

Executive Summary

This Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) outlines the actions and commitments by the Community Steering Committee (CSC), the South Coast AQMD, and the California Air Resources Board (CARB), to reduce air pollution in the East Los Angeles, Boyle Heights, West Commerce community. An essential piece of the Assembly Bill (AB) 617 program is the partnership and collaboration with the community to ensure that the CERP addresses the community's air quality priorities. At the center of these efforts is the CSC that was established, in part, to participate in the development and implementation of these plans. The CSC is a diverse group of people who live, work, own businesses, and/or attend school within the community. Local land use agencies, local public health agencies, local healthcare providers, and representatives from local universities and elected officials who serve the community are also part of the CSC. CSC members provided guidance, insight, critique, and community wisdom, all of which were elements in the development of the CERP. The CERP is a critical part of implementing AB 617, which is a California law that addresses the disproportionate impacts of air pollution in environmental justice communities. The AB 617 program aims to invest new resources and conduct focused actions in these communities to improve air quality as a step toward environmental equity.

The East Los Angeles, Boyle Heights, West Commerce community identified the following air quality priorities to be addressed by this plan:

- Neighborhood and freeway traffic (trucks and automobiles)
- Railyards
- Metal processing facilities
- Rendering facilities
- Auto body shops
- Exposure reduction for sensitive populations in schools, childcare centers, libraries, and housing projects
- General concerns about industrial facilities, including waste transfer stations

At its core, this plan seeks to address the identified priorities with actions that reduce air pollution emissions from sources within this local community as well as reduce air pollution exposures to the people in this community. This plan includes targeted actions using many complementary strategies, including 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 strategies will be used to help provide critical information to help guide investigations or provide public information. 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 timeframe of this plan; however, there are also many actions (such as regulation, ongoing enforcement activities, and certain incentive programs) that will be ongoing activities conducted by South Coast AQMD.

This plan seeks to bring real air quality improvements in the East Los Angeles, Boyle Heights, West Commerce community, through focused efforts and community partnerships. The CSC will continue to be engaged throughout 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 the CARB enforcement staff are described in Chapter 4.

The specific actions to be implemented are described in Chapter 5 – Actions to Reduce Community Air Pollution. This chapter is organized by air quality priority area, and the strategies proposed for each priority area are presented in the CERP action templates. Within each CERP action, the responsible entities are identified, along with the timeframe and goals for implementing the proposed action. The CERP actions are numbered in the order in which they are presented in each section. Chapter 5 also includes a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analysis based on the proposed actions within this plan.

A summary of the air monitoring approach is included in Chapter 6. These efforts are described in much greater detail in the Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP),¹ which serves as the sister document to the CERP. The actions described in Chapter 5 include specific air monitoring activities, as they relate to specific actions in the CERP. The CAMP describes the overall air monitoring approach to address the community air quality priorities. Findings from air monitoring will help to evaluate next steps, and South Coast AQMD staff will work with the CSC to review findings and make necessary adjustments.

The Appendix to the CERP will include additional reference material related to the CERP content.

References

1. South Coast AQMD, Community Air Monitoring Plan for East Los Angeles, Boyle Heights, West Commerce, <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ab-617-ab-134/camps/elabhwc-camp.pdf>, Accessed July 16, 2019.