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**PLANNING AND NATURAL
RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

Planning
Community Development
Administrative Operations

June 15, 2022

San Joaquin Valley APCD
Attn: Monte Reyes, Chair
1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue,
Fresno, California 93716
Delivered – Email gbmeeting@valleyair.org

**RE: Kern County Board of Supervisors Support for Adoption of Proposed
Community Emission Reduction Program (CERP) for AB 617 Community of
Arvin/Lamont (June 16, 2022, Item # 9)**

Honorable Board Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the Kern County Board of Supervisor's comments and support for the adoption of the proposed Community Emission Reduction Program for AB 617 for our Arvin/Lamont communities. On behalf of the Board, we ask that you adopt the proposed CERP as reflective of the inclusive Community Steering Committee (CSC) process and supportive of your commitment to reduce emissions.

On February 9, 2021 our Board supported the selection of the City of Arvin and unincorporated community of Lamont for the 2020 Community Air Protection Plan. CARB selected the Arvin/Lamont community due to its location as one of the most heavily air impacted areas in the San Joaquin Valley due to the traffic from Highway 184, Highway 223, surrounding agricultural operations, industrial sources and location downwind of the major population center for Kern County, the City of Bakersfield. On June 14, 2022, the Kern County Board of Supervisors conducted a public hearing and heard from the community the importance of this CERP for the health and quality of community life in the Arvin and Lamont boundary area.

Representatives of county departments, including, Planning and Natural Resources, Public Works, Public Health and Agricultural participated throughout the CSC process to act in an advisory capacity in supporting the process.

The following are recommendations the Board of Supervisors considered on the June 14, 2022 hearing and directed we provide to your Board for consideration.

Kern County Comments :

Of the thirteen (13) measures on Table 5-1 for funding allocations, three (3) of these measures involve a potential commitment of County General Funds beyond the CARB AB 617 allocation.

Incentives – Community Services:

3.A Urban Greening	\$500,000.00	(500 units)
3.B Vegetative Barriers	\$500,000.00	(500 units)
3.C Road Improvements, Sidewalks and Bike Paths	\$12,000,000.00	(6 units)

3 A. Urban Greening and 3. B Vegetative Barriers were requested by the community as a priority around sources of concern and sensitive receptors such as schools or along major traffic corridors. While supportive of the concept in theory, both Planning and Public Works staff did express to the CSC that the reports intention that Kern County would assume the cost of on-going maintenance of such installations along county roads would not be feasible. As well the creation of County Service Areas (CSA) for private land owners, while feasible, requires a vote under proposition 218 when costs for water and landscape services (such as trimming of trees near power lines) rise. Such 218 votes are not guaranteed to pass, leaving the County with unresolved costs directly linked to one location in the county, but paid for by the entire General Fund. The issue of water for such installations was not discussed or resolved in the report and staff noted that Kern County controls no water allocation that could be offered. Creative solutions need to be developed for funding sources for continued maintenance and water availability and cost. The report further notes that Kern County could require such vegetative barriers during land use considerations. Planning staff has included the comment in our records and will evaluate it for a policy consideration on the updated Kern County General Plan 2040. However, such a policy also needs to take into account water availability and on-going maintenance issues if a land use changes.

Comment:

The Kern County Board of Supervisor supports the installation of vegetative barriers. Funding for water, installation or maintenance costs is not available from the county. Creative solutions should be explored with non-profit foundations as well as State and Federal Agencies to find long-term maintenance solutions.

3 C – Road Improvements, Sidewalks and Bike Paths were a top priority for the community. At this time the community has only generally identified areas of interest. However, based on the experience of Public Works with the AB 617 Shafter CERP, it is recommended that a project list be provided to the CSC for consideration. Road improvement projects are subject to many technical barriers that may not be obvious to community members. They range from incomplete right-of way easements, existing structures and underground lines that cause expensive delays and drainage issues that significantly increase costs. As there is no dedicated source of other funding for Roads projects in this area, any such financial cost over-runs could impact the General Fund. To maximize the allocation of CARB funding, Public Works has prepared the attached list of potential projects for the CSC to consider for implementation. The choice of the final projects is up to the Arvin/Lamont CSC members; however, Kern County Public Works will need to accept the final project in order to implement this request in the unincorporated area of the plan. Staff believes this list could be useful to begin the conversation of implementation for this measure.

Comment:

The Kern County Board of Supervisors provides the attached list of Road Improvements, Sidewalks and Bike Paths for consideration by the CSC when discussions begin on implementation of this measure.

Measure 5. A Reducing Exposure to Pesticides in the Community:

The California Department of Pesticide Regulations (DPR) and Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) made presentations on the current regulations and the Kern County Agricultural Commissioner attended every meeting and made presentations to explain the current regulations and protections.

The issue of potential pesticide exposure in communities has been brought to the Kern County Board a number of times in public comments. The Arvin/Lamont CSC members feel strongly that a local notification program, expanded monitoring and greater application buffers need to be implemented immediately. The public comments at the June 14, 2002 hearing included members of the already adopted AB617 for Shafter and referenced the pilot project funding line item in that adopted CERP.

As detailed by DPR there is now an in-process program to develop a statewide pesticide notification system. Four (4) counties are involved in this \$10 million program and each are piloting slightly different approaches. The counties are Riverside, Santa Cruz, Stanislaus and Ventura and contacts for each program can be found here:

https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/pesticide_notification_network/. The State has announced workshops in late June to discuss the program.

Once these programs are complete, the State will draft regulations that are mandatory statewide, and implementation will begin throughout Kern County.

Based on the comments from the community the Board directed the following comment be provided to your Board. They directed the Agricultural Commissioner to continue discussions with the agencies, the CSC and include the Kern County Farm Bureau to discuss expansion of exposure mitigation practices and other local pesticide measures for the community of Arvin/Lamont. While the Board did not direct a local temporary notification program be developed and implemented, they did commit to continue to consider and discuss all ideas that could address these issues and implement the Statewide notification when adopted by the State.

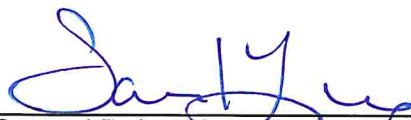
Comment:

The Kern County Board of Supervisors has directed staff to engage with CARB, DPR, the District, the Kern County Farm Bureau and the Community Steering Committee regarding expanding exposure mitigation practices in the community. Kern County staff will also engage with CARB, DPR, the District, the Kern County Farm Bureau and the Community Steering Committee for consideration of the development of local pesticide measures and the Board commits to implement any Statewide notification program.

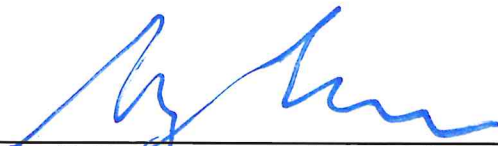
Conclusion:

The Arvin/Lamont Community Emissions Reduction Program (CERP) Report is a product of a community – driven conversation and hours of work by the CSC members to identify and prioritize specific and real projects that will clean the air. From supporting the Kern COG truck traffic re-routing to increased enforcement to prevent open air burning to abandonment of orphan oil wells, this process has empowered and supported the community to become involved in identifying what can be done and what agencies regulate these uses. On behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors we ask that you adopt and implement the CERP as reflective of the community values and goal of reducing air emissions in the Arvin/Lamont community area.

Sincerely,



Samuel D. Lux, Interim Director
Kern County Public Works



Glenn T. Fankhauser, Agricultural Commissioner Sealer of Weights and Measures
Kern County Agriculture and Measurement Standards



LORELEI H. OVIATT, AICP, Director
Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department

LHO:alp

Cc: County Administrative Officer
County Counsel
California Air Resources Board AB 617 Program - Communityair@arb.ca.gov
San Joaquin Valley APCD – AB 617 Program - sjvapcd@valleyair.org
City of Arvin
Public Works
Public Health
Agriculture

Table 5-1 Target Funding and Emissions Reductions for Incentives Measures

Number	Measure	Unit Type	Units	% of Committee Support	CSC-Recommended Incentive Allocation	Target Reductions Total Lifetime Tons		
						NOx	PM2.5	VOC
Incentives - Heavy-Duty Trucks & Equipment								
1.A	Heavy-Duty Truck Replacement**	Trucks	25	79%	\$5,000,000	96	2	7
1.B	School Bus Replacement*	School Buses	4	81%	\$1,600,000	7	0	1
1.C	Ag Equipment Replacement**	Vehicles	50	100%	\$4,500,000	187	13	0
1.D	Alternatives to Ag Burning*	Acres	1000	100%	\$1,400,000	58	110	100
Incentives - Residential Benefits								
2.A	Residential Lawn/Garden Equipment*	Mowers	350	97%	\$175,000	0.1	0.1	2
2.B	Commercial Lawn/Garden Equipment**	Units	6	59%	\$150,000	Emissions Reductions Expected Pending CARB Methodology		
2.C	Residential Vehicle Repair*	Cars	450	61%	\$360,000	4	0	0
2.D	Residential Vehicle Replacement*	Cars	200	55%	\$4,000,000	1.9	0.1	0
Incentives - Community Services								
3.B	Urban Greening*	Trees	500	54%	\$500,000	Emissions Reductions Expected Pending CARB Methodology		
3.C	Vegetative Barriers*	Trees	500	81%	\$500,000	0.25	0.01	0
3.D	Road Improvements, Sidewalks & Bike Paths*	Projects	6	77%	\$12,000,000	18.6	10.2	37.8
3.E	Public Fleet Vehicles**	Vehicles	20	59%	\$400,000	0.1	0	0.1
3.F	Incentives for ebikes*	Bikes	TBD with CSC	55%	No CERP Funding	Emissions Reductions Expected Pending CARB Methodology		
*New program or incentives greater than existing program						372.5	135.4	148.3
**Enhanced access, priority for current program						NOx	PM2.5	VOC



OFFICE MEMORANDUM
COUNTY OF KERN

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

SAMUEL D. LUX, P.E.

INTERIM DIRECTOR

TO: LORELEI OVIATT, DIRECTOR

DATE: JUNE 2, 2022

FROM: SAM LUX, INTERIM DIRECTOR 

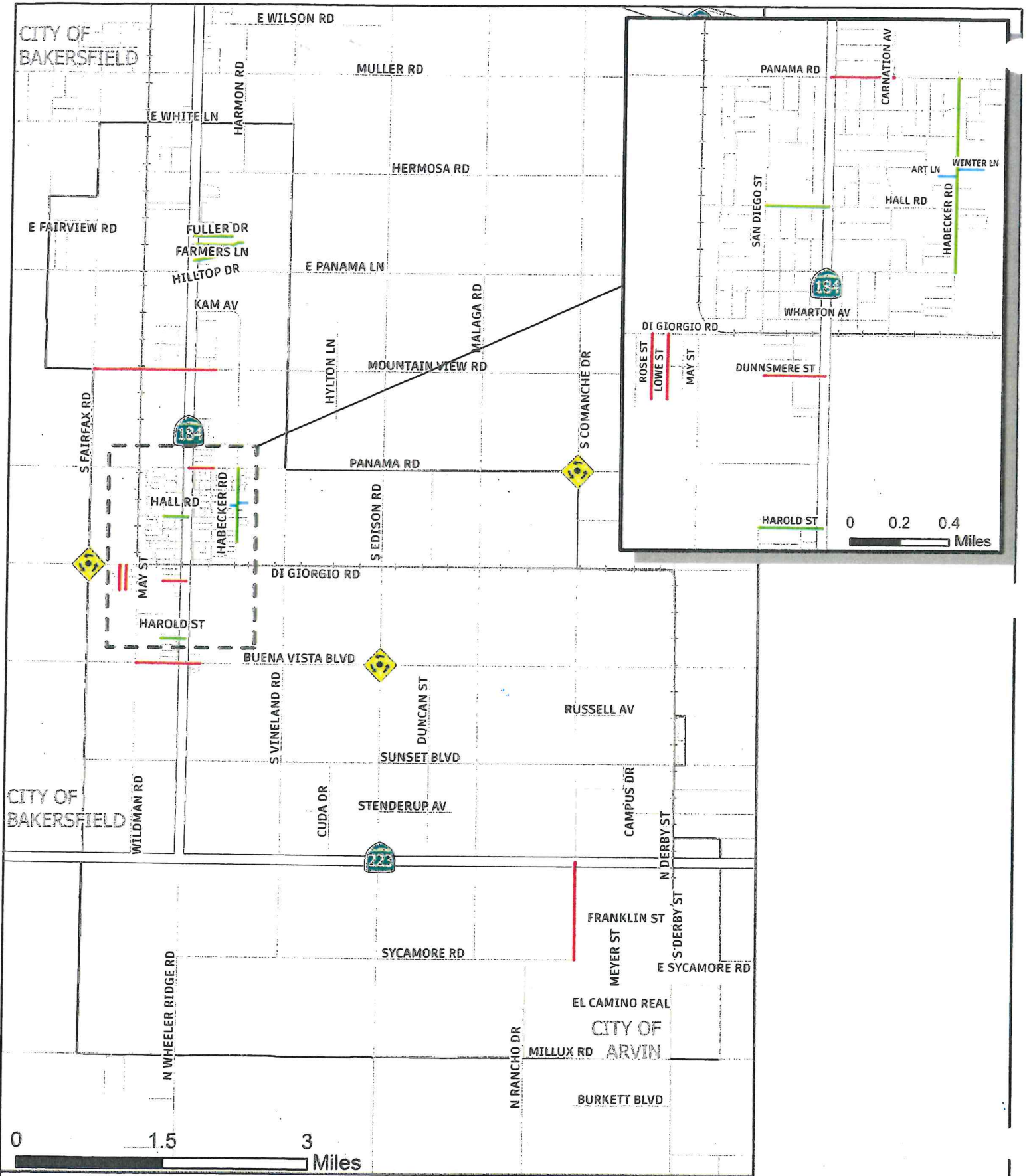
SUBJECT: AB 617 POTENTIAL PROJECT LIST

Kern County Public Works (KCPW) is pleased to provide a potential project list for consideration of AB 617 funds for the Arvin/Lamont South Kern Region to reduce fugitive dust emissions & vehicle miles traveled:

- **Pave Dirt Roads – to reduce fugitive dust emissions: (\$1M)**
 - a) Winter Lane (Habecker Rd – East Side Canal); 0.25mi, \$250,000
 - b) Art Lane (Tatum St – Habecker Rd); 0.25mi; \$250,000
- **Roundabout - to improve traffic congestion and reduce idling (\$5M/each)**
 - a) DiGiorgio Rd @ Fairfax Rd
 - b) Comanche Rd @ Panama Ln
 - c) Edison Rd @ Buena Vista
- **Sidewalks – to improve dirt shoulders with walking path to reduce dust (approx. \$3M)**
 - o Panama Rd (SR 184 – Carnation Ave); 0.25 mi; \$250,000
 - o Dunsmere St (San Diego St – SR 184); 0.25mi; \$250,000
 - o Rose St (Dirt Rd to DiGiorgio Rd); 0.3 mi; \$300,000
 - o Lowe St (Dirt Rd to DiGiorgio Rd); 0.3 mi; \$300,000
 - o Comanche Rd (Sycamore – E. Bear Mt. Blvd); 0.5mi; \$500,000
 - o Buena Vista Blvd (May St – Mobile home park); 0.75 mi; \$750,000
 - o Mt View Rd (Sherman Rd – RR xing); 0.75 mi, \$750,000
- **Locations that need Right-of-Way (approx. \$5M), options include:**
 - a) Pave shoulder only (no sidewalk) to reduce mud & dust OR
 - b) Pursue as one-way roads to construct sidewalk (if 50%+ owners support the project):
 - o Habecker Rd (Panama Rd – Segrue Rd); 0.75 mi; \$750,000
 - o Hall Road (San Diego St – Main Street); 0.5mi, \$500,000
 - o Harold St (Main St – Ralph Ave); 0.25; \$250,000
 - o Fuller Drive (SR 184 – end); 0.4 mi; \$400,000 + drainage = \$800,000
 - o Hilltop Dr (SR 184 – end); 0.25 mi; \$250,000 + drainage = \$500,000
 - o Farmers Lane (SR 184 – end); 0.5 mi; \$500,000 + drainage = \$1,000,000

A map of all these locations has been provided for your reference. If you need any additional information for this request just let me know.

AB 617 POTENTIAL PROJECTS



	Sidewalk Improvement	Roundabout	City Limits
	Pave Dirt Road	Arvin CERP Community Boundary	Railroad
	Needs ROW		Highways

