



South Coast
Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765
(909) 396-2000, www.aqmd.gov

YOUNG LEADERS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Advisory Council Members

Dr. Anissa “Cessa” Heard-Johnson – Council Chair
Gabriela Ballesteros – Los Angeles County
Emanuel De Jesús Cruz – Los Angeles County
Mai Nguyen Do – Los Angeles County
Matthew Patara Hui – Los Angeles County
Yifan Li – Los Angeles County
Vanessa Melesio – Los Angeles County
Linh Tran – Los Angeles County
Celina Vargas – Los Angeles County
Andres Coronel – Riverside County
Ryan Drover – Riverside County
Norah Kyassa – Riverside County
Ciara Christina Thrower – Riverside County
Roxana Marina Barrera – San Bernardino County
Yolanda Aguilar Candelario – San Bernardino County
Angel Delgado Lira – San Bernardino County
Joshua Scheel – San Bernardino County
Marc Anthony Flores – Orange County

November 20, 2024 ♦ 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

A meeting of the South Coast Air Quality Management District Young Leader’s Advisory Council will be held at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 20, 2024 through in-person attendance in the Conference Room CC-8 at the South Coast AQMD Headquarters, 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, California, and remote attendance via videoconferencing and by telephone. Please follow the instructions below to join the meeting remotely.

Please refer to South Coast AQMD’s website for information regarding the format of the meeting, updates if the meeting is changed to a full remote via webcast format, and details on how to participate:

<http://www.aqmd.gov/home/news-events/meeting-agendas-minutes>

Cleaning the air that we breathe...

ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION INFORMATION

(Instructions provided at bottom of the agenda)

Join Zoom Meeting - from PC or Laptop, or Phone

<https://scaqmd.zoom.us/j/93580764939>

Meeting ID: **935 8076 4939** (applies to all)

Teleconference Dial In: +1 669 900 6833

One tap mobile: +16699006833,94141492308#

Teleconference Locations

Norwood Library
4550 Peck Road
El Monte, CA 91732

Los Angeles Public Library
630 W 5th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90071

Riverside Main Library
3900 Mission Inn Avenue
Riverside, CA 92501

Fertitta Hall
610 Childs Way
Los Angeles, CA 90089

**Audience will be allowed to provide public comment in person
or through Zoom connection or telephone.**

PUBLIC COMMENT WILL STILL BE TAKEN

AGENDA

Members of the public may address this body concerning any agenda item before or during consideration of that item (Gov't. Code Section 54954.3(a)). If you wish to speak, raise your hand on Zoom or press Star 9 if participating by telephone. All agendas for regular meetings are posted at South Coast AQMD Headquarters, 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, California, at least 72 hours in advance of the regular meeting. Speakers may be limited to three (3) minutes total for all items on the agenda.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

ACTION ITEMS (Items 1-2)

1. Welcome and Agenda Overview (5 min)

(No Motion Required)

Welcoming remarks and overview of the August 21st, 2024 agenda.

Dr. Anissa "Cessa"
Heard- Johnson
Deputy Executive
Officer

2. **Review and Approve Minutes (10 min)** Dr. Heard-Johnson
(Motion Required)
Review and approve the minutes from the August 21, 2024 meetings.
(Written Material Attached)

DISCUSSION ITEMS (Items 3-8)

3. **Introduction and Q & A with Executive Officer, Wayne Natri (10 min)** Wayne Natri
Executive Officer
(No Motion Required)
Discussion with Executive Officer Wayne Natri.
4. **Community Spotlight (10 min)** Dr. Heard-Johnson
(No Motion Required)
A chance for YLAC members to elevate or spotlight issues or events within their respective communities.
5. **Annual Report (15 min)** Dr. Heard-Johnson
(No Motion Required)
An opportunity for YLAC members to review the first 3 quarters of the annual report and offer feedback. The report will be presented at the January 2025 Governing Board Meeting
(Written Material Attached)
6. **Community Based Organization Spotlight – Legacy LA** Araceli Rodriguez,
Leadership Program
Manager, Legacy LA
(No Motion Required)
A presentation on by Legacy LA followed by a Q & A from YLAC members.
- Goals and Requests for 2025 Committee**
7. *(No Motion Required)* Dr. Heard-Johnson
An opportunity to discuss any goals, requests, or charter changes for the 2025 Young Leader's Advisory Committee.
- Upcoming Engagement Opportunities**
8. *(No Motion Required)* Dr. Heard-Johnson
U.S. EPA Region 9 Environmental Justice Community Check in Meeting occurs the first Tuesday of every month from 5:30PM - 7:00 PM. If there is any interest in attending please visit their [web page](#).

OTHER MATTERS (Items 9-11)

9. **Other Business**
Any member of the Committee, or its staff, on his or her own initiative or in response to questions posed by the public, may ask a question for clarification, may make a brief announcement or report on his or her own activities, provide a reference to staff regarding factual information, request staff to report back at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter, or may take action to direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda. (Gov't. Code Section 54954.2)

10. Public Comment Period

At the end of the regular meeting agenda, an opportunity is also provided for the public to speak on any subject within the Committee's authority that is not on the agenda. Speakers may be limited to three (3) minutes each.

11. **Next Meeting Date:** Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 12:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Americans with Disabilities Act and Language Accessibility

Disability and language-related accommodations can be requested to allow participation in the Stationary Source Committee meeting. The agenda will be made available, upon request, in appropriate alternative formats to assist persons with a disability (Gov't Code Section 54954.2(a)). In addition, other documents may be requested in alternative formats and languages. Any disability or language related accommodation must be requested as soon as practicable. Requests will be accommodated unless providing the accommodation would result in a fundamental alteration or undue burden to the South Coast AQMD. Please contact Heather Pomeroy at (909) 396-2686 from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, or send the request to hpomeroy@aqmd.gov.

Document Availability

All documents (i) constituting non-exempt public records, (ii) relating to an item on an agenda for a regular meeting, and (iii) having been distributed to at least a majority of the Committee after the agenda is posted, are available by contacting Catherine Rodriguez at (909) 396-2686, or send the request to hpomeroy@aqmd.gov.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION

Instructions for Participating in a Virtual Meeting as an Attendee

As an attendee, you will have the opportunity to virtually raise your hand and provide public comment. Before joining the call, please silence your other communication devices such as your cell or desk phone. This will prevent any feedback or interruptions during the meeting.

Please note: During the meeting, all participants will be placed on Mute by the host. You will not be able to mute or unmute your lines manually. After each agenda item, the Chair will announce public comment. A countdown timer will be displayed on the screen for each public comment. If interpretation is needed, more time will be allotted.

Once you raise your hand to provide public comment, your name will be added to the speaker list. Your name will be called when it is your turn to comment. The host will then unmute your line.

Directions for Video ZOOM on a DESKTOP/LAPTOP:

- If you would like to make a public comment, please click on the “**Raise Hand**” button on the bottom of the screen. This will signal to the host that you would like to provide a public comment and you will be added to the list.

Directions for Video Zoom on a SMARTPHONE:

- If you would like to make a public comment, please click on the “**Raise Hand**” button on the bottom of your screen. This will signal to the host that you would like to provide a public comment and you will be added to the list.

Directions for TELEPHONE line only:

- If you would like to make public comment, please **dial *9** on your keypad to signal that you would like to comment.



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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YOUNG LEADERS ADVISORY COUNCIL WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Members Present:

Gabriela Ballesteros
Andres Coronel
Emanuel De Jesús Cruz
Mai Nguyen Do
Ryan Drover
Matthew Patara Hui
Yifan Li
Angel Delgado Lira
Vanessa Melesio
Linh Tran
Ciara Christina Thrower
Joshua Scheel

Members Absent:

Roxana Marina Barrera
Yolanda Aguilar Candelario
Marc Anthony Flores
Norah Kyassa
Siomara Nieto
Celina Vargas

South Coast AQMD Staff:

Dr. Anissa Heard-Johnson, Deputy Executive Officer, Diversity Equity and Inclusion with Community Air Programs
Alicia Lizarraga, Senior Public Affairs Manager
Josephine Lee, Senior Deputy Counsel, Legal
Tom Gross, Board Member Consultant to Mayor Lock Dawson
Stevenn Boddeker, Air Quality Specialist, Monitoring and Analysis Division

Cassandra Johnson, Senior Public Affairs Specialist, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Community Air Programs

Carolina Vargas, Staff Assistant, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Community Air Programs

Heather Pomeroy, Senior Administrative Assistant, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Community Air Programs

Paola Servas, Senior Office Assistant, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Community Air Programs

Call To Order

Dr. Heard-Johnson called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Agenda Item #1: Welcome and Introductions

Motions to approve the February 21, 2024, and the May, 15, 2024 meeting minutes. Motions were passed by all members present. For additional information, please refer to the [webcast](#) beginning 11:01.

Agenda Item #2: Community Spotlight

Dr. Heard-Johnson asked the YLAC members if they had any spotlight issues or events in their communities that they wanted to share. Joshua Scheel, Vanessa Melesio, Gabriela Ballesteros, and Mai Nguyen Do spoke about issues in their communities. For additional information please refer to the [webcast](#) beginning at 13:13.

Agenda Item #3: Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) for the Los Angeles – Long Beach – Anaheim Metropolitan Statistical Area

Ryan Wolf, Manager of Sustainable and Resilient Development with Southern California Association of Governments gave a presentation on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) for the Los Angeles – Long Beach – Anaheim Metropolitan Statistical Area. Ciara Christina Thrower, Andres Coronel, Ryan Drover, Emanuel De Jesús Cruz, and Mai Nguyen Do responded to Mr. Wolf's presentation with insights from their own communities and personal experiences. Mr. Wolf responded to their questions, concerns, and feedback. For additional information please refer to the [webcast](#) beginning at 27:40.

Agenda Item #4: South Coast AQMD Staff Presentation of Mobile Air Monitoring Platform with Q&A

A demonstration of the Mobile Air Monitoring Platform was given by Mr. Stevonn Boddeker. The group moved outside to view the physical presentation. Joshua Scheel, Vanessa Melesio, Emanuel De Jesús Cruz asked questions related to the demonstration. Mr. Boddeker addressed each comment and question. For additional information please refer to the [webcast](#) at 49:46.

Agenda Item #5: Recruitment for the Upcoming Year

Dr. Heard-Johnson spoke on the YLAC recruitment efforts for the 2025 year. Current members are encouraged to re-apply via the QR code that was listed on the flyer with the agenda. For additional information please refer to the [webcast](#) at 01:29:28.

Agenda Item #6: Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

Dr. Heard-Johnson informed YLAC of the upcoming all CSC event that is going to be held at South Coast AQMD Headquarters on Saturday, August 24th, 2024. She also informed the group that about the monthly EPA Region 9 meetings that occurs the first Tuesday of every month from 5:30PM - 7:00 PM. If anyone is interested in attending they may access the [Zoom Link](#). Alicia Lizarraga, Senior Public Affairs Manager, let the YLAC membership know about South Coast AQMD's upcoming Environmental Justice conference. The event will take place on Thursday, October 24th, 2024.

Agenda Item #7: Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item #9: Next Meeting Date

The next regular YLAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 12:30 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned the meeting at 2:18 p.m.

2024 Annual Report of the Young Leaders Advisory Council (YLAC)

Executive Summary

The Young Leaders Advisory Council (YLAC) worked on advancing South Coast AQMD goals of engaging young adults on air quality, environmental justice, and sustainability issues. Through the four quarterly meetings, YLAC members provided valuable feedback, participated in meaningful discussions, and contributed to South Coast AQMD's community outreach efforts. YLAC members are proud to present this year's accomplishments and outline goals for the coming year.

Background

Consistent with the YLAC charter, annual reporting is essential to document the council's activities, accomplishments, and areas for future focus. This report identifies YLAC's progress in fostering youth engagement in air quality and environmental justice. By summarizing the council's efforts and feedback provided over the past year, the annual report provides South Coast AQMD and the public with insights into the perspectives and contributions of younger generations.

Key elements of this report include meeting summaries, notable accomplishments, areas of impact, and goals for the upcoming year. This overview ensures YLAC continues alignment with its charter objectives and facilitates accountability and growth in advancing environmental advocacy among young leaders.

Membership Overview:

In 2024, YLAC was transitioned from the Legislative, Public Affairs and Media to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion with Community Air Programs (DEI with CAP) division. DEI with CAP's recruitment efforts have yielded positive results, ensured a robust and renewed membership, significantly greater participation, and contributed to consistent attendance.

There are currently 19 YLAC members. In 2024, five members transition out of YLAC; three of those five accepted permanent positions within South Coast AQMD—an encouraging sign of the growth and career advancement that YLAC facilitates. Staff has been able to quickly fill vacated positions to maintain a membership of 18 to 20 members. Consistent with the Charter, YLAC members represent Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Orange counties, bring perspectives from various backgrounds, including air quality, environmental justice, education, healthcare, transportation through a youth lens (under the age of 35).

Attendance:

Since the beginning of 2024, YLAC has successfully met quorum at each meeting, reflecting an increased commitment and a renewed sense of purpose within the group.

- February: 20 out of 20 members attended
- May: 13 out of 18 members attended
- August: 12 out of 18 members attended
- November: XX out of 19 members

Goals & Key Accomplishments 2024:

YLAC members identified, through a survey administered in February 2024, goals for 2024. 2024 YLAC goals included: increase YLAC members' awareness and engagement in community; increase youth involvement and insight into air quality issues and concerns; address environmental justice concerns; and increase awareness of South Coast AQMD resources.

1. Increase YLAC Awareness and Engagement in Community

- During each meeting, YLAC members provided updates on community-related resources and activities. Members increased their awareness of air quality and sustainability, particularly for youth within their represented regions during these regular community check-ins.

2. Increase Youth Involvement and Insight into Air Quality Issues and Concerns

- August 2024 Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) presented on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) for the Los Angeles – Long Beach – Anaheim Metropolitan Statistical Areas to YLAC members for the purpose of gaining their perspectives and providing best practices for environmental justice advocacy.
- November 2024 - Legacy Los Angeles is a community-based organization that empowers youth by providing youth alternatives to gangs and violence, helping them reach their full potential and transform their lives and communities They are invited to share an overview of their organization, best practices, successes, and methodologies for engaging and retaining youth involvement in their environmental justice efforts.

3. Address YLAC Environmental Justice Concerns

- For their onboarding, all members of the YLAC received Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) Book Club resources as reference materials:

1. From the Inside Out: The Fight for Environmental Justice within Government Agencies (Urban Industrial Environments) by Jill Lindsey Harrison
 2. The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America by Richard Rothstein
- May 2024 –DEI with CAP staff facilitated a J.E.D.I. training to YLAC members with a video and discussion on the documentary *Segregated by Design*, which explored systemic and historical environmental injustice.

4. Increase Awareness of AQMD Resources

- February 2024 – YLAC Members received a training on the Brown Act from South Coast Legal Division.
- May 2024 – During the DEI with CAP presentation on AB 617, YLAC members provided input to AQMD on how to engage communities affected by air pollution suggesting outreach via social media and events happening within their communities.
- August 2024 - YLAC members received an interactive demonstration of South Coast AQMD’s Mobile Air Monitoring Platform and discussed new transportation initiatives like hydrogen fuel cells and high-speed rail.

Proposed YLAC Goals for 2025:

- 1. Increase Youth Engagement in Environmental Justice Activities, Events and Resources:**
 - Participate in youth-targeted events and workshops to represent the youth voice in environmental justice arenas.
- 2. Increase Public Health and Air Quality Equity Awareness:**
 - Support initiatives that reduce health disparities in communities affected by air pollution.
- 3. Strengthen Collaboration with Educational Institutions and Environmental Organizations:**
 - Encourage partnerships with schools to integrate air quality education into curriculums.

- Foster collaborative learning sessions with environmental organizations to share insights, best practices, and recent advances in air quality management.

Looking Ahead

YLAC remains committed to being a bridge between young leaders and South Coast AQMD, ensuring that the concerns of youth and disproportionately impacted communities are heard. The council will continue to offer insights that advance environmental justice and clean air for all

Acknowledgments

South Coast AQMD wants to thank the YLAC members for their dedication and thoughtful contributions. We extend our gratitude to the South Coast AQMD Governing Board for their support in empowering the next generation of environmental leaders.



PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH 10-24:

[↑ Back to Agenda](#)

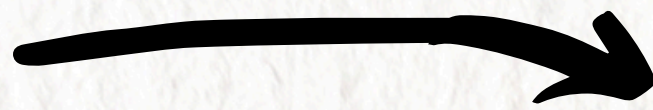
- Academic support (tutoring)
- Academic, cultural, art and leadership and mentoring programs
 - LAUSD Beyond the Bell Partnership (Wilson HS, Mendez HS, Murchison)
- Middle school programs
 - Gang Reduction & Youth Development
 - Young Men In Training + Dream Big Group
- High School
- Leadership Development, Power Building, Advocacy
- College Persistence + Career Readiness
- Mindfulness/ therapy
- Sports + Mental Health trips (Sunrise hikes)
- Teen Tech Center, entrepreneurship, graphic design

FAMILY & PARENT SUPPORT:

- Leadership development
- Mujeres Poderosas
- Comunidad Unida
- Wellness
- Workforce Development
- Connection to additional services, resources & jobs
- Family Mindfulness + Fatherhood Group
- Food Distributions

**POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, YOUTH POWER,
HEALTHY BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

LEADERSHIP DEPT PROGRAMS



Dream Big Youth Council

- YOUTH COUNCIL YEAR 1
- YOUTH COUNCIL YEAR 2
- INTERNS
- SOCIAL JUSTICE INTERNS

Advocacy Campaigns

- INVEST IN YOUTH
- ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
- SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER
- ANTI-GENTRIFICATION CAMPAIGN

Community Wellness and Empowerment

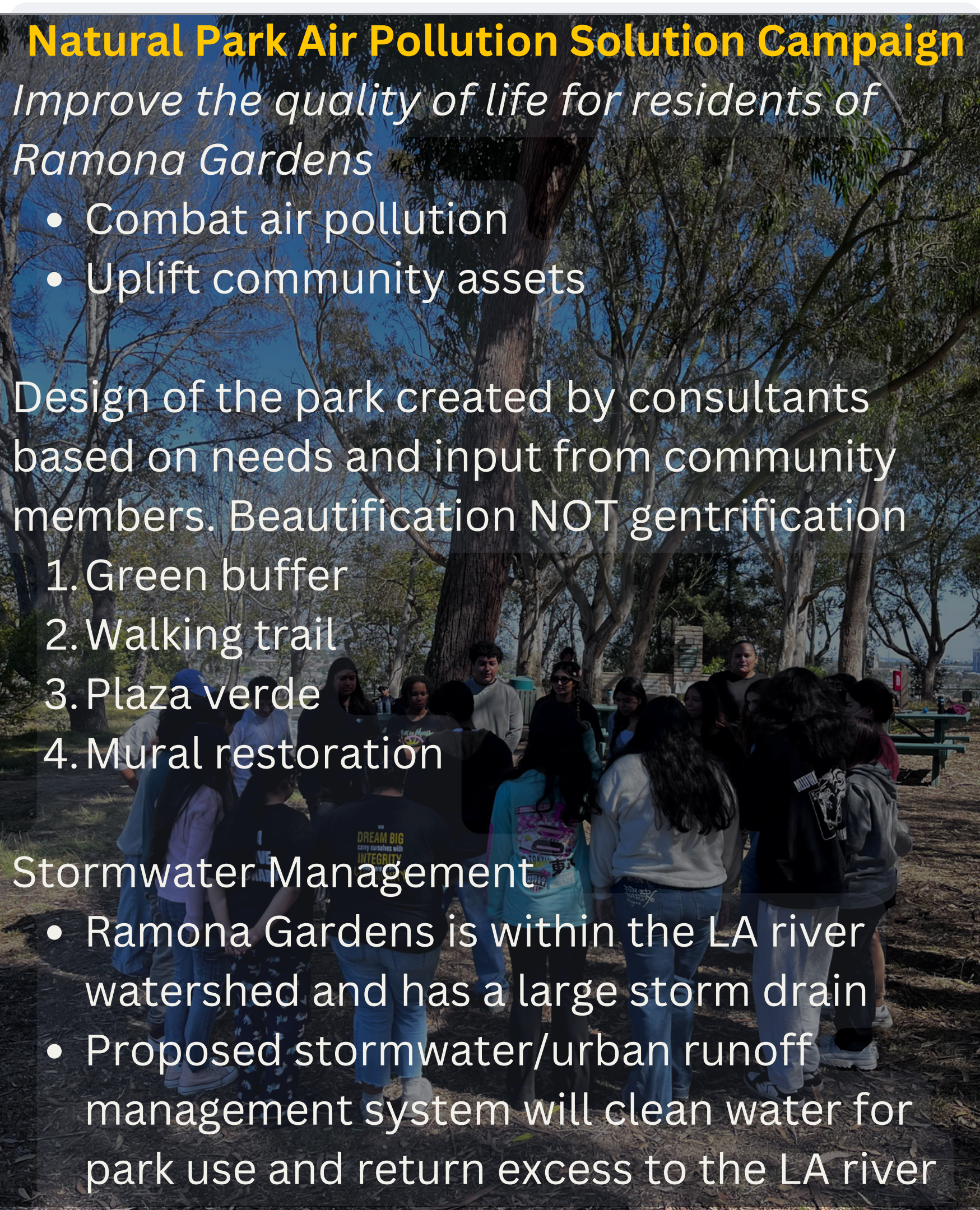
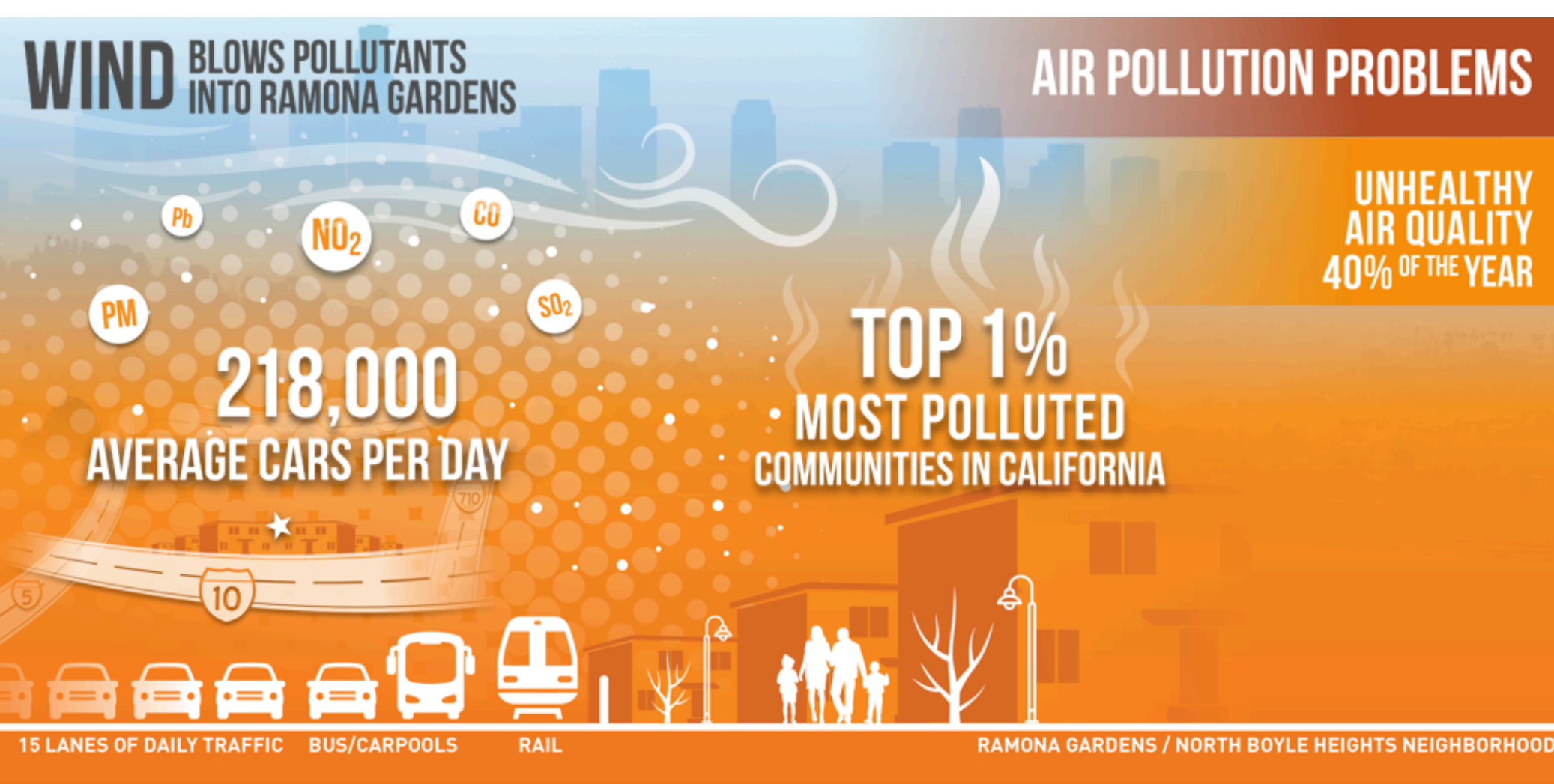
- COMUNIDAD UNIDA
- MUJERES PODEROSAS
- WELLNESS PARENT WORKSHOPS



Community Outreach/ support

- COMMUNITY RESOURCES





EJ + YOUTH COUNCIL

Youth Council

EJ Block Party

- 130 Attendees!
- Youth led



Leadership Development

- March 2nd: 2 interns presented a workshop to about 20 youth from Changeist
- March 18th: Presented to about 25 reps from South Coast Air Qual Management District and took them a tour of la Gachon (site for the Natural Park)
- April 20th: 2 interns presented at the East LA Women's Center Youth Empowerment Summit
- Oct 12-13 1st Year Youth Council Retreat at Hopkins wilderness park
- 2 Lead Interns, 28 1st Years this year

Legislative Work

- Asked our elected officials to consider our campaign in relevant state initiatives and budget hearings. Cal EPA would connect us to state department for funding opportunities!
- 7 interns, all led presentation and conversations with Cal EPA, Assemblymember Miguel Santiago's office, and Senator Maria Durazo's Office

PROJECT SITE | EL LUGAR



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



Environmental Justice Stewardship

Helping youth make connections with nature, they learn the best ways to care for the earth as well as being introduced to a new realm of opportunity they might have seen as a avenue for themselves

- Last Cohort underway! we will have had a total of 100 youth part of our EJ stewardship Program
- 6 Successful cohorts, 12- 15 students each
- Work that each cohort accomplishes is built upon by the new cohorts.
- EJ Workforce Capacity Building



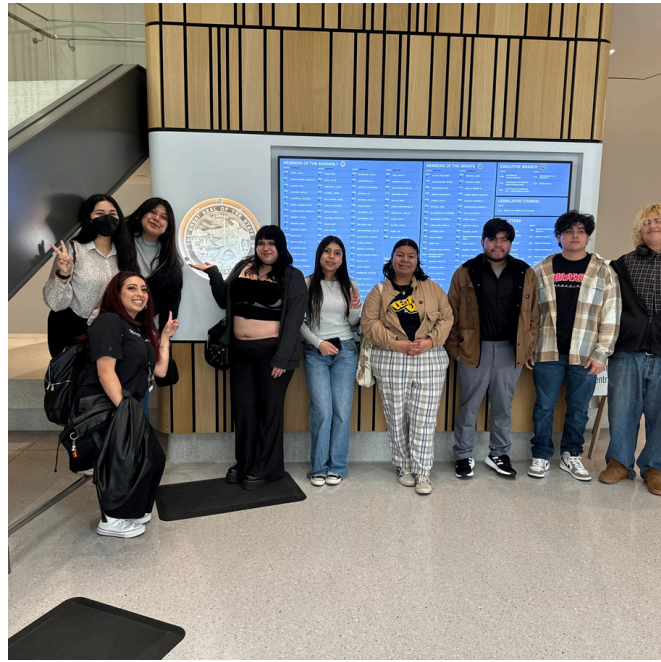
Outdoor Equity

The outdoor equity program provides intergenerational trips to National and local parks that explore wetlands, native plants, human connection to local habitats and deepen the understanding of human impact on physical environments.

- Native and invasive species
- Land acknowledgements
- Cultural enrichment
- Camping 101
- Firsthand experience of green space benefits

Locations:

Joshua Tree, Big Bear National Forest, Leo Carrillo, Hopkins Wilderness Park, LA History Park, and more to come!



Program Highlights!