



CITY OF ARVIN

MAYOR

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MAYOR PRO TEM

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Mark Franetovich

CITY MANAGER

Jerry Breckinridge

June 30, 2020

California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA. 95814
Attn: AB 617
(vial email to: communityair@arb.ca.gov)

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue
Fresno, CA. 93726
Attn: AB 617
(via email to: AB617@valleyair.org)

Dear AB 617 Representatives,

The City of Arvin is a small rural disadvantaged community in Kern County located in the southern-most portion of California's Central Valley. Arvin's urbanized footprint is a compact one mile east to west and two miles north to south.

Despite its small footprint, Arvin is home to 21,328 people. Agriculture is the primary source of income for over half of its residents. U.S. Census data indicates that 91.3 percent of the residents of Arvin are Latino. Arvin is a particularly disadvantaged community that has more than its share of challenges. The area's household median income in 2014 was \$35,359, significantly lower than the state's average of \$61,489 (CensusReporter.org). 36% of children live below the poverty level and the vast majority (over 91%) of the student population qualifies for the federal Free and Reduced-Price Meal Program (CA Dept. of Education online FRPM data 2015-16). **Significantly, the median age of Arvin's residents is 24.2, significantly lower than the state average of 35.6.**

The town has a CalEnviroScreen 3.0 score in the high ranges from 81 to 95 percent. Particularly onerous are factors like poverty (99th percentile), low educational achievement (97th to 99th), linguistic isolation (89th to 93rd), exposure to ozone (96th to 99%), exposure to PM 2.5 (98th to 99%), exposure to pesticides (98%) and low drinking water quality (91st to 99th%). This project is focused on the entire urbanized portion of the City from Arvin High School on the north (south of Sunset Boulevard) to El Camino Real Elementary School in the south and from Comanche Drive in the west to Tejon Highway on the east.

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P.O. Box 548

Arvin, California 93203

The City of Arvin is making strides on multiple fronts in our area to reduce greenhouse gases, ozone, particulate matter, and energy. The community needs more funding to build upon that momentum to have a significant air quality impact. AB617 will be a major game changer for the South Kern non-attainment area. Particulate matter and ozone continue to be a significant challenge in the South Kern area, yet Arvin is often overlooked because we are a small rural disadvantaged community.

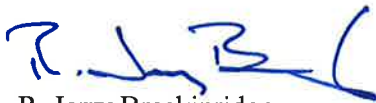
Arvin has an established baseline GHG inventory for 2016 and can produce measurable outcomes with AB 617 funding. The city also has the capacity and experience in implementing programs such as Urban greening, Urban Forestry, fleet electrification, and electric charging stations.

In 2019, the city received 3 Beacon Awards from the Institute for Local Government(ILG) for its achievements in energy reduction, climate change/sustainability, and best practices. Arvin is a recipient of ILG's Boost Program in collaboration with the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) and has been working closely with ILG gaining technical assistance and capacity building to further its work in air quality improvements and energy reduction. The City will be submitting for the 2020 Beacon awards program in the fall.

The City of Arvin has been hard hit by the recent impact of Covid-19. Covid-19 has been shown to negatively affect communities who are already plagued by poor air quality due to higher levels of asthma and respiratory conditions in residents in non-attainment areas.

Our community is prepared for the AB 617 Program and will be a shining example of best practices for the San Joaquin Valley Air District and the California Air Resources Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Jerry Breckinridge".

R. Jerry Breckinridge
City Manager