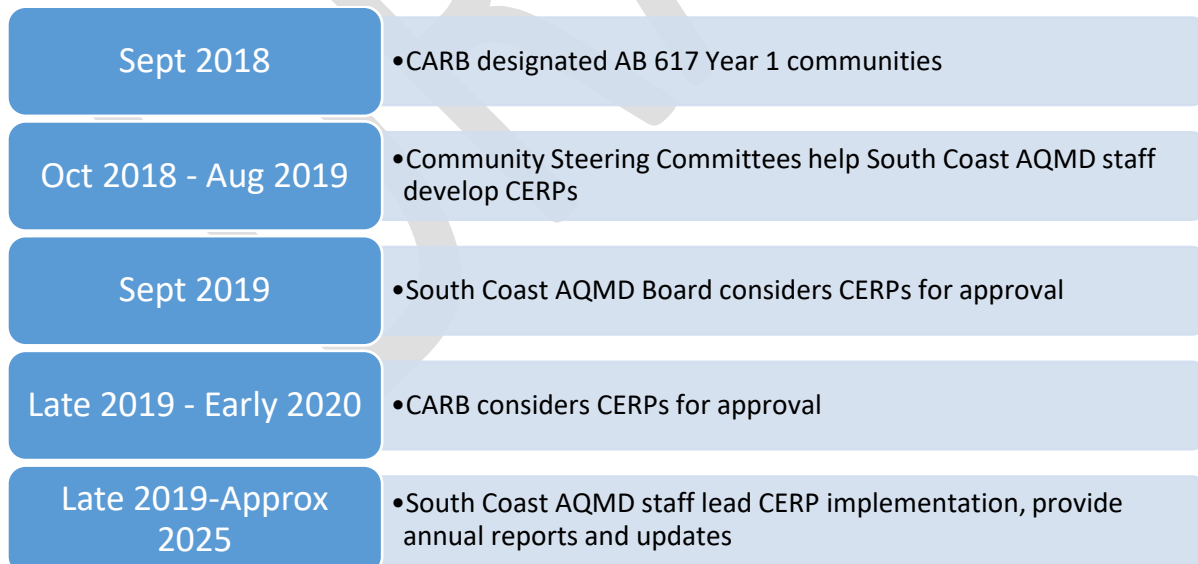


Chapter 1: Introduction

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

On September 27, 2018, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) designated 10 communities across the state to implement community plans for the first year of the AB 617 program. Local air districts are tasked with developing and implementing community emissions reduction and/or community air monitoring plans in partnership with residents and community stakeholders. The Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) includes actions to enhance our understanding of air pollution in the designated communities, and support effective implementation of the Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP). For the three first year AB 617 communities in the South Coast AQMD, both a CAMP and a CERP are being developed. Separate documents describe the CAMP development process and the draft plan. Information is available at www.aqmd.gov/ab617. Figure 1-1 gives a general overview of the CERP timeline.

Figure 1-1: Overview of Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) Timeline for Year 1 Communities



Purpose of the Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP)

The CERP is a plan for achieving air pollution emission and exposure reductions within the Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach community, and is tailored to address this community's air quality priorities.

The CERP includes actions to reduce emissions and/or exposures, an implementation schedule, an enforcement plan, a description of the process and outreach conducted to develop the CERP, as well as additional elements that are relevant to developing an effective CERP. Community partnership and engagement have been crucial throughout the process.

Because the work to implement the CERP and CAMP is dynamic, certain action items have been written with built-in flexibility to allow adjustments as new information becomes available. South Coast AQMD staff is committed to working with Community Steering Committee (CSC) members to evaluate ongoing actions and progress.

CERP Development Process and Emphasis on Community Input

Community engagement and input to inform both the process and the actions in the CERP have been a primary element of the AB 617 program. The Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach CSC, working with the South Coast AQMD staff, are seeking to address the community's air quality priorities through development and implementation of the CERP. In addition to public meetings, numerous conversations and communications among committee members, South Coast AQMD staff, individuals and small groups occurred to ensure that community voices were an integral part of the plan. Chapter 2 describes the CSC process and the outreach that was conducted. Throughout the process, information exchanges between all parties, including feedback and input from committee members and members of the public ensured transparency and engagement. Numerous adjustments to consolidate and incorporate feedback were made and South Coast AQMD staff continuously aims to improve community engagement on air quality issues.

About this Community

This community includes the neighborhood of Wilmington within the City of Los Angeles, the City of Carson, and the neighborhood of West Long Beach within the City of Long Beach. The community is located in the southern portion of Los Angeles County (Figure 1-2).

Figure 1-2: Location of the Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach community in the South Coast AQMD jurisdiction

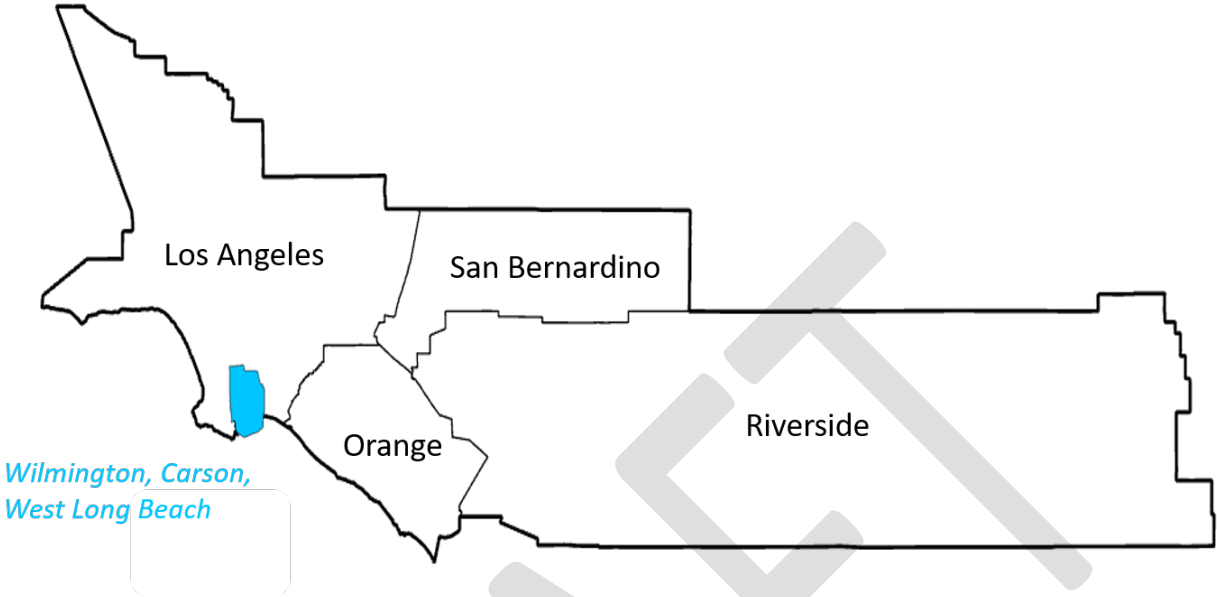


Figure 1-3: Population of the Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach community, based on 2010 Census

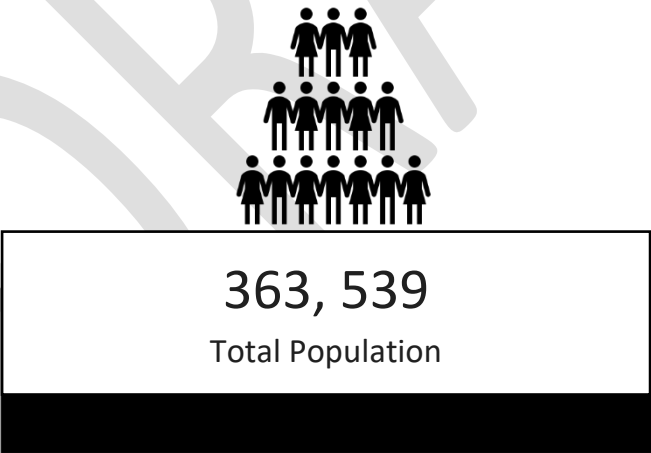
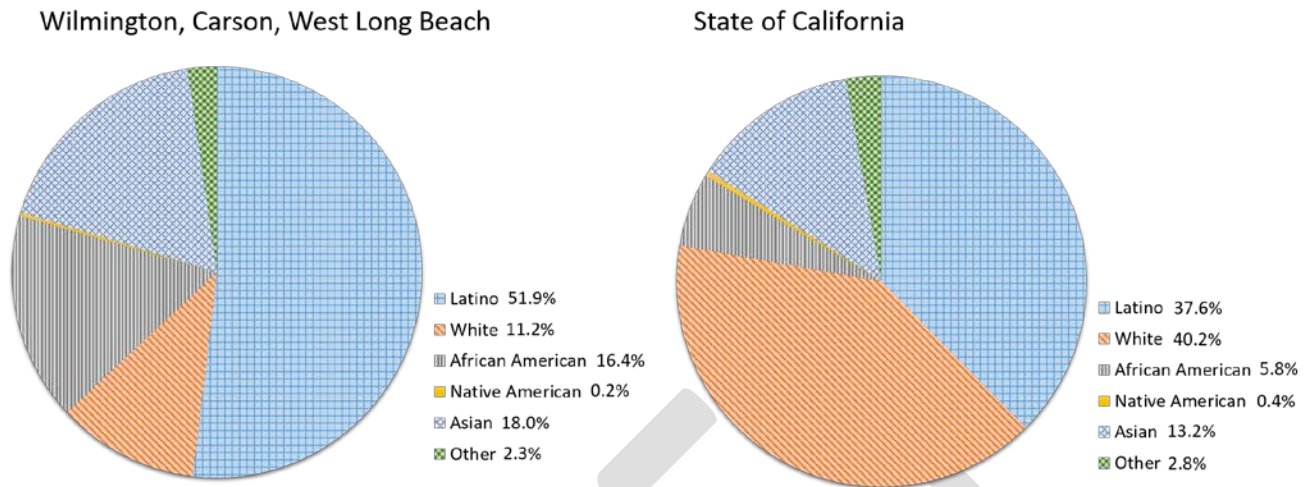
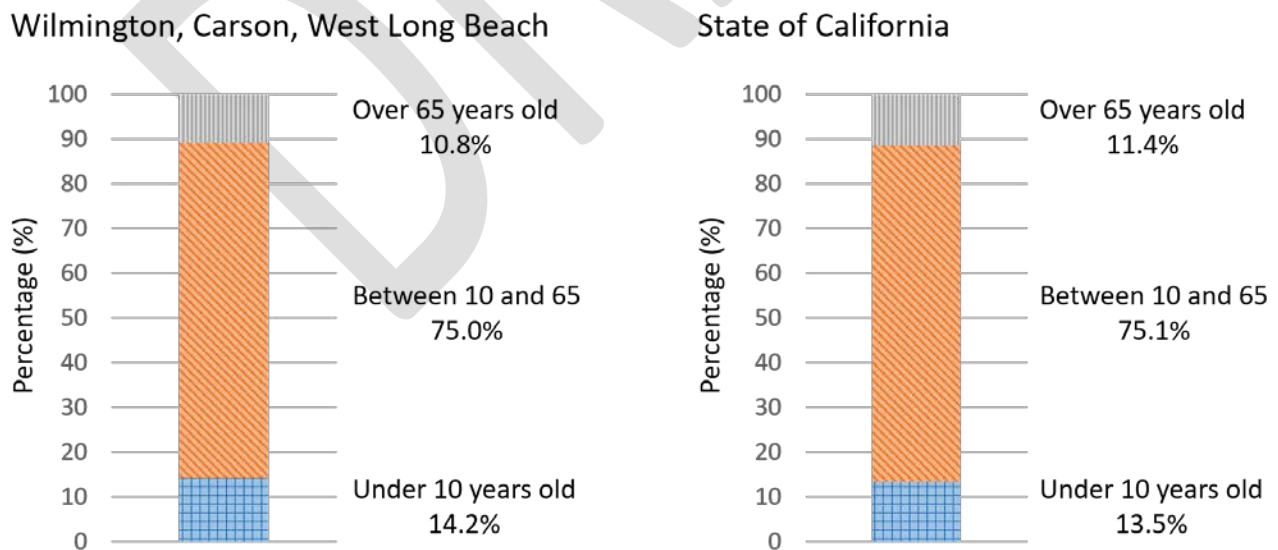


Figure 1-4: Population by Race/Ethnicity in Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach and the state of California, based on 2010 Censusⁱ



More than 300,000 people live within the Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach community (Figure 1-3). More than half of the people living in this community are Latino (Figure 1-4). About 17.6% of the residents in this community are Asian and 16.6% are African American. The population in this community is slightly younger compared to the population in the state of California, with about 14.5% children under the age of 10 years and 10.4% adults over the age of 65 years (Figure 1-5). These age categories are particularly important because young children and older adults can be more sensitive to the health effects of air pollution.¹

Figure 1-5: Age profile in Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach and the state of California, based on 2010 Census



ⁱ Definitions of races are the same as CalEnviroScreen 3.0.

While the demographics and geography provide useful information, the members of the community are what make each community unique and distinct. Community members bring intimate familiarity with their community and the air quality concerns that affect their neighborhood. Below are some community voices describing this community.



"When I open the front door of my house, the first thing I smell is gas. When I go shopping, to the clinics, El Super, I see a lot of garbage and dirtiness. When I drive, I see that many trucks pollute the environment by what comes out of the pipes. Sometimes ash falls from the sky due to the activities of the refineries. Despite having these environmental problems, Wilmington has a positive attitude. I like that we are a small city. We all know each other and we greet each other. I would like to continue being a positive community, and I hope that does not change because of the contamination of the environment." – Dulce Altamirano, Wilmington Resident

"The City of Carson is different from many cities because it is almost equal parts residential, heavy industrial, and commercial. This creates competing interests which are sometimes at odds with one another. And given the lack of political representation from the South and no representation from the East portions of the city these communities especially suffer effects of pollution. Most of the heavy industrial land use is on the South and East side of the city. This is also where you would find the Carson refineries, oil storage facilities, and the Carousel neighborhood which was built over an abandoned oil tank farm. Carson also receives the brunt of trade coming to or out of the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. Cargo that travels to or from the ports can travel by rail that runs north and south on our east border. Or cargo can be loaded on trucks which, in addition to polluting our air, tear up our side streets. Carson is also unique in that not only are we almost completely boxed in by freeways, the 405 freeway intersects our city down the middle. While we cannot get rid of the ports, the rail lines, and the freeways, as AB 617 committee members we should be doing everything we can to mitigate the pollution to provide a safer environment for those who work and live in our community." – Joseph Luis Pinon, Carson Resident





“One definition of ‘community’ is a group of people living and working together in the same area. The Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach community is a culturally rich and diverse group of people who live here, work here, play here. Marathon Petroleum has been a long-time member of this community and we are glad to be a part of the AB 617 Community Steering Committee.” – Olga G. Chavez, Marathon Petroleum Company

“Communities like Wilmington, West Long Beach and Carson should be defined by their people, not their problems. Yet, diesel exhaust, odors from refineries and air pollution are a part of daily life. Through AB 617, we have the opportunity to bring the clean air our communities deserve.” – Christopher Chavez, Coalition for Clean Air

Photo Pending



Photo Pending



“My community is predominantly of Hispanic working class. Our community air quality is heavily impacted by several sources of pollution. Yet, these sources are the economic engines that contribute to our community’s economy and workforce. Making Wilmington unique and... “The Heart of the Harbor!” - Maribel Alejandre, SBCC Thrive LA

References

1. Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (2014), California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool, Version 2.0. <https://oehha.ca.gov/media/CES20FinalReportUpdateOct2014.pdf>, Accessed June 12, 2019.