

Per California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 548.5, the following information will be posted to CalHR's Career Executive Assignment Action Proposals website for 30 calendar days when departments propose new CEA concepts or major revisions to existing CEA concepts. Presence of the department-submitted CEA Action Proposal information on CalHR's website does not indicate CalHR support for the proposal.

**A. GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. Date

2025-11-04

2. Department

California Air Resources Board (CARB)

3. Organizational Placement (Division/Branch/Office Name)

Deputy Executive Officer, Mobile Sources and Incentives (C.E.A.)/Executive Office

4. CEA Position Title

Deputy Executive Officer, Mobile Sources and Incentives (C.E.A.)

5. Summary of proposed position description and how it relates to the program's mission or purpose. (2-3 sentences)

Under the general direction of the Executive Officer and Principal Deputy Executive Officer, the Deputy Executive Officer (DEO) for Mobile Sources and Incentives plays a critical leadership role in advancing the Air Resources Board's mission to protect public health and the environment by reducing air pollution. This position supports the program's purpose by overseeing the development and implementation of innovative air quality strategies targeting emissions from on- and off-road mobile sources. The DEO leads strategic planning, policy development, and technical evaluation of incentive programs and regulatory efforts, ensuring alignment with state, federal, and local air quality goals. By managing highly technical staff and collaborating with local, state, and international partners, the DEO ensures that California remains at the forefront of clean transportation and climate action, delivering science-based solutions to reduce emissions and improve air quality statewide.

6. Reports to: (Class Title/Level)

Courtney Smith, Principal Executive Officer

7. Relationship with Department Director (Select one)

- Member of department's Executive Management Team, and has frequent contact with director on a wide range of department-wide issues.
- Not a member of department's Executive Management Team but has frequent contact with the Executive Management Team on policy issues.

(Explain):

8. Organizational Level (Select one)

- 1st
- 2nd
- 3rd
- 4th
- 5th (mega departments only - 17,001+ allocated positions)

**B. SUMMARY OF REQUEST**

**9. What are the duties and responsibilities of the CEA position? Be specific and provide examples.**

The CEA is responsible for directing the adoption and implementation of regulations and programs aimed at reducing emissions from passenger vehicles, medium- and heavy-duty vehicles and engines, and off-road equipment. This includes close collaboration with the federal government to develop and align federal and California emission standards. The position coordinates with a wide range of state agencies—including CalSTA, CalTrans, the Office of Planning and Research, the California Transportation Commission, the Department of Housing and Community Development, GoBiz, CDFA, the Energy Commission, and the Governor’s Office—to shape mobile source and incentive policy.

The CEA represents CARB and the State of California in state, federal, and international forums on mobile source emission reduction strategies. They lead engagement with federal, state, regional, and local agencies to promote multimodal transportation systems that support air quality and climate goals. This includes influencing transportation planning documents to reduce reliance on single-occupancy combustion vehicles and expand zero-emission solutions. The CEA also coordinates semi-annual joint meetings between CARB, the California Transportation Commission, and the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Incentive program oversight is a key responsibility, including directing the development of annual funding plans, managing the triennial investment plan for the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, and overseeing quantification methods, grant solicitations, selections, awards, and audits.

In collaboration with other Deputy Executive Officers, the CEA advises the Executive Officer on board-wide policy matters to ensure consistency and alignment with CARB’s mission. The role also involves reviewing and recommending priorities for budget and programmatic proposals, representing the Board in sensitive interagency activities, and providing expert testimony in public hearings and proceedings.

**B. SUMMARY OF REQUEST (continued)**

10. How critical is the program's mission or purpose to the department's mission as a whole? Include a description of the degree to which the program is critical to the department's mission.

- Program is directly related to department's primary mission and is critical to achieving the department's goals.
- Program is indirectly related to department's primary mission.
- Program plays a supporting role in achieving department's mission (i.e., budget, personnel, other admin functions).

Description: California Air Resources Board (CARB) must fulfill its broad mission of promoting and protecting public health, welfare, and ecological resources through effective reduction of air pollutants while recognizing effects on the economy.

CARB is the lead agency for climate programs and oversees all air pollution control efforts in California to attain and maintain health-based air quality standards. CARB is charged with protecting the public from harmful effects of air pollution and developing programs and actions to fight climate change. From requirements for clean cars and fuels to adopting innovative solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, California has pioneered a range of effective approaches that have set the standard for effective air climate programs for the nation, and the world. As a result, actions taken by CARB are highly visible with broad and far-reaching impact including setting the example and standard for successful air and climate programs internationally.

**B. SUMMARY OF REQUEST (continued)**

11. Describe what has changed that makes this request necessary. Explain how the change justifies the current request. Be specific and provide examples.

This request is necessary due to an internal reorganization that realigns oversight responsibilities to better support CARB's evolving programmatic priorities. Specifically, the Deputy Executive Officer (DEO) for Mobile Sources and Incentives will no longer oversee the Sustainable Transportation and Communities Division (STCD), and will instead focus solely on the Mobile Source Control Division (MSCD). Oversight of STCD will transition to the Deputy Executive Officer for Equity, Communities, and Environmental Justice.

This change reflects CARB's strategic effort to better integrate sustainable transportation planning with equity and community-focused initiatives. STCD's work—such as advancing equitable access to clean mobility and supporting local planning for sustainable communities—aligns closely with the mission of the Office for Equity, Communities, and Environmental Justice. Placing STCD under this DEO ensures that these efforts are guided by a leadership structure that prioritizes environmental justice and community engagement.

At the same time, consolidating oversight of MSCD under the DEO for Mobile Sources and Incentives strengthens CARB's regulatory and technical focus on reducing emissions from on- and off-road vehicles. This alignment allows for more cohesive management of mobile source regulations, incentive programs, and technical evaluations, ensuring that CARB's mobile source strategies are implemented efficiently and consistently.

For example, as CARB implements Advanced Clean Cars II and other zero-emission vehicle regulations, it is essential that regulatory development, compliance, and incentive deployment are coordinated under a single leadership structure. Meanwhile, STCD's work on regional planning, sustainable transportation investments, and community engagement is more effectively advanced under the leadership of the DEO for Equity, Communities, and Environmental Justice.

This reorganization supports CARB's broader mission by aligning program areas with the appropriate executive leadership, improving coordination, and ensuring that both regulatory and community-based strategies are implemented with clarity, focus, and accountability.

### **C. ROLE IN POLICY INFLUENCE**

12. Provide 3-5 specific examples of policy areas over which the CEA position will be the principle policy maker. Each example should cite a policy that would have an identifiable impact. Include a description of the statewide impact of the assigned program.

The DEO will oversee policy areas that encapsulate Mobile Sources and Incentives.

#### **1. Incentive Programs**

The MSCD Chief oversees the development and implementation of incentive programs that accelerate the adoption of cleaner technologies. These programs are designed to reduce emissions from mobile sources by supporting the deployment of zero-emission vehicles and equipment. The Chief works with stakeholders and other state agencies to implement joint incentive strategies and ensure alignment with CARB's broader air quality and climate goals.

#### **2. Light-Duty Criteria Emission Standards**

The Chief leads efforts to reduce harmful pollutants—such as NO<sub>x</sub> and particulate matter—from light-duty vehicles. This includes overseeing the Advanced Clean Cars Program (ACC), which sets aggressive tailpipe emission standards for passenger cars, pickup trucks, and SUVs. The ACC program aims to scale down emissions starting with the 2026 model year and transition to 100% zero-emission vehicles by 2035.

#### **3. Light-Duty Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Standards**

In coordination with the Deputy Executive Officer, the Chief supports the implementation of GHG standards for light-duty vehicles. These standards are part of the ACC Program and are designed to reduce climate pollutants by promoting zero-emission technologies and infrastructure, including electric vehicle charging and hydrogen fueling.

#### **4. Heavy-Duty Criteria Emission Standards**

The Chief is responsible for developing and implementing regulations that reduce criteria pollutants from medium- and heavy-duty vehicles. This includes working with stakeholders and other agencies to ensure compliance with state and federal air quality requirements and to protect public health, particularly in communities disproportionately impacted by diesel emissions.

#### **5. Heavy-Duty Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Standards**

The Chief collaborates with the Deputy Executive Officer to oversee CARB's GHG standards for medium- and heavy-duty engines, vehicles, and trailers. These standards align with federal EPA and NHTSA regulations and are critical to reducing climate emissions from the freight and goods movement sectors.

**C. ROLE IN POLICY INFLUENCE (continued)**

**13. What is the CEA position's scope and nature of decision-making authority?**

The Deputy Executive Officer (CEA) for Mobile Sources and Incentives holds a high-level, policy-influencing leadership role with broad decision-making authority over one of CARB's most impactful program areas. This position has final approval over all decisions related to mobile source regulations and incentive programs before they are elevated to the Principal Deputy Executive Officer, Executive Officer, and Chair for final agency consideration.

The CEA is responsible for shaping and implementing policies that directly affect California's air quality, public health, and transportation systems. This includes developing regulatory strategies for on- and off-road vehicles, overseeing incentive funding plans, and ensuring alignment with state and federal air quality and climate goals. The decisions made at this level have far-reaching implications for communities, industry, and environmental outcomes across the state.

As a member of CARB's executive leadership team, the CEA collaborates closely with the Principal Deputy Executive Officer and five other Deputy Executive Officers to ensure that all programmatic decisions are consistent with the Executive Officer's vision and CARB's mission. The role requires balancing technical, scientific, policy, and stakeholder considerations to guide complex, multi-agency initiatives and regulatory actions.

In summary, the CEA exercises significant independent judgment and authority in setting direction, approving programmatic decisions, and influencing statewide environmental and transportation policy.

**14. Will the CEA position be developing and implementing new policy, or interpreting and implementing existing policy? How?**

Yes.

**New Policy:**

The Deputy Executive Officer will work with the Division Chief (DC) of the Mobile Source Control Division (MSCD), other Deputy Executive Officers (DEO), Principal Deputy Executive Officer, and the Executive Officer (EO) to help ensure that proposed regulations and incentive programs are aligned with CARB's mission, help achieve California's federal ambient air quality standards, and help protect communities.

**Interpreting Existing Policy:**

The Deputy Executive Officer will work with the DC, DEOs, Principal DEO, and EO to help ensure that information about CARB's programs are being accurately summarized and effectively distributed to regulated parties, communities, legislators, and the media.

**Implementing Existing Policy:**

The Deputy Executive Officer will work with the DC, DEOs, EO to engage with external stakeholders, such as industry representatives, environmental groups, and government agencies, to facilitate the implementation of existing policies. This includes collaborating with these entities to address compliance, enforcement, and regulatory matters.