






Oil Wells Monitoring

Monitoring & Analysis Division

Oil drilling and production processes can lead to fugitive emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and were identified as an air quality priority in the Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach (WCWL) and South Los Angeles (SLA) communities.

Working very closely with the Community Steering Committee (CSC), South Coast AQMD staff developed a Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) and Community Monitoring Plan (CAMP) strategy to address this air quality concern. The strategy requires the Monitoring and Analysis Division (MAD) and the Office of Compliance and Enforcement (OCE) to use air monitoring data to guide enforcement actions and achieve emission reductions.

There are over 7,500 oil wells in the SLA and WCWL communities combined. The map below shows the location of wells prioritized by the CSC for mobile monitoring surveys.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Area Surveys  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct area-wide mobile monitoring with enforcement team support Identify locations with elevated concentrations of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) |
| 2 | Source Identification  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify emission sources through investigative monitoring |
| 3 | Enforcement  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use Forward Looking InfraRed (FLIR) camera and Toxic Vapor Analyzers (TVA) to investigate for leaks Facilities fix leaks (staff verify) |

MAD and OCE staff use the following tools when conducting air monitoring around oil wells to support the implementation of the Community Air monitoring Plans (CAMPs) in WCLWL and SLA communities.

| | |
|--|---|
| Optical Remote Sensing (ORS) Mobile Laboratory: Used for surveys, identification of persistent elevated levels of pollutants, and/or concentration mapping of air toxic pollutants |  |
| Forward Looking Infrared Camera (FLIR): Used to visualize the colorless gas emissions and aid with field investigations |  |
| Toxic Vapor Analyzer (TVA): Used to monitor for hydrocarbons and support compliance and enforcement efforts |  |

