



Community Air Initiatives Through AB 617

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Assembly Bill (AB) 617?

AB 617, passed by the California legislature in 2017, is a new law that focuses on reducing air pollution in Environmental Justice communities. This law provides an opportunity for the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) to further address community air quality issues in disadvantaged communities.

What are some actions that can be taken under AB 617?

For each community approved by the California Air Resources Board (CARB), the SCAQMD will work with local stakeholders to evaluate their greatest air pollution concerns. Depending on the needs of each community, SCAQMD will conduct targeted community air monitoring and develop a tailored community air plan. SCAQMD will work with CARB, other agencies, and all stakeholders to implement these community air plans to reduce local air pollution emissions and benefit public health.

In September 2018, CARB approved three communities in our region for the first year of this program:

- Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach
- East Los Angeles, Boyle Heights, West Commerce
- San Bernardino, Muscoy

How will SCAQMD work with my community?

SCAQMD will convene a Community Steering Committee in each of the three communities. The purpose of this advisory committee is to identify specific community air quality concerns, discuss resolutions, and develop recommendations to improve the local air quality. The committees will work closely with SCAQMD and CARB to discuss emissions reductions targets and strategies to inform a tailored community air plan that addresses the community's highest priority concerns.

Who will be part of the Community Steering Committee?

Community Steering Committees will include a diverse group of individuals, primarily those who live, work, or own businesses within the specified community. Other members may represent local community based organizations, schools, and other key government agencies (environmental regulators, public health, and land use planning agencies).

Who will be part of the Community Steering Committee (con't)?

Ideally, members who serve on the committee will have an established rapport within the community that they represent, and will demonstrate leadership by providing updates and outreach to their local community members.

What is the time commitment and work involvement for Community Steering Committee members?

Beginning in Fall 2018, the committees will meet monthly for approximately 2 hours. After the first few months, committee members will discuss and decide how often and for how long they would like to hold future meetings. Committee members will be expected to conduct outreach within their community to seek input and feedback from stakeholders, communicate this input to the committee, and also provide updates from the committee to their community. Another expectation of committee members is that they will share their expertise that will help shape the community plans, and provide information about complementary programs that could bolster the success of these community plans.

How can I get involved?

Anyone interested in serving on a Community Steering Committee must submit an interest form to SCAQMD, either in person or online. The form will be posted to our website (www.aqmd.gov/ab617). The interest form asks for information about who you are seeking to represent on the committee, e.g. businesses, residents, local organizations, a government agency, etc. Only one member per affiliation may serve on the committee, with one designated alternate. Members will be contacted in October.

Where can I find more information and updates?

Information on SCAQMD's AB 617 program can be found at this website: www.aqmd.gov/ab617. The website includes information about current and upcoming meetings in the community, and materials from past meetings and presentations.

Meeting information can also be found on our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @SouthCoastAQMD.