



# AB 617 Toolkit Launch at the Community Steering Committee Listening Session

  
**South LA**

**Toolkit**

AB617  
Community  
Air Protection  
Program

October 18, 2023

# Language Justice Announcement

## During the Event

### SLOW DOWN

Facilitators, presenters, trainers, participants... anyone speaking during the event, **speak at a moderate pace**. Take a breath after each sentence, **take a pause** after switching speakers and asking questions. Slowing down supports **EVERYONE**, not just interpreters.



### SPEAK-UP

Speak loud and clear! Ideally, using **headphones with a mic**. Interpreters need to be able to hear the speaker over the sound of their own voice when doing simultaneous interpretation.

### SAY YOUR NAME EACH TIME YOU SPEAK

Folks listening to the interpretation might only hear the interpreters voice, so they will not notice when a new person is speaking.



### ONE PERSON AT A TIME

Interpreters can only interpret for **one person at a time**, and they don't want to be put in the position of having to decide which voice to privilege over another.

### LANGUAGE IS NOT A BARRIER

To the contrary, when we have multiple languages in a space, **we have multiple cosmovisions**, and multiple ways of understanding the world. We have the opportunity to expand and deepen our perspective, our imaginations, the possible strategies, tactics, and visions for what is possible.



# Community Agreements / Acuerdos Comunitarios



- 1. Everyone contributes**
- 2. Only one person speaks at a time**
- 3. Respect the opinions of others**
- 4. Participate**
- 5. Elevate others**
- 6. Confidentiality**
- 7. Be mindful of the time**

- 1. *Todos contribuyen***
- 2. *Solo una persona habla a la vez***
- 3. *Respetar las opiniones de los demás***
- 4. *Participar***
- 5. *Elevar a otros***
- 6. *Confidencialidad***
- 7. *Sé consciente del tiempo***





Adan Garcia, Air Quality  
Program Manager at PSR-LA

## Introduction

Welcome and getting to know  
The SCLA-PUSH Project Goals and Project Partners

## AB 617 Toolkit Framing

The development of a South LA Toolkit for the AB 617  
Community Air Protection Program Implementation

## Breakout Groups

Participants will visit each of the working teams  
table to gain information on each of the working  
teams



# Part 1: Introduction to The SCLA-PUSH



# SCLA-PUSH Project Partners



# What are the project goals?



## BUILD OUR CAPACITY

Build our capacity to understand the character of air pollution, its health impacts and the regulatory process.



## MOBILIZE OUR COLLECTIVE POWER

Mobilize our collective power to conduct community-driven science to address systemic failures in air pollution data collection



## ENSURE SOUTH CENTRAL LA COMMUNITIES

Ensure South Central LA communities receive a fair share of resources available to improve air quality and community health.



## ADVANCE A JUST TRANSITION

To advance a community-centered Just Transition toward cleaner air and healthier communities



# South LA Toolkit: AB 617 Community Air Protection Program



**This SCLA-PUSH AB617 Community toolkit is for YOU—for community residents, advocates, and decision makers to learn about air pollution in South Central Los Angeles, the AB617 Community Air Protection Program, and opportunities to take action and participate in the AB617 process. Together, we can bring cleaner, healthier air to our community.**

Hi! I'm Iretha,

a resident of South Los Angeles. Like you, I'm curious to learn how I can help improve our air.

Hey everyone!

My name is Ruth.

I grew up in Sur de Los Angeles. I'm a community leader trained by the SCLA-PUSH project, and now I am serving my community as an Air Quality Ambassador in the South Los Angeles AB617 program. I am excited to walk you through how we can improve the air in South LA.





**South LA**

**Toolkit**

AB617  
Community  
Air Protection  
Program

**Part 2:  
The South LA Toolkit  
for the  
AB 617 Community Air  
Protection Program**

## What are residents saying about South LA's air quality?

Through our work with SCLA-PUSH project, we have been able to understand residents' knowledge, experience, and concerns about air pollution and work together with the community to better assess the air quality issues in South LA.



Recently, we asked residents to complete a survey about their concerns regarding air quality, and their knowledge of AB617.



That's my first question. What is AB617?

# Toolkit Section 1: South LA Community & Air Quality



**50%** of residents said they know little about the air quality in their neighborhoods.

Overall, they rated the air quality as average.

Oh, lots of folks still don't know! We need to spread the word.  
What did residents say about the sources of pollution?

They were most concerned about air pollution from these top 3 sources—

**24%**  
cars / trucks

**23%**  
auto body shops

**19%**  
oil drilling sties

I bet they had some good solutions!

Tell me more!

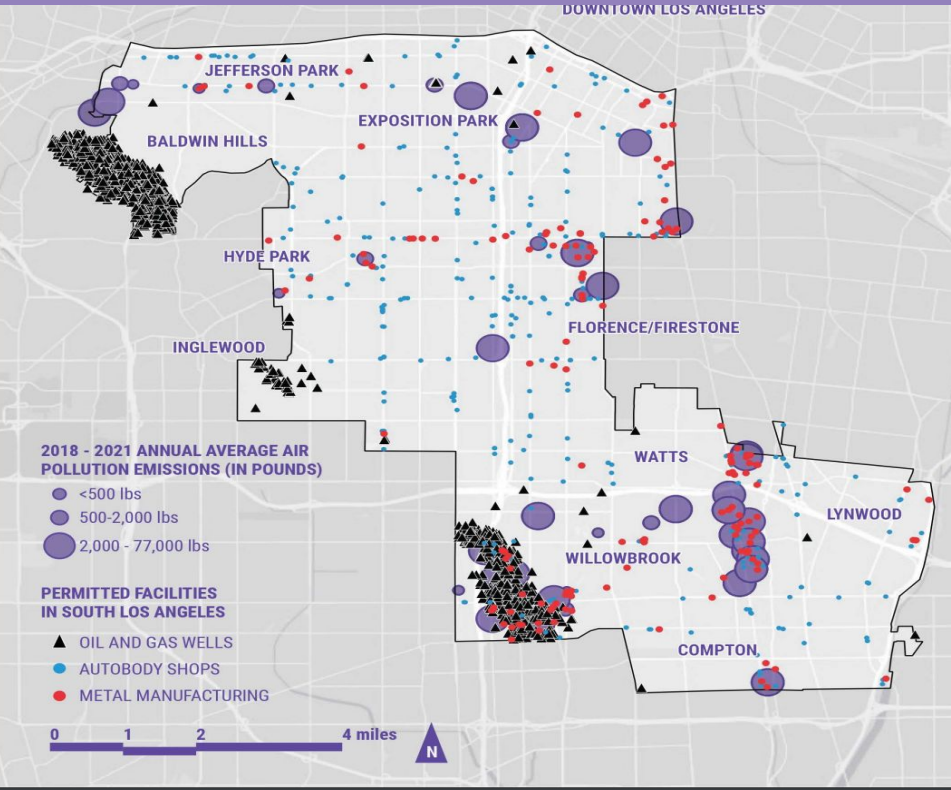
They did!

**17%**  
chose improving green spaces and the built environment

**16%**  
chose more pollution enforcement

**15%**  
chose establishing new air quality regulations and legislation

# Toolkit Section 1: South LA Community & Air Quality



Only 36 facilities out of 3,000+ in South LA have reported emissions to SCAQMD in the past five years.

This means we have a big gap between what SCAQMD is using to calculate air pollution and what is really happening in the community. However, the data from these 36 sources is useful.

The new maps will split the different facilities into three separate maps, each will show the emissions for an individual pollution source.

# Toolkit Section 1: South LA Community & Air Quality



Out of all the sources, we identified the top 4 industries that concerned community residents—auto body shops, dry cleaners, metal manufacturing, and oil and gas sites. Based on the permits from SCAQMD, there are approximately the following sites in South LA:

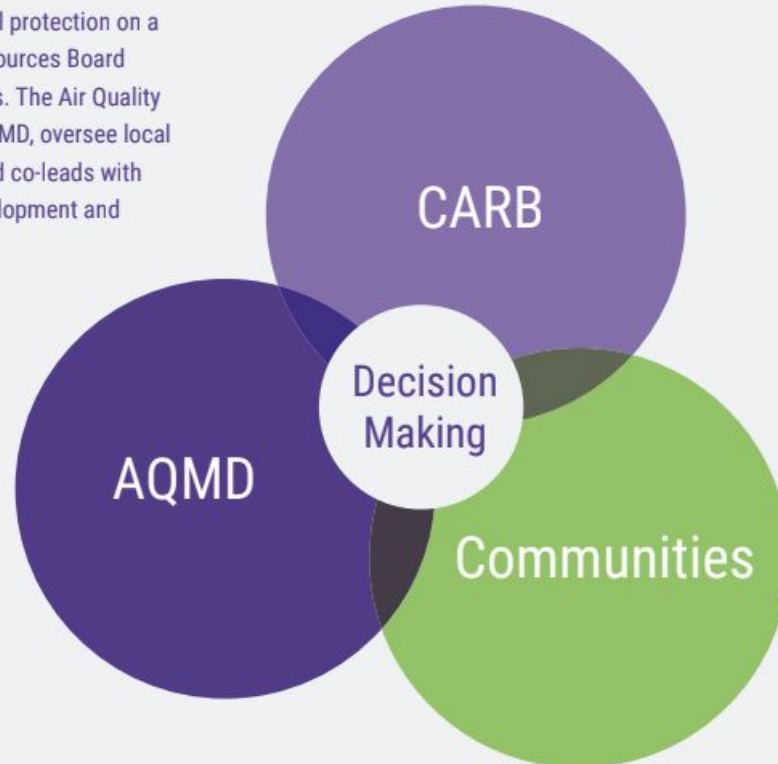


\* Does not include the Inglewood and Baldwin Hills Oil fields surrounding and within close proximity to South LA.

# Toolkit Section 2: The AB 617 Program



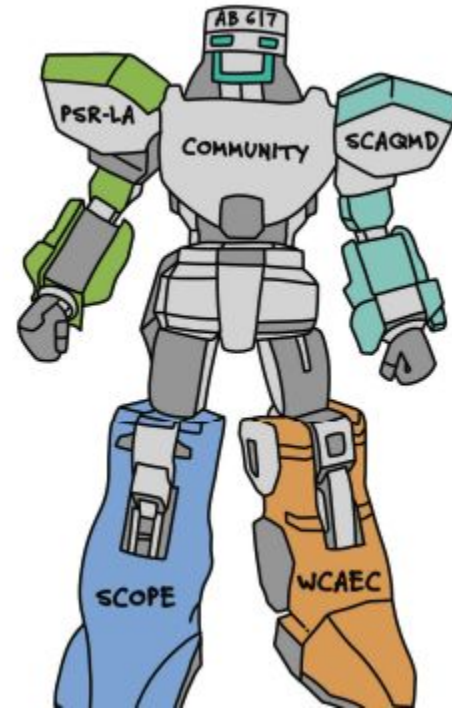
**Here is a picture of how AB617 decision-making authority overlaps.** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) oversees environmental protection on a national scale. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) oversees the AB617 programs. The Air Quality Management Districts, such as SCAQMD, oversee local stationary sources of air pollution and co-leads with the AB617 communities on plan development and implementation.



# Toolkit Section 2: The AB 617 Program Co-leadership



- PSR-LA, SCOPE, and WCAEC have a track record of success of over 20 years of experience in working in SLA organizing, building relationships, and advocating for solutions to the ongoing health threats linked to environmental justice issues in the community. They co-lead with SCAQMD.
- SCAQMD serves as the technical advisor and agency co-lead in this co-leadership model.





# Toolkit Section 2: The AB 617 Program Community Selection



Wow, so communities are empowered to define solutions and make decisions about how to improve their air!

So, how do they do that?

After we were selected as an AB617 community, the community co-leads set up the South LA AB617 Community Steering Committee to create our Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP). In 2022, the CERP was approved by SCAQMD and CARB. The planning process was fun!

We worked with the committee, which includes mostly community residents, some small business owners, some community-based organization staff, and some local government staff. Here are the committee's tasks:

# Toolkit Section 2: The AB 617 Program South LA Selection



## South LA Timeline To The AB617 Community Air Protection Program

 2017  
**AB617 Signed into law**

 2020  
**Building Community Power**

 2022  
**Final Community Emissions**

2019  
  
**SCLA-PUSH Launched**

2021  
  
**February:** South LA Officially Selected as an AB617 Community

**April:** South LA AB617 Community Steering Committee  
Year long planning and development process for the Community Emissions Reduction Plan and Community Air Monitoring Plan


2022 - 2023

 2022  
**June:** Community Emissions Reduction Plan approved by the SCAQMD Governing Board

**August:** Community Emissions Reduction Plan approved and finally adopted by the CARB Governing Board.

**September:** CERP Implementation Begins  
Community Steering Committee Meeting



 2023 - 2027  
**Continuation of the South LA CERP Implementation**  
Opportunities for community engagement in the actions implementation

## So what's the plan?

The South Los Angeles Community Emission Reduction Plan, CERP for short, outlines goals and actions by our community steering committee, SCAQMD, and CARB to reduce air pollution in the South LA community. This plan includes actions to reduce pollution and/or exposures, and it will be implemented in partnership with community members over the next several years

# Toolkit Section 3: South LA CERP Priorities



Mobile sources, such as cars and trucks



Auto body shops



General industrial facilities, such as dry cleaners and auto body shops



Metal facilities, where there is welding, melting, and recycling of metals



Oil and gas industry, such as gas stations and oil wells



Develop ideas to address the problems and how we could put those ideas into action.



Identify air quality priorities (e.g., oil and gas, mobile sources, air monitoring, metal facilities, autobody shops, etc.)



Strategize to address the air quality priorities



Implement strategies

What's next?

We are going to implement the CERP plan.

**This is what we need your help with!**

# Toolkit Section 3: South LA CERP Actions



## **In general, the CERP recommends these actions:**

Educate the community and businesses about how to reduce exposure to air pollution and reduce emissions

Develop regulations/rules to capture new sources of air pollution, such as more self-reporting requirements

Enforce new rules to ensure compliance and that new industries practices reduce emissions

Provide incentives to accelerate the adoption of cleaner technologies

Conduct community air monitoring to keep tabs on the emissions

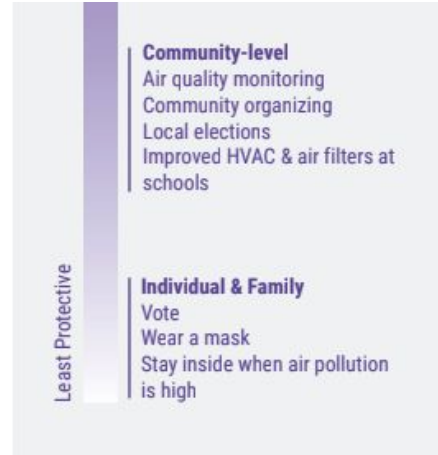
# Toolkit Section 3: CERP Actions Effectiveness



Here is a diagram that makes it easier to understand. It shows policy solutions organized from most to least protective.



**From the top** = the most protective solutions including new cleaner technologies, laws, and regulations that would significantly reduce or remove sources of pollution.



**From the bottom** = actions that individuals and businesses can take to protect themselves until we are able to take the most protective action, removing the source of the pollution.

# Toolkit Section 3: CERP Actions Effectiveness



## Metal Facilities Case Example

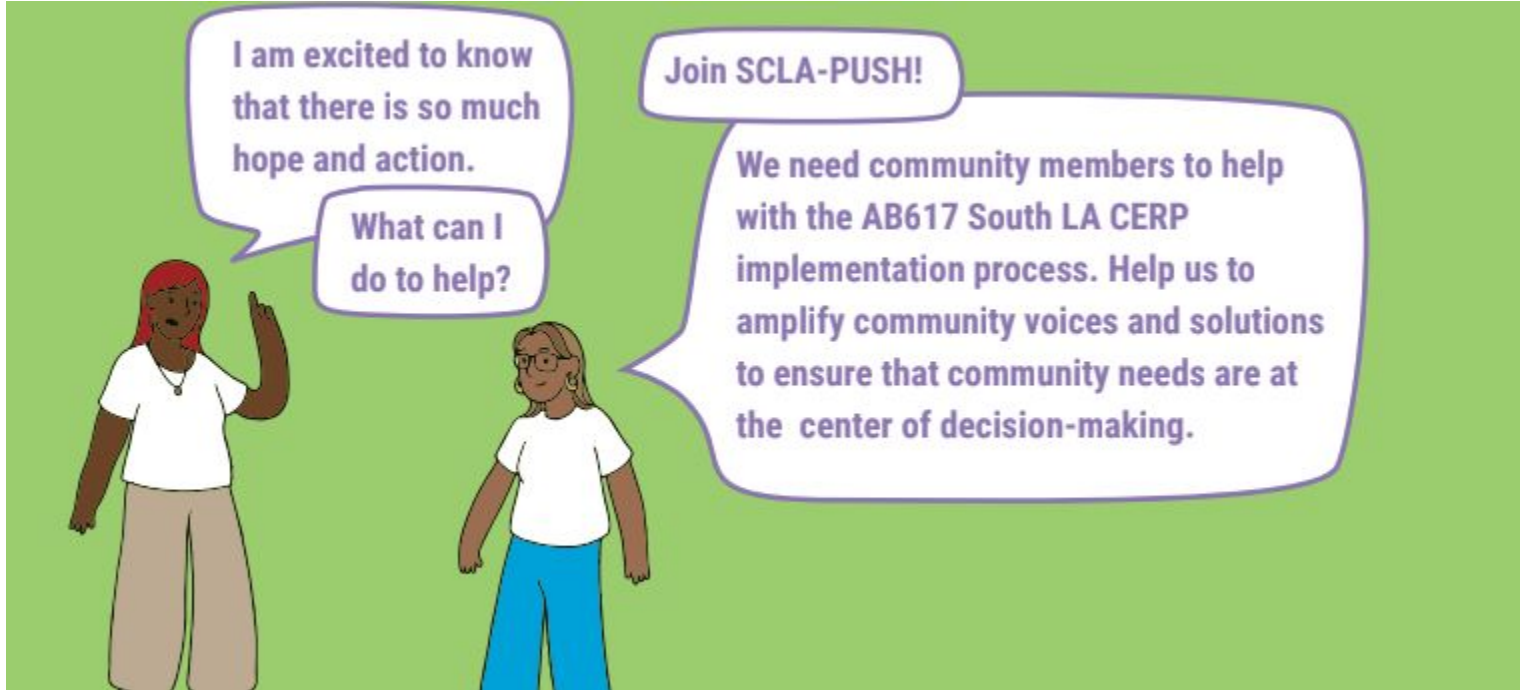
CERP ACTIONS	Solution Type	What We Want
Identify and prioritize air quality issues related to metal processing facilities.	Community and Industry Level	Identify air quality priorities to enforce best practices and innovations to reduce pollution from metal manufacturing facilities. Ex: Enclose facilities, add sprinkler systems, trap emissions in stacks, use less toxic chemicals for metal manufacturing (instead of hexavalent chromium).
Provide the Community Steering Committee with an informational handout or presentation with detailed emissions data and an overview on pollutants and toxins that may be found in the community (e.g., hexavalent chromium, lead, nitric oxides)	Community level	Expand emissions reporting requirements to identify data gaps, so SCAQMD can do a better job of informing the community and enforcing rules.

Oh wow! I was not aware of this.

How do I know which actions are more effective to protect me and my family?

For example, adding air filters to schools can immediately protect children. However, ultimately, we need regulations to create health protective zones around schools so that toxic oil wells are nowhere near our children.

# Toolkit Section 4: Community in Action







## Part 3: Working Team Breakout

# Working Team Breakout Session



## **Just Transition Working Team :**

**Facilitators: Adan Garcia (PSR-LA), Estephanie Garcia (PSR-LA), and Jacquelyn Badejo (Watts Clean Air and Energy Committee)**

## **Oil and Gas Working Team:**

**Facilitators: Gina Charusombat (SCOPE), Hugo Garcia (Esperanza Community Housing), Ruth Andrade (SCOPE)**

## **Community Mobility Team:**

**Facilitator: Jennier Ahumada (University of Southern California) and Linda Cleveland (Watts Clean Air and Energy Committee)**

## **Community Air Monitoring:**

**Facilitator: Jessica Santos (University of Southern California) and Marisela Rosales (University of Southern California)**

# To Becoming a South Los Angeles AB 617 CSC Member



**CONTACT ANY OF THE COMMUNITY CO-LEADS!!**



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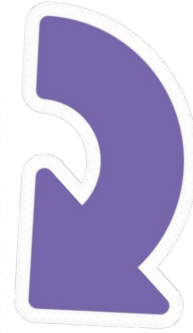


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**Scan here**



Fill out an application to become a South LA  
AB617 Community Steering Committee member



# THANK YOU!

**For more information:**

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**South LA**

The logo for the South LA Toolkit features the text "South LA" in a white, bold, sans-serif font, centered within a green rectangular box with a white border. Above the text is a circular seal with a gold border and a green center, containing a stylized map of the South LA area.

**Toolkit**

AB617  
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