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**Alberto Ayala**

October 28, 2021

Mr. Richard Corey, Executive Officer  
c/o Laura Zaremba-Schmidt, Air Resources Engineer  
California Air Resources Board  
9480 Telstar Avenue #4  
El Monte, CA 91731

**Subject: Request for State Resources for Inclusion of Additional Communities of the Sacramento Region in Year 4 of the AB 617 Community Air Protection Program**

Dear Mr. Corey:

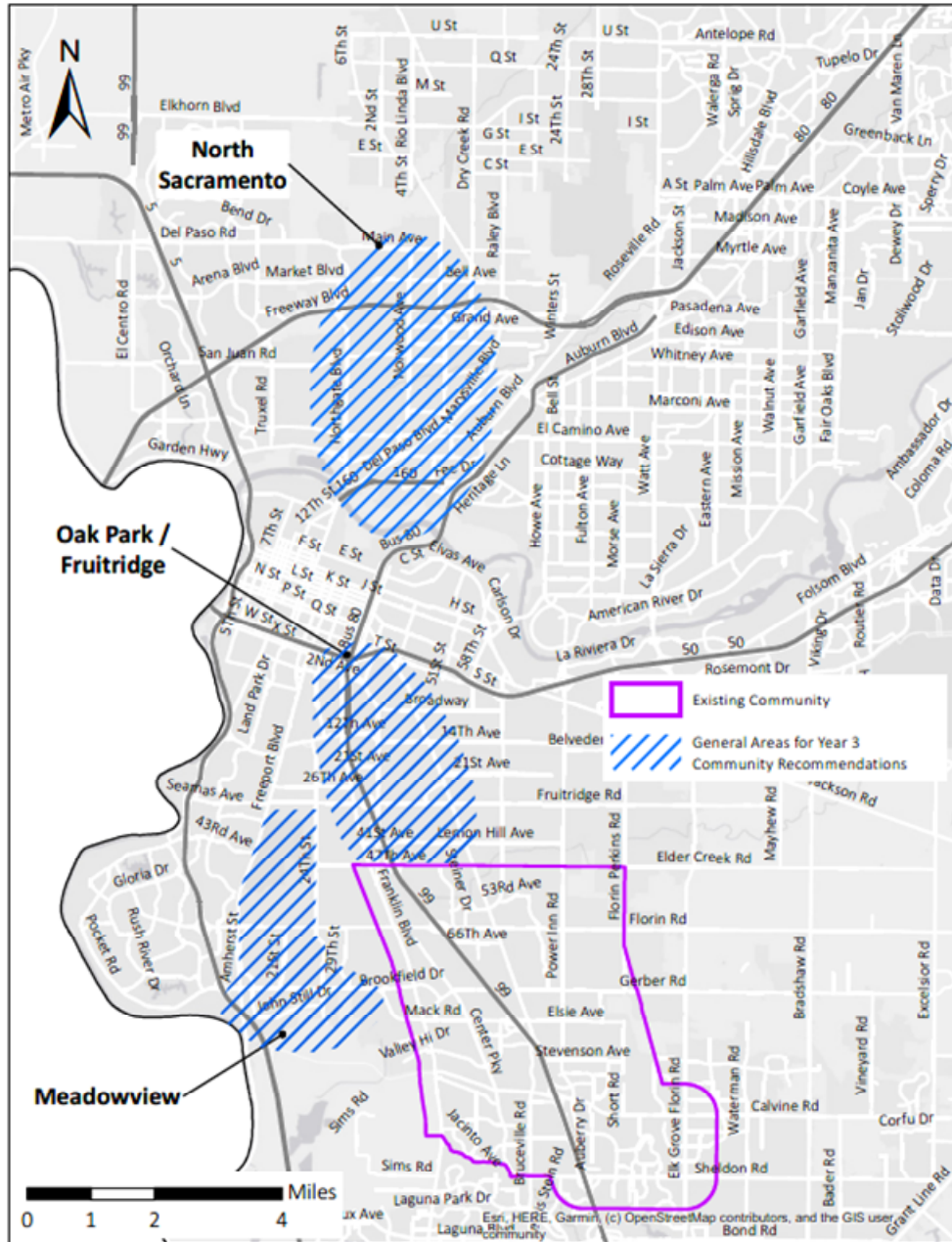
In 2019, the California State Resources Board (CARB) selected the South Sacramento-Florin community for air monitoring as one of the Year 1 communities for AB 617, the Community Air Protection Program. We worked arduously with the residents and business representatives on our South Sacramento-Florin Community Steering Committee (CSC) to develop and implement a successful Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP). For Years 2 and 3 (2020 and 2021), CARB did not select any additional communities for the Sacramento region.

We greatly appreciate the support CARB has shown in the implementation of the AB 617 program. However, additional funding is still desperately needed to achieve the goals of the program. The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (Air District) has continued to make great strides in helping vulnerable communities within Sacramento County, but finds itself limited by the lack of funding. We have worked with residents, community groups and business representatives on our South Sacramento-Florin CSC and in other areas throughout the county, to both initiate and support community led efforts in vulnerable communities. This includes the self-initiated South Sacramento-Florin Community's advocacy letter to the state legislature to secure proper funding for our communities to relieve the pollution burden the community faces (Attachment A).

For the Year 4 (2022) community selection by CARB, the Air District, elected officials and regional community voices, join together to nominate three communities. These communities are: North Sacramento, Oak Park/Fruitridge, and Meadowview as illustrated in Figure 1. We are urging the state to commit the necessary funding and resources and select these communities, which have the highest documented air pollution burden for Year 4 of the program as air monitoring communities.

The collaboration, energy and support through our ongoing efforts make it essential that adequate funding is provided and expanded upon, so that these efforts meet the needs of these at-risk communities to identify and address local air quality issues.

**Figure 1: Recommended General Community Areas for Year 4**



Similar efforts by SMUD supports the conclusion for these three communities in their Sustainable Communities Resource Priorities Map ([Attachment B](#)), which shows areas underserved or in distress by lack of community development, income, housing, employment opportunities, transportation, medical treatment, nutrition, education and a clean environment.

As part of the Air District's continuing commitment to the principles of AB 617, we continue to do everything we can to enhance existing air quality programs and working with community leaders and stakeholders to reduce air pollution burdens. Some examples include:

- Actively participating in the Sacramento Neighborhoods Activating on Air Quality (SNAAQ) project, a two-year project funded through a community air grant building community engagement and initial monitoring in two of our nominated communities, North Sacramento and Oak Park/Fruitridge.
- Working with community organizations and our Steering Committee on incentive project eligibility beyond Community Air Protection funds.
- Implementation of a new Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) program, which provides new opportunities through the violation settlement process to fund projects that will improve public health and air quality in neighborhoods most burdened by air pollution.
- Increased efforts to ensure businesses operating in the South Sacramento-Florin community have necessary air quality permits.
- The Attorney General recent award of \$1.96 million to Sacramento County Department of Health Services to model relationships between air quality and respiratory health, educate and engage with residents, and inform subsequent mitigation efforts with more than half the funds going to community organizations participating in the project.
- Most recently, the Air District has received a grant from the City of Sacramento as part of the city's Climate Implementation Work Plan, which will bring more personal air monitors to schools, residents and businesses in disadvantaged communities and increase outreach and education on air pollution impacts.

In addition, we are closely monitoring the work CARB is doing to update the Air Toxic Control Measure for Chrome Plating facilities and the impact it will have on residents and businesses.

In closing, we remain committed to implementing AB 617 to further improve the well-being of our residents by addressing long-standing air quality disparities. We have received considerable support to expand our AB 617 efforts into these communities. The continuing challenge for us and our communities is adequate state funding for this and other unfunded mandates. With your support and additional state funding, we look forward to promptly delivering on the promise of AB 617 to many more of our most marginalized and vulnerable residents in the Sacramento region. If you have any questions regarding our recommendations, please contact Mr. Mark Loutzenhiser, Division Manager, Program Coordination Division, at 916-261-6414, [MLoutzenhiser@airquality.org](mailto:MLoutzenhiser@airquality.org).

Sincerely,



Alberto Ayala, Ph.D., M.S.E.  
Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer

**cc via email:**

Mr. Eric Guerra  
Chair, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District  
Council Member, City of Sacramento

Mr. Phil Serna  
County Supervisor, Sacramento County  
Board Member, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District  
Board Member, California Air Resources Board

The Honorable Dr. Richard Pan  
Senate District 6, State Senate

The Honorable Kevin McCarty  
Assembly District 7, State Assembly

The Honorable Jim Cooper  
Assembly District 9, State Assembly

The Honorable Christina Garcia  
Assembly District 58, State Assembly

The Honorable Doris Matsui  
California 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District

The Honorable Ami Bera  
California 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District

Mr. Bill Knowlton, Co-Lead of the South Sacramento-Florin Air Quality Steering Committee  
and Executive Director, Mack Road Partnership

Ms. Patricia Shelby, Co-Lead of the South Sacramento-Florin Air Quality Steering Committee  
Air Quality Steering Committee

Ms. Deldi Reyes, Director, Office of Community Air Protection, California Air Resources  
Board

Ms. Karen Buckley, Branch Chief, Community Planning Branch, Office of Community Air  
Protection, California Air Resources Board

Mr. Mark Loutzenhiser, Division Manager, Program Coordination Division, Sacramento  
Metropolitan Air Quality Management District

Ms. Janice Lam Snyder, Program Manager, Program Coordination Division, Sacramento  
Metropolitan Air Quality Management District

**Attachment A**

South Sacramento-Florin Community's Advocacy Letter

June 7, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Toni Atkins  
President Pro Tempore of the California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon  
Speaker of the California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 219  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: 2021-22 State Budget May Revision Funding for Environmental Justice, AB 617 Community Air Protection Incentives and Implementation For South Sacramento/Florin and Other Communities**

Dear Governor Newsom, President Pro Tempore Atkins, and Speaker Rendon:

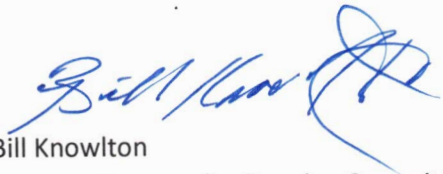
On behalf of South Sacramento-Florin AB 617 Community Steering Committee, we are writing to express both appreciation and concerns for the air quality funding provided in the 2021-22 State Budget May Revision. We applaud your focus on so many important clean air priorities and climate actions. However, we are disappointed to hear that there continues to be inadequate state funding to implement the intent of the AB617 Community Air Protection legislation to achieve environmental justice (EJ), equitable community air protection, and to provide support for community members to participate in this process. Specifically, we are requesting the legislature provide additional funding for AB 617 Community Air Protection implementation and incentives funding in Sacramento and other regions of the state.

As you know, air quality management districts and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) have been working with communities throughout the State to implement AB 617 over the last three years. The South Sacramento-Florin community has successfully worked with the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District to develop a community air monitoring plan and is working together to implement it. However, additional funding is needed to continue this work and take the next crucial step per AB 617 to reduce the pollution burden our community faces and develop a Community Emission Reduction Plan (CERP). The additional funding could also be used to enhance community outreach plans to engage more residents to participate and increase accessibility to our most vulnerable community members through better language (i.e. translations) and technology (i.e. internet, computers, digital materials) support. Insufficient funding for AB617 incentives and implementation is particularly concerning due to California's \$75.7 billion budget surplus and represents a missed opportunity for our communities that carry the burden of a long history of environmental injustice, especially in communities of color.

This state program can improve the lives of people living in our communities that have been most impacted by air pollution and we remain hopeful that it will. What makes AB 617 a transformative program, is its potential to not only improve air quality in our communities, but to also contribute to our local economic development through incentives to create a more sustainable community for our residents to live, work and play. The air quality districts already have processes for effectively channeling AB 617 incentives to address highly-localized air pollution emissions and burden along with helping to create economic growth. But the State's restrictive guidelines say we need to be a Community Emission Reduction Plan (CERP) community to have the flexibility to implement meaningful neighborhood level projects. Yet, there is insufficient funding to move to being a CERP community. We are requesting the legislature work with CARB to provide the flexibility in the incentive guidelines to overcome these issues so that we can immediately start reducing emissions to relieve the pollution burden our community faces.

We are pleased the 2021-22 State Budget May Revision provides funding statewide for incentives and retains the funding for implementation proposed in the January budget. However, these amounts continue to be insufficient to meet the demands in Sacramento and in other regions to relieve the air pollution burden experienced by our communities. We encourage you to consider additional funding, more flexibility in the incentives guidelines and additional support programs that will benefit California communities most in need.

Sincerely,



Bill Knowlton  
Co-lead, Community Steering Committee  
CEO, Mack Road Partnership



Patricia E. Shelby  
Co-lead, Community Steering Committee

Cc:

**South Sacramento-Florin Steering Committee Members:**

Bishop Chris Baker, Resident  
Steve Blanton, Power Inn Alliance  
Jesus Cervantes, Resident  
Hien Chan, Resident  
Rhonda Henderson, Resident, North Laguna Creek Valley Hi Community Organization  
Tido Thac Hoang, Vietnamese American Community of Sacramento  
Gary Johansen, Resident, North Laguna Creek Neighborhood Association  
Vincent J. Valdez, United Latinos  
Stephanie Williams, Resident

## Attachment B

### SMUD Sustainable Communities Resource Priorities Map

