

# Exploring Next Steps for Biomonitoring in AB 617 Communities

Duyen Kauffman, OEHHA  
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# New program in OEHHA

## Environmental Health Support for Communities:

- ▶ Designed to support the California Air Resources Board, local air districts, and impacted communities in implementing AB 617
- ▶ The 2019-20 State Budget allocates resources for:
  - Four permanent positions - one Staff Toxicologist, two Research Scientists, and one Senior Environmental Scientist
  - Limited-term contract money - \$350K per year for three years

# Major elements of new program

- ▶ Evaluating and interpreting:
  - Potential health effects that may result from community exposures to air toxics
  - Health benefits from reducing emissions
- ▶ For previously unassessed pollutants, developing necessary health guidance values
- ▶ Designing and implementing targeted biomonitoring studies in affected communities

# Targeted biomonitoring studies

- ▶ Complement and validate air monitoring in select communities
- ▶ Increase understanding of exposures and potential health risks faced by residents

# Current work related to AB 617

- ▶ East Bay Diesel Exposure Project (EBDEP)
- ▶ Engagement with AB 617 communities and local air districts
  - Community Steering Committee meetings
- ▶ Coordination with California Air Resources Board staff

# Overarching goals for biomonitoring

- ▶ Measure exposure to chemicals of concern in people
- ▶ Establish baseline exposures prior to reduction efforts
- ▶ Examine exposures associated with specific sources in the community, and/or
- ▶ Evaluate the effectiveness of exposure reduction efforts

# Possible considerations for selection of communities for biomonitoring

- ▶ Chemicals of concern that can be biomonitored
- ▶ Geographic coverage of the state
- ▶ Nature of exposure sources

# Possible considerations for selection of communities for biomonitoring, cont'd

- ▶ Population characteristics, such as:
  - Demographics like socioeconomic status and primary languages spoken
  - Pollution burden and other stressors



# Possible considerations for selection of communities for biomonitoring, cont'd

- ▶ Community organizations to partner with for recruitment and engagement efforts
- ▶ UC/State agency researchers to partner with for study design and implementation

# Possible considerations for selection of communities for biomonitoring, cont'd

- ▶ Logistics and resources, including:
  - Available infrastructure
  - Contract money availability and timing

# Options for complementary studies

- ▶ Indoor air monitoring
- ▶ Dust analyses
- ▶ Biomarkers of effect
- ▶ Non-targeted screening

# Community engagement

- ▶ Public workshops
- ▶ Electronic surveys
- ▶ Feedback anytime via email to:  
[biomonitoring@oehha.ca.gov](mailto:biomonitoring@oehha.ca.gov)

# Discussion topics

- ▶ Overarching goals of the biomonitoring studies in AB 617 communities
- ▶ Considerations for selecting communities for biomonitoring
  - Chemicals of concern that can be biomonitored
  - Geographic coverage
  - Nature of exposure sources
  - Population characteristics
  - Community and research partners
  - Logistics
  - Other?