

Chapter 2: Community Outreach, Community Steering Committee and Public Process

Introduction

Community engagement and a public process were critical in the Community Emission Reduction Plan (CERP) development effort. Key features of the outreach efforts include establishing a Community Steering Committee (CSC), holding monthly meetings, CSC member and South Coast AQMD staff presentations, providing materials via email and a webpage, live-streaming all CSC meetings, and establishing a Technical Advisory Group (TAG). In addition, numerous interactions between CSC members and South Coast AQMD staff occurred in one-on-one or small group meetings, allowing for in-depth discussions on joint development and creation of the CERP.

Community Liaisons

The South Coast AQMD Community Liaison for the San Bernardino and Muscoy (SBM) community is Daniel Wong (dwong@aqmd.gov). In addition, Pedro Piqueras (ppiqueras@aqmd.gov) serves as the South Coast AQMD point of contact for CERP-related input. The Community Liaison serves as the point of contact to communicate with members of the CSC and members of the public to address concerns regarding logistics and implementation of the CERP and Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) (Figure 2-1). The Community Liaison ensures communication throughout the CERP development process and works with community members to identify the best ways to make information accessible and user-friendly.

Chapter 2 Highlights

- The Community Steering Committee (CSC) and Technical Advisory Group worked with South Coast AQMD staff to develop the CERP
- Monthly meetings were held in the community to engage the CSC and public
- The Community Liaison served as the point of contact
- Additional one-on-one, small group, and community meetings also played an important part in community engagement
- A Community Webpage was created as an information portal

Photo Pending



Figure 2-1. South Coast AQMD staff assisting CSC members and the public at a meeting in San Bernardino

Community Meetings

Community meetings were hosted by South Coast AQMD staff on an approximately monthly basis in the community. This included one kick-off meeting and a series of CSC meetings.

Community Kick-Off Meeting

In November 2018, kick-off meetings were held in each of the communities within the South Coast AQMD designated by CARB to be included in Year 1 of the AB 617 Program. During these meetings, the role of the CSC was described by South Coast AQMD staff. Briefly, the CSC provides input and guidance to design actions for the community, for integration into the CERP as well as the CAMP. Community members had an opportunity to fill out an Interest Form during the kick-off meeting to express their interest in being a CSC member, and were then notified by mail or by phone if they were selected as a member or an alternate.

The Community Kick-Off Meeting in the San Bernardino and Muscoy community was held on Tuesday October 9, 2018 at the Ruben Campos Community Center (Figure 2-2). Approximately 60 people attended the meeting. In addition to receiving information about AB 617, attendees were invited to visit a variety of booths, which provided information about some existing South Coast AQMD programs, community monitoring, community air measurement efforts, and incentive programs.



Figure 2-2. Community kick-off meeting at Ruben Campos Community Center, San Bernardino

Community Steering Committee (CSC)

A Community Steering Committee (Figure 2-3 and Figure 2-4) was formed for the San Bernardino and Muscoy community, and monthly meetings were organized. The meetings were typically held on Thursday evenings, and all CSC meetings were held in locations within the community. All meetings were open to the public.

CSC Roster

CSC membership is comprised of stakeholders with community knowledge to help drive community action. The CSC creates a way to incorporate community expertise and direction in the development and implementation of clean air programs in each community. Staff will continue to seek recommendations and feedback from the CSC as the CERP is being implemented, and adjust the outreach approaches as needed to be even more effective.

The San Bernardino and Muscoy CSC roster is provided in Table 2-1. This CSC has 23 primary members and 4 alternate members representing active residents, community organizations, and businesses. While 12 primary members are on the roster representing Active Residents, an additional 2 primary members also reside within the community (resident percentage on the CSC = 60.9%). Additionally, there are 10 primary members and 8 alternate members representing agencies, schools/universities, or offices of elected officials who serve this community.¹ The roster with member biographies is available on the webpage:

[http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ab-617-ab-134/steering-committees/san-bernardino/roster-with-bios.pdf?sfvrsn=8.](http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ab-617-ab-134/steering-committees/san-bernardino/roster-with-bios.pdf?sfvrsn=8)



Figure 2-3. Mary Valdemar (San Bernardino Valley College), presenting outreach materials at the Community Steering Committee meeting in San Bernardino



Figure 2-4. Community Steering Committee meeting in Muscoy

¹ Per discussion with CARB staff, members representing agencies, schools, universities, hospitals, and offices of elected officials are not included in the calculation of resident percentage on the CSC.

Table 2-1. CSC Roster for San Bernardino and Muscoy

Affiliation	Primary Member	Alternate Member
Community Organization		
Chicano Indigenous Community for Culturally Conscious Advocacy and Action	Jason Martinez	
Muscoy Action Committee	Jane Hunt-Ruble	
Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCA EJ)	Ericka Flores	Andrea Vidaurre
Inland Region Equality Network	Angelica Balderas	
Safe Routes to School	Demi Espinoza	
California League of Conservation Voters Education Fund	Matt Abularach-Macias	
Active Residents		
Active Resident - San Bernardino	Valerie Dobesh	
Active Resident - San Bernardino	Mathew Taylor	
Active Resident - San Bernardino	Ruben Garza	
Active Resident - San Bernardino	Maria G. Corona	
Active Resident - San Bernardino	Graciela Regalado	
Active Resident - San Bernardino	Olga Medina	
Active Resident - San Bernardino	Lorena Rodarte	
Active Resident - San Bernardino	James Albert	
Active Resident - San Bernardino	Ada Trujillo	
Active Resident - Muscoy	Miguel A. Rivera	
Active Resident - Muscoy	Christopher Alonso	
Active Resident - Muscoy	Abram Gastelum	
Elected Officials		
Office of Assemblymember Eloise Reyes	Maha Rizvi	
Office Supervisor Josie Gonzales	Erika Willhite	Lisha B. Smith
Agency, School, University or Hospital		
San Bernardino County Land Use Planning	Karen Watkins	Suzanne Peterson
San Bernardino County Department of Public Health	Bernadette Beltran	Corwin Porter
Cal State University San Bernardino (CSUSB)	Andreas Beyersdorf	Rudy Morales Gamez
City of San Bernardino	Chantal Powers	Elizabeth Mora-Rodriguez
OmniTrans	Anna Jaiswal	Jeremiah Bryant
Loma Linda University School of Public Health	Dr. Rhonda Spencer-Hwang	Dr. Ryan Sinclair
San Bernardino County Transit Authority	Otis Greer	Nicole Soto
San Bernardino Valley College	Mary Valdemar	
Business, Business Organization or Labor Organization		
Railroads - BNSF	LaDonna DiCamillo	Marisa Blackshire
Warehouse/Logistics - Pacific Mountain Logistics - San Bernardino	B.J. Patterson	

Southern California Edison	Christopher Abel	Tammy Yamasaki
Wyatt's Paint & Body, Inc.	Kris Wyatt	Randy Wyatt
Tacos Don Ramon	Angel Rodriguez	

CSC Meeting Schedule and Co-Hosts

Beginning with Meeting #2, the meetings were run by a co-host, who is a member of the CSC and lives in the community. Miguel Rivera served as a co-host from Muscoy and Angelica Balderas served as a co-host from San Bernardino. The co-hosts worked closely with South Coast AQMD staff to provide input on the meeting agenda, and serve as the point of contact for community members who wished to provide testimonials during the meetings. In addition, the co-hosts conducted the meeting by setting the tone and calling on members to speak. A list of meetings is provided in Table 2-2.



Figure 2-5. Miguel Rivera, serving as the co-host for a CSC meeting in Muscoy

[insert photo of Angie as co-host]

Table 2-2. Community Steering Committee Meetings for San Bernardino and Muscoy

Meeting #	Date and Location	Approximate # of Attendees
1	November 8, 2018 Ruben Campos Community Center, San Bernardino	60
2	January 17, 2019 Muscoy PAL Center, San Bernardino	50
3	February 21, 2019 Muscoy PAL Center, San Bernardino	50
4	March 21, 2019 San Bernardino Valley College, San Bernardino	80
5	April 18, 2019 PAL Center, San Bernardino	70
6	May 16, 2019 San Bernardino Valley College, San Bernardino	50
7	June 20, 2019 San Bernardino Valley College, San Bernardino	
8	July 18, 2019 San Bernardino Valley College, San Bernardino	
9	August 15, 2019 San Bernardino Valley College, San Bernardino	
10	September 19, 2019 San Bernardino Valley College, San Bernardino	

CSC Charter

A charter was developed for the CSC and a draft was presented to members at the first meeting. CSC members provided comments and the feedback received was included in the revised charter. The final charter is provided on the webpage here:

<http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ab-617-ab-134/steering-committees/san-bernardino/charter-english.pdf?sfvrsn=8>

Interpreters

Spanish interpretation was available at every CSC meeting. Approximately 3 to 4 people used the Spanish interpretation services at each meeting. The following interpreters were contracted through BJ's Party Supplies and California Certified Interpreters:

- Gloria Carrallo
- Patricia Chavez
- Monica Desiderio
- Astrid Estrada
- Martha Falencik
- Alejandro Franco
- Carmen Garza

- Consuelo V. Gonzalez
- Cecilia Ibarra
- Estela Moll
- Yolanda Ramirez
- Madeline Rios

Social Media Report

Staff received a suggestion from one CSC member to live-stream meetings on social media in order to engage youth who use this technology and who may not be able to attend the meetings in person. All CSC meetings were subsequently live-streamed using Facebook Live. The links to the live-stream recording were also posted on the South Coast AQMD community webpage, so that members who could not attend or view the meeting live could view the recorded video of the meeting. Each video received more than 100 views.

Community Webpage

A community webpage was created for the San Bernardino and Muscoy community. The webpage includes information about upcoming meetings, meeting materials (flyers, agendas, presentations, handouts, live stream links, meeting summaries), interactive maps, the CSC roster, charter bios, and membership process, and the CAMP and CERP documents. Webpage: <http://www.aqmd.gov/nav/about/initiatives/environmental-justice/ab617-134/san-b>

For increased transparency, emails sent to the CSC were also posted on the webpage. All flyers, agendas, social media posts, presentations, handouts, and emails to the CSC were made available in English and Spanish. A screen shot of the community webpage is shown in Figure 2-7.



Figure 2-6. Screen shot of Facebook Live recording in San Bernardino

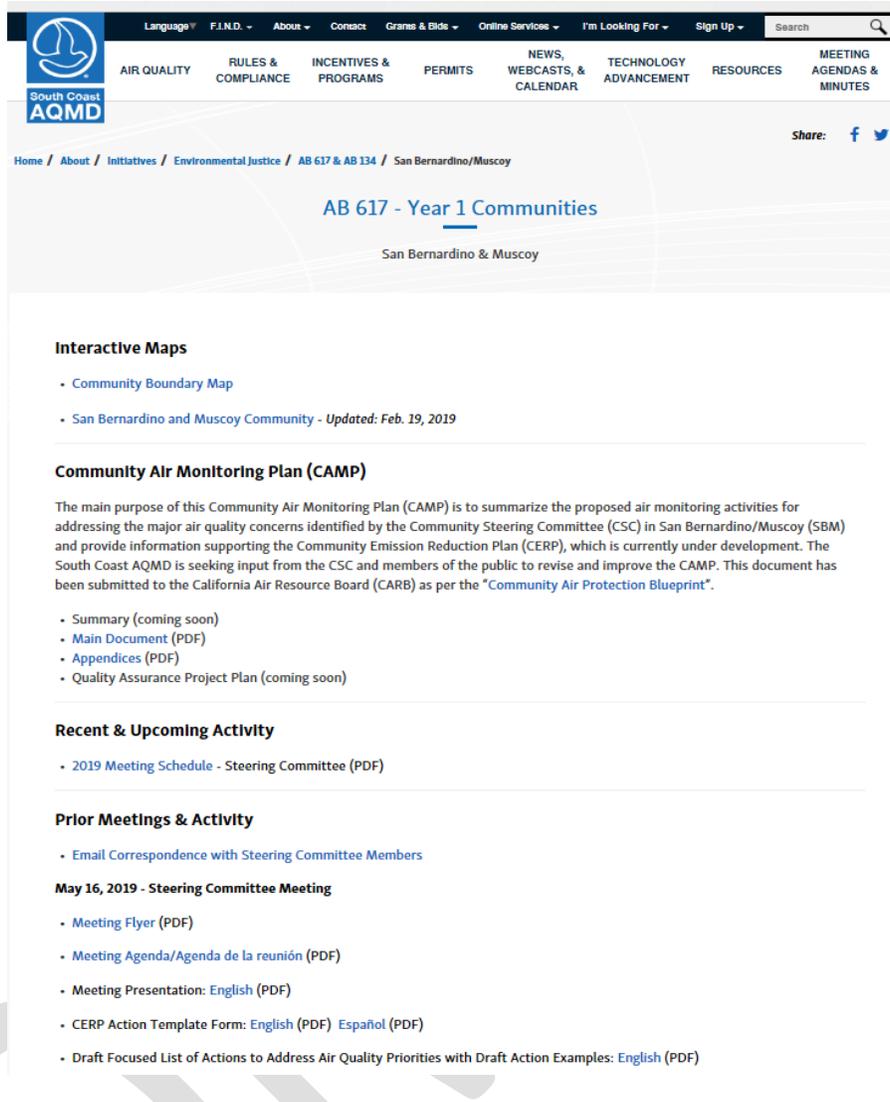


Figure 2-7. Community webpage for the San Bernardino and Muscoy community

In addition to being a portal for access to meeting materials and documents, the webpage also includes interactive maps that present data about the community. Figure 2-8 is an example of an interactive map that was created for the San Bernardino and Muscoy community. These interactive maps provide data on land use, locations of facilities, schools, hospitals, and daycare centers, and the air quality concerns identified by the CSC and members of the public. This information was provided to help inform air quality priorities for the CERP.

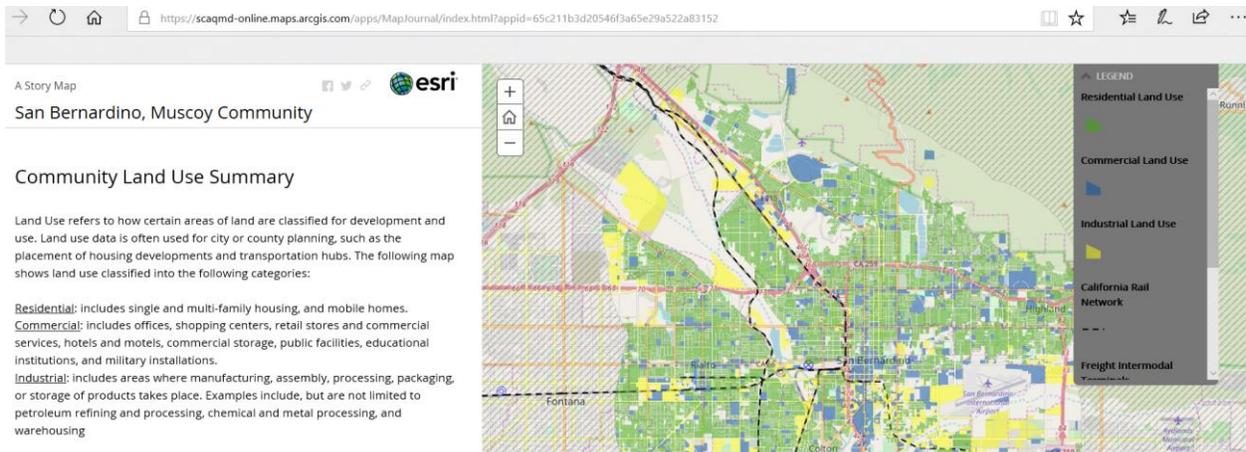


Figure 2-8. Interactive map showing land use in the San Bernardino and Muscoy community

Committee Presenters

A critical aspect of the CERP is development and implementation collaboration with CSC members and the agencies, organizations, businesses, or other entities that they represent. Committee members were invited to share their work that is complementary to the actions being developed in the CERP, such as programs carried out by their organization that help address air quality issues in the community.

At the April 2019 CSC meeting, Mary Valdemar (San Bernardino Valley College (SBVC)) discussed SBVC's Sustainability Plan, which focuses on embedding sustainability in the classroom and workplace. She expanded on the infrastructure required to achieve the adoption of zero-emission technologies.

Tammy Yamasaki (Southern CA Edison) discussed local efforts and their partnership with South Coast AQMD to share information with those who apply for electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. Their efforts focus on infrastructure development for electric charging, especially within environmental justice communities.

At the May 2019 CSC meeting, Bernadette Beltran and Mark Frees (San Bernardino County Department of Public Health) presented information on their agency's public health programs, including the Healthy Communities program, an asthma program that is administered through the Arrowhead County Regional Center, and the Safe Routes to Schools Program.

Photo Pending



Figure 2-9. Bernadette Beltran and Mark Frees (San Bernardino County Department of Public Health) presented at the May 2019 CSC meeting

Ericka Flores and Andrea Vidaurre with the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCA EJ) spoke about their organization and the importance of the AB 617 program in getting the community involved in addressing air quality and land use issues.

Anna Jaiswal (OmniTrans) provided an overview of the work that OmniTrans is doing to improve air quality, as the public transit provider for San Bernardino County. They provided information about their fleet, which includes near-zero and zero-emission buses, and their continued work toward adding more cleaner buses to their fleet.

Chantal Power (City of San Bernardino) discussed how the City is trying to address the concerns of the community and plans to increase outreach efforts.

Community Testimonials

Beginning in March 2019, residents from the community have been invited by the CSC to share personal stories, outlining their concerns with air pollution and how it has negatively impacted their lives and community. These community testimonials have helped provide perspective and context to frame the discussions during the CSC meetings (Figure 2-10). Community testimonials were provided by CSC members as well as other members of the community.



Figure 2-10. Community members are invited to share their personal air pollution concerns

Technical Advisory Group

In February 2019, the AB 617 Technical Advisory Group (TAG) was established to provide a forum to discuss technical details related to source attribution (i.e., sources of monitored emissions), air monitoring and other technical analysis needed to develop the CAMPs and CERPs for AB 617 implementation. The TAG meets on an approximately quarterly basis during the CERP and CAMP development process. Topics discussed include monitoring equipment and laboratory capabilities, methodology and data sources for developing an air toxics emissions inventory at a community scale, methodology for forecasting emissions in future years, and methodology for modeling air toxics levels across geographical areas. Table 2-3 shows the 2019 TAG meeting schedule. All meetings were held at the South Coast AQMD headquarters building, which is a location approximately in the middle of the three Year 1 communities. All meetings were webcast on the www.aqmd.gov webpage, and webcast attendees could email questions to be answered during the meeting.

The majority of these technical considerations apply to all three AB 617 communities designated in Year 1 and consequently the Technical Advisory Group includes up to 3 members from each CSC, and additional technical experts from academia, research institutes, and governmental agencies (the current roster is provided in Table 2-4). When additional communities are designated for the AB 617 program, representatives from those CSCs will also be added to the Technical Advisory Group. The webpage for the Technical Advisory Group is available at this link: <http://www.aqmd.gov/nav/about/initiatives/environmental-justice/ab617-134/technical-advisory-group>

Table 2-3. Technical Advisory Group meetings in 2019

Meeting #	Date	Approximate Attendees
1	February 27, 2019	45
2	May 29, 2019	45
3	TBD - July 2019	

Table 2-4. Roster for the AB 617 Technical Advisory Group

Participant	Affiliation	Community
Jesse Marquez	Coalition for a Safe Environment	Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach
Flavio Mercado (Alternate for Jesse Marquez)	Active Resident from Wilmington	Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach
Jill Johnston	University of Southern California	Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach
Uduak-Joe Ntuk	City of Los Angeles	Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach

Participant	Affiliation	Community
Tim DeMoss (Alternate for Uduak-Joe Ntuk)	Port of Los Angeles	Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach
Ryan Sinclair	Loma Linda University	San Bernardino, Muscoy
Andreas Beyersdorf	California State University, San Bernardino	San Bernardino, Muscoy
Tammy Yamasaki	Southern California Edison	San Bernardino, Muscoy
Hector Garcia	Our Lady of Victory	East LA, Boyle Heights, West Commerce
Marisa Blackshire	BNSF	East LA, Boyle Heights, West Commerce
Rafael Yanez	Active Resident	East LA, Boyle Heights, West Commerce
Manuel Pastor	Univ. Southern California, Sociology and American Studies & Ethnicity	Technical Expert
Madeline Wander (Alternate for Manuel Pastor)	Univ. Southern California, Sociology and American Studies & Ethnicity	Technical Expert
Scott Fruin	Univ. Southern California, Preventive Medicine	Technical Expert
Cesunica (Sunny) Ivey	UC Riverside	Technical Expert
Luis Portillo	Inland Empire Partnership	Technical Expert
Ken Davidson	US EPA Region 9 Air Division, Air Toxics, Radiation, and Indoor Air Office	Technical Expert
Janet Whittick	California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance (CCEEB)	Technical Expert
Melissa Lunden	Aclima	Technical Expert

Additional Community Engagement

In addition to establishing the CSC and convening monthly meetings, South Coast AQMD staff participated in one-on-one or small group meetings with members, and attended meetings led by various community organizations. These meetings gave CSC members an opportunity to communicate directly with staff. Additionally, these meetings give staff an opportunity to answer questions and clarify information requested from CSC members. Staff was able to gain a better understanding of the unique issues faced by each community by attending and participating in meetings led by community organizations.

Broader public engagement is also important to the AB 617 program. Suggestion boxes provided at the CSC meetings allow CSC members, as well as the general public, to provide input and suggestions on the AB 617 process. Staff reviews the comments after each CSC meeting, and responds as needed. Anonymous submissions are accepted. In addition, a

Community Affairs Table at the CSC meetings provides a space for community members to share flyers and handouts about events and programs happening in the community (Figure 2-11).

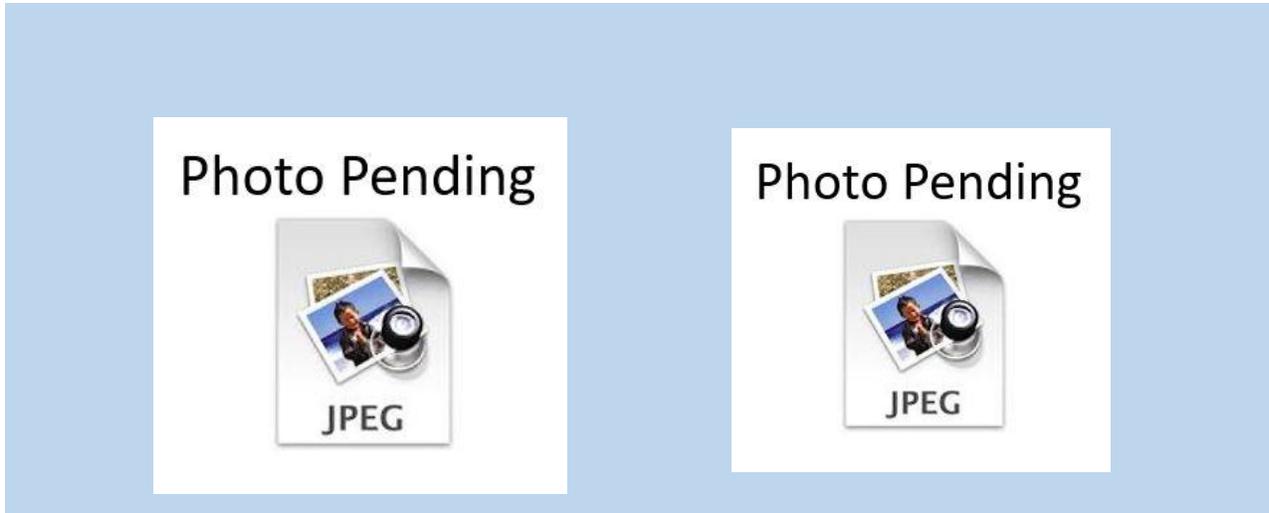


Figure 2-11. Community table and community member handouts for CSC meeting in San Bernardino

Throughout the development of the CERP, community liaisons and other staff met with community members, environmental justice organizations, industry and other stakeholders to provide assistance and/or prompt response to concerns raised about the CSC process. Community liaisons also attended meetings from local organizations, environmental justice groups, city and county government to promote participation in the development and implementation of the CERP. Staff attended meetings hosted by other entities in this community to give presentations on AB 617 CERP development, and had more than 25 in-person or phone meetings with CSC members to discuss the CSC process and seek input on the CERP actions. South Coast AQMD staff will continue to work with the CSC to implement the CERP actions and provide periodic community updates on the progress of implementing the plan. Community engagement is essential to the success of the CERP as well as the AB 617 program as a whole, and all parties are committed to build and improve upon existing outreach efforts.



Figure 2-12. Small group meeting in San Bernardino with some CSC members and South Coast AQMD staff



Figure 2-13. Small group meeting in San Bernardino with some CSC members and South Coast AQMD staff