



# **Developing a Community Engagement Model**

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# Our Mission

- The California Air Resources Board's (CARB) mission is to promote and protect public health, welfare, and ecological resources through effective reduction of air pollutants while recognizing and considering effects on the economy.
- CARB is the lead agency for climate change programs and oversees all air pollution control efforts in California to attain and maintain health-based air quality standards.

# Organization of CARB

- CARB has 16 Board members. 12 are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by state Senate. The 12 members include local air districts, experts in the field, members of the public, and the Board Chair. The other 4 include:
  - Two who represent environmental justice and are appointed the state Senate and State Assembly
  - Two nonvoting members appointed for Legislative oversight
- The work of the Board is supported by a diverse set of professional staff at CARB including scientists, economists, engineers, lawyers, and policy makers.

# Office of Community Air Protection Program

- In response to AB 617 which was passed in 2017, CARB established the Office of Community Air Protection (OCAP). The Program's focus is to reduce exposure in communities most impacted by air pollution.
- This statewide effort includes:
  - Community air monitoring
  - Community-driven emission reduction program
  - Funding to support actions to address localized air pollution
  - Grants to support community reductions and participation
  - New requirements to accelerate retrofits of pollution controls
  - Greater transparency and availability of air quality and emission data

# OCAP Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles

Informed by  
People's BP  
and CSCs

## Vision

**Commits To Just Social Change**  
to address environmental injustices  
and advance racial equity

### Works Toward A Future

where all Californians  
breathe healthy and clean air,  
benefit from actions to address climate change,  
and race/racism no longer  
predicts life outcomes



## Mission

Reduce emissions of toxic air  
contaminants and criteria air  
pollutants in communities  
affected by a high  
cumulative exposure  
burden.

## Guiding Principles

- Use an Equity Lens
- Be Transparent and Accountable
- Support Power Sharing

# Commitment to Advancing Racial Equity

- In 2020, CARB Board Resolution 20-33 - A Commitment to Racial Equity and Social Change
  - Ensure racial equity in all CARB actions internal and external
  - Best practices for community engagement
- CARB commits to just social by working at all levels within the organization and externally to address environmental injustices and advance racial equity in the achievement of its mission. CARB works towards a future where all Californians breathe healthy and clean air, benefit from actions to address climate change, and where race is no longer a predictor of life outcomes.

# What does Racial Equity look like?

## PROCESS



## OUTCOME

### *MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT*

**How** we engage with communities most impacted by our decisions.

### *FAIR TREATMENT*

**Use engagement outcomes to** influence or inform decision(s) to be more just and equitable.

**“What’s the point of more outreach if the decisions are the same?”  
- Dr. Henry Clark, West County Toxics Coalition, USEPA EJ Teach-In, March 6, 2014**

# Why is CARB Creating a Community Engagement Model?

- **Develop** an agencywide community engagement model and training to help staff engage with communities
- **Collaborate** with diverse and hard to reach groups
- **Advance** racial equity

# How is CARB Developing the Model?



2022-2023

Staff draft initial Model



2023-2024

**Community Expert Collaboration**



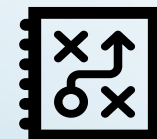
2023-2024

Public Dialogues



2024

Revise Model based on feedback



2025-on

Train staff



2025-on

Revise Model from lessons learned

# IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation

IAP2's Spectrum of Public Participation was designed to assist with the selection of the level of participation that defines the public's role in any public participation process. The Spectrum is used internationally, and it is found in public participation plans around the world.

INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION

	<b>INFORM</b>	<b>CONSULT</b>	<b>INVOLVE</b>	<b>COLLABORATE</b>	<b>EMPOWER</b>
<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL</b>	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
<b>PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC</b>	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

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# The Results...

- Community Experts felt heard and their voices represented
- Thoroughly vetted through community engagement
- Framework for CARB staff
- Best practices for community engagement



# Next Steps for the Community Engagement Model

- Early 2025
  - Release Model and host public meeting
- Throughout 2025
  - Workbook and interactive staff training

# CARB Racial Equity Lens and Community Engagement Model

We are driven by partnering with communities to ensure that race no longer predicts life outcomes



The goal of the Racial Equity Lens is to provide a tool to assess and address potential disparate impacts

The goal of the Community Engagement model is to provide the guidance and tools needed to consistently design and implement effective community engagement and outreach strategies.

# More Information

- CARB Office of Community Air Protection: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/community-air-protection-program>
- CARB Vision for Racial Equity: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/equity>
- CARB Community Engagement Model: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/community-engagement-model>
- CARB Environmental Justice: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/topics/environmental-justice>

Contact CARB Office of Racial Equity at [Equity@arb.ca.gov](mailto:Equity@arb.ca.gov)