

Chapter 1: Introduction

AB 617 was signed into California law in July 2017 and focused on addressing local air pollution impacts in environmental justice communities. The bill recognizes that while California has seen tremendous regional air quality improvement, some communities are still disproportionately impacted. Many communities in the South Coast AQMD experience impacts from air pollution sources near places where people live. Major air pollution sources in EJ communities include mobile sources (trucks, locomotives, etc.) and industrial facilities. These communities also experience social and economic disadvantages that add to their cumulative burdens. The AB 617 program accelerates actions and provides additional resources to address air quality in these communities.

In 2018 (Year 1), CARB designated ten AB 617 communities statewide (see Figure 1-1), including three South Coast AQMD communities. On December 13, 2019 (Year 2), CARB designated twoⁱ additional AB 617 communities (see Figure 1-1) in South Coast AQMD, including, Eastern Coachella Valley (ECV) and Southeast Los Angeles.

Figure 1-1: Statewide AB 617 Communities as of 2019



Local air districts are tasked with developing and implementing Community Emissions Reduction Plans (CERPs) and Community Air Monitoring Plans (CAMPs) in partnership with residents and community stakeholders. The CAMP includes air monitoring efforts to enhance our understanding of air pollution in the designated communities and support CERP implementation.

Purpose of the Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP)

The CERP is developed to achieve air pollution emission and exposure reductions within the ECV community and address this community's air quality priorities. The plan describes the community outreach conducted to develop

ⁱ ECV, Stockton, and Southeast Los Angeles were designated in 2019 to develop both a community emissions reduction plan and a community air monitoring plan. San Diego designated in 2018 to develop a community air monitoring plan, which was expanded in 2019 to develop a community emissions reduction plan.

the CERP and provides emissions and exposure reduction actions, an implementation schedule and an enforcement plan.

Some actions in the CERP include a series of steps to address certain air quality concerns raised by the CSC. These actions provide flexibility for plan adjustments when new information becomes available. Staff will provide an annual progress report to the South Coast AQMD Governing Board on CERP implementation and identify actions that may require Board action.

CERP Development Process and Emphasis on Community Input

Community engagement and input to inform both the process and the actions in the CERP are a primary element of the AB 617 program. Figure 1-2 provides the CERP development process. Public meetings, workshops, conversations, and communications among committee members, South Coast AQMD staff and CARB staff contributed to development of the plan. Chapter 2 describes the CSC and outreach efforts for CERP development.

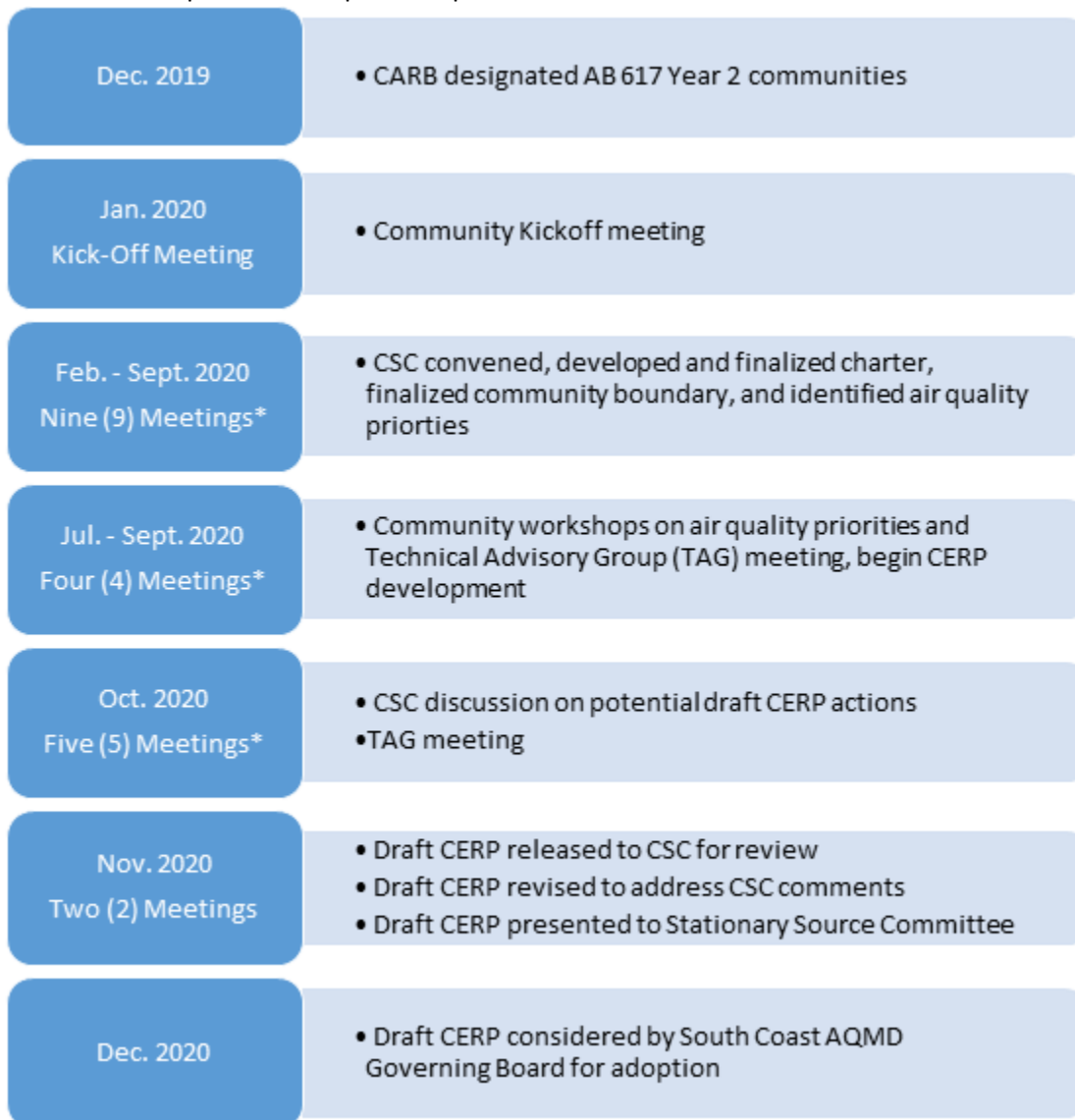


Figure 1-2: Overview of ECV Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) Timeline

*Meetings include CSC, Charter Working Group, workshop, question and answer session, and Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meetings.

About this Community

The community extends from the City of Indio south to the Riverside County boundary along the Salton Sea. It includes the City of Indio, the City of Coachella, a small portion of the City of La Quinta (southern part of the city), and the unincorporated areas of Thermal, Mecca, Oasis and North Shore (Figures 1-3 and 1-4).

Figure 1-3: ECV Community Boundary

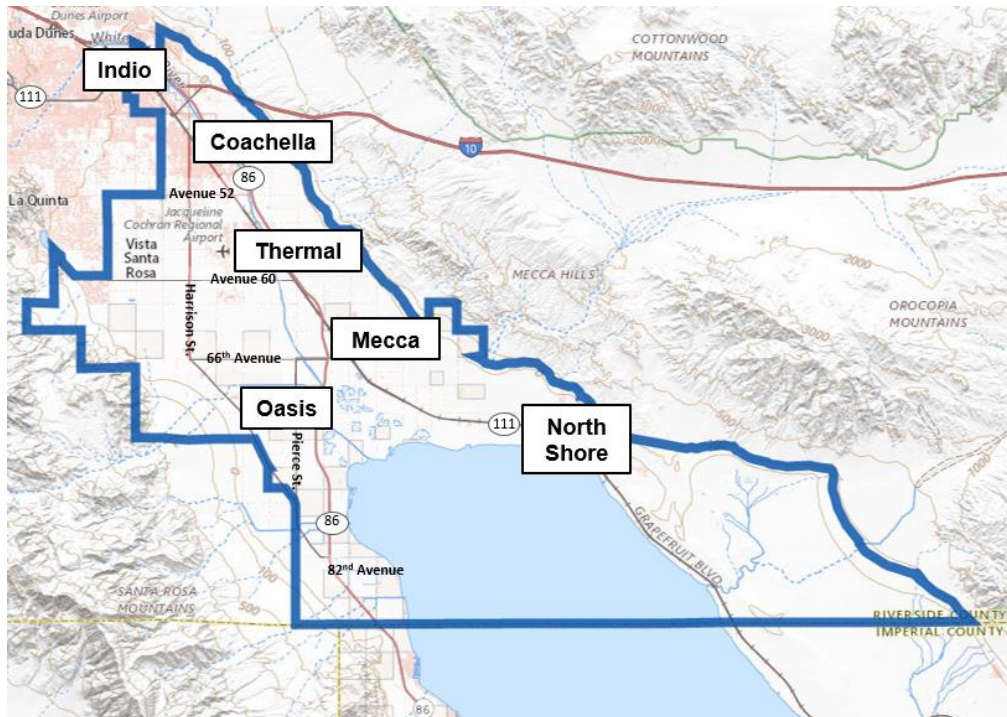


Figure 1-4: Location of the ECV community in the South Coast AQMD jurisdiction

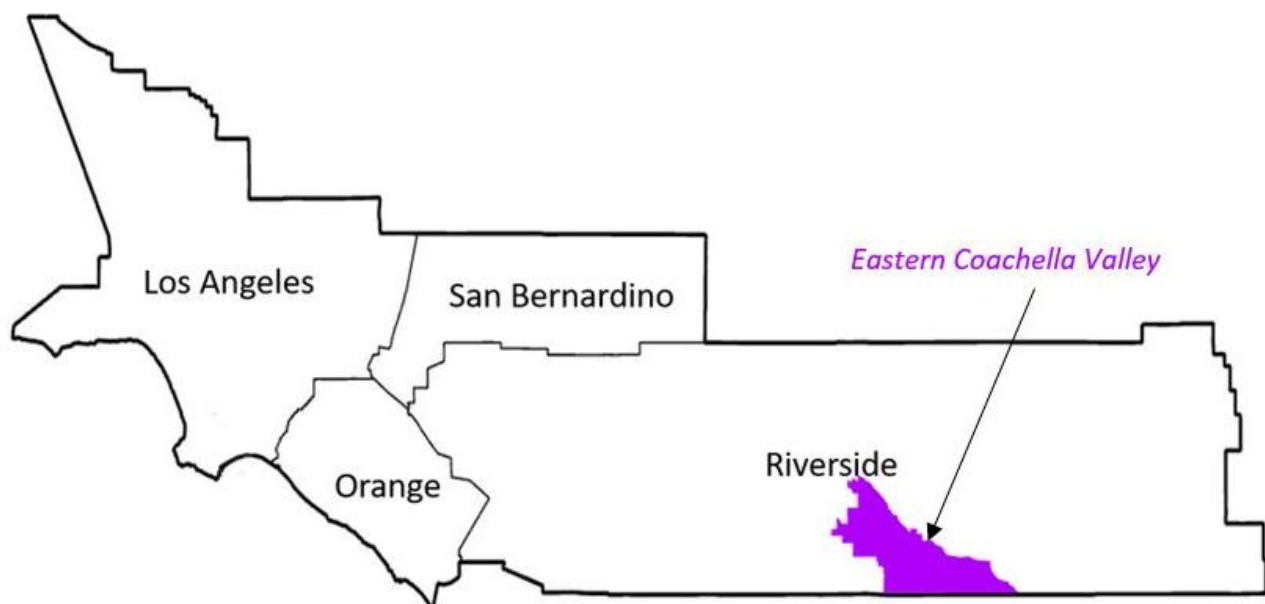


Figure 1-5: Population of the ECV community, based on 2010 Census

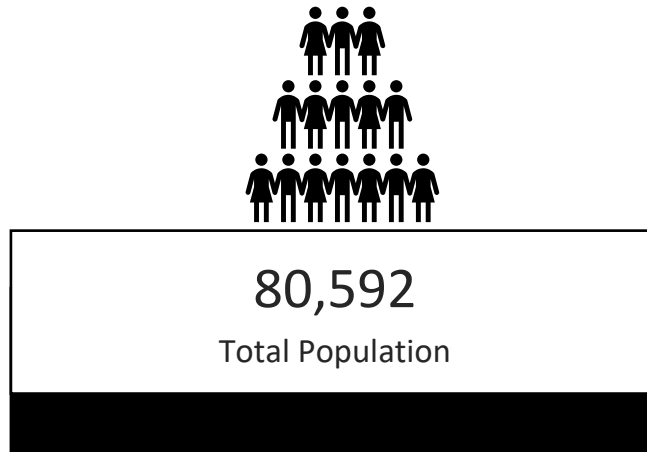
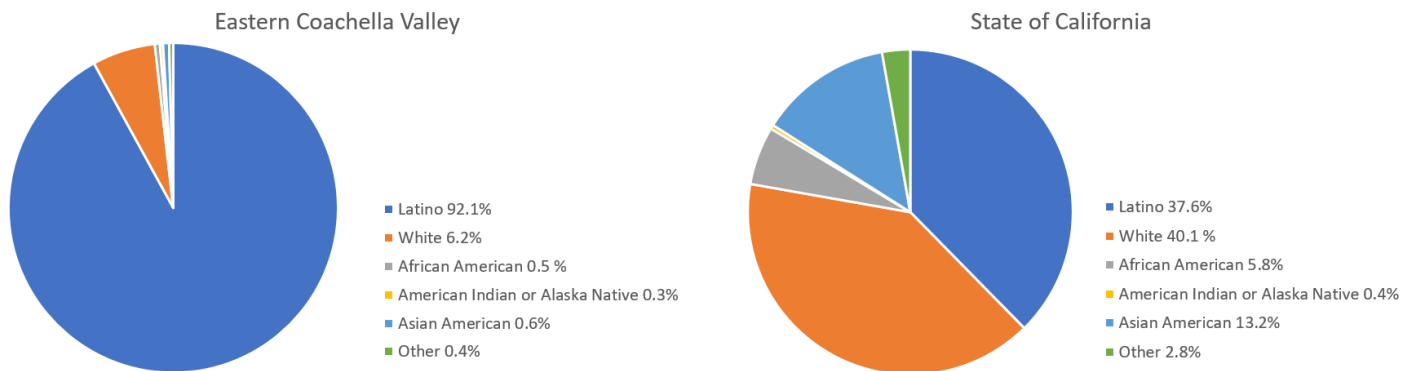


Figure 1-6: Population by Race/Ethnicity in ECV and the state of California, based on 2010 Censusⁱⁱ



More than 80,000 people live within the ECV community (Figure 1-5). Most of the people living in this community are Hispanic or Latinx (Figure 1-6). About 6.2% of the residents in this community are White, 0.5% are African American, and 0.3% are American Indian or Alaska Native. The population in this community is younger than the California population, with about 21.4% of children under the age of 10 years and 6.5% adults over the age of 65 years (Figure 1-7). These age categories are particularly important because young children and older adults can be more sensitive to air pollution's health effects.

ⁱⁱ Definitions of races are the same as CalEnviroScreen 3.0.

Figure 1-7: Age profile in ECV and the state of California, based on 2010 Census

