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February 23, 2023

TO: Chair Liane M. Randolph and CARB Board

FROM: Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia

RE: Statement in Support of Approving Resolution 23-7 (Agenda Item No. 23-2-2)

Dear Colleagues,

Since the passage of AB 617 in 2017, several communities throughout the state have been able to benefit from participating in this community air protection program. Now there are new communities up for consideration. One of these communities being located in my assembly district, the area of Westmorland, Brawley, and Calipatria, also known to CARB as North Imperial Phase 1. Community participation in this program helps contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions throughout the state. It is exceptionally exciting to see the positive impact the AB 617 program has had and the community collaboration that has resulted from it.

The selection of this community in my district for the AB 617 program is crucial for improving air quality and public health in the Imperial Valley. The Salton Sea's proximity to this Northern Imperial community has exacerbated the area's air quality issues. It is reassuring to see that CARB staff recognizes the magnitude of the air quality issues that exist in Northern Imperial and are recommending for it to be added as a AB 617 Community.

Last year, my colleagues and I championed a proposal that aimed to secure additional funds for the AB 617 program. Through this effort, we were able to help secure a total of \$320 million for the program, \$260 million for incentives, \$50 million for implementation, \$10 million for technical assistance. We are committed to pushing for increased funding for the AB 617 program this legislative year.

Sincerely,

Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia

36th Assembly District