

AGENDA

East Oakland AB 617 Community Steering Committee (CSC)

Meeting #17

Date & Time: Thursday, March 14th, 2024, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm PDT

Virtual Facilitators: Aiyahna Johnson, Mr. Charles Reed, Mykela Patton, CSC Co-Chairs

Note-taker: Angie Fike, Just Cities (JC)

Co-Chairs: Aiyahna Johnson, Mr. Charles Reed, and Mykela Patton

Co-Leads:

CBE: *Communities for a Better Environment (CBE)*

Air District: *Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD)*

Location (Hybrid):

- In Person at the Youth UpRising Campus (8711 MacArthur Blvd, Oakland)
- Virtually using Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/91580023030>

Website with Meeting Materials and Meeting Video Recording:

<https://www.baaqmd.gov/community-health/community-health-protection-program/east-oakland-community-emissions-reduction-plan>

Meeting Objectives:

- Facilitating relationship and trust-building amongst Co-leads, Co-Chairs, and CSC members.

Time	Topic
5:00 PM	Dinner and Meet & Greet <ul style="list-style-type: none">● East Oakland Environmental Justice (EJ) Announcements and Updates
6:00 PM	Welcome, Interpretation, Agenda
6:15 PM	CSC Member Guided Discussion on the CERP Process
7:40 PM	Break
7:45 PM	Next Steps for Strategy Statements
7:55 PM	Next Steps and Close Out

MEETING NOTES

East Oakland AB 617 Community Steering Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 14th, 2023, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm PDT

Time	Topic	Transcribed Meeting Minutes/Summary
6:02 PM	<p>Welcome, Interpretation, Agenda (4 mins; 6:02-6:07PM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Welcome (2 min) ● Agenda (1 min) ● Initial Meeting Agreements (2 mins) ● Community Building (1 min) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>Steering Committee Members Present:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aiyahna Johnson ○ Andrea Pineda ○ Andria Blackmon ○ Carol Corr ○ Mr. Charles Reed ○ Cynthia Gutierrez ○ Erica Pascual ○ Gabrielle Sloane-Law ○ Jamaica Sowell ○ Jamie Schecter ○ Khalilha Haynes ○ Tram Nguyen ○ Marina Muñoz ○ Merika Goolsby ○ Ms. Cecilia Cunningham ○ Mykela Patton ○ Njeri McGee-Tyner ○ Shamar Theus ○ Susan Goolsby ○ William Crotinger ○ Kimi Watkins-Tartt ○ Tram Nguyen ○ Coleen Liang ○ Katie Liang ○ Rebecca Bantum ● Mykela Patton, Co-Chair, facilitated the welcome...

6:07 PM	<p>Announcement by Dr. Fine and Marcia Raymond (8 minutes; 6:07 - 6:15 PM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Philip Fine, Executive Air Pollution Control Officer, introduced himself and described past experience working in community engagement on the CERP process. • Dr. Fine said that there is a sense of urgency and commitment to goals, but wanted to make sure that the process is truly community driven. Because of the importance of this work, he is sorry about the recent AD message to CSC members and its poor timing. He said he wants to move past this and work on a strong partnership process. • Marcia Raymond, Acting Deputy Officer for the AD, addressed the crowd, apologizing for the poor timing and lack of follow-up in regards to an email sent out a few weeks prior. • Mr. Charles Reed, CSC Co-Chair, responded by saying that his name is important to him, and that he felt this action disrespected his name. He said he wanted to move past this and work on the CERP process. He said he is on the CSC to represent a community he loves and believes in, and is committed to this work.
6:15 PM	<p>CSC Member Guided Discussion on the CERP Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction & overview on agenda (2 minutes; 6:15 - 6:17 PM) • Review of CERP milestones (2 minutes; 6:17 - 6:19 PM) • Breakdown of roles (1 minute; 6:19 - 6:20 PM) • Meeting Agreements (2 minutes; 6:21 - 6:23 PM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carly Cabral (CBE) gave an overview of the agenda, explaining that there will be an in-person and Zoom breakout room for discussing questions. She thanked everyone who she had conversations with to hear feedback that informed this meeting agenda. • Carly reviewed the purpose of the CERP, which is to develop a Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) over five years, to reduce the emissions of toxic air contaminants and criteria pollutants in the most heavily burdened communities. • Alesia Hsiao (AD) walked through the CERP Timeline and the milestones that have been achieved, are still pending, and that are in the future. Over the next year, focus will be on creating strategies and developing and adopting the CERP itself, which will guide implementation. • Carly reviewed a breakdown of the Roles in the CERP Process: Community Steering Committee (CSC), CSC Co-Chairs, Co-Leads, and Just Cities. She gave a reminder of the CSC Charter’s Participation Principles and then read out Initial Meeting Agreements or Notes for Participation.
6:23 PM	<p>Discussion on Upholding Agreements in CSC Meetings (19 minutes; 6:23 - 6:42 PM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitators Mykela Patton shared discussion questions on upholding agreements in CSC meetings. • On the topic of being called-on to participate, a CSC member said they do not like to talk because it makes them nervous. Calling on people, but giving them a heads up, would be helpful.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Another CSC member agreed with this and said it would help people to participate more while also giving them a chance to say no. ● On the topic of the zoom chat, a CSC member said that they sometimes found the chat helpful for discussing items that were not on the agenda, but trying to keep the chat on topic would result in getting more done. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A CSC member said that if the chat was kept on topic and in line with agenda items, there would need to be a separate platform for having discussions and sharing resources. They mentioned that some of the resources that had been shared from the chat, such as an infographic, were valuable for understanding. ○ A CSC member said that utilizing the chat is helpful for some people to check in and say what is on their mind. ○ A CSC member said the chat is helpful but can be overwhelming with the amount of information that is given sometimes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Another CSC member shared that it is easy to filter out the chat, and that if there are items that many people are responding to it will pop back up. Due to this, there is no need to filter it out. ○ A CSC member said they do not think they should filter the chat, but also wonders if it can be a distraction sometimes. ○ A CSC member said they notice people seem to speak their mind in the chat, and that more communication is always better than less. ● On the topic of the use of CSC space, a CSC member shared that it is helpful to have a separate space to discuss things. ● A CSC member asked for elaboration on what is considered “non-CSC matters.” A few weeks ago, people wanted to discuss what happened with interpersonal conflict between members of the CERP process. ● A CSC member shared that part of the challenge is that there is so much to talk about that focus is lost. At the end, there could be a time set aside to talk about events or dynamics that could be less on topic. ● A CSC member shared that it would be helpful to have a reminder of the initial/ main goal that people can return to. Somewhere people can go to keep track of where we are in the process. ● A CSC member said that CSC co-chairs and AD staff have put a lot of effort into the slides and agendas, but also that there are people in a lot of pain. If people are activated by something that has come up in a meeting, it is a problem to shut them down and not let there be a space for people to express themselves.
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6:23 PM	<p>Discussion Based on Feedback from CSC Members: Process & the CERP</p> <p>Breakout Room 1: In-person (54 minutes; 6:23 - 7:17 PM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Facilitator Carly Cabral asked the group how they've been feeling in the CSC space. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A CSC member said they are grateful that there is translation provided at these meetings, because otherwise it would be difficult to participate. They felt that the work is very important and that even with challenges, everyone is working towards a common goal. ○ A CSC member said they have been feeling discouraged because of ways discussion has been shut down. They said they have started to feel worried that they do not know what they are actually capable of and that there is a lack of clarity on the process. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A CSC member recommended that the committee view other CERPS. They said that as Co-Chairs, they would be more responsive to needs from community members and encouraged them to reach out. ■ A CSC member agreed with this, saying that there is fear in not knowing how to move forward with a process that they are unfamiliar with. ○ A CSC member said that there is confusion around what the CERP process will actually look like. They have been part of the CSC for years, are discouraged with the process, and have felt condescended and disrespected. They feel like they're a part of a performance rather than a process, but emphasized that they were committed to this process and to their community. ○ A CSC member said that they wanted to spend more time with the East Oakland Community Mapping project, returning and seeing where it has identified the main sources of pollution. They felt frustrated that they were not focusing more on these most polluting sources, getting sidetracked by things like illegal dumping. ○ A CSC member said they wanted to understand the legal jurisdictions that AD has over CERP. ○ A CSC member said they appreciated the communal experience of living in Oakland. This group has felt like an

		<p>opportunity to be in community with other people living in the midst of this environment, with air quality being a shared reality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A CSC member said that the AD was not reflective of who Oakland is as a community, and that they do not have the knowledge of being in a community. They said that the AD does not have a real stake in this because they do not live in the area. The people who live in the places where the air quality is the worst do not have the power or resources to make the decisions that matter in the end. ○ This CSC member said that their neighbors and friends do not know anything about the CERP or CSC, nor do they feel empowered about bringing the CERP process up to their neighbors. ○ A CSC member said that they felt empowered and grateful for the conversation happening. They mentioned that even though the question was about feelings, there were a lot of needs expressed in this conversation. ○ A CSC member said they were frustrated that the community was speaking about their needs and giving feedback, but that the AD was not responding. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Carly said that she had designed the conversation structure based on feedback gained from conversations had with CSC members. ○ A CSC member said that they noticed there were no goals on the screen and that people’s health was at stake. ○ A CSC member said that this process was focused on policy, which takes a lot of time. They suggested having short and long term goals, with shorter term goals being more doable in a quicker amount of time by the CERP. ○ A CSC member said they felt grateful this conversation was happening because they might feel one way, without knowing other team members felt another way. They said they do not feel discouraged, but rather empowered by actions taken by CBE, such as counting cars and doing research. They know this process takes a lot of time and is a lot of work. They noted that they are delayed here, because 17 months have gone by and something should already be done. ○ A CSC member asked if there will be a way to share and follow up about the questions that they did not get the chance to discuss. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Carly said she will be calling CSC members to follow up, and will make sure the Google Doc is shared.
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<p>6:42 PM</p>	<p>Discussion Based on Feedback from CSC Members: Process & the CERP</p> <p>Breakout Room 2: Virtual (35 minutes; 6:42 - 7:17 PM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Facilitator Mykela Patton asked the group how they've been feeling in the CSC space. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A CSC member shared that for the past month or so, the committee has been getting way off topic. The CSC member has been questioning their presence in such moments. ○ The CSC member also shared that they noticed that the presentations bring up trauma sometimes, which is difficult to process with no room to express it. They shared that perhaps the process should be flipped to how people feel, succeeded by what to do about it. ● Mykela asked the group about how they want to be engaged in the CERP process. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A CSC member referenced ad hoc meetings, and how everyone has engagements and family etc. so this may be an easier option. However, when there are topics that need more "teasing out," an ad hoc meeting may warrant that. They want staff to do more work in thinking through scenarios where things may stray off topic, and come up with plans to keep the CSC on track. ○ A CSC member brought up the idea of speaking to Streetwise, a platform that helped West Oakland get data to help their CERP process. ● Mykela asked the group about the questions they have for the CERP process. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CSC members' responses included: "When do we get to draft the actual plan? How much final say does the CSC actually have in the CERP process? What sort of authority does the CERP have? What is the motivation for the City of Oakland to prioritize the CERP over other day-to-day activities? Does the CSC have the ability to make and implement new strategies, or is it advisory only? When the CERP gets created, there will be efforts to make sure they get incorporated into municipal code updates or a city plan? Does a "Steering committee" have greater authority than an advisory council?" ○ Suma Peesapati, AD, said that the CERP is viewed as a partnership, with the California Air Resources Board ultimately voting on its approval. She said that the AD and CSC make a proposal and determine its feasibility within the measures of the CERP process. In other CERPS, they will seek the goodwill of other agencies such as water quality or land use. Finally, it is the Board of Directors and CARB that ultimately approve the CERP. ● Mykela asked the group what they would like to see in future meetings.
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7:17 PM	Report out: Zoom breakout room connects with the main room (33 minutes; 7:17 - 7:50 PM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mykela shared the topics brought up in the virtual breakout room, and Carly did the same for the in-person breakout room. ● A CSC member said they need to know what it is we are trying to do, and what power we have. Right now, the CERP is working <i>under</i> the AD. Whatever we cannot do in this dynamic, we can still share and pool our resources to do things outside of the CERP. We need to get out there and protest for what we want. Media is so powerful. This community is so sad. The illness in this community is so sad. Due to the pollution, due to the air quality, we need to do all that we can to help our people live much longer. We need longevity. ● A member of the public asked how many of the CSC members are employed with the Air District. A CSC member answered that there were no members of the AD in the steering committee. ● A CSC member stated it takes a strong, passionate person to work full time and also be involved in this, and that all that is possible must be done to get the word out, as people

		<p>working constantly often do not have time or energy to learn.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A member of the public asked why the CSC members are still asking ‘what are we doing and why are we here?’ They mentioned that there is an educational component that is missing. ● A CSC member said that they do not understand their options, and suggested that the CBE legal team brief the CSC. ● A CSC member said that they do not know what the final product will be. Due to there being so much unknown, they fear that there will be a lot of work put into something that will end up not being viable. ● A CSC member says that there is a limitation to what can be done when the regulatory agency or institution has the power. They said that there is a conflict that is inevitable when the government agency is not living in the community; that there is a disconnect in experience. ● A CSC member said they do not want to take a defeatist attitude and give up on accomplishing the CERP, and that the team needs to use all the tools available to get cleaner air for Oakland.” ● A CSC member said that the AD needs to clarify the abbreviations, definitions, and acronyms in order to have more understanding. ● A CSC member said that if the goal is to create a plan to reduce emissions, community engagement and outreach has to be central. ● A CSC member asked if the group felt like they were getting more accomplished working in-person versus online. Around three to four people nodded and responded yes. ● Carly said next steps include compiling a document of all that was said, as well as answers to questions we did not get to, and that this feedback will be followed up on by Co-Leads and CSC Co-Chairs.
7:52pm	<p>Next Steps for Strategy Statements (7 minutes; 7:52 - 7:59 PM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Alesia Hsiao, AD, went through a review of what was discussed at the February CSC meeting. Alesia said that in order to develop focus areas and strategies, the AD needs to understand key issues that the community cares about, with desired outcomes. With this, they can work together to develop strategies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ She mentioned that the February CSC meeting developed strategy statements to articulate the desired outcomes that community members want to see as a result of these strategies. This will be the first step in developing goals that reflect CSC members’ priorities. Before the next April

		<p>CSC meeting, the AD will provide materials to help develop focus area and strategy statements that will help them understand key issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Alesia reiterated that the AD staff is committed to this work and recognizes the passion in the room.
7:59	<p>EJ Announcements, Next Steps and Close-out (2 minutes; 7:59 - 8:01PM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Co-Chairs Aiyhanna Johnson and Mr. Charles Reed facilitated the closing. ● Mr. Charles announced that there will be a tree-planting with Argent Materials in the coming months, with more information to be followed up on. ● Aiyahna said that she is a care coordinator for East Oakland, and can assist with people’s payments for rent and utilities. ● Next CSC meeting will be held on Thursday, April 11th, 2024 from 6 - 8 PM.