

March 24, 2023



[Sent Via Email]

Chair Liane M. Randolph  
Honorable CARB Board Members  
California Air Resources Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Community Air Protection Program Annual Report**

The undersigned organizations uplift the previously submitted comments regarding the implementation of the Community Air Protection Program (CAPP, the program) stemming from Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617).<sup>1</sup> We encourage CARB to consider our recommendations as you review this year's annual report, as well as, throughout the development of the Blueprint 2.0, and conversations regarding program restructuring.

***I. CAPP implementation must prioritize community needs and center community voices.***

Community Steering Committee (CSC) and subcommittee meetings drive program implementation and therefore must be accessible to the local community and support community leadership. Additionally, information-sharing tactics must be accessible and transparent to ensure the CSCs and community members have access to critical information relevant to support CERP (Community Emission Reduction Plan) and CAMP (Community Air Monitoring Plan) implementation. We recommend that the CARB develops a set of community engagement, information-sharing, and meeting facilitation guidelines specific to CERP and CAMP implementation in collaboration with Air Districts and CSCs.

***II. CARB and Air Districts must improve CERP and CAMP development as well as implementation.***

CERP actions must be additive and not duplicative of air quality improvement measures that would have occurred in the absence of a CERP. We recommend that the CARB track air quality emission reductions that are unique to CERPs in order to adequately report the effectiveness of the program. Moving forward the CARB should only approve CERPs that identify additive emission reduction efforts that are unique to the program, and revisit previously approved CERPs to review the extent to which these include additive emissions reduction efforts.

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<sup>1</sup> [Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, et al. Letter to the California Air Resources Board. "AB 617 Community Air Protection Program Implementation Review." February 23, 2023.](#)

The CARB must better support CERP implementation measures that require cooperation with and action by other agencies that have regulatory power over air emission sources. We recommend that the CARB work with relevant agencies to develop enforceable agreements that outline responsibilities necessary for effective CERP implementation.

The emission reduction strategies the CARB has identified: regulatory, facility risk reduction, permitting, enforcement, incentives, land use, and mitigation must lead to substantial reductions and be consistent with community priorities. It is unclear to what extent these are being utilized to maximize their potential for successful CERP implementation. We recommend that CARB require an annual analysis from air districts reflecting the success of CERP implementation strategies that include quantified emissions reductions for each of the identified categories.

The CARB must ensure effective and timely program implementation. CERPs and CAMPs implementation has been unsuccessful in following the timelines established within the approved plans and CAPP deadlines. We recommend that CARB take a more active role in ensuring that CERPs and CAMPs progress along the timeline established within the approved plans.

**III. *Restructuring the program must ensure the community does not carry the burden of resolving air quality concerns.***

Shifting program implementation to Local CERPs (L-CERPs) is inappropriate and insufficient.<sup>2</sup> Communities that have been historically burdened by poor air quality should not then carry the primary responsibility of pushing forward emission reduction efforts. Community members don't hold the regulatory authority or resources concentrated in our state's air regulatory agencies to fund necessary projects and improvements

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We appreciate the consideration of these comments and look forward to continued collaboration. Please reach out to [mloera@leadershipcounsel.org](mailto:mloera@leadershipcounsel.org) for any inquiries.

Sincerely,

Mariela Loera  
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Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

Grecia Orozco  
Staff Attorney  
Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment

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<sup>2</sup> [Community Air Protection Program, Attachment A Community Air Protection Program Annual Update § \(n.d.\).](#)

CC:

Hon. Steven S. Cliff, Executive Officer

Chanell Fletcher, Deputy Executive Officer of Environmental Justice

Deldi Reyes, Director of the Office of Community Air Protection