

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

### Introduction

Community engagement and a public process were integral parts of the Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) development effort. Key features of the outreach efforts include establishing a Community Steering Committee (CSC), holding monthly meetings, South Coast AQMD staff and CSC members presentations, providing materials via email and a webpage, live-streaming all CSC meetings, and establishing a Technical Advisory Group. 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

A Community Liaison from the South Coast AQMD was designated for the Wilmington, Carson, and West Long Beach community. The Community Liaison served as the point of contact to communicate with members of the CSC and members of the public to address any concerns regarding logistics and implementation of the CERP and Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) (Figure 2-1). Community Liaisons ensure communication throughout the process of designing and implementing the Program and to work with community members to identify the best ways to make information accessible and user-friendly. The South Coast AQMD Community Liaison for this community is Ryan Stromar ([rstromar@aqmd.gov](mailto:rstromar@aqmd.gov)). In addition, Nicole Silva ([nsilva@aqmd.gov](mailto:nsilva@aqmd.gov)) and Dianne Sanchez

### Chapter 2 Highlights

- The Community Steering Committee and Technical Advisory Group worked with 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

Figure 2-1. Community liaisons assisting CSC members of the public



([dsanchez@aqmd.gov](mailto:dsanchez@aqmd.gov)) serve as the South Coast AQMD staff contacts for CERP-related input.

## 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 October 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 explained by South Coast AQMD staff. The CSC provides input and guidance to design actions for the community, for integration into the Community Emission Reductions Plan (CERP) as well as the Community Air Monitoring Plan (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 Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach community was held on Tuesday October 2, 2018 at the Wilmington Senior Center (Figure 2-2). Approximately 120 people attended the meeting. In addition to information about AB 617, attendees were invited to visit a variety of information booths,

Figure 2-2. Community kick-off meeting in Wilmington



which provided information about some existing South Coast AQMD programs, including refinery fenceline and community monitoring, community air measurement efforts, and incentive programs. Staff from Aclima, Inc.

([www.aclima.io](http://www.aclima.io), a technology company that is conducting air monitoring in the community), as well as representatives from the local YMCA and Rotary Club, also provided information at the kick-off meeting booths.

### Community Steering Committee (CSC)

A steering committee (Figure 2-3 and Figure 2-4) was formed for the Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach community, and monthly meetings were organized, typically on Thursday evenings, in locations within the community. All meetings were open to the public.

Figure 2-3. Community Steering Committee in Wilmington



### 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.

Figure 2-3. Community Steering Committee meeting in West Long Beach



The CSC roster for the Wilmington, Carson, and West Long Beach community is provided in Table 2-1 below. This CSC has 34 primary members, and 21 alternate members. While 12 primary and 5 alternate members are on the roster representing Active Residents, an additional 8 primary and 2 alternates also reside within the community. The roster with member biographies is available on the webpage: <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ab-617-ab-134/steering-committees/wilmington/roster-with-bios.pdf>. [The attendance at each CSC meeting is reflected in the Meeting Summaries that are posted on the webpage.](#)

Table 2-1. CSC Roster for Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach Community

Affiliation	Primary Member	Alternate Member
<b>COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION</b>		
Century Villages at Cabrillo	Jeffery Tate	
Coalition for a Safe Environment	Jesse Marquez	Rick Pulido
Communities for a Better Environment	Alicia Rivera	Ashley Hernandez
Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma	Sylvia Betancourt	Maria Reyes
Los Cerritos Neighborhood Association	Gary Hamrick	Joe Hower
Philippine Action Group for the Environment	Fe P. Koons	Jesse Koons
SBCCL Thrive LA	Maribel Alejandre	Leticia Herrera
<b>Active Resident (city indicated below)</b>		
Carson	Daniel Toledo	
Carson	Sergio Franco	
Carson	Joseph Luis Piñon	Yasaman Houshang
Carson	William Koons	
West Long Beach	Christopher Chavez	Pastor Anthony Quezada
West Long Beach	Jacob Broderick	Emelio Ramirez
West Long Beach	Ron Batiste	
West Long Beach	Whitney Amaya	
Wilmington	Salvador Lara	Victor Ibarra
Wilmington	Flavio Mercado	
Wilmington	Dulce Altamirano	
Wilmington	Magali Sanchez-Hall	Silvia Arredondo
<b>Agency, School, University or Hospital</b>		
City of Carson	Saied Naaseh	McKina Alexander
City of Los Angeles	Uduak-Joe Ntuk	Erica Blyther
Gulf Avenue Elementary School	Linda Bassett	Esperanza Romero
LA County Public Health	Matt Baca	Janet Scully
Long Beach Public Health	Nelson Kerr	Judeth Luong
Long Beach Unified School District	Brooke Murray	

Port of Los Angeles	Tim DeMoss	Conor Langlois
University of Southern California	Jill Johnston	
<b>Business, Business Organization, or Labor Organization</b>		
Carson Chamber of Commerce	John Wogan	Kenneth Dami
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce	Jeremy Harris	Brissa Sotelo
Wilmington Chamber of Commerce	Dan Hoffman	Cecilia Moreno
Refinery - Marathon	Olga Chavez	Susan Stark
Rail - Union Pacific	Lupe Valdez	
Trucking - Yusen Logistics	Cameron D. Smith	Nikki Nguyen
Labor - USW Local 675	Pat Patterson	

### CSC Meeting Schedule

Table 2-2 Meeting Schedule for Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach CSC

Meeting #	Date and Location	Approximate # of Attendees
1	October 30, 2018 <b>Wilmington Senior Center, Wilmington</b>	100
2	January 10, 2019 <b>Carson Community Center, Carson</b>	60
3	February 12, 2018 <b>Wilmington Senior Center, Wilmington</b>	100
4	March 14, 2019 <b>Wilmington Senior Center, Wilmington</b>	80
5	April 11, 2019 <b>Villages at Cabrillo, Long Beach</b>	85
6	May 9, 2019 <b>Carson Event Center, Carson</b>	80
7	June 2019 <b>Location</b>	
8	July 2019 <b>Location</b>	
9	August 2019 <b>Location</b>	
10	September 2019 <b>Location</b>	

### CSC Charter

A charter was developed for the CSC and a draft was presented to members at Meeting #1. 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/wilmington/charter-english.pdf?sfvrsn=8>

### Meeting Facilitator

Beginning in March 2019, the CSC meetings were facilitated by Valerie Martinez of VMA Communications ([www.vmapr.com](http://www.vmapr.com)). VMA staff also attended meetings to help with meeting facilitation.

### 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 shown in Figure 2-5. The links to the live-stream recording were also posted on the 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 approximately more than 100 views.

Figure 2-4. Screen shot of Facebook Live recording in Wilmington

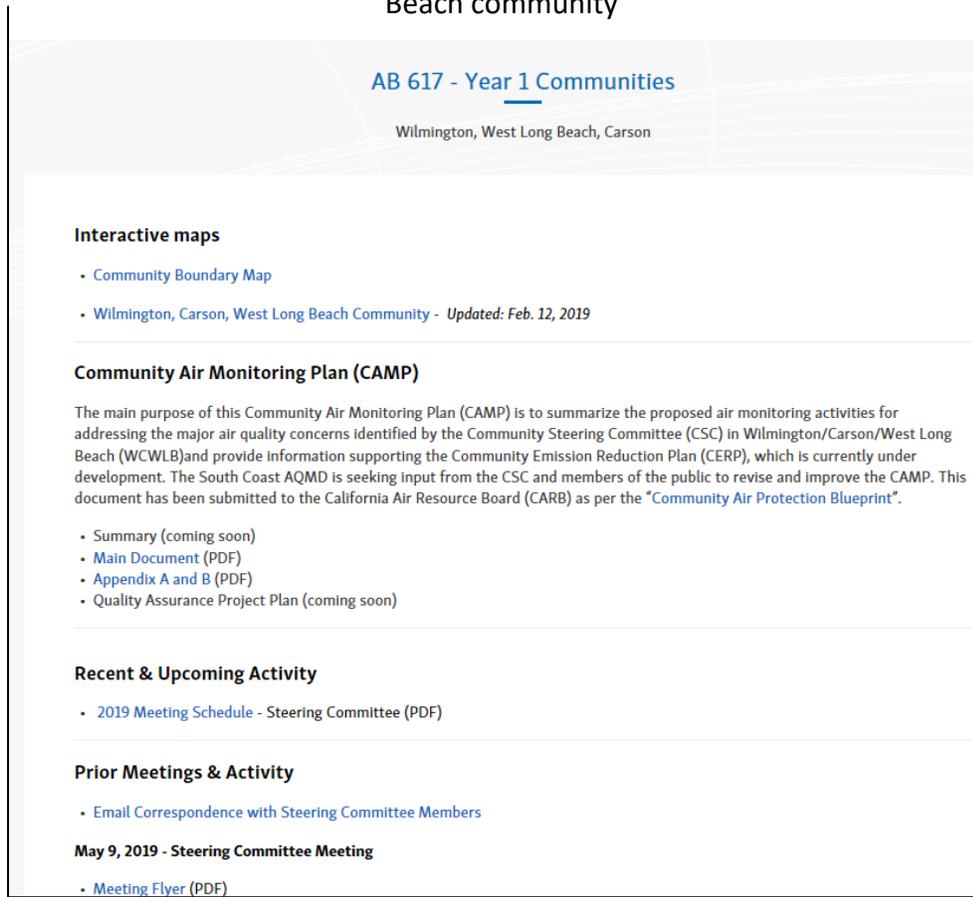


## Community Webpage

A community webpage was created for the Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach AB 617 community. The webpage included 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/wilm>

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 2-6

Figure 2-5. Community webpage for the Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach 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 2-7 is an example of an interactive map that was created for the Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach 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 2-6. Interactive map showing land use in the Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach community

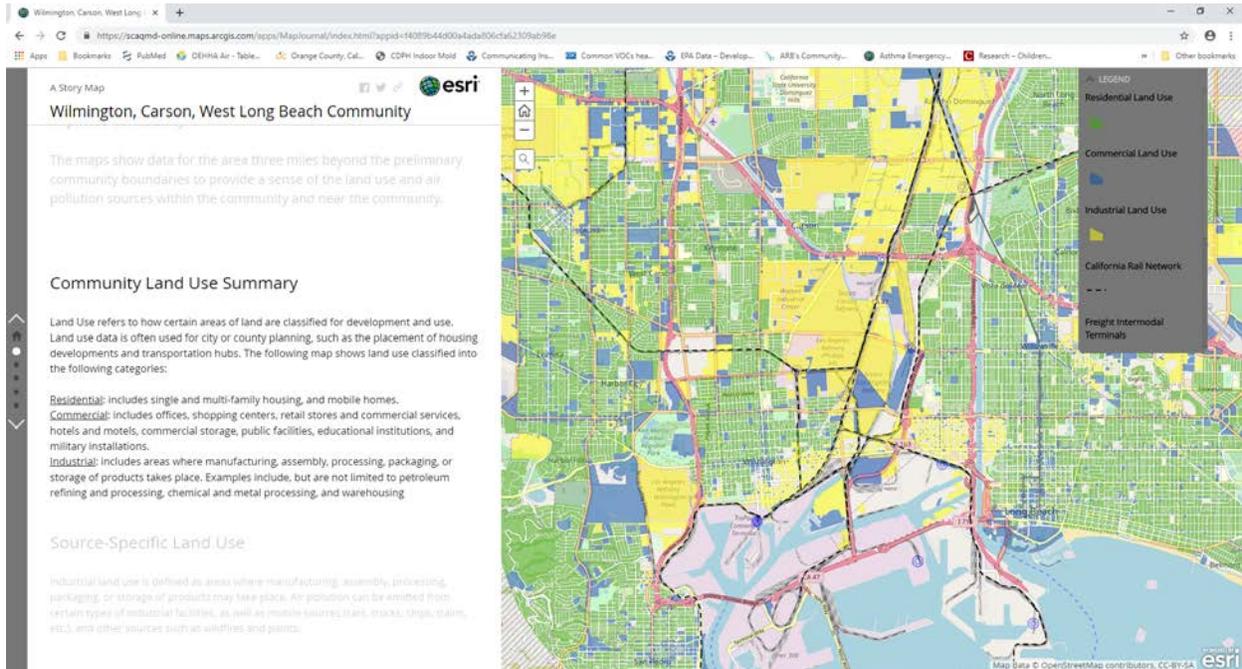


Figure 2-7. Alicia Rivera presented at the May 2019 CSC meeting

### Committee Presenters

A critical part of 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.



Figure 2-8. Chris Chavez presented at the May 2019 CSC meeting



At the April 2019 CSC Meeting, Uduak-Joe Ntuk (City of Los Angeles) presented information about the City's work to address resident concerns about neighborhood oil drilling sites.

At the May 2019 CSC Meeting, Dulce Altamirano (Wilmington resident) opened the meeting with an "icebreaker" that she invented, where committee members paired off and gave each other an item to keep. The committee members described their experience in this exchange and the fun of finding a small object they had with them in the moment. Alicia Rivera (Communities for a Better Environment) and Christopher Chavez

(Coalition for Clean Air) made presentations highlighting their organizations' efforts to address air quality concerns in the community (Figure 2-8 and Figure 2-9).

At the June 2019 CSC Meeting, Tim DeMoss (Port of Los Angeles) presented on the Port's clean air efforts and the Clean Air Action Plan. Additionally, Jesse Marquez (Communities for a Safe Environment) discussed community air monitoring efforts.

At the July 2019 CSC meeting, Susan Stark (Marathon Petroleum) discussed Marathon's role in the community and its clean air efforts.

### 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, air monitoring and other technical analysis needed to develop the Community Air Monitoring Plans and Community Emissions Reduction Plans 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](http://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 below). 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	July 18, 2019	40

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
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

Participant	Affiliation	Community
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	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 conducts one-on-one or small group meetings with members, and attends meetings led by various community organizations. These meetings give CSC members an opportunity to provide input or address concerns directly with staff. Additionally, these meetings give staff an opportunity to answer questions and clarify information requested from CSC members. By attending meetings led by community organizations, staff can gain a better understanding of the unique issues faced by each community.

Broader public engagement is also important to the AB 617 program. Suggestion boxes provided at the CSC meetings allows CSC members, as well as the general public, to provide input and suggestions on the AB 617 process (Figure 2-10). 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 2-9. Suggestion box and signs for a CSC meeting in West Long Beach



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 invited meetings from local organizations, environmental justice groups, city and county government to promote participation in the development and implementation of the CERP. Staff attended more than 5 meetings hosted by other entities in this community to give presentations on AB 617 CERP development, and had more than 35 in-person or phone meetings with CSC members to discuss the CSC process and seek input on 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 in the coming months and years.