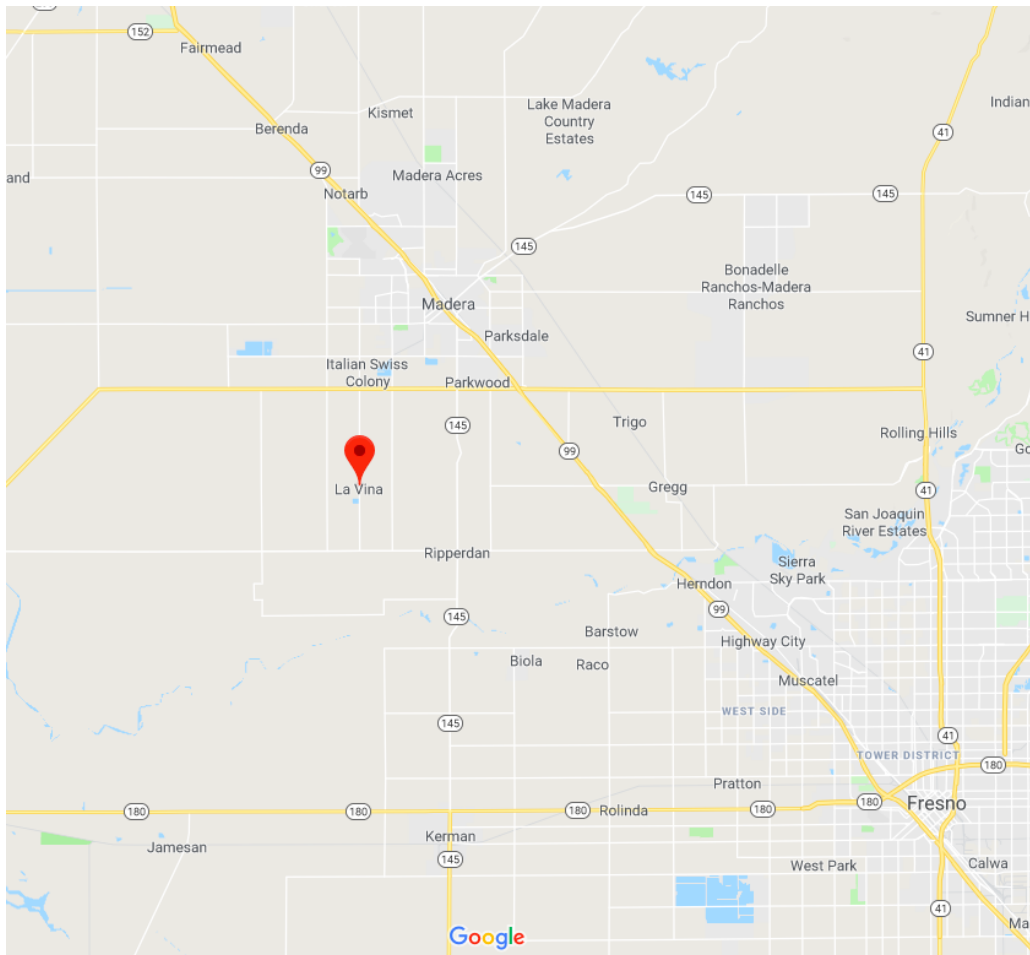
We are writing regarding the AB617 program nomination process and to bring to your attention the distinct air quality concerns of the community of La Viña, CA, which was included in our organization's AB617 nominations for this year. We are grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and the California Air Resources Board on ensuring that communities in need of air monitoring and pollution reduction plans are able to access these resources.

I. Introduction to La Viña

La Viña is a small Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community in Madera County in census tract 6039001000 between Road 24 and Road 23 ½ along Avenue 9. The vast majority of the population in this small community is “Hispanic”/Latinx, predominantly with familial roots in Mexico. The community was initially settled by farmworkers, and many residents still work in agriculture today. The most current American Community Survey data from 2017 reports that the community has a population of 288 people, 95.1% of whom have incomes below the poverty line¹. That said, La Viña is most likely a severely undercounted community, since Madera County reports 178.6 connections to the small community water system they operate². (Nearly all of these connections are single family homes or apartments with multiple residents.)

¹ U.S. Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey 5-year estimates*. Retrieved from *Census Reporter Profile page for La Vina, CA* <<http://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US0640872-la-vina-ca/>>

² Madera County MD-37 Water and Sewer Rate Study. Bartle Wells Associates. May 3, 2019.



La Viña's location on Google Maps in relation to other communities and cities in the Central Valley.

II. Known Need for Air Quality Monitoring/Air Quality Concerns

As indicated by the community's name, it has been historically surrounded by vineyards. More recently, as grape fields were converted to more popular, yet water intensive, cash crops, the community became enclosed by almond and walnut orchards in addition to the remaining vineyards. On the edges of the community, residents' homes line up to rows of almond and walnut trees which create air quality concerns for residents who are directly exposed to pesticides for much of the year in addition to the thick clouds of dust which cover the community during the nut harvesting season.

Residents report that crop-duster planes regularly spray pesticides directly over their homes en route to the fields without notice. Even when the planes are not spraying directly overhead, the proximity of the fields makes it impossible for the community to not be impacted by wind drift, which carries the pesticides into people's homes through their heating and cooling systems, and directly onto those outside. Residents also shared that almond growers, in an effort to expand the



production season, have begun growing two varieties of almond trees around the community-- one that is harvested beginning in the late summer, and another that is harvested in the early fall. As a result of the extended harvest season, the pesticide application season has been expanded as well, exposing La Viña residents to harmful dust particles and to pesticides for months on end each year and further exacerbating the air quality problems plaguing the community.

Residents share that the almond harvest wreaks additional havoc on the respiratory health and overall wellness of their community. Dust kicked up by the almond harvesting equipment plummeting through the fields clouds the community and enters homes, leaving residents no escape from breathing in dangerous particles. Since growers have extended the harvest season, residents inhale the dust for double the time that they used to each year.

A. Data from CalEnviroScreen

These anecdotal reports from residents are consistent with CalEnviroScreen data at the census tract level. Census tract 6039001000 stands at the 95 percentile for PM2.5 with a concentration of 13.730 micrograms per meter cubed, and at the 91 percentile for pesticide application, with an estimated 1,606.395 pounds of active ingredients-- the most common of which are the toxic 1,3-Dichloropropene³, Potassium N Methylthiocarbamate⁴, Chlorothalonil⁵, Hydrogen Cyanamide⁶, and Chlorpyrifos⁷-- used per square mile⁸.

B. Department of Pesticide Regulation Data: Geographically Specific Information

However, while the CalEnviroScreen data listed above is certainly helpful and reflective of the air quality concerns that residents regularly report in La Viña, it most likely does not accurately

³ 1,3 Dichloropropene. <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-09/documents/1-3-dichloropropene.pdf>

⁴ RED Fact Sheet: Methylthiocarbamate Salts - Metam Sodium/Potassium and MITC, US Environmental Protection Agency Office of Pesticide Programs. July 10, 2008.

https://www3.epa.gov/pesticides/chem_search/reg_actions/reregistration/fs_G-56_10-Jul-08.pdf

⁵ Chlorothalonil-- toxicity, side effects, diseases, and environmental impacts, Pesticides.News. December 7, 2017.

<https://www.pesticides.news/2017-12-07-chlorothalonil-toxicity-side-effects-diseases-and-environmental-impacts.html>

⁶ "Hydrogen cyanamide* is used in agriculture as a plant growth regulator and is applied to many deciduous plants to stimulate uniform budbreak after dormancy, resulting in uniform flowering and maturity. Hydrogen cyanamide is highly toxic, and adverse health effects from contact include severe irritation and ulceration of the eyes, skin, and respiratory tract (1,2). The substance also inhibits aldehyde dehydrogenase and can produce acetaldehyde syndrome (e.g., vomiting, parasympathetic hyperactivity, dyspnea, hypotension, and confusion) when exposure coincides with alcohol use." Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report: April 29, 2005. Update: Hydrogen Cyanamide-- Related Illnesses-- Italy 2002-2004. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5416a3.htm>

⁷ "California Acts to Prohibit Chlorpyrifos Pesticide," Barnum, Alex and Fadipe, Charlotte. California Environmental Protection Agency. May 8, 2019. Accessed via:

<https://calepa.ca.gov/2019/05/08/california-acts-to-prohibit-chlorpyrifos-pesticide/>

⁸ CalEnviroScreen 3.0, California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. Accessed September 2019 at <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30>



reflect the unique challenges that the community faces *within* a census tract that they share with differently situated communities. For example, across Highway 99 from La Viña in the same census tract lies Madera Ranchos, a predominantly white and upper-middle class community that is also surrounded by agricultural land uses, yet faces significantly less pesticide exposure.

According to DPR data,⁹ which presents a more localized picture of pesticide exposure by utilizing data from pesticide use reports, residents in La Vina are consistently exposed to more pesticides than their neighbors in Madera Ranchos. DPR's data regarding the poundage of pesticides applied each year to the La Viña township consistently hovers around 1 million pounds per year (ranging from 888,088 lbs to 1,098,307 lbs in recent years)¹⁰ while the data corresponding to their neighbors in Madera Ranchos' tends to hover around 300,000 pounds per year (ranging from 245,936 lbs to 370,672 in recent years)¹¹. As a result, depending on the year, La Viña as a township is applied with anywhere between 2.5 and 4.3 times more pesticides than Madera Ranchos, an alarming racial and economic disparity not represented by the census tract data.

DPR data also includes a list of the 10 most heavily applied pesticides in each township section. In La Viña, toxic chemicals such as 1,3 Dichloropropene, Chloripyrifos, Glyphosate, and Hydrogen Cyanamide appear on these lists among other harmful pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides.

As a result, it is no wonder that, at our community meetings with La Viña residents each month, community leaders share with us stories about community health concerns that they believe stem from environmental impacts including air quality. They reinforce that these issues are of utmost concern and a primary priority for their community, and have repeatedly brought up how nearly each household in the community is plagued by asthma, cancer, and other potentially lethal health concerns. For instance, one resident shared, "this issue [of air quality] is a top priority for us. Because if you look around our community, just about every family is directly affected by asthma. If it's not the kids that have asthma, then it's the parents, or the grandparents. Everyone here has or knows someone who has asthma or some other condition."

III. Community Capacity and Commitment for Involvement in AB617

⁹ Tracking California, Public Health Institute. Agricultural Pesticide Mapping Tool. Accessed September 2019 from www.trackingcalifornia.org/pesticides/pesticide-mapping-tool.

¹⁰ DPR time series for Township #20M12S17E

¹¹ DPR time series for Township #20M11S19E



Despite the challenges, disparate air quality concerns, and health hazards that this community faces, it is a vibrant and cohesive community of hard-working families who are committed to improving the place they call home.

A dedicated community group of about 40 La Viña residents who have been working with our organization for several years recently succeeded in pushing Madera County to invest in their community for the first time in decades, achieving long-needed road repairs and the establishment of a four-person resident committee that holds working meetings with the County each month to discuss the path forward on community priorities.

In addition to our organization, Self Help Enterprises has a long-standing partnership with and presence in the community. Self Help Enterprises developed a multi-family housing apartment complex and a subdivision of single family homes in the community decades ago, and continues to regularly partner with the community on an ongoing basis for the operation and maintenance of a community center as well as for local, regional, and statewide advocacy work.

Given the unique needs for air monitoring and the capacity and commitment of residents to be involved in the creation of a pollution reduction plan, our organization hopes that the SJVAPCD and CARB will take this community into consideration as a recipient of the resources and programming AB617 has to offer. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions. Once again, we thank you for the opportunity to collaborate in developing localized solutions to air quality concerns in the most affected communities, and we look forward to discussing solutions for La Viña further.

Sincerely,

Madeline Harris
Policy Advocate



[Sent via email]

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
AB617@valleyair.org

Samir Sheikh, Executive Director
samir.sheikh@valleyair.org

Jaime Holt, Communications Officer
jaime.holt@valleyair.org

California Air Resources Board
Trish Johnson
Trish.Johnson@arb.ca.gov

Re: Nomination for the Community of La Viña to be Selected as an AB617 Community This Year

August 20, 2020

Good afternoon,

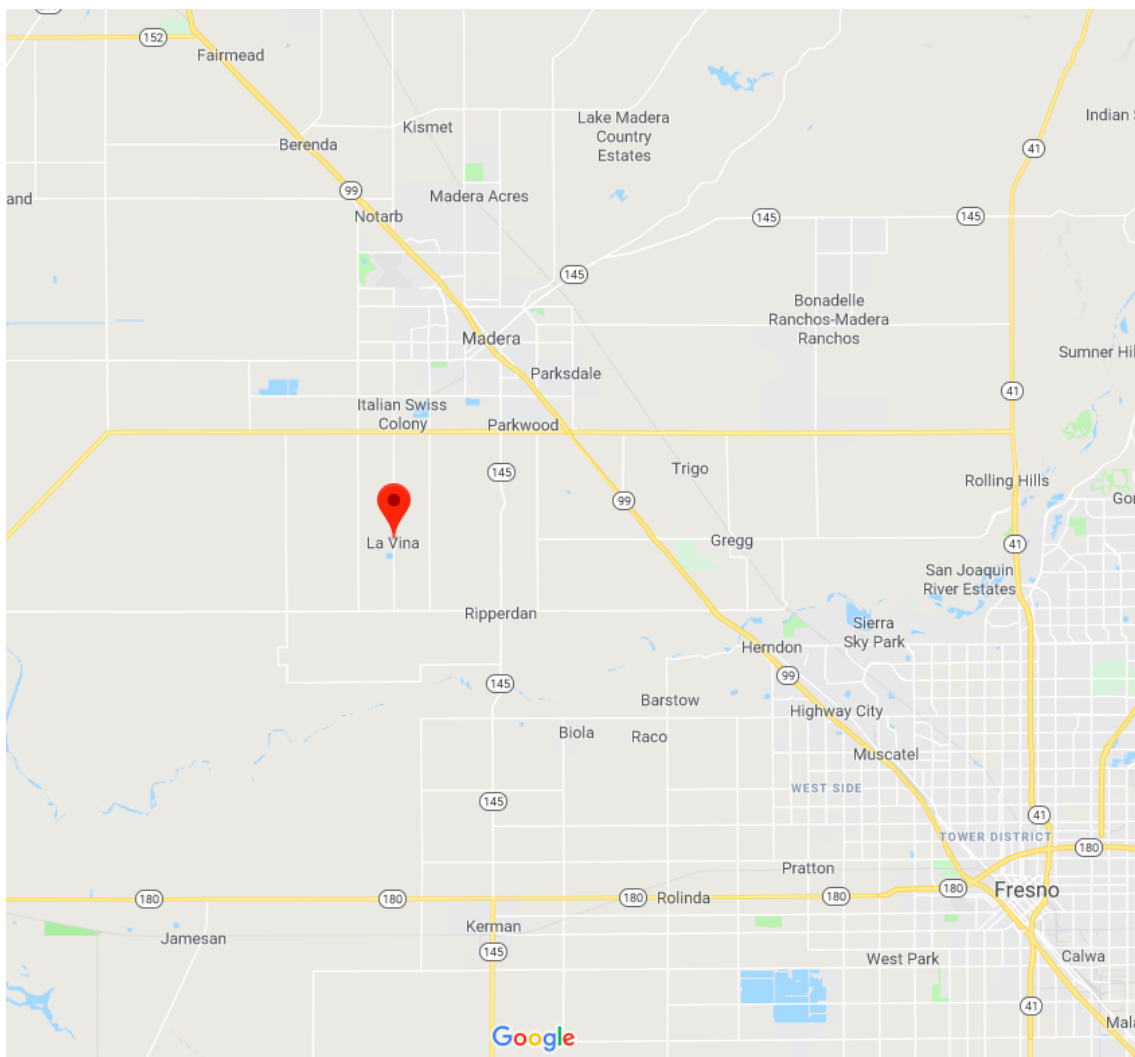
We are once again writing to nominate the community of La Viña for the AB617 program for the second consecutive year, and to update you on the current air quality concerns of the community. We are grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and the California Air Resources Board on ensuring that communities in need of air monitoring and pollution reduction plans are able to access these resources without needlessly competing with one another for access to breathable air during an unprecedented wildfire season and respiratory pandemic.

Some of the context provided below regarding the community's disproportionate pollution burden is information that we have provided to the SJVAPCD, Madera County, and to CARB through last year's AB617 nomination process, comment letters, public comments, and in-person and telephonic meetings with staff and elected officials over the course of the past year, much of which continues to go unaddressed. That said, we will also provide updated information regarding current conditions on the ground and recent data obtained from the Madera County Agricultural Commissioner.

I. Introduction to La Viña



As you may recall from our 2019 nomination, La Viña is a small Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community in Madera County in census tract 6039001000 between Road 24 and Road 23 ½ along Avenue 9. The vast majority of the population in this small community is Latinx, predominantly with familial roots in Mexico. The community was initially settled by farmworkers, and many residents still work in agriculture today. The most current American Community Survey data from 2017 reports that the community has a population of 288 people, 95.1% of whom have incomes below the poverty line¹. That said, La Viña is most likely a severely undercounted community, since Madera County reports 178.6 connections to the small community water system they operate². (Nearly all of these connections are single family homes or apartments with multiple residents.)



La Viña's location on Google Maps in relation to other communities and cities in the Central Valley.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey 5-year estimates*. Retrieved from *Census Reporter Profile page for La Vina, CA* <<http://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US0640872-la-vina-ca/>>

² Madera County MD-37 Water and Sewer Rate Study. Bartle Wells Associates. May 3, 2019.



II. Known Need for Air Quality Monitoring/Air Quality Concerns

The community is surrounded by almond and walnut orchards and vineyards, with no buffer whatsoever between sensitive land uses such as residences, play structures for children, and La Viña Elementary School. On the edges of the community, residents' homes line up to rows of almond and walnut trees which create air quality concerns for residents who are directly exposed to pesticides for much of the year in addition to the thick clouds of dust which cover the community during the nut harvesting season.

Residents report that crop-duster planes regularly spray pesticides directly over their homes en route to the fields without notice. Even when the planes are not spraying directly overhead, or when pesticides are applied from tractors, the proximity of the fields makes it impossible for the community to not be impacted by wind drift, which carries the pesticides into people's homes through their heating and cooling systems, and directly onto those outside. Residents share that the almond harvest wreaks additional havoc on the respiratory health and overall wellness of their community. Dust kicked up by the almond harvesting equipment plummeting through the fields clouds the community and enters homes, leaving residents no escape from breathing in dangerous particles.

According to their local elected official, La Viña is also one of the communities most impacted by COVID-19 in Madera County, and our organization works with residents who have tested positive, been hospitalized, and spent time in the ICU due to COVID-19. As the community battles the novel coronavirus, we've received reports of pesticide spraying in the fields lining up to people's homes causing nausea, achy bones, and headaches. Additionally, the almond harvest kicks into full swing this month, the community will be once again covered in a heavy cloud of dust, and folks with COVID-19, asthma, and other respiratory conditions struggle even more to breathe.

A. Data from CalEnviroScreen

Anecdotal reports from residents are consistent with CalEnviroScreen data at the census tract level. Census tract 6039001000 stands at the 95 percentile for PM2.5 with a concentration of 13.730 micrograms per meter cubed, and at the 91 percentile for pesticide application, with an estimated 1,606.395 pounds of active ingredients-- the most common of which are the toxic



1,3-Dichloropropene³, Potassium N Methylthiocarbamate⁴, Chlorothalonil⁵, Hydrogen Cyanamide⁶, and Chlorpyrifos⁷-- used per square mile⁸.

B. Department of Pesticide Regulation Data: Geographically Specific Information

However, while the CalEnviroScreen data listed above is certainly helpful and reflective of the air quality concerns that residents regularly report in La Viña, it most likely does not accurately reflect the disparate impacts that the community faces *within* the census tract they share with differently situated communities. For example, across Highway 99 from La Viña in the same census tract lies Madera Ranchos, a predominantly white and upper-middle class community that is also surrounded by agricultural land uses, yet faces significantly less pesticide exposure.

According to DPR data,⁹ which presents a more localized picture of pesticide exposure by utilizing data from pesticide use reports, residents in La Viña are consistently exposed to more pesticides than their neighbors in Madera Ranchos. DPR's data regarding the poundage of pesticides applied each year to the La Viña township consistently hovers around 1 million pounds per year (ranging from 888,088 lbs to 1,098,307 lbs in recent years)¹⁰ while the data corresponding to their neighbors in Madera Ranchos' tends to hover around 300,000 pounds per year (ranging from 245,936 lbs to 370,672 in recent years)¹¹. As a result, depending on the year, La Viña as a township is applied with anywhere between 2.5 and 4.3 times more pesticides than

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https://www3.epa.gov/pesticides/chem_search/reg_actions/reregistration/fs_G-56_10-Jul-08.pdf

⁵ Chlorothalonil-- toxicity, side effects, diseases, and environmental impacts, Pesticides.News. December 7, 2017.

<https://www.pesticides.news/2017-12-07-chlorothalonil-toxicity-side-effects-diseases-and-environmental-impacts.html>

⁶ "Hydrogen cyanamide* is used in agriculture as a plant growth regulator and is applied to many deciduous plants to stimulate uniform budbreak after dormancy, resulting in uniform flowering and maturity. Hydrogen cyanamide is highly toxic, and adverse health effects from contact include severe irritation and ulceration of the eyes, skin, and respiratory tract (1,2). The substance also inhibits aldehyde dehydrogenase and can produce acetaldehyde syndrome (e.g., vomiting, parasympathetic hyperactivity, dyspnea, hypotension, and confusion) when exposure coincides with alcohol use." Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report: April 29, 2005. Update: Hydrogen Cyanamide-- Related Illnesses-- Italy 2002-2004. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5416a3.htm>

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⁸ CalEnviroScreen 3.0, California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. Accessed September 2019 at <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30>

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¹⁰ DPR time series for Township #20M12S17E

¹¹ DPR time series for Township #20M11S19E



Madera Ranchos, an alarming racial and economic disparity not represented by the census tract data.

DPR data also includes a list of the 10 most heavily applied pesticides in each township section. In La Viña, toxic chemicals such as 1,3 Dichloropropene, Chlorpyrifos, Glyphosate, and Hydrogen Cyanamide appear on these lists among other harmful pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides.

As a result, it is no wonder that, at our community meetings with La Viña residents each month, community leaders share with us stories about community health concerns that they believe stem from environmental impacts including air quality. They reinforce that these issues are of utmost concern and a primary priority for their community, and have repeatedly brought up how nearly each household in the community is plagued by asthma, cancer, and other potentially lethal health concerns. These underlying, chronic health conditions which appear to be caused by industry's pollution of the environment make it even harder for the community to battle the COVID-19 pandemic. For instance, one resident shared, "this issue [of air quality] is a top priority for us. Because if you look around our community, just about every family is directly affected by asthma. If it's not the kids that have asthma, then it's the parents, or the grandparents. Everyone here has or knows someone who has asthma or some other condition."

C. Updated Pesticide Data from the Madera County Agricultural Commissioner

Following submission of a Public Records Act request in June, our organization received Notice of Intent reports from the Madera County Agricultural Commissioner on July 17th, 2020 between the months of February and June 2020. The information gleaned from these approved Notices of Intent confirm what CalEnviroScreen, the DPR data tool, and the community's residents tell us: dangerous, toxic chemicals such as Paraquat and 1,3 Dichloropropene are utilized in significant quantities nearby the community on a regular basis. For example, the Madera County Agricultural Commissioner approved a Notice of Intent to fumigate 1,072 gallons of 1,3 Dichloropropene on parcels adjacent to and bordering La Viña Elementary School on Wednesday, March 25th at 1:29pm. (The 2017 data available to us through DPR's data tool reported that over 21,000 pounds of the fumigant 1,3 Dichloropropene were applied to the parcels directly surrounding the homes and elementary school in the community during that year alone.)

III. Community Capacity and Commitment for Involvement in AB617

Despite the challenges, disparate air quality concerns, and health hazards that this community faces, it is a vibrant and cohesive community of hard-working families who are committed to protecting and improving the place they call home.



Our organization partners with a dedicated community group of about 40 La Viña residents, with whom we have been working for several years. This group has succeeded in pushing Madera County to apply for several grants to implement clean mobility infrastructure in the community, accomplish long-needed road repairs, and establish a resident sub-committee that holds working meetings with the County each month to discuss the path forward on community priorities. Beyond pursuing clean mobility infrastructure at the County level (which has remained a top priority for the community over the years), the community was also selected to benefit from the CPUC San Joaquin Valley Solar Energy Pilot, which will ensure that households reliant on propane or wood-burning for energy convert to electric, and will bring solar energy infrastructure to the community.

In addition to these successes and ongoing efforts, residents we work with in La Viña also established a list of policy changes they would like to see at the local level to achieve emissions reductions.¹² Furthermore, our organization and CCEJN are partnering with the community to potentially install air monitors.

Self Help Enterprises (SHE) also has a long-standing partnership with and presence in the community. SHE developed a multi-family housing apartment complex and a subdivision of single family homes in the community decades ago, and continues to regularly partner with the community on an ongoing basis for the operation and maintenance of a community center as well as for local, regional, and statewide advocacy work.

Given the unique needs for air monitoring and the capacity and commitment of residents to be involved in the creation of a pollution reduction plan, our organization urges the SJVAPCD and CARB to take this community into consideration as a recipient of the resources and programming AB617 has to offer. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions. Once again, we thank you for the opportunity to collaborate in developing localized solutions to air quality concerns in frontline communities, and we look forward to further discussing solutions with you and with La Viña residents.

Gratefully,

Madeline Harris
Policy Advocate

¹² We have attached this list to this nomination letter for your reference. The community initially shared this list of priorities with the SJVAPCD, CARB, DPR, and Madera County in February 2020.



[Submitted via email]

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
AB617@valleyair.org

Samir Sheikh, Executive Director
samir.sheikh@valleyair.org

Jaime Holt, Communications Officer
jaime.holt@valleyair.org

Cc: Brett Frazier, Madera County Supervisor - District 1
brett.frazier@maderacounty.com

California Air Resources Board
Trish Johnson
Trish.Johnson@arb.ca.gov
CommunityAir@arb.ca.gov

Re: Nomination for the Community of La Viña to be Selected as an AB617 Community This Year

October 29, 2021

Good afternoon,

We are writing to nominate the community of La Viña for the AB617 program for the third consecutive year. Along with this letter, we submit the previous two nominations for the community of La Viña, which provide a background on the community, the air pollution sources that most concern residents, and details regarding the community's eligibility, capacity, and readiness to participate in the AB 617 program. We thank the SJVAPCD for nominating the community of La Vina last year, and strongly urge the air district to send a letter to CARB to reiterate your interest in moving the community forward for AB 617 selection this year.

La Viña residents continue to engage in efforts to address priority air pollution sources and approach their elected officials and government agencies to join them in their commitment to addressing air pollution in their community. The community cannot wait any longer to implement residents' priority solutions for achieving measurable emissions reductions. Community members we work with see AB 617 as an opportunity to work with the air district and other stakeholders towards achieving this goal. Residents are prepared to participate in the



AB 617 process (including a community steering committee) to ensure that the process and substance maintain their integrity to the goals of the program and the community: to follow community residents' direction and deliver concrete, measurable emissions reductions.

Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions regarding this letter or the attachments.

Gratefully,

Madeline Harris
Regional Policy Manager

Leticia Luquin
Policy Advocate



San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

AB617@valleyair.org

Samir Sheikh, Executive Director

samir.sheikh@valleyair.org

Jaime Holt, Communications Officer

jaime.holt@valleyair.org

Cc: David Rogers, Madera County Supervisor - District 2

david.rogers@maderacounty.com

California Air Resources Board

Deldi Reyes, Director of the Office of Community Air Protection

Deldi.Reyes@arb.ca.gov

CommunityAir@arb.ca.gov

October 28, 2022

Re: Nomination for the Community of La Viña to be Selected as an AB617 Community This Year

Good afternoon,

We are writing to nominate the community of La Viña for the AB617 program for the fourth consecutive year. We support the nomination of La Viña for the program alongside other communities in the South Madera region. We thank the SJVAPCD for nominating the community of La Vina in 2020, and strongly urge the air district to uplift the South Madera nomination today to CARB including La Viña for AB 617 selection this year.

Along with this letter, we submit the previous three nominations for the community of La Viña, which provide a background on the community, the air pollution sources that most concern residents, and details regarding the community's eligibility, capacity, and readiness to participate in the AB 617 program.

La Viña residents continue to engage in efforts to address priority air pollution sources and approach their elected officials and government agencies to join them in their commitment to addressing air pollution in their community. Residents have collaborated with CARB, DPR, and partner organizations in the past year, and are prepared to participate in the program if selected. They also want to ensure that the process and substance of AB 617 maintain their integrity to the goals of the program and the community: to follow community residents' direction and deliver concrete, measurable emissions reductions. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions regarding this letter or the attachments.

Gratefully,

Madeline Harris
Regional Policy Manager

February 13, 2023

[Sent Via Email]

California Air Resources Board
Deldi Reyes, Director of the Office of Community Air Protection
Deldi.Reyes@arb.ca.gov
CommunityAir@arb.ca.gov

Re: Nomination of the South Madera with Boundaries Inclusive of La Viña as an AB 617 Community for the Fifth Annual Selection of Communities

Dear Ms. Deldi Reyes,

The undersigned La Viña residents support the selection of South Madera as an AB 617 community. La Viña has been nominated during each of the five AB617 community selection years. We continue to prioritize efforts that minimize the impacts of severe air pollution and are prepared to fully engage in the AB 617 process.

As detailed in our letters from previous years, La Viña has been identified as a heavily overburdened community. It ranks in the top 2% of most pollution-burdened communities by CalEnviroScreen and in the top 5% for PM 2.5 pollution, top 8% for pesticides, and top 15% for ozone. Consequently, a severe negative impact on public health is reflected in the fact that most households in our community are affected by asthma, cancer, and other potentially lethal health concerns.

Therefore, it is of utmost importance to improve the air quality in La Viña with an emphasis on addressing public health impacts associated with heavy pesticide use and other agricultural activities co-located adjacent to our homes with zero buffer. We continue to ask for the support of our elected officials and government agencies to encourage our selection as an AB 617 community in an attempt to concentrate air pollution mitigation efforts. We thank the SJVAPCD for nominating La Viña in 2020 and strongly urge the air district to uplift the South Madera nomination today to CARB including La Viña for AB 617 selection this year. We have collaborated with CARB, DPR, and partner organizations in the past year, and are prepared to participate in the program if selected.

Along with this letter, we submit the previous four nominations for the community of La Viña, as well as, a letter nominating South Madera as a larger community that includes La Viña. These provide background on the community, the air pollution sources that most concern residents, and details regarding the community's eligibility, capacity, and readiness to participate in the AB 617 program. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions regarding this letter or the attachments.

Sincerely,

Esther Cuevas
La Viña Resident

Eduwiges Aguayo
La Viña Resident

Guadalupe Núñez

La Viña Resident

CC:

Hon. Steven S. Cliff, Ph. D
Executive Officer
California Air Resources Board

David Rogers
Madera County Supervisor - District 2
david.rogers@maderacounty.com

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
AB617@valleyair.org

Samir Sheikh
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Jaime Holt
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