



Sobrante Park Resident Action Council
Neighbors Helping Neighbors



February 7, 2020

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: 2020-2021 State Budget & Cap and Trade Expenditure Plan – Air Quality and Public Health Concerns

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

On behalf of our organizations, we implore you to fully fund the critical local implementation of the AB 617 Community Air Protection Program. The deep cuts proposed for this important environmental justice program would eviscerate the social equity goals, which must be the centerpiece of California's Cap and Trade program.

Environmental justice communities in Oakland, Vallejo, San Jose, and San Francisco will need more resources to keep a strong community voice at the center of efforts to clean up deadly diesel emissions that pollute our neighborhoods. For instance, West Oakland's first-of-its-kind Community Air Plan, "Owning Our Air," cannot be

implemented without support for grassroots participation and significant funding for industry incentives. The ability for the Richmond-San Pablo Community Air Monitoring Plan to inform a comprehensive and actionable CERP will be negatively impacted by these cuts. The Richmond-San Pablo Steering Committee expressed deep concern at the announcement of these cuts at their meeting last week. The nearby Tri-Valley area, East Palo Alto, and other qualifying communities around the Bay will be shut out of the AB617 opportunity if these budget cuts are made.

We request that you fully commit to this important program by increasing ongoing local implementation funding to \$100 million per year. Predictable multi-year funding is necessary if Air Districts and community advocacy organizations are to budget effectively to implement our decade-long Community Air Plans. AB617 is finally beginning to bear environmental justice fruit. It is too soon to throttle back the program with funding cuts.

We also respectfully request that AB 617 Community Air Protection Program Clean Air Project Funding be increased beyond the \$245 million in past budgets. Equity demands that funding be restored for other Low Carbon Transportation Programs, including the Clean Vehicle Rebate Program and Clean Trucks, Buses and Off-Road Freight Equipment. These programs allow working class people, and small business operators, to participate in a “just transition” from dirty diesel to cleaner renewable transportation technologies.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Eddie Ahn
Executive Director
Brightline Defense

Margaret Gordon
Co-Executive Director
West Oakland Environmental
Indicators Project

Clifford Gilmore
Lead Community Organizer
Central City SRO Collaborative

Gavin Raders
Co-Founder and Co-Director
Planting Justice

Khariyyah Shabazz
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Sarah Ching-Ting Wan
Executive Director
Community Youth Center

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Matt Holmes
Executive Director
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Nain Lopez
Community Resource Specialist
West County First 5 Center

Rev. William McGarvey
Executive Director
Interfaith Council of Contra Costa