



June 30, 2020

Division Chief Office of Community Air Protection
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
1990 E. Gettysburg Ave.
Fresno, CA 93716

Attn: AB617 Nomination Letter of Support for Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region

Dear AB 617 Community Selection Committee,

Bike Bakersfield is pleased to support the nomination of the Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region as an AB 617 Community for Year 3. Between 2013 and 2019, Bike Bakersfield, alongside Building Healthy Communities South Kern opened Bike Arvin, which served as the only bike shop and active transportation hub for the entire South Kern community. We were a full service bike shop, but also a community space handing out free helmets and lights, leading repair workshops and rides, teaching in schools, conducting outreach to parents, and advocating for regional active transportation projects and studies.

Despite closing our doors, we still continue to receive requests to reopen Bike Arvin, and still do small educational programs for interested residents and students. We are working diligently with the local and regional leadership to address environmental justice concerns, particularly through projects that would invest in transportation modes and other innovation projects that would benefit the lifestyles of all Kern County residents, but most importantly impact the air quality of the Arvin/Lamont South Kern region and its residents.

The Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region is at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley at the base of the Tehachapi mountain range, which effectively traps air pollution causing serious local air quality problems. Bike Bakersfield and what was formerly Bike Arvin are still committed to improving public health and safety by advocating, supporting, and encouraging infrastructure that reduce air pollution to help the region meet clean air mandates. We are willing and highly motivated to partner with the community to identify opportunities to tackle and find localized, community-based solutions that work to reduce toxic air contaminants, fugitive dust, industrial pollution and many other issues caused by regional and localized sources of pollution.

We write this letter to express our full support for the communities of Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region to be selected for the Third-year implementation of the AB617 Community Air Protection Program. We are not alone in this recommendation. The San Joaquin Valley AB617



BIKE BAKERSFIELD

Bicycling for Everyday Transportation

Environmental Justice Steering Committee (SJV-AB617-EJ-SC) ranked Arvin-Lamont as the number one area in the Rural category in the nomination document they submitted to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD). This nomination was the result of a thorough analysis of indicators that included Population Characteristics, Regional and local air pollution; health data as well as the capacity from community-based organizations that is necessary to successfully engage with residents, the Air District and CARB in the AB617 CAPP process.

There is already vetted and reproducible data suggesting that the South Kern Region is highly affected by the regional air pollution as well as significant factors that contribute to the pollution such as local large scale agricultural practices, concentrated warehouse distribution centers, neighborhood oil and gas development as well as other factors.

Bike Bakersfield's Board of Directors and staff is excited for the opportunity to progress our partnerships with the Air District and Arvin/Lamont and South Kern community to strategize effective reductions in fugitive dust that will improve air quality in our Valley and move toward attainment of state and federal air quality standards.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Asha Chandy', enclosed within a blue DocuSign signature box.

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Asha Chandy

Programs Manager
Bike Bakersfield
(661)703-4168
Asha@bikebakersfield.org