

## Chapter 1 : Introduction

Assembly Bill (AB) 617 was signed into California law in July 2017 and focuses on addressing local air pollution in environmental justice (EJ) communities. The bill recognizes that while California has seen tremendous improvement in regional air quality, some communities are still disproportionately impacted. Many communities in the South Coast AQMD experience impacts from sources of air pollution located near places where people live. Major sources of air pollution in EJ communities include mobile sources (trucks, trains, ships, etc.) and industrial facilities. These communities also experience social and economic disadvantages that add to their cumulative burdens. The AB 617 program provides accelerated action and additional resources to address air quality in these communities.

On September 27, 2018, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) designated 10 communities across the state to implement community plans for the first year of the AB 617 program. Local air districts are tasked with developing and implementing community emissions reduction and/or community air monitoring plans in partnership with residents and community stakeholders. The Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) includes actions to enhance our understanding of air pollution in the designated communities, and support effective implementation of the Community Emission Reduction Plan (CERP). For the three first year AB 617 communities in the South Coast AQMD, both a CAMP and a CERP are being developed. Separate documents describe the CAMP development process and the draft plan. Information is available at [www.aqmd.gov/ab617](http://www.aqmd.gov/ab617). Figure 1-1 gives a general overview of the CERP timeline.



Figure 1-1. Overview of Community Emission Reduction Plan (CERP) Timeline for Year 1 Communities

### Purpose of the Community Emission Reduction Plan (CERP)

The CERP is a plan for achieving air pollution emission and exposure reductions within a community, and is tailored to address community-specific needs and air quality priorities. The CERP includes actions to

reduce emissions and/or exposures, an implementation schedule, an enforcement plan, a description of the process and outreach conducted to develop the CERP, as well as additional elements that are relevant to developing an effective CERP. Community partnership and engagement have been crucial throughout the process.

Because the work to implement the CERP and CAMP is dynamic, with new information being generated while these plans are being carried out, it is necessary for these plans to be treated as “living documents”. Therefore, as new information becomes available, staff will work with the Community Steering Committees to reevaluate the actions and progress, and make necessary adjustments.

### CERP Development Process and Emphasis on Community Input

Community engagement and input to inform both the process and the actions in the CERP have been a primary element of the AB 617 program. The Community Steering Committees, working with the South Coast AQMD staff, will address the community’s air quality priorities through development and implementation of the CERP. In addition to public meetings, numerous conversations and communications among committee members, South Coast AQMD staff, individuals and small groups occurred to ensure that community voices were an integral part of the plan. Chapter 2 describes the outreach that was conducted and the Community Steering Committee process. Throughout the process, information exchanges between all parties, including feedback and input from committee members and members of the public ensured transparency and engagement. Numerous adjustments to consolidate and incorporate feedback were made and South Coast AQMD staff continuously aims to improve community engagement on air quality issues.

### About this Community

This community includes the neighborhood of Wilmington within the City of Los Angeles, the City of Carson, and the neighborhood of West Long Beach within the City of Long Beach. The community is located in the southern portion of Los Angeles County (Figure 1-2).

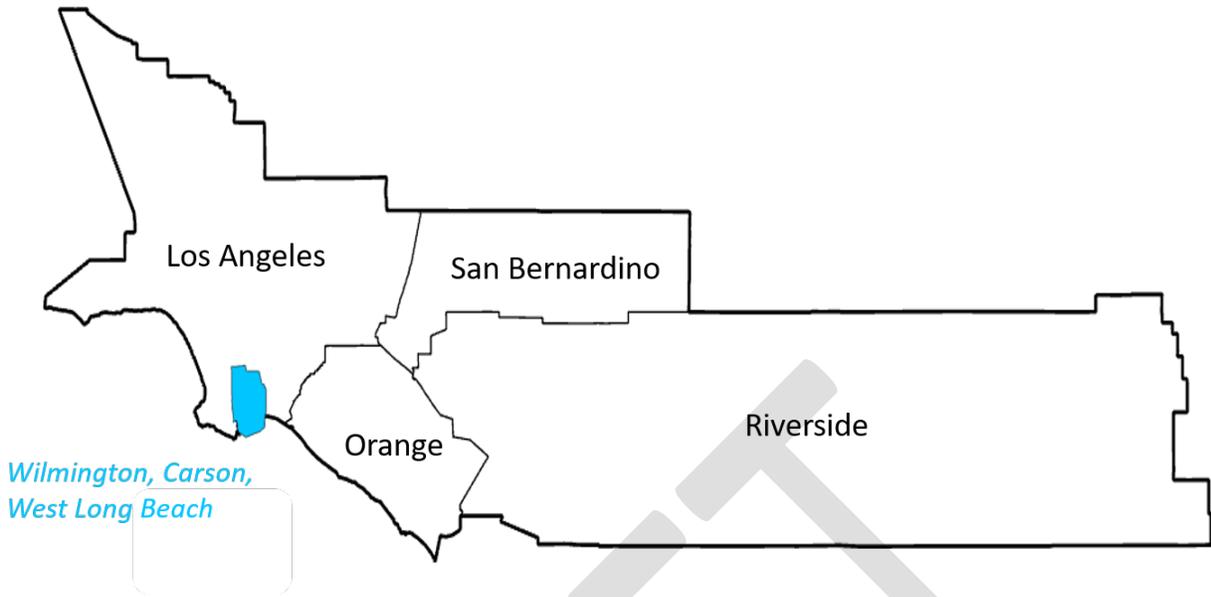


Figure 1-2. Location of the Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach community in the South Coast AQMD jurisdiction



Figure 1-3. Population of the Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach community, based on 2010 Census

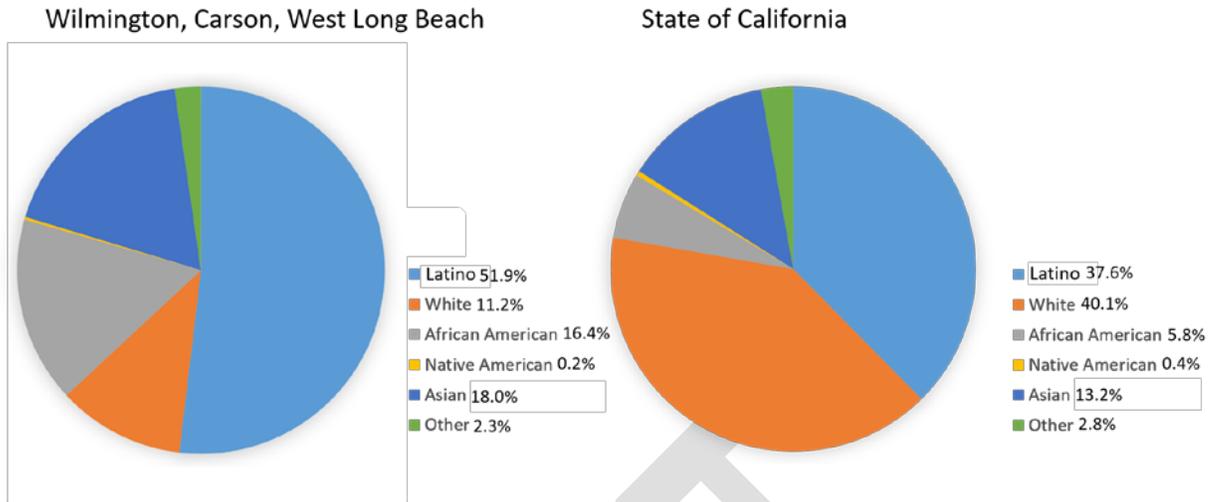


Figure 1-4. Population by Race/Ethnicity in Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach and the state of California, based on 2010 Census

More than 300,000 people live within the Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach community (Figure 1-3). More than half of the people living in this community are Latino (Figure 1-4). About 17.6% of the residents in this community are Asian and 16.6% are African American. The population in this community is slightly younger compared to the population in the state of California, with about 14.5% children under the age of 10 years and 10.4% adults over the age of 65 years (Figure 1-5).

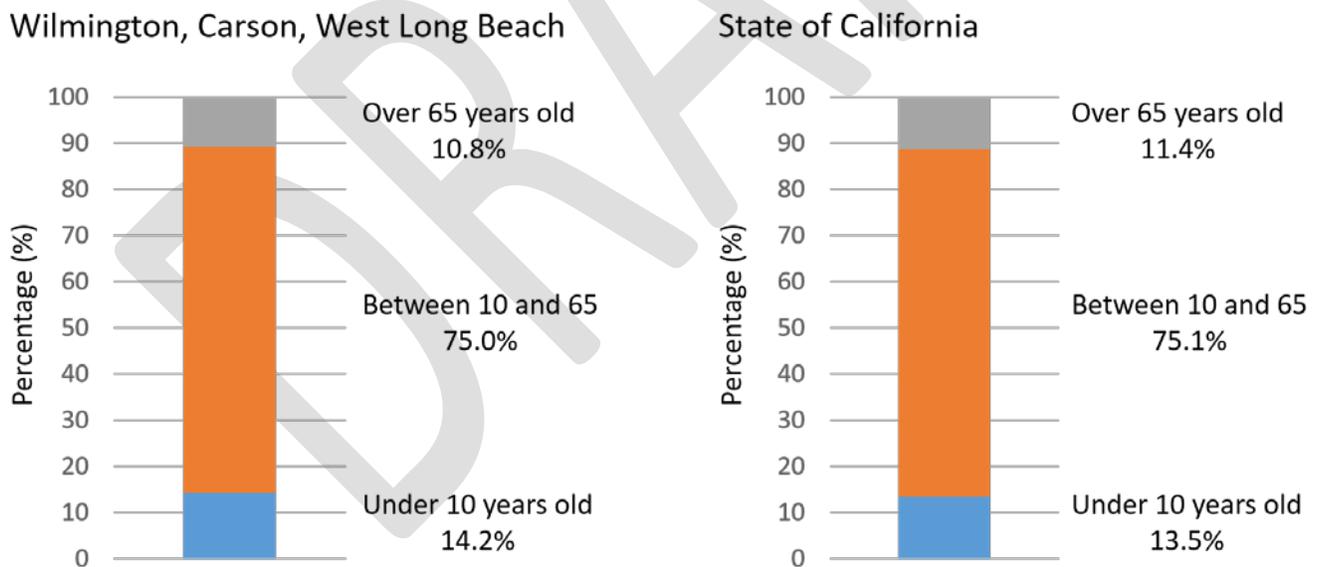


Figure 1-5. Age profile in Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach and the state of California, based on 2010 Census

While the demographics and geography provide useful information, the members of the community are what make each community unique and distinct. Community members bring intimate familiarity with their community and the air quality concerns that affect their neighborhood. Below are some community voices describing this community.

*[placeholder for quotes describing the community]*

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