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Alberto Ayala

April 25, 2024

Steven Cliff, Ph.D., Executive Officer
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Request for South Sacramento-Florin to be selected for AB 617 Community Emissions Reduction Program

Dear Dr. Steven Cliff:

The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (Sac Metro Air District) requests that the California Air Resources Board (CARB) select our South Sacramento-Florin Community to transition to a Community Emissions Reduction Program (CERP) community. This request is supported by the South Sacramento-Florin Community Steering Committee (Steering Committee) through a majority vote at the March 25, 2024, public meeting of the Steering Committee. The Sac Metro Air District remains committed to the goals of Assembly Bill (AB) 617 and we appreciate CARB's timely allocation of state funding for the development of a CERP. If selected for transition, we will continue to work in partnership with the Steering Committee, interested members of the public, community organizations, and CARB to advance CERP development and the adopted Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP).

In anticipation of this transition, the Sac Metro Air District and Steering Committee have already been working arduously. We have conducted extensive outreach by attending various community events and neighborhood association meetings in nearby areas. Outreach remains critical as the Sac Metro Air District and Steering Committee revisit the current community boundaries through the CERP development process to ensure nearby communities can benefit from inclusion in the CERP designation. A recent community survey helped identify specific community air quality concerns, priorities, and locations of interest. The survey was distributed in six languages (English, Spanish, Farsi, Hmong, Vietnamese, and Chinese) and is available on a webpage created and maintained by the Steering Committee (www.saccleanair.com). A subcommittee of the Steering Committee dedicated to capacity building for CERP development was instituted in mid-2023. The subcommittee has discussed the transition into a CERP and considered various potential emission reduction projects to present to the full committee.

The Sac Metro Air District continues to fulfill the intent of AB 617 and Community Air Protection (CAP) where possible with current resources. A CERP designation and additional funding will expand efforts that align with

community priorities. Some of our District's previous and current efforts benefitting underserved communities include:

Enforcement

- Implementation of an Unidentified Source Inspection Program to ensure businesses have obtained all required air quality permits and fully comply with all federal, state, and local regulatory requirements. This time-intensive project focused on assessing permitting compliance within the South Sacramento-Florin community.

Land Use & Transportation

- District staff led the update of the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA) *Handbook for Analyzing Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions, Assessing Climate Vulnerabilities, and Advancing Health and Equity* (CAPCOA GHG Handbook) and California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod), which are used extensively by local planners throughout the state to evaluate projects, estimate various impacts, and assess climate-friendlier alternatives. The CAPCOA GHG Handbook now offers more than 200 strategies and measures for climate mitigation, adaptation, and community health, resilience, and equity. This work has been widely recognized nationally.
- A growing partnership with Sacramento Regional Transit (SacRT), Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), and Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) to re-envision our region's collective efforts for climate action and resilience with a prioritization of policies, investments, and advocacy for underserved communities. As an example of the benefits of regional coordination, the *Sacramento Region Zero Carbon Transportation Initiatives* was developed by the four agencies and identifies priorities in transit fleet conversion and refueling infrastructure, goods movement and medium and heavy-duty fleet transition, charging and transportation options for under-resourced communities, and workforce development (www.sacog.org/planning/transportation/transit-strategies/zero-emissions-vehicle-planning).
- Development and submittal of the *Capital Region Climate Priorities Plan* under the US EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program. This seven-county collaborative plan highlights 24 priority measures for the region, with special emphasis on ensuring co-benefits flow to low-income and disadvantaged communities.
- Development and submittal of the *Going Beyond Green: Cultivating Community, Connections, and Crops*, for Phase 2 implementation funding request under CPRG for three regional priorities: Mobility Hubs, SACOG's Green Means Go, and The Carbon Farming Partnership.

Exposure Mitigation

- As part of the *Wildfire Smoke Emergency Plan* required by AB 661 (McCarty, 2019), Air Quality Action Charts were created with messaging tailored to school districts, businesses, public agencies, and the public. Various tools and resources, including an outreach toolkit, were created to help businesses and public agencies easily share messages about wildfire smoke, its impacts on health, and how to reduce exposure during wildfire smoke events.
- Partnership with the City of Sacramento to deploy 200 Purple Air sensors to interested community members as well as local agencies and schools. Sensors were prioritized for areas with gaps in coverage from other portable sensors available online. As part of this effort, a mobile monitoring campaign for street-level pollution mapping was carried out in

priority communities in north and south Sacramento to enhance the understanding of highly localized air quality in these areas.

- Development of the Mobile Source Air Toxics Protocol to disclose risk from toxic air contaminants around Sacramento's major roadways and rail lines, and the Landscaping Guidance for Improving Air Quality Near Roadways, which outlines methods to reduce toxic air contaminants through project design and vegetative plantings.

Incentives

- Through the local violation settlement process, the Sac Metro Air District developed a Supplemental Environmental Projects program that specifically creates new opportunities to fund community-based projects in overburdened communities that improve public health, reduce air pollution, increase environmental compliance, or bring public awareness. For example, local nonprofit 350 Sacramento received funding through the program to build and distribute DIY air filters to low-income residents.
- Initiated a CAP incentive priority selection process that included participation from volunteers of the Community Steering Committee.

The Sac Metro Air District and the Steering Committee are committed to developing a CERP for the South Sacramento-Florin Community within the allotted two-year timeframe. As the last community slated to transition to CERP development, we are eager and ready to bring the next phase of tangible air quality actions and improvements under AB 617 to our state-selected community. Therefore, we request that CARB formally identify South Sacramento-Florin as a CAMP and CERP AB 617 community in 2024.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Janice Lam Snyder, Director of Community Air Protection, at (916) 491-0929 or JLam@airquality.org.

Sincerely,



Alberto Ayala, PhD, MSE
Executive Director and Air Pollution Control Officer

cc via email:

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