



SB 352: Environmental Justice Accountability & Oversight

SUMMARY

SB 352 requires CARB and the air districts to report to the Legislature on progress in implementing AB 617. The bill provides additional oversight by codifying the Bureau of Environmental Justice in the Department of Justice. .

BACKGROUND

In 2017, Governor Brown signed AB 617 (Cristina Garcia, 2017) as part of the Cap & Trade deal. The bill authorized CARB to identify communities that are overburdened with pollution to develop community emission reduction plans (CERPs) to reduce localized air pollution (AB 617).

The Legislature then allocated funding for these AB 617 communities to establish local committees of community residents so that residents can identify the needs of their community and develop a plan to improve air quality.

These community emission reduction plans (CERPs) identified various different proposals and strategies to address localized air pollution. However, there have been reports of implementation and enforcement barriers that have prevented CERPs from achieving the goals of AB 617.

Additional accountability, oversight, and enforcement is needed to address these

barriers so that pollution burdened communities can properly implement the CERPs.

THIS BILL

In order to provide more accountability, enforcement, and oversight, SB 352 makes these specific changes:

1. Codifies the existence of the Bureau of Environmental Justice within the Department of Justice.
2. Requires monitoring in a location selected by CARB to remain active for at least 5 years, with an option for the air districts and CARB to agree to extend active monitoring for additional 5-year periods as necessary
3. Requires CARB and the air districts to come before the Legislature to provide progress on AB 617 implementation.

SUPPORT

Brightline Defense Project

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