

Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617) Meeting Summary

Eastern Coachella Valley (ECV) Community Steering Committee (CSC) #11

Meeting Date: January 21, 2021

Meeting Time: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting <https://scaqmd.zoom.us/j/98534653376>

Spanish Meeting ID: 937 9466 3910

Approximately 75 people participated in the Community Steering Committee for Eastern Coachella Valley.

- Meeting Flyer: [English/Español](#) (PDF)
- Meeting Agenda: [English/Español](#) (PDF)
- CERP Presentation: [English](#) (PDF) [Español](#) (PDF)
- CAMP Presentation: [English](#) (PDF) [Español](#) (PDF)
- Incentives Budget: [English](#) (PDF) [Español](#) (PDF)

Agenda Item #1: Welcome & Roll Call / *Bienvenidos y Pasar Lista*

Welcome from Facilitators Jeanette Flores & Valerie Martinez; South Coast AQMD Program Manager Dan Garcia; and Board Members Gideon Kracov & Supervisor V. Manuel Perez.

Rollcall of the CSC by Arlene Farol Saria, ECV Community Liaison. Roster consists of 38 CSC members. A quorum was reached with 20 CSC members present (23 CSC present by 4:55 p.m.).

Agenda Item #2: CERP Recap & Timeline / *Recapitulación del CERP y Cronología*

Pedro Piqueras, Ph.D., Air Quality Specialist, gave a recap of the CERP development and timeline. Staff provided a summary of the CERP adoption at Governing Board Meeting on December 4, 2020. The Governing Board provided staff direction to hold two CSC meetings between January and February, two additional meetings between March and April, and set a deadline for the Board to consider the CERP amendment no later than June 2021. Staff presented an overview of the air quality priorities in the CERP and proposed a timeline to begin implementing the CERP and complete CERP development in 2021. Staff explained that the purpose of the CERP amendment is for the CSC to provide additional details to complete the CERP. Staff asked the CSC to provide suggested and focused topics for discussion at future CSC meetings. These topics will help staff plan for the CERP amendment process. There were no questions on this item.

Agenda Item #3: CSC Roundtable / *Mesa Redonda del CSC*

The CSC Roundtable is an opportunity to allow CSC members to share recommendations or provide any comments related to the AB 617 program that will assist our AB 617 CSC CERP Process.

CSC Member Rebecca Zaragoza shared a survey, which was recently sent to all CSC members. CSC responses will evaluate current process and progress of the program. Survey questions included: time management, facilitation, working teams etc. Ms. Zaragoza requested all CSC members to complete the survey and provide feedback. Additionally, Ms. Zaragoza introduced the concept of creating additional working teams similar to the Charter Working Group (i.e. Budget, Monitoring, Agenda, etc). The purpose of working teams would be to gather input from the CSC for completing tasks related to the CERP and CAMP. These working teams would be scheduled in addition to the regularly scheduled CSC meetings.

No additional comments from CSC members.

Agenda Item #4: *CAMP Updates / Actualizaciones del CAMP*

Payam Pakbin, Program Supervisor introduced monitoring staff Julia Montoya-Aguilera, Ph.D., Air Quality Specialist who provided the CAMP Updates to the CSC. Prior to this CSC meeting, staff sent informational handouts and questionnaires to the CSC that summarized the proposed air monitoring strategies written in the CAMP to address each of their air quality concerns. The questionnaires were provided to gather written input from the CSC on the proposed air monitoring strategies needed to refine the CAMP implementation. During the CAMP Discussion, staff provided a brief overview of the handouts and questionnaires, and kindly reminded the CSC to fill them out, and also presented a short summary of the main strategies proposed in the CAMP to inform the discussion that followed. The main purpose of the CAMP Discussion was to gather input from the CSC on the air monitoring strategies proposed in the CAMP. This type of CSC input helps guide the CAMP implementation.

The questions received during the CAMP discussion are listed by category below.

Existing Monitoring Network

A CSC member asked for more information on how the speciation measurements are carried out, including the methodology used and the chemical species that can be measured. Staff responded that the methods we use for chemical speciation of samples collected at our regulatory network sites are typically EPA approved. These consist of collecting a sample on a filter and then analyzing them in the lab. A variety of instruments in the laboratory are used to identify what the sample is composed of (e.g. elements, metals and other species).

A CSC member asked for more information about the existing speciation network, as well as how many monitors will be added as part of the AB 617 program to supplement current air monitoring efforts. Staff responded that as part of the existing speciation network, we collect samples at four sites (one in each county of Los Angeles, Riverside, Orange, and San Bernardino). Staff clarified that as part of AB 617 we will make an effort to also conduct this type of speciation sampling/analysis in ECV.

A CSC member asked if baseline measurements at the Mecca monitoring site would be truly representative of the community (e.g., Coachella, Thermal). Staff provided information on criteria that are generally considered for a baseline site, such as the proximity to residential areas to represent pollution exposure, the distance from sources to avoid bias in the measurements, and how central the location is within the community. Staff commented that according to these criteria, Mecca is a good option for conducting baseline measurements in this community. Staff also mentioned that while Mecca is the most viable option, we also remain open to hearing suggestions from the CSC on any other potential location for baseline monitoring.

A CSC member shared their previous experience setting up dust collectors in the community as part of their UCR research and asked staff questions regarding the siting criteria needed to set up a sampler or monitor. Staff responded that the criteria needed from a location varies depending on the instrument. For example, Black Carbon and Total Carbon monitors are not very portable and require shelter or an air monitoring station to operate. Conversely, sensors already have a modem built in and only require access to power and a safe location.

Budget

A CSC member asked which level of funding has been allotted to for air monitoring equipment, including fixed monitors, sensors or other equipment. Staff responded that we already have a vast array of air monitoring equipment and laboratory resources. Based on the priorities of each community, we are leveraging these and other resources to appropriately address air quality priorities and respect established timelines. Staff also commented that one of the actions in the CAMP is to collaborate with UCR research groups who conduct dust sampling near the Salton Sea, and we are currently in discussion with them to see how we can complement those research efforts.

Suggestions for Future Meetings

A CSC member recommended to utilize breakout rooms to have more focused discussions at upcoming CSC meetings as staff continue to gather feedback on the CAMP.

The facilitator commented that during in-person meetings it was not unusual for the monitoring team to bring in monitoring equipment for show and tell and suggested that perhaps staff could do this again at an upcoming virtual meeting or at a separate time.

Staff commented that perhaps the upcoming monitoring working group meetings may be a good platform in which to have a show and tell, as well as more in-depth discussions.

Ryan Sinclair, CSC member shared a link to the recent monitoring survey sent to all CSC members and encouraged the CSC to respond in order to identify locations. The link can be found here: <http://bit.ly/ECVmonitor>

Agenda Item #5: Incentives Budget / *Presupuesto de Incentivos*

Vicki White, Technology Implementation Manager, presented on the AB 617 Incentives Strategy. This item discussed the Community Air Protection Program incentives that are available to fund projects that will reduce emissions (or exposure to harmful emissions) in the AB 617 communities. South Coast AQMD staff provided a summary of projects selected in the first two funding cycles and reviewed the status of this year's incentive funds. Staff discussed the process of plan approval by CARB for community-identified projects which are not covered by existing incentive programs or guidelines. Staff also reviewed the Air Quality Priorities in the CERP and solicited input from the Community Steering Committee on possible strategies for investing the remainder of incentive funds. CSC members requested a budget meeting to identify the costs for the different actions in the CERP that could be funded using these incentives. CSC members also inquired about past investments of incentives in the different communities and requested to be more involved in the process of identifying projects for funding and determining priorities for the investments. CSC members were not ready to comment on the incentives strategy until after the budget meeting(s).

Agenda Item #6: Next Steps / *Los Siguientes Pasos*

Arlene Farol Saria provided an update on stipends, describing each required form (Stipend Declaration Form, 590 Form, W9 form, and Expense Claim Form), and offered assistance (to English and Spanish speakers) to any CSC members that need help completing the forms. Staff also provided a list of agencies and organizations that staff has been collaborating with regarding CERP and CAMP development and implementation. Those agencies include DPR, CARB, CNRA, OEHHA, Office of Supervisor Perez, UC Riverside and Loma Linda University. Lastly, it was announced that if any CSC members would like to suggest agenda items for future meetings to contact staff.

Public Comment / *Comentario Público*

Public Comment was then received from meeting attendees.

This meeting was recorded and can be watched in its entirety at the links provided below:

- Archived Video: [English](#)  [Español](#)