

Chapter 5e: Metal Processing Facilities

Community Concerns

The Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) community and emission study area encompass approximately 130 metal processing facilities. The metal processing facilities in SELA conduct various operations, such as heat treating, melting, plating, finishing, machining, forging, cutting, shredding, grinding and recycling. Metal processing can be a source of toxic metal air pollutants, such as arsenic, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, lead and arsenic. A toxic metal air pollutant, is a specific air pollutant which may cause or contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious illness or pose a present or potential risk to human health.¹ South Coast AQMD, as well as other air agencies in California, rely on the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) to identify toxic air contaminants, the health effects and the methodology to estimate the health risks from toxic air contaminants. The SELA community has expressed concern about toxic air contaminants, such as hexavalent chromium, and are also concerned with emissions from metal recycling plants, metal dust, odors and noise. Please see Appendix 5 – Metal Processing Facilities for more information.

Examples of Actions to Reduce Emissions or Exposure

To address community concerns about emissions from metal processing facilities in SELA, the CSC and South Coast AQMD developed six (6) actions for the Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP). The table below provides goals, actions, metrics and a timeline to achieve the emission or exposure reductions from metal processing facilities.

Table 1 – Goal: Reduce Emissions from Metal Processing Facilities					
	Action	Responsible Entity	Metric	Timeline	
				Start	Complete
A	Conduct public outreach using plain language materials explaining various types of metal processing operations and rules that are currently regulating metal-related facilities	South Coast AQMD	Development of outreach materials for metals-related rules	1 st quarter 2022	4 th quarter 2022

¹ California Health and Safety Code, Section 39655, http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=39655&lawCode=HSC, Accessed September 2020

	Conduct an informational workshop for the public regarding various types of metal processing facilities in their neighborhood highlighting current and future South Coast AQMD regulatory efforts		Amount of materials distributed Number of outreach events		
B	Initiate rule development process to address housekeeping and best management practices at metal recycling plants to reduce fugitive emissions	South Coast AQMD	Number of updates to the CSC on rule making process	4 th quarter 2021	4 th quarter 2023
C	Work with the CSC and local land use agencies to identify all metal processing facilities within the SELA emissions study area and provide a list of South Coast AQMD rules applicable to the metal processing facilities identified, provide a three (3) year compliance history of the facilities, summarize emissions data and air monitoring data collected at or near facilities, and other sources of information	South Coast AQMD	Develop metal processing facility list Provide applicable rules list, compliance history, air monitoring data, or other sources of information to the CSC	2 nd quarter 2021	2 nd quarter 2022
D	Based on the information from Action C above, work with the CSC to identify air quality issues related to metal processing facilities and work to prioritize them. Based on the prioritization of sources and their issues, identify potential strategies and approaches to address the issues	South Coast AQMD	Conduct CSC activity to prioritize sources of metal emissions Develop strategies list, if appropriate	3 rd quarter 2022	1 st quarter 2023
E	Conduct air monitoring to help identify elevated levels of air toxic metals and support efforts to identify potential sources of emissions	South Coast AQMD	Conduct air monitoring to identify potential sources of metal emissions	1 st quarter 2021	4 th quarter, 2025
F	Implement strategies and approaches based on the prioritization of sources and issues identified in Actions C and D.	South Coast AQMD	Present the CSC with results of evaluation	2 nd quarter 2023	4 th quarter 2023
G	Make referrals to the appropriate agencies when issues are found during inspections that fall outside of South Coast AQMD's jurisdiction (e.g., Water Board, DTSC, Cal-OSHA)	South Coast AQMD	Number of updates to the CSC regarding referrals	1 st quarter 2021	4 th quarter, 2025

H	Pursue collaborations with local land-use agencies to provide outreach information to metal processing facilities on required South Coast AQMD permits.	South Coast AQMD	Number of meetings/outreach to land use agencies	1 st quarter 2022	4 th quarter 2025
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