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# Executive Summary

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The South Los Angeles (SLA) Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) is a critical part of implementing Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617),<sup>1</sup> a California law that addresses the disproportionate impacts of air pollution in environmental justice (EJ) communities. “Environmental justice” is defined as “the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.”<sup>2</sup> The AB 617 program invests resources and focuses on improving air quality in EJ communities.

AB 617 communities are designated by California Air Resources Board (CARB), and they specify the plan(s) for the community as either an emissions reduction program, an air monitoring system, or both. Within one year of an AB 617 community designation, the local air district must develop and adopt an emissions reduction program in consultation with CARB, community-based organizations, affected sources, and local governmental bodies, which must be implemented within five years.<sup>3</sup> The air monitoring system must be developed and deployed within one year of community designation.<sup>4</sup> An essential element of the program is partnership and collaboration with the community to address the community’s air quality priorities and develop actions to address the air quality priorities.

The Community Steering Committee (CSC) is a diverse group of people who live, work, own businesses, or attend school within the community. Additionally, local land-use agencies, public health agencies, regulatory agencies, and elected officials may have representation on the CSC. The CSC guides the development and implementation of the emissions reduction program and air monitoring system. In 2018, CARB designated their first AB 617 communities (Year 1 communities). On February 25, 2021, CARB designated Year 3 communities, including SLA which was designated for both an emissions reduction program and an air monitoring system. This CERP serves as the emissions reduction program and outlines goals and actions by the CSC, South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD), and CARB to reduce air pollution in the SLA community. Additionally, a Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) will be developed as the air monitoring system and will further explain air monitoring efforts included in this CERP. Findings from air monitoring will help to identify and evaluate next steps. South Coast AQMD will work with the CSC to review those findings and make necessary adjustments to implement the SLA CERP.

For this community, South Coast AQMD used a community co-lead model to ensure that the development and implementation of the SLA CERP is a community-driven process. The three

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<sup>1</sup> California Health and Safety Code, Section 44391.2

<sup>2</sup> California Government Code, Section 65040.12

<sup>3</sup> California Health and Safety Code, Section 44391.2 (b)

<sup>4</sup> California Health and Safety Code, Section 42705.5 (b)

community co-lead organizations are: Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles, Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education, and Watts Clean Air and Energy Committee. The community co-leads were integral to the development of the CERP by providing additional insight about the community and having a unique knowledge of air quality issues within their community as well as connections with community members. As discussed in Chapters 2 and 3 of the CERP, community co-leads participated in numerous meetings and helped to develop the structure of CSC meetings to better connect with community members and enrich the overall process of identifying air quality issues and potential solutions.

The SLA AB 617 work was unique compared to the previous communities that the South Coast AQMD staff had worked with as SLA was the first community where the South Coast AQMD staff and community co-leads led CSC meetings together. An additional complexity to this community, was that all meetings were held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To help facilitate meetings, a professional facilitator was used to ensure that South Coast AQMD staff and community co-leads were collaborating equally in the development of the CERP. Connecting and creating relationships was more challenging since in-person meetings were not possible during the pandemic. It is important to recognize the dedication of all the community co-leads, CSC members, and community representatives to continuously work and collaborate to develop the CERP and CAMP through the challenges of the pandemic.

Based on the sources of air pollution impacting the community, the SLA CSC identified the following air quality priorities to be addressed by this CERP:

- Mobile Sources
- Auto Body Shops
- General Industrial Facilities
- Metal Processing Facilities
- Oil and Gas Industry

At its core, this CERP seeks to address these air quality priorities with actions that reduce air pollution emissions from sources within the community and reduce air pollution exposure for the people in the community. Actions in this plan include:

- Developing regulations to capture new sources of air pollution;
- Enforcing rules to ensure compliance with existing regulations;
- Providing incentives to accelerate the adoption of cleaner technologies; and
- Conducting air monitoring to characterize emissions.

These efforts will provide critical information to help guide investigations and provide public information. Conducting outreach will also provide useful information to support the public in making informed choices. Collaborative efforts with other regulatory agencies, community-based organizations, businesses, and other stakeholders will amplify the impact of these actions. Many of the actions included in this CERP will be conducted during the five-year implementation

timeframe of this plan, which begins at CERP adoption. However, there are some actions (e.g., implementation of regulations and best management practices, ongoing enforcement activities, notifications, incentive programs) initiated during the implementation timeframe that will continue to result in emission and exposure reductions beyond the five-year timeframe of this CERP. The focus of this plan is to improve air quality in the SLA community through concentrated efforts and community partnerships. The community co-leads, CSC, South Coast AQMD, and CARB will continue to engage in the process of implementing the CERP and tracking its progress during the five-year timeframe.

### The Reader's Guide to this Community Emissions Reduction Plan

This CERP is organized into six chapters, containing background information and strategies for reducing exposure to air pollution in the SLA community:

- Chapter 1: Introduction, provides background information about the AB 617 program and community designation and CERP development timeline;
- Chapter 2
  - Chapter 2a: Community Profile, provides context in understanding attributes of the community, including a general overview of the community, a discussion of community issues, and a characterization of public health data and socioeconomic factors;
  - Chapter 2b: Community Profile and CERP Development as Presented by the Community Co-Leads, written primarily by the community co-leads and provides the characteristics of SLA from the perspective of the community, the role of community co-leads in developing this CERP, and also includes quotes from community members (*Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in Chapter 2b are those of the SLA community co-leads and/or community and do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of South Coast AQMD.*);
  - Chapter 2c: Just Transition, written primarily by the community co-leads and provides their view on an equitable transition to alternative technologies (*Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in Chapter 2c are those of the SLA community co-leads and/or community and do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of South Coast AQMD.*);
  - Chapter 2d: Emissions and Source Attribution, provides an overview of air pollution sources in the community;
- Chapter 3: Community Outreach, Community Steering Committee, Community Engagement, and Public Process, provides details on community meetings, the CSC process, community co-leads, and community engagement;

- Chapter 4: Enforcement Overview and History, provides information about past and ongoing enforcement activities conducted by both the South Coast AQMD and CARB;
- Chapter 5: Chapter 5 is organized by air quality priorities, followed by actions to address each air quality priority. The actions are organized in a table that identifies the entities responsible for each action and the implementation timeframe;
  - Chapter 5a: Introduction to Actions to Reduce Community Air Pollution;
  - Chapter 5b: Mobile Sources;
  - Chapter 5c: Auto Body Shops;
  - Chapter 5d: General Industrial Facilities;
  - Chapter 5e: Metal Processing Facilities;
  - Chapter 5f: Oil and Gas Industry;
- Chapter 6: Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) Summary, provides a summary of the CAMP and overview of the air monitoring approach;
- Appendix 2a: Community Profile, provides data and impacts of toxic air pollutants and other environmental pollution and public health, social, and economic factors;
- Appendix 2b: Environmental Justice Timeline as Presented by the Community Co-Leads, provides a timeline created by the community co-leads that reflects the environmental justice struggle (*Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in Appendix 2b are those of the SLA community co-leads and/or community and do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of South Coast AQMD.*);
- Appendix 2d: Source Attribution, provides emissions information;
- Appendix 3: Community Outreach, Community Steering Committee, Community Engagement, and Public Process provides additional information on committee documents, meeting materials, and community engagement;
- Appendix 4: Enforcement History and Overview, includes an overview of authority, South Coast AQMD and CARB enforcement programs, and South Coast AQMD enforcement history;
- Appendix 5a: Ongoing Efforts, discusses ongoing efforts from government agencies as they relate to the air quality priorities;
- Appendices 5b through 5f, provides additional supporting information for their respective chapters and air quality priorities, including an overview of community impacts, emissions, and regulatory efforts; and

- Appendix 7: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Analysis, discusses if any potential adverse environmental impacts will occur from the implementation of this CERP or if the actions are exempt under CEQA and why.