

# AB 617

Connecting With Our Community



May 2020

## Eastern Coachella Valley

Hello AB 617 community members. We hope all are safe and well during these challenging times. The health and safety of our communities remains our top priority, and we are actively monitoring developments locally and regionally. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide updates about the AB 617 program and related resources for our communities. South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) is sensitive to the ongoing challenges currently facing our communities due to COVID-19. As an essential government agency, we are committed to doing everything we can to ensure our core operations continue in order to protect air quality.

Following advice from public health agencies, the South Coast AQMD Headquarters building is closed to the public until further notice. However, critical functions continue including, compliance and enforcement, emergency response, air monitoring, permitting, rule development, and response to public complaints.

The AB 617 program is an important program for our agency and our communities, and we are committed to continuing to implement this program while respecting the social distancing orders. As part of our efforts to minimize potential risk and exposure, the AB 617 meetings, as well as other South Coast AQMD meetings, workshops and trainings will be conducted online via phone and videoconferencing. Meeting updates can be found on our calendar page or by downloading the South Coast AQMD smartphone app at <http://www.aqmd.gov/mobileapp>.

More information on all operational changes as part of the COVID-19 response can be found by visiting our response page. Learn more here <http://www.aqmd.gov/COVID-19>.

We look forward to continuing to update the Community Steering Committees during this time of crisis for us all.

See you at our next CSC meeting on: **May 20, 2020, 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.**

<https://scaqmd.zoom.us/j/92008993035> Zoom ID: 920 0899 3035

Teleconference Dial-in #: 1 669 900 6833

Spanish Meeting ID: 937 9466 3910

English Meeting ID: 920 0899 3035

--South Coast AQMD AB 617 Team

# Announcements

## CERP Development

At the last CSC Meeting held in the ECV on February 20, 2020, the CSC and members of the public shared their top air quality priorities in a group activity. The list of air quality priorities gathered during the activity is available at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ab-617-ab-134/steering-committees/eastern-coachella-valley/aq-priority-list.pdf?sfvrsn=8>.

The air quality priorities mentioned numerous times by the CSC included the Salton Sea, pesticides, open burning (agricultural burning/non-agricultural), and fugitive road dust (dust from paved and unpaved roads). Based on this input South Coast AQMD staff has begun compiling handouts that provide basic information on open burning (agriculture and non-agriculture) and fugitive road dust in ECV (see links to handouts below). If the CSC finds these handouts to be helpful the South Coast AQMD staff will prepare similar materials for other air quality priorities in ECV. Questions or comments about the handouts can be discussed at the May 20, 2020 CSC meeting or e-mailed to: [AB617@aqmd.gov](mailto:AB617@aqmd.gov).

### [Open Burning \(agriculture and non-agriculture\) in ECV](#)

This handout provides information on South Coast AQMD's Rule 444 – Open Burning requirements and agricultural burning data for ECV. The handout is available at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ab-617-ab-134/steering-committees/eastern-coachella-valley/agricultural-burning.pdf?sfvrsn=8>.

### [Fugitive Road Dust in ECV](#)

This handout provides information on fugitive road dust in ECV and actions to minimize fugitive road dust. The handout is available at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ab-617-ab-134/steering-committees/eastern-coachella-valley/fugitive-road-dust.pdf?sfvrsn=8>.

## Monitoring Update

At the last CSC meeting that was held in ECV on February 20, 2020, staff gave a presentation on past and current air monitoring activities the South Coast AQMD has been conducting in the Eastern Coachella Valley area. These covered measurements taken as part of the Multiple Air Toxics Exposure Study (MATES) program and the current air monitoring network in the Eastern Coachella Valley. Staff also shared information regarding an Air Monitoring Workshop that was scheduled for the CSC meeting in March, which was postponed to a later date due to the statewide stay-at-home order. Staff proposes to hold a virtual technical workshop to provide CSC and community members with information on air monitoring strategies and answer any questions related to air monitoring methods and technologies.



### Community Air Protection Program Training

CARB was slated to present at the March 2020 CSC Meeting, an Overview of the [Community Air Protection Blueprint](#) (hard copy provided at the February 2020 CSC Meeting). As an in-person presentation was not possible, we are referring CSC members to a series of online training videos designed to support community members, air districts, and the public in understanding and participating in the Community Air Protection Program. CARB will continue to develop addition-

al trainings on community air monitoring and other topics.

To view the full set of online trainings, visit [Community Air Protection Program Training Webpage](#).

The following trainings are currently available:

- Community Air Protection Program Overview
- Community Air Protection Blueprint Overview
- Community Steering Committees
- Community Emissions Reduction Programs Module 1 – Overview
- Community Emissions Reduction Programs Module 2 – Technical foundation
- Community Emissions Reduction Programs Module 3 – Goals, targets, and strategies
- Community Emissions Reduction Programs Module 4 – Enforcement plan
- Community Emissions Reduction Programs Module 5 – Metrics and tracking progress

CARB staff will have a Q&A session on the Community Air Protection Program Training during the next CSC meeting. In the meantime, CSC members should contact Andrea Juarez at [Andrea.Juarez@arb.ca.gov](mailto:Andrea.Juarez@arb.ca.gov) or 626-450-6158 for any questions.

### **Additional Resources for Community-Level Actions**

CARB's [Community Air Protection Program Resource Online Center](#) is a one-stop shop to obtain data, guidance, and tools to support improving air quality at the community scale. The Resource Center serves as a centralized repository of information and resources for use by community members, air districts, and the public. It is continuously updated as new documents, materials, and data become available, and is expected to become more robust as the Community Air Protection Program is implemented over the coming years and we identify best practices and lessons learned. Most of the tools that will be released this year are prototype versions that are available in English. As these tools are finalized and replaced, the tools will include features available in both English and Spanish.

#### [Introduction to Community Air Quality](#)

Basics of community-scale air quality, covering health effects, community engagement, and enforcement.

#### [Strategy Development](#)

Resources to support emissions and exposure reduction strategy development, including CARB and air district strategies, incentive funding, transportation, land use, and mitigation information.

#### [Technical Assistance](#)

Tools and data sources, including the Technology Clearinghouse and the Community Air Monitoring Toolbox, to support community identification, community air monitoring, strategy development, and other air quality analysis.

#### [AB 617 Implementation](#)

Updates highlighting specific elements of AB 617 implementation, including expedited BARCT implementation schedules, emissions reporting, and Community Air Grants information.

**NEXT MEETING DATE: May 20, 2020, 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.**  
**Virtual Meeting**

**Arlene Farol,**  
**AB 617 Community Liaison, ECV**  
[afarol@aqmd.gov](mailto:afarol@aqmd.gov)  
[ab617@aqmd.gov](mailto:ab617@aqmd.gov)  
[www.aqmd.gov/ab617](http://www.aqmd.gov/ab617)