

Executive Summary

The Eastern Coachella Valley (ECV) Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) is a critical part of implementing Assembly Bill (AB) 617 (Health and Safety Code Section 44391.2), a California law that addresses the disproportionate impacts of air pollution in environmental justice communities. The AB 617 program invests new resources and focuses on improving air quality in environmental justice communities. The CERP outlines goals and actions by the Community Steering Committee (CSC), the South Coast AQMD, and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to reduce air pollution in the ECV community. An essential piece of the program is partnership and collaboration with the community to address the community's air quality priorities in the CERP. The CSC is a diverse group of people, including youth, who live, work, own businesses, or attend school, within the community. Local public health agencies, regulatory agencies, tribal organizations, and elected officials are represented on the CSC. The CSC guides the development and implementation of the CERP.

One year from the date that CARB designates a new AB 617 community, the local air district must develop and adopt a CERP in consultation with CARB, community-based organizations, affected sources, and local governmental bodies.¹ The ECV community had to account for the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the CERP development schedule. Despite a delay in the schedule, the ECV CSC and South Coast AQMD staff worked together to develop this plan for consideration by South Coast AQMD's Governing Board in December 2020.

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

- Salton Sea
- Pesticides
- Open Burning and Illegal Dumping
- Fugitive Road Dust
- Diesel Mobile Sources
- Greenleaf Desert View Power Plant

At its core, this plan seeks to address the air quality priorities with actions that reduce air pollution emissions from sources within the community and reduce air pollution exposure to people in the community. This plan includes actions, such as developing and enforcing regulations, providing incentives to accelerate the adoption of cleaner technologies, and conducting outreach to provide useful information to support the public in making informed choices. Additionally, air monitoring efforts will provide critical information to help guide investigations, provide public information, and track progress. Collaborative efforts with other agencies, organizations, businesses and other stakeholders will amplify the impact of these actions. Many of the actions will only be conducted during the implementation timeframe of this plan; however, there are also many actions (such as regulations, ongoing enforcement activities and certain incentive programs) that will be continuing activities conducted by the South Coast AQMD.

¹ Assembly Bill 617 44391.2 (b)(2)

This plan focuses on improving air quality in the ECV community through concentrated efforts and community partnerships. The CSC will continue to engage in the process of implementing the CERP and tracking its progress.

The Reader's Guide to the CERP

The opening chapters provide background information about the AB 617 program and timeline (Chapter 1), the CSC process and community engagement (Chapter 2), and information about the air pollution sources in the community (Chapter 3).

Information about past and ongoing enforcement activities conducted by both the South Coast AQMD and CARB staff is provided in Chapter 4. This information will provide insights into future enforcement activities.

The specific actions for emissions and exposure reductions are in Chapter 5 – Actions to Reduce Community Air Pollution. Chapter 5 is organized by air quality priorities, followed by goals and actions to address each air quality priority. The actions are organized in a table that identifies the entities responsible for each action and specifies the timeframe for implementing them. The CERP actions are numbered in the order in which they are presented in each section. The proposed plan will include a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analysis based on the proposed actions.

A summary of the air monitoring approach is in Chapter 6. These efforts are described in much greater detail in the Appendix 6 for the Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP).² The actions described in Chapter 5 also include specific air monitoring activities related to specific actions in the CERP. Findings from air monitoring will help evaluate next steps, and South Coast AQMD staff will work with the CSC to review findings and make necessary adjustments to the CERP.

The Appendices to the CERP include additional reference material related to the CERP content.

² South Coast AQMD, Community Air Monitoring Plan for ECV, ([Link Coming Soon](#))