

Chapter 5e: Metal Processing Facilities

Community Concerns

The Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) community and emission study area encompass approximately 130 metal processing facilities. The metal processing facilities in SELA conduct various operations, such as heat treating, melting, plating, finishing, machining, forging, cutting, shredding, grinding and recycling. Metal processing can be a source of toxic metal air pollutants, such as arsenic, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, lead and arsenic. A toxic metal air pollutant is a specific air pollutant which may cause or contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious illness or pose a present or potential risk to human health.¹ South Coast AQMD, as well as other air agencies in California, rely on the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) to identify toxic air contaminants, the health effects and the methodology to estimate the health risks from toxic air contaminants. The SELA community has expressed concern about toxic air contaminants, such as hexavalent chromium, and are also concerned with emissions from metal recycling plants, metal dust, odors and noise. Please see Appendix 5 – Metal Processing Facilities for more information.

The CSC's goal is to eliminate community exposure to metal toxic air contaminants, odors and noise from metal processing facilities. The actions in Table 1 are aimed at achieving the community's goal, to the extent feasible.

Examples of Actions to Reduce Emissions or Exposure

To address community concerns about emissions from metal processing facilities in SELA, the CSC and South Coast AQMD developed eight (8) actions for the Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP). The table below provides goals, actions, metrics and a timeline to achieve the emission or exposure reductions from metal processing facilities.

¹ California Health and Safety Code, Section 39655, http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=39655&lawCode=HSC, Accessed September 2020

Table 1 – Goal: Reduce and Eliminate Exposure to Metal Toxic Air Contaminants to the Extent Feasible					
	Action	Responsible Entity	Metric	Timeline	
				Start	Complete
A	<p>Conduct public outreach using plain language materials explaining various types of metal processing operations and rules that are currently regulating metal-related facilities</p> <p>Conduct an informational workshop for the public regarding various types of metal processing facilities in their neighborhood highlighting current and future South Coast AQMD regulatory efforts</p>	South Coast AQMD	<p>Development of outreach materials for metals-related rules</p> <p>Amount of materials distributed</p> <p>Number of outreach events</p> <p>Number of informational workshop participants</p>	1 st quarter, 2022	4 th quarter, 2022
B	Initiate rule development process to address housekeeping and best management practices at metal recycling plants to reduce fugitive emissions	South Coast AQMD	Number of updates to the CSC on rule making process	4 th quarter, 2021	4 th quarter, 2023
C	Work with the CSC and local land use agencies to identify all metal processing facilities within the SELA emissions study area and provide a list of South Coast AQMD rules applicable to the metal processing facilities identified, provide a three (3) year compliance history of the facilities, summarize emissions data and air monitoring data collected at or near facilities, and other sources of information	South Coast AQMD	<p>Develop metal processing facility list</p> <p>Provide applicable rules list, compliance history, air monitoring data, or other sources of information to the CSC</p>	2 nd quarter, 2021	2 nd quarter, 2022
D	<p>Based on the information from Action C above, work with the CSC to identify air quality issues related to metal processing facilities and work to prioritize them.</p> <p>Based on the prioritization of sources and their issues, identify potential strategies and approaches to address the issues</p>	South Coast AQMD	<p>Conduct CSC activity to prioritize sources of metal emissions</p> <p>Develop strategies list, if appropriate</p>	3 rd quarter, 2022	1 st quarter, 2023

E	Conduct air monitoring to help identify elevated levels of air toxic metals and support efforts to identify potential sources of emissions	South Coast AQMD	Conduct air monitoring to identify potential sources of metal emissions Report air monitoring results to CSC	1 st quarter, 2021	4 th quarter, 2025
F	Implement strategies and approaches based on the prioritization of sources and issues identified in Actions C and D.	South Coast AQMD	Present the CSC with results of evaluation	2 nd quarter, 2023	4 th quarter, 2023
G	Make referrals to the appropriate agencies when issues are found during inspections that fall outside of South Coast AQMD's jurisdiction (e.g., Water Board, DTSC, Cal-OSHA, local land-use agencies, and Public Health departments)	South Coast AQMD	Number of updates to the CSC regarding referrals	1 st quarter, 2021	4 th quarter, 2025
H	Pursue collaborations with local land-use agencies to provide outreach information to metal processing facilities on required South Coast AQMD permits.	South Coast AQMD	Number of meetings/outreach to land use agencies	1 st quarter, 2022	4 th quarter, 2025
I	Explore the development of e-mail notifications, for schools and sensitive receptors. Consult with Community Groups that work with schools on key considerations for the e-mail notifications (e.g., objectives of the notifications), and update CSC biannually on e-mail notifications progress	South Coast AQMD	Biannual updates to the CSC on e-mail notifications progress	1 st quarter, 2021	4 th quarter, 2021