
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executive Summary

The South Los Angeles (SLA) Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) is a critical part of implementing Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617),¹ a California law that addresses the disproportionate impacts of air pollution in environmental justice (EJ) communities. “Environmental justice” is defined as “the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.”² The AB 617 program invests new resources and focuses on improving air quality in EJ communities. AB 617 communities are designated by California Air Resources Board (CARB) and they specify the plan(s) for the community as either an emissions reduction program, an air monitoring system, or both. Within one year of an AB 617 community designation, the local air district must develop and adopt an emissions reduction program in consultation with CARB, community-based organizations, affected sources, and local governmental bodies, which must be implemented within five years.³ The air monitoring system must be developed and deployed within one year of community designation.⁴ An essential element of the program is partnership and collaboration with the community to address the community’s air quality priorities. The Community Steering Committee (CSC) is a diverse group of people who live, work, own businesses, or attend school within the community. Additionally, local land-use agencies, public health agencies, regulatory agencies, and elected officials may have representation on the CSC. The CSC guides the development and implementation of the emissions reduction program and air monitoring system.

On February 25, 2021, CARB designated SLA as an AB 617 community with both community plans, an emissions reduction program, and an air monitoring system. This CERP serves as the emissions reduction program and outlines goals and actions by the CSC, South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD), and CARB to reduce air pollution in the SLA community. Additionally, a Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) will be developed as the air monitoring system and will further explain air monitoring efforts included in this CERP. Findings from air monitoring will help to identify and evaluate next steps. South Coast AQMD will work with the CSC to review those findings and make necessary adjustments to implement the SLA CERP.

For this community, South Coast AQMD formulated a co-lead model to ensure that the development and implementation of the SLA CERP is a community-driven process. The three co-lead organizations are: Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles, Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education, and Watts Clean Air and Energy Committee.

¹ California Health and Safety Code, Section 44391.2

² California Government Code, Section 65040.12

³ California Health and Safety Code, Section 44391.2 (b)

⁴ California Health and Safety Code, Section 42705.5 (b)

Based on the sources of air pollution impacting the community, the SLA CSC identified the following air quality priorities to be addressed by this CERP:

- Mobile Sources
- Auto Body Shops
- General Industrial Facilities
- Metal Processing Facilities
- Oil and Gas Industry

At its core, this CERP seeks to address these air quality priorities with actions that reduce air pollution emissions from sources within the community and reduce air pollution exposure for the people in the community. Actions in this plan include developing regulations to capture new sources of air pollution; enforcing rules to ensure compliance with existing regulations; providing incentives to accelerate the adoption of cleaner technologies; and conducting air monitoring to characterize emissions. These efforts will provide critical information to help guide investigations and provide public information. As well, conducting outreach will provide useful information to support the public in making informed choices. Collaborative efforts with other regulatory agencies, community-based organizations, businesses, and other stakeholders will amplify the impact of these actions. Many of the actions included in this CERP will only be conducted during the five-year implementation timeframe of this plan, which begins at CERP adoption. However, there are some actions (e.g., regulation, ongoing enforcement activities, and certain incentive programs) initiated during the implementation timeframe that will continue to result in emission and exposure reductions beyond the five-year timeframe of this CERP. The focus of this plan is to improve air quality in the SLA community through concentrated efforts and community partnerships. The CSC, South Coast AQMD, and CARB will continue to engage in the process of implementing the CERP and tracking its progress during the five-year timeframe.

[The Reader's Guide to this CERP](#)

This CERP is organized into six chapters, containing background information and strategies for reducing exposure to air pollution in the SLA community:

- Chapter 1 – Introduction, provides background information about the AB 617 program and timeline;
- Chapter 2 – Community Outreach, Community Steering Committee, and Public Process, which details the CSC process and community engagement;
- Chapter 3
 - Chapter 3a – Community Profile, provides context in understanding attributes of the community, including a general overview of the community, a discussion of community issues, and a characterization of public health data to establish a current baseline and socioeconomic factors;

- Chapter 3b – Emissions and Source Attribution, providing an overview of air pollution sources in the community;
- Chapter 4 – Enforcement Overview and History, provides information about past and ongoing enforcement activities conducted by both the South Coast AQMD and CARB; this information may provide insight(s) into future enforcement activities;
- Chapter 5 – Actions to Reduce Community Air Pollution, as identified by the CSC. Chapter 5 is organized by air quality priorities, followed by actions to address each air quality priority. The actions are organized in a table that identifies the entities responsible for each action and the implementation timeframe. This CERP will include a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analysis based on the actions; and,
- Chapter 6 – Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) Summary, is a detailed approach for air monitoring actions and activities described in Chapter 5.