

Bidder's Conference for Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617) Community Green Space Program Request For Proposals (RFP) P2024-08r

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Friday, October 4, 2024
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

<https://scaqmd.zoom.us/j/92101922522>



Bidder's Conference Agenda

- Background on South Coast AQMD
- Overview of California Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617)
 - Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) Community Emission Reductions Plan (CERP)
- SELA Green Space Project Plan
- SELA Green Space Program Request for Proposals (RFP):
 - Applicant and project eligibility
 - Application requirements
 - Application Scoring Criteria
 - Contract parameters and timelines

South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD)

- Local air quality regulatory agency for large portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Riverside Counties and all of Orange County
- Serves over 17 million residents
- Authority covers stationary sources (e.g., factories, power plants, etc.)



California Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617)

- Signed into California law in 2017
- Established a process for the state and air districts to address the disproportionate impacts of air pollution in collaboration with environmental justice (EJ) communities
- South Coast AQMD's six AB 617 communities:

2018-Designated Communities

- East Los Angeles, Boyle Heights, West Commerce (ELABHWC)
- San Bernardino, Muscoy (SBM)
- Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach (WCWLB)

2019-Designated Communities

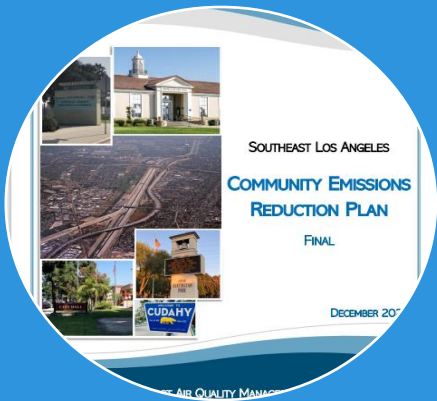
- Eastern Coachella Valley (ECV)
- Southeast Los Angeles (SELA)

2020-Designated Community

- South Los Angeles (SLA)



AB 617 Components



Community Air Monitoring and Emission Reductions Plans



Clean Technology Investments



Best Available Retrofit Control Technology (BARCT) Rules



Easier Access to Emissions Data

Community Emission Reductions Plan (CERP) Framework



Air Quality Priorities

- Identified by the Community Steering Committee (CSC)



Goals

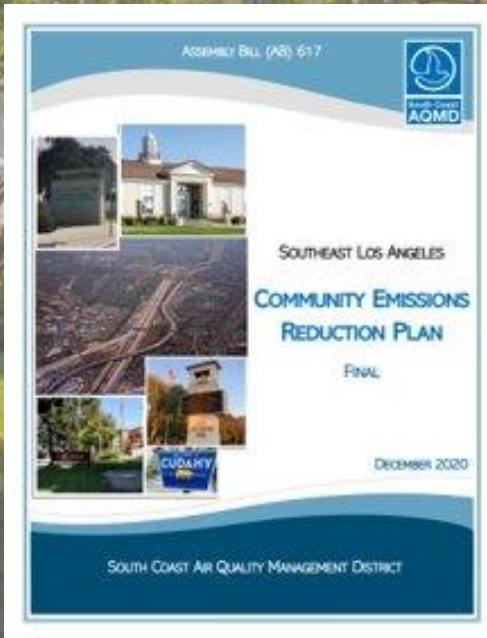
- Reduce emissions
- Reduce exposure



Objectives

- Air Monitoring
- Focused Enforcement
- Incentives
- Inter-Agency Collaborations
- Public Information and Outreach
- Rules and Regulations

SELA CERP*



* <https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ab-617-ab-134/steering-committees/southeast-los-angeles/final-cerp/final->

Green Space Objectives

Objective A

Collaborate with land-use, state and local agencies (e.g., Public Works, Parks and Recreation), non-profit organizations, and the CSC to develop a list of low-volatile organic compound (low-VOC) and drought tolerant trees

Objective B

Evaluate opportunities to use future settlement funds to support community green space projects (e.g., bikeways, river paths, transit corridors)

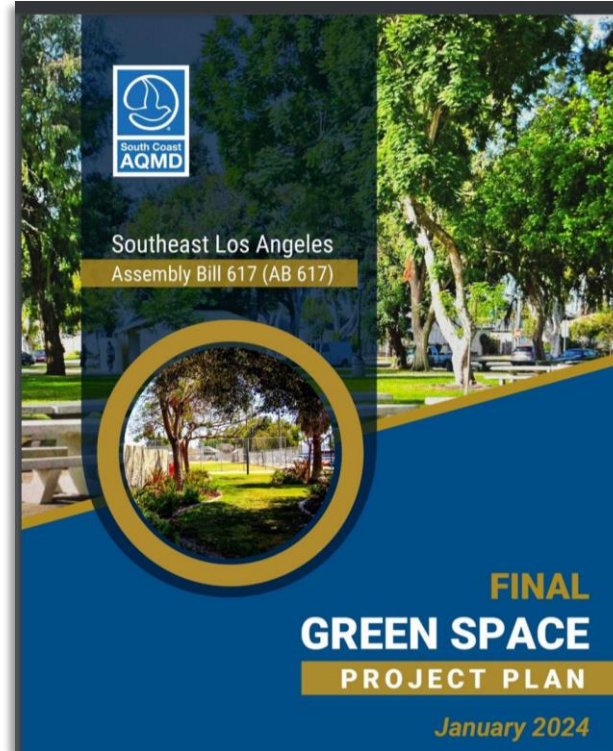
Objective C

Collaborate with nonprofits, local, and regional agencies to provide letters of support and air quality information for urban greening funding opportunities, including maintenance. Collaborate with nonprofits, local, and regional agencies to identify potential

Objective D

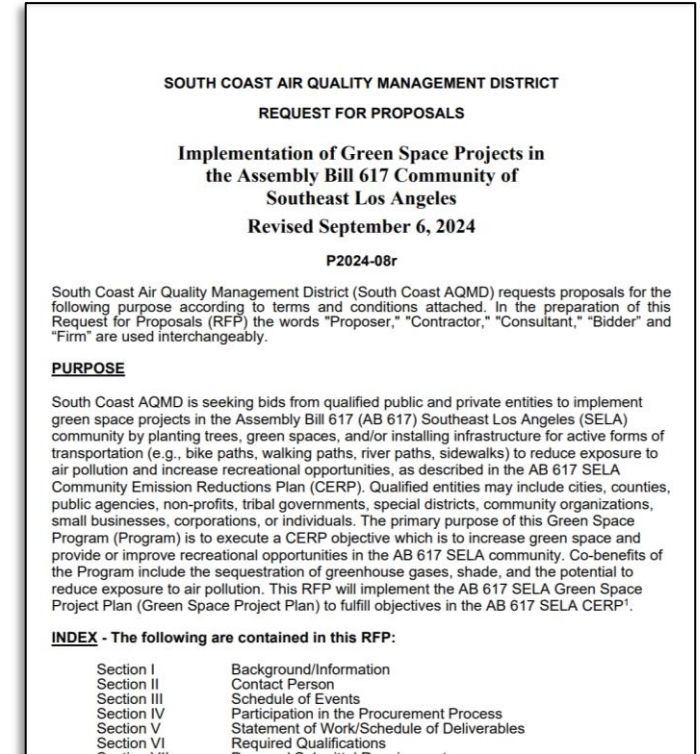
Work with CSC, state, and local agencies to identify and prioritize locations for installing vegetative buffers near freeways, particularly near the I-710

SELA Green Space Project Plan and RFP



Green Space Project Plan

- Guiding document providing overview of SELA Green Space Program
- Includes:
 - Pre-approved tree list
 - Methodologies to calculate annual watering requirements
 - Summary of community input



Green Space Program RFP (P2024-08r)

- Document providing application submittal requirements
- Provides green space project implementation deadlines

STEPS TAKEN PRIOR TO REISSUING OF SELA GREEN SPACE RFP

- RFP initially released from February 2 – May 3
 - No applications received
- Feedback received from previously interested parties about why an application was not submitted (summarized below):

Commenter	Feedback on Why Application Not Submitted
Comment 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concerns about maximum allowable funds for non-construction and overhead costs
Comment 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Felt project was ineligible to receive funds since it did not include trees
Comment 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organization does not implement projects, only serves in a management role

- Changes were not made to RFP but clarifying questions were answered
- Staff met with and contacted multiple organizations to spread awareness of RFP prior to the second release

SELA Green Space Program RFP Timeline and Outreach

Spring 2021

- CSC participatory budgeting feedback collected
- CSC allocated \$2.5 million in CARB's Community Air Protection (CAP) Incentives

Mid 2021 – Mid 2023

- Feedback and information collected through meetings and surveys with CSC members, community organizations, and agencies

Late 2023

- Community tour
- Submitted Project Plan to CARB

January 2024

- CARB approved Project Plan

February 2024

- Green Space Program RFP approved by South Coast AQMD Board and released on February 2
- Received no applications

Summer 2024

- Reached out to entities* to gauge interest and spread awareness of RFP
- Reissued RFP on September 6 (Deadline: Friday, November 8)

* Local municipalities, agencies, universities, and others

Purpose and Applicant Eligibility

Primary
Purpose
of Green
Space
Program
RFP:

- Implement three CERP objectives to increase green space and provide or improve recreational opportunities in SELA
- Distribute \$2.5 million in CAP Incentive funding as allocated by the CSC

Eligible Entities*

- Cities
- Counties
- Public agencies
- Non-profits
- Tribal governments
- Special districts
- Community organizations
- Small businesses
- Corporations
- Individuals

* Multiple entities working in collaboration are also eligible to submit a single application

Project Eligibility

- **Increase tree canopy coverage** by planting trees or other vegetation in new or existing publicly accessible spaces, and/or
- **Increase recreational opportunities** by installing new infrastructure which encourage active forms of transportation such as bike paths, sidewalks, or trails with trees/vegetation planted alongside

Plant trees which are drought-tolerant, nonpoisonous, and have low potential for emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs)

Comply with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and other applicable rules and regulations

Be current on all property taxes for project site

Adhere to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL Fire) [Urban and Community Forestry Grant Guidelines](#)

- [Attachment A](#) of SELA Green Space Project Plan includes list of pre-approved tree species which are drought-tolerant, low-VOC, and nonpoisonous and which do not require justification to include in a green space application
- Applicants may use Benjamin and Winer’s “Estimating the ozone-forming potential of urban trees and shrubs”** to identify low-VOC tree species but must provide evidence of their drought tolerance and non-toxicity
- Municipal requirements for specific tree species supersede the requirements for the SELA Green Space Program

* Project eligibility requirements are detailed under Project Eligibility Criteria in the [SELA Green Space Project Plan](#)

** Michael T. Benjamin and Arthur M. Winer. Estimating the Ozone-Forming Potential of Urban Trees and Shrubs: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1352-2310\(97\)00176-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1352-2310(97)00176-3)

Project Eligibility (*cont.*)

Comply with California's [Plant Quarantine Manual](#) and other applicable restrictions when obtaining plant material and species originating from outside of Los Angeles County

Comply with South Coast AQMD applicable rules and regulations including [Rule 402 – Public Nuisance](#) and [Rule 403 – Fugitive Dust](#)

Adhere to land-use recommendations for parks suggested in CARB's [Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Perspective](#)

Perform maintenance or establish maintenance agreements to perform maintenance of green space project

Make project site available for inspection by CARB or South Coast AQMD upon request

Install project only within SELA community boundary

Provide photo documentation of Project Implementation once completed and on an annual basis thereafter throughout the Project Life*

Cannot claim emission reduction credits from project during contract period

* Project Life will be discussed in more detail on slide 20

SELA Community Boundary



— SELA Community Boundary

<https://scaqmd-online.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b0749c91fbeb4657985e8d5d4db6e67c>

Application Requirements

Applications must include documentation, narrative, or plans addressing items 1 – 23 listed in Part A of [Section VI – Required Qualifications](#) of the Green Space Program RFP*

Details of key items:

If applicable:

- List of tree species, an estimate of the number of trees that will be planted and the increased canopy coverage, and total green space project area
- Information about proposed installation of infrastructure promoting active forms of transportation (bike paths, sidewalks, etc.) and total project area
- Documentation on whether relevant municipality has requirements for eligible tree species

Provide outline of a maintenance plan and a commitment to provide documentation of plans to perform maintenance or agreements with other entities to perform maintenance of green space installation

* Must also follow [Section VII – Proposal Submittal Requirements](#) (to be discussed in later slides)

Application Requirements (*cont.*)

Details of key items (cont.):

A payment schedule outlining the payment terms in accordance with the Schedule of Deliverables in [Section V](#)

Narrative describing contractor's experience successfully installing green space projects along with photos, reports, and other documentation

Information about proposed project area

Estimates of annual watering requirements as described in [Attachment A](#) of the Green Space Project Plan

Detailed plans on outreach

Other supporting documents as needed

Methods for annual watering requirement calculations:

1. Projects involving pre-approved trees can use Table A2 to calculate annual watering requirement for an individual tree of a given species and multiplying by the number of trees to be planted
2. Watering requirements for other individual trees not on pre-approved tree list, applicants can use equation provided in Attachment A
3. Calculating watering requirements for projects by land area can use equation provided in Attachment A
4. Other methods are permissible if work is shown

Application Scoring

RFP Scoring Criteria	Points
<i>Plan Comprehensiveness (0 – 50)</i>	
Thoroughness of plans for:	
• outreach	3
• site identification	3
• <i>tree planting and/or active transportation infrastructure*</i>	3
• acquisition of permits and/or other necessary permissions	3
• incorporating CSC feedback**	3
Applicant’s experience completing green space projects	10
<i>Potential for increased or improved recreational opportunities*</i>	10
<i>Projected area of increased green space*</i>	10
Maintenance Plan outline	5

* Criteria resulting from CSC input

** CSC feedback can be found in [Attachment B](#) of the Green Space Project Plan

Application Scoring (cont.)

RFP Scoring Criteria	Points
<i>Environmental and Other Benefits (0 – 10)</i>	
Detailing of additional benefits from green space project(s)	5
Funding leveraged to include an air quality benefit with green space installation	5
<i>Cost and Resource Effectiveness (0 – 20)</i>	
Project cost per area	10
<i>Efficient use of water for annual watering requirements*</i>	5
Cost-sharing and/or leveraging CAPP Incentive funds to support maintenance activities	5

* Criteria resulting from CSC input

Application Scoring (cont.)

RFP Scoring Criteria	Points
<i>Project Readiness (0 – 10)</i>	
Readiness of project implementation	5
Timeliness of project implementation	5
<i>CSC Support (0 – 10)</i>	
<i>CSC review and support*</i>	10
Total Points Available	100

* Criteria resulting from CSC input

Contract Parameters and Timelines



Project Implementation

- Implementation Phase 1 – Documentation gathering
- Implementation Phase 2 – Project implementation

The period between contract execution and South Coast AQMD receipt of photo documentation of completed grant-funded green space installation(s). Project Implementation must follow the schedule included in the executed contract.



Project Life

- Maintenance after implementation

Five (5) years from the date of South Coast AQMD receipt of photo documentation of the completed green space project installation(s). The contractor is required to conduct regular maintenance of the grant-funded green space installation(s) throughout the Project Life. Contractor(s) must provide annual photo documentation of the maintained grant-funded green space installation(s).

Schedule of Deliverables

Phase 1 – Gathering Of Documentation (Task 1)

Task	Itemized Deliverables	Submission Deadline
	For each green space project area:	
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide documentation demonstrating that property taxes for the project area are current and that the project area is in compliance with all federal, state, and local requirements • Obtain all permits required to complete the green space project and provide copies of existing permits for the project site or proof of exemption from permitting requirements • Provide documentation demonstrating compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and/or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), or proof of exemption • Provide documentation of compliance with California’s Plant Quarantine Manual when obtaining plant species or material originating from outside of Los Angeles County and other relevant federal, state, and local transport restrictions accordingly • Provide any other documentation that authorizes contractor to install green space at the project area 	Within 12 weeks of contract execution

Schedule of Deliverables (*cont.*)

Phase 2 – Project Implementation (Tasks 2 – 4)

Task	Itemized Deliverables	Submission Deadline
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold initial meeting with South Coast AQMD • Submit Project Implementation Plan to South Coast AQMD 	Within 4 weeks of Phase 1 completion
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold biannual meetings with South Coast AQMD • Submit Biannual Status Reports to South Coast AQMD 	Biannually throughout the Project Implementation period beginning within 26 weeks upon completion of Task 2
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit pictures of each completed green space project installation to South Coast AQMD • Submit finalized Maintenance Plan to South Coast AQMD 	Within 4 weeks of completion of Project implementation
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit pictures and a description demonstrating adherence to the Maintenance Plan to South Coast AQMD 	Annually throughout the Project Life

Proposal Format and Submitting to South Coast AQMD

Section VII – Proposal Submittal Requirements*

- Cover Letter, personnel contact information
- Volume I - Technical Proposal**
- Volume II - Cost Proposal**
- Volume III - Certifications and Representations**

* <https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/bids/p2024-08r.pdf?sfvrsn=4#page=11>

** Must also incorporate items 1 – 23 listed in Part A of [Section VI – Required Qualifications](#) (discussed in slides 15 and 16) of the Green Space Program RFP

Application package in sealed envelope must include:

- Four (4) complete copies of the proposal
- One (1) electronic copy of the proposal on a flash drive
- Proposer name and return address with “Request for Proposals P2024-08r” in upper left-hand corner of envelope

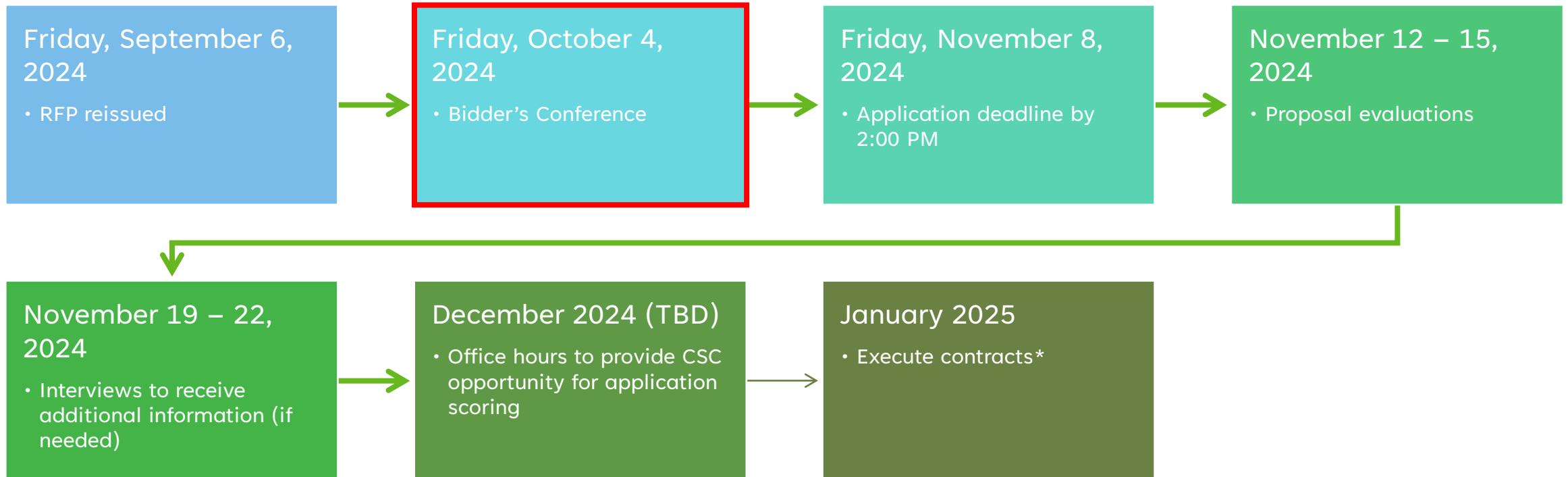
Proposals should be directed to:

Procurement Unit
South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4178
(909) 396-3520

All proposals are due no later than 2:00 PM, Friday, November 8, 2024

SELA Green Space Program RFP Application Timeline and Next Steps

Today



* Begins the implementation of green space projects; sample contract can be viewed [here](#)



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Resource Summary

SELA Resources

- [SELA Homepage](#)
- [SELA CERP](#)
- [SELA Map](#)
- [SELA Green Space Project Plan](#)
- [SELA Green Space Program RFP](#)

South Coast AQMD Resources

- [South Coast AQMD Rule 402 – Public Nuisance](#)
- [South Coast AQMD Rule 403 – Fugitive Dust](#)
- [Sample South Coast AQMD Contract](#)

Publications from Other Agencies and Authors

- Michael T. Benjamin and Arthur M. Winer, [Estimating the Ozone-forming Potential of Urban Trees and Shrubs \(1998\)](#)
- CAL Fire [Urban and Community Forestry Grant Guidelines](#)
- California Department of Food and Agriculture [Plant Quarantine Manual](#)
- CARB [Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Perspective](#)²⁶