

AB 617

Connecting With Our Community



May 2020

Southeast Los Angeles (SELA)

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 7, 2020, 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.**

<https://scaqmd.zoom.us/j/91973729566>

Meeting ID: 919 7372 9566; Dial-in number: +1 669 900 6833

--South Coast AQMD AB 617 Team

Announcements

CERP Development

Story Map – Proposed Community Boundary and Emissions Study Area

At the last CSC meeting held in SELA on February 6, 2020, staff presented the preliminary community boundary approved by the South Coast AQMD Governing Board in October 2019. Following the staff presentation, CSC members asked staff to expand the community boundary to include: the rest of Florence-Firestone, the northern portion of Bell Gardens, the Hollydale area of South Gate, and the Ellen Ochoa Learning Center. Additionally, CSC members requested that staff develop an emissions study area to address sources of air pollution located within and near the community boundary. The areas that CSC members asked to be in the emissions study area are Vernon and nearby rendering plants, portions of the 710 and 105 freeways, and an industrial area west of Florence-Firestone. To address the CSC's request to expand the community boundary and develop an emissions study area, staff put together a story map that includes a new proposed community boundary and emissions study area. The story map also includes other general information about SELA and is available at: <https://www.aqmd.gov/nav/about/initiatives/community-efforts/environmental-justice/ab617-134/southeast-los-angeles/story-map>. The proposed community boundary and emissions study area will be discussed at the next CSC meeting.

Air Quality Priorities

During the last CSC meeting, the CSC and members of the public also shared their top air quality priorities in a group activity. The top six air quality priorities listed by CSC members are truck traffic and freeways, general industrial activity, rendering facilities, green spaces, metal processing facilities, and railyards and locomotives. The complete list of air quality priorities is available at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ab-617-ab-134/steering-committees/southeast-los-angeles/air-quality-priorities.pdf>. The top air quality priorities for SELA will be discussed at the next CSC meeting.

Factsheets-Rendering Facilities

Based on the air quality priorities identified by the CSC, South Coast AQMD staff has begun compiling handouts that provide general information on rendering facilities and South Coast AQMD Rule 415 (Odors from Rendering Facilities). If the CSC finds these handouts to be helpful, the South Coast AQMD staff will prepare similar materials for other air quality priorities in SELA. Questions or comments about the handouts can be discussed at the next CSC meeting or e-mailed to: AB617@aqmd.gov.

Rendering Facilities and Rule 415

This handout provides information on rendering facilities and South Coast AQMD's Rule 415 that reduces odors from rendering facilities. The handout is available at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ab-617-ab-134/steering-committees/southeast-los-angeles/rendering-facilities.pdf>

Monitoring Update

At the last CSC meeting held in SELA on February 6, 2020, staff gave a presentation on past and current air monitoring activities the South Coast AQMD has been conducting in the Southeast Los Angeles area. These covered the Multiple Air Toxics Exposure Study, results from flight-based measurements over the South Coast Air Basin, and previous low-cost sensor network development in South Gate. 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, and the results of past and current air monitoring activities.

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 additional 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 Liliana Nunez at Liliana.Nunez@arb.ca.gov or 626-350-6561 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 7, 2020, 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

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