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assignment editors**

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State selects Stockton for AB 617 community effort

District invites local residents and businesses to participate in community-led process

Today, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) has affirmed the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's recommendation of Southwest Stockton as one of four new California communities to benefit from additional resources provided by the AB 617 Community Air Protection Program.

The AB617 program, now in its second year of implementation, is designed to improve quality of life for the state's most disadvantaged communities through community-led efforts to identify and address local air pollution concerns. AB 617 builds on the Valley Air District's and CARB's longstanding efforts developing and implementing regulatory and incentive-based clean air strategies.

CARB's selection of Southwest Stockton, Eastern Coachella Valley, South East Los Angeles, and the Portside Environmental Justice Neighborhoods of San Diego came during today's board meeting in Sacramento.

In 2018, CARB selected ten disadvantaged communities throughout the state as first-year beneficiaries of AB617 resources. At that time, two communities were selected in the San Joaquin Valley: Shafter and South Central Fresno. AB617 requires CARB to annually consider selecting additional communities to implement community air monitoring plans and/or community emissions reduction programs.

Building on the experience gained with year-one communities, the Valley Air District is inviting Stockton residents, businesses and other community stakeholders to participate in the formation of a community steering committee to assess the needs of Southwest Stockton and work on a Community Air Monitoring Plan and Community Emissions Reduction Program during the upcoming year.

"The District looks forward to working closely with the soon-to-be-formed Community Steering Committee in Stockton to understand concerns and determine how new clean air resources and strategies can be best applied for maximum benefit to the community," said Samir Sheikh, the Valley Air District's Executive Director and Air Pollution Control Officer.

Interested community members can sign up to receive information at www.valleyair.org/stockton or contact the District directly at AB617@valleyair.org. For more general information on AB617, visit: www.valleyair.org/community or call the District at 559-230-6000.

The Valley Air District is a public health agency whose mission is to improve the health and quality of life for all Valley residents through efficient, effective and entrepreneurial air quality management strategies.