

**Air Pollution Control District Governing Board**  
San Diego County Air Pollution Control District  
**AGENDA ITEM # 03**

**DATE:** July 16, 2021

**TO:** Air Pollution Control District Governing Board

**SUBJECT: PORTSIDE COMMUNITY EMISSIONS REDUCTION PLAN – PHASE II**

**REQUESTED ACTION:**

1. Find that the proposed actions are exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act in accordance with staff analysis.
2. Approve the Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) and direct the Interim Air Pollution Control Officer or designee to submit the CERP to the California Air Resources Board for final State approval.
3. Authorize the Interim Air Pollution Control Officer or designee to work with the Portside Community Steering Committee and partner agencies to update the CERP as necessary to reflect potential changes, including updates to data, goals, priorities, or actions during implementation.
4. Authorize the Interim Air Pollution Control Officer or designee to advocate for programs, plans, and regulations that support the actions, strategies, and goals identified in the CERP.
5. Authorize the Interim Air Pollution Control Officer or designee to apply for and receive grant funding that supports the implementation of strategies and actions in the CERP.

**OVERVIEW:**

Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617) was signed into law in 2017, requiring new community-driven actions to improve air quality in disadvantaged communities. These actions include developing and implementing a community emissions reduction plan (CERP). AB 617 requires the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to work with air districts, community groups and others to select locations around the state where the air district will work with communities to improve local air quality. The San Diego County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) nominated, and CARB selected, the "Community of Portside Environmental Justice Neighborhoods" (Portside community) comprising Barrio Logan, Logan Heights, Sherman Heights and western National City to participate in this program. The Portside community was selected because it experiences disproportionate burdens from exposure to air pollution in higher levels than most communities in California due to environmental, health, and socioeconomic factors, according to the State's environmental health screening tool (CalEnviroScreen, version 3.0).

APCD convened a multi-stakeholder Portside Community Steering Committee (CSC) to hold regular, public meetings to discuss community air concerns and potential solutions. The CSC includes community residents, community-based organizations, industry representatives, and public agencies' staff, and is the driving force behind CERP development in collaboration with APCD. The CERP was completed in two phases. Phase I included early actions approved by the Air Pollution Control Board on November 18, 2020 (AP01). Phase II, subject to today's approval, includes the completion of a comprehensive CERP (Attachment A) that fulfills State requirements including a community profile and a suite of proposed goals and actions to improve air quality and reduce exposure to air pollution in the community. A summary of the overall goals and actions is

included as Attachment B. Some of the strategies in the CERP fall outside of the APCD’s purview and the authority to approve and implement them lies with other public agencies. In those cases, the CERP identifies advocacy strategies that APCD and the CSC will follow to support and advocate for the specified actions of other public agencies.

Today's request is to approve Phase II of the CERP. Today’s request also includes the authorization to submit the CERP to CARB for final State approval; to advocate for programs, plans, and regulations that support the actions, strategies, and goals identified in the CERP; and to apply for and receive grant funding that supports the implementation of strategies and actions in the CERP.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The CERP is part of the Community Air Protection Program, which is a State funded program administered by APCD in San Diego County. APCD’s FY 21-22 budget includes approximately \$18.5 million in State funding for this program, of which \$3.3 million is for community monitoring and program administration, and \$15.2 million for pass-through grants to fund air quality improvement projects in the Portside Community.

**ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT:**

District staff has determined that it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed CERP may have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Therefore, the project is considered to be exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Common Sense Exemption. Other exemptions that apply to this project are discussed in Chapter 7 of the CERP under the section titled *California Environmental Quality (CEQA) Analysis*.

**PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:**

November 18, 2020 (AP01), Community Emissions Reduction Plan for Portside Environmental Justice Neighborhoods [approval of implementation of Phase I actions].

**ADVISORY GROUP ACTIONS:**

On June 15, with a quorum and by majority vote, the Portside Community Steering Committee voted in support of the proposed CERP.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

- A. [Community Emissions Reduction Plan for the Portside Environmental Justice Neighborhoods – Phase II \(Available in English and Spanish\)](#)
- B. Summary of Proposed Overall Goals and Actions for the Portside Community Emissions Reduction Plan

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Domingo Vigil, Deputy Director

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