

# AB 617 BARCT Determination for Natural Gas Production Operations

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# What is AB 617?

- Assembly Bill (AB) 617 was signed into law in 2017
- Five main components:
  - Community air monitoring/Community emission reduction program
  - Increased penalties for air quality violations
  - Enhanced emission reporting (CARB's Criteria and Toxics Reporting regulation)
  - Incentive funding and community grants
  - Expedited Best Available Retrofit Control Technology (BARCT)

# What is BARCT?

- What is Best Available Retrofit Control Technology (BARCT)

*“An emission limitation that is based on the maximum degree of reduction achievable, taking into account environmental, energy, and economic impacts by each class or category of source”*

- BARCT typically impacts existing equipment and operations through District rulemaking or state regulations

# Expedited BARCT

- A district in a nonattainment area must implement BARCT for each industrial Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Cap-and-Trade Source
  - Must be completed by 2022 (expedited)
  - We have three categories of industry subject
  - Natural gas production operations is the first category we will be bringing before you



# What are the Natural Gas Production Operations in Sacramento County

- Almost all the gas producing wells are located in the southwest area of Sacramento County
- Natural gas is mostly methane, a potent GHG, but also contains volatile organic compounds
- Production of natural gas requires:
  - Well heads to extract natural gas from ground
  - Compressor to move the natural gas
  - Storage tanks for water
  - Pipeline and connectors



# BARCT Analysis

- Staff analyzed and compared:
  - Available control technologies
  - Rules of other air districts
  - CARB's Greenhouse Gas Emission Standards for Crude Oil and Natural Gas Facilities
    - GHG controls for natural gas production operations also reduce volatile organic compounds (VOC) emissions
- Staff considered whether adoption of an additional District rule is necessary to meet BARCT



# Conclusions



- Staff has concluded that CARB's existing Greenhouse Gas Emission Standards for Crude Oil and Natural Gas Facilities meet BARCT for VOC emissions from this source category
  - District implements and enforces the state GHG regulation through Memorandum of Agreement with CARB
  - Staff performs site inspections, checks for natural gas leaks, examines records
- No additional District rulemaking is proposed for this source category

# Recommendations

- Conduct a public hearing
- Determine that the adoption of the BARCT analysis is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA);
- Determine that the District's implementation and enforcement of CARB's GHG regulation meets BARCT; and
- Approve the resolution adopting the BARCT analysis