

Hi, this is Chris Micheli with the Sacramento governmental relations firm of Aprea & Micheli and an adjunct professor here at McGeorge School of Law. Today's podcast is on CARB. The California Air Resources Board, known by its acronym is CARB. It has a number of roles, including protecting the public from harmful effects of air pollution, as well as developing programs and actions to fight climate change in the state of California. From requirements for clean cars and fuels to adopting innovative solutions that are intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The state of California has pioneered a range of effective approaches that has set the standard for effective air and climate programs throughout the nation as well as the world.

The California Air Resources Board is established in Health and Safety Code Division 26, Part 2. It's found in quite a few sections, from section 39500 to 39961. Now the following are the major sections that are contained in Part 2 of the Health and Safety Code, including findings, declarations, and intent of the Legislature, administration, general powers and duties, permit assistance, goods movement, emission reduction program, cruise ships and ocean-going ships, school bus idling, and idling at schools, toxic air contaminants, coordination with federal acts, identification of toxic air contaminants, control of these toxic air contaminants, special provisions for infants and children, its scientific review panel, Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Investment Plan and Communities Revitalization Act, global warming, Rice Straw Demonstration Project, agricultural biomass utilization account, Air Pollution Control Subvention Program, Expedited Air Quality Improvement Program for Electrical Generation, Remote Sensing Pilot Program and Wildfire Smoke Clean Air Centers for Vulnerable Populations Incentive Pilot Program.

Now pursuant to Health and Safety Code Division 25.5 Part 1 Chapter 4 in Section 38510, CARB is defined as the state agency charged with monitoring and regulating sources of emissions of greenhouse gases that cause global warming in order to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. Moreover in Section 39500, it's the intent of the Legislature that CARB shall have the responsibility, except as otherwise provided, for control of emissions from motor vehicles and CARB shall coordinate, encourage and review the efforts of all levels of government as they affect air quality.

Also in Section 39003, it provides that CARB is the state agency that's charged with coordinating efforts to attain and maintain ambient air quality standards. And these are ambient air quality standards are utilized to conduct research into the causes of, and solutions to air pollution. CARB is also to systematically attack the serious problem caused by motor vehicles.

Now CARB is composed of 16 members. 12 are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate. The members include five who serve on local air districts, four who are experts in fields that shape air quality rules, two public members, and one, the Chair, who serves as the only full-time member of the board. The Governor can choose any of the board members to serve as Chair. The remaining four CARB members include two who represent EJ or Environmental Justice communities. One of whom is appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules and the other by the Assembly Speaker. And then the final two are non-voting members who are appointed for legislative oversight. One from the Senate, one from the Assembly. And the CARB board members serve six-year terms.

Now, according to CARB, their board is part of a coordinated three-tiered approach to cleaning up air pollution in the state. The US EPA sets nationwide air quality and emission standards, as well as oversees state efforts and enforcement. Then CARB focuses on California's unique air quality challenges. It sets the state's own, stricter emission standards for a wide range of statewide pollution sources, including vehicles, fuels and consumer products. And then there are 35 local air pollution control districts that regulate emissions from businesses and stationary facilities. And these range from oil refineries to auto body shops and even dry cleaners.

So CARB's major responsibilities and work require it to reduce air pollution and protect the public health. In doing so, CARB holds monthly public meetings. It often reviews its progress. It considers new

approaches to cleaning California's air. And according to CARB its board chair and staff routinely consult industry as well as scientific experts. And they actively engage with advocates for public health, regulated businesses and low-income communities in order to make its decisions. So that's our overview of CARB, the California Air Resources Board. Thanks for joining today's podcast.