

Independent Emissions Market Advisory Committee
California Environmental Protection Agency
Klamath Training Room, 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95812
With remote participation via Zoom
10:30am to 12:30pm, September 25, 2025

Meeting minutes — September 25, 2025

1. Call to order, roll call, and establishment of quorum

IEMAC voting members Cullenward and Sutter were present.
IEMAC voting members Fowlie and Holt joined remotely.
IEMAC voting member Nation joined late at 11:35am, due to a prior teaching commitment.
IEMAC non-voting member Kerstein was present.

Chair Fowlie announced the presence of a quorum and brought the meeting to order at 10:33am.

2. Welcome, introductions, and meeting purpose

Chair Fowlie welcomed committee members and members of the public.

Chair Fowlie took note that AB 1207 and SB 840 were passed by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor, extending and renaming the cap-and-invest program through 2045.

No action was taken.

3. Discussion and possible action to approve minutes from May 1, 2025, IEMAC meeting

Vice Chair Cullenward made a motion to approve the minutes from May 1, 2025; Chair Fowlie seconded. An opportunity for public comment followed. No comments were offered.

Votes in favor:	Cullenward, Fowlie, Holt, Sutter
Votes in opposition:	None
Not voting:	Kerstein, Nation (absent)

The minutes were approved.

4. Discussion and possible action regarding IEMAC conflict of interest policy

The committee took note of AB 1207, which amended Section 38591.2 of the Health and Safety Code to add a new subdivision (b)(3). The committee heard a presentation from CalEPA attorney Salwa Bojack on the changes to Section 38591.2. Ms. Salwa indicated that:

- The new subdivision (b)(3) requires IEMAC members to file Form 700;
- The new subdivision (b)(3) took effect immediately when AB 1207 was signed into law on September 19, 2025, and requires an “assuming office” Form 700 filing within 30 days (which CalEPA has determined is October 19, 2025);
- The new subdivision (b)(3) generally subjects committee members to the Political Reform Act, including a “cooling off” period with respect to contact with CARB and CalEPA following a committee member’s departure from the committee;
- CalEPA will add committee members to CalEPA’s e-filing system after today’s meeting to facilitate compliance with the new Form 700 filing requirements; and
- CalEPA will add committee members to the existing CalEPA Conflict of Interest Code, rather than develop a stand-alone IEMAC Conflict of Interest Code, with updates to CalEPA’s Conflict of Interest Code expected within 90 days.

Ms. Bojack indicated her availability to provide follow-up advice to committee members about general compliance requirements as well as to answer individual committee members’ questions.

The committee thanked Ms. Bojack for her helpful presentation and directed Vice Chair Cullenward to update the IEMAC Handbook, in consultation with Ms. Bojack and CalEPA to ensure consistency. The committee may consider and vote to adopt an updated version of the IEMAC Handbook at a future meeting.

The committee discussed a potential proposal to voluntarily complete and submit an annual conflict of interest acknowledgment form, in addition to the new Form 700 filing requirements. The committee agreed that, in light of mandatory Form 700 filing obligations from AB 1207, no additional conflict of interest acknowledgments would be necessary.

An opportunity for public comment was provided.

A member of the public asked about whether the “cooling off” period applies to former committee members and raised questions about the burden of compliance for filing committee members.

No action was taken.

5. Update on recent legislative activity (Senate and Assembly guest speakers)

The committee noted that many legislators and their staff members may be attending events in New York Climate Week, which limited the availability of legislative visitors to join the IEMAC meeting.

An opportunity for public comment was provided. No comments were offered.

No action was taken.

6. Update on CARB policy implementation (CARB guest speaker)

The committee noted that a CARB Board Meeting is occurring at the same time as this IEMAC meeting, which limited the availability of CARB staff to join the IEMAC meeting.

Chair Fowlie introduced and summarized a public update from CARB dated September 19, 2025.¹

An opportunity for public comment was provided. No comments were offered.

No action was taken.

7. Discussion about the 2025 IEMAC Annual Report

The committee discussed the possibility of filing public comment letters in any upcoming regulatory process at CARB and turned its attention to the scope of its 2025 annual report. The committee discussed the timing, scope, and content of its annual report, and acknowledged the importance of tailoring its work to be responsive to the upcoming CARB regulatory process.

The committee discussed potential subject areas for the annual report, including.

- The impact of the market's carbon price on retail energy prices, net of program protections.
- The importance of meeting California's climate goals.
- The balance between ambition and affordability, including a specific focus on utilities.
- The effect of cost impacts on energy-intensive industries, including jobs and investment.
- Integration of carbon capture and storage activities into the program.
- Succinct insights on how policymakers can take action to balance ambition and affordability.
- Changes to the offsets program.

The committee discussed the challenge of coordinating distributed work, noting that choices about individual market design features interact. The committee discussed the potential to work on individual theme-based chapters that cover the options for, and implications of, market design choices from the perspective of different chapter themes.

¹ See https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2025-09/nc-CT_Notify_Sep2025_0.pdf

Committee member Nation joined the meeting at this point in the agenda.

The committee discussed potential chapter themes, including:

- Climate ambition
- Affordability and net retail price impacts
- Cost containment
- Energy-intensive industries
- Program revenues

The committee agreed that Chair Fowlie would circulate a list of draft chapter themes to committee members to solicit individual members' interest in joining individual chapters.

An opportunity for public comment was provided. No comments were offered.

No action was taken.

8. Public comments on items not on the agenda

CalEPA Climate Change Adviser William Dean announced that the next IEMAC meetings will be scheduled for November 3, 2025 and December 8, 2025, with specific times to be determined and announced via the IEMAC email listserv and posted on the IEMAC website.

An opportunity for public comment was provided. No comments were offered.

No action was taken.

9. Adjournment

Chair Fowlie adjourned the meeting at 12:07pm.