

AB 617 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Imperial County
April 2026 | Volume 17



PROJECT ACE VISITS THE SALTON SEA

The Project ACE: Air Community Education (Project ACE) partnership between Imperial County APCD and Southwest High School Career Technical Education Program continues being a success! In March 2026, Imperial County APCD and over 20 high school students participating in the Community Health Worker Program visited the Salton Sea Management Area Restoration Site. The field trip to the Salton Sea aligned with ICAPCD's Project ACE: Air Community Education program by giving students an opportunity to experience a real-life application and a hands-on learning experience of environmental health issues and air quality issues impacting their community. The discussion topics during the Salton Sea visit included active restoration efforts, dust emission reductions, and natural habitat improvements.

In April 2026, Imperial County APCD will visit Southwest High School to recognize students participating in Project ACE. During the ceremony, students will present reports, air quality brochures, and learning experiences from their studies of air quality impacts to community health in Imperial County. They will also celebrate Earth Day! Project ACE has proven to have a lasting impact on students within the Assembly Bill 617 Calexico, Heber, and El Centro community.



NORTH END PHASE I COMMUNITY

Brawley–Westmorland–Calipatria

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URBAN GREENING APPLICATIONS

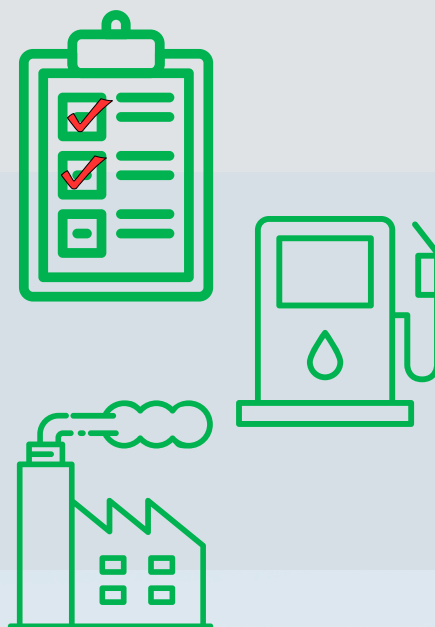
Community greening projects (also known as “urban greening” projects) establish and enhance the built environment by using natural solutions to mitigate air quality impacts. Under this strategy, the AB 617 North-Imperial Community Steering Committee is proposing to initially designate a minimum of \$200,000 in funding towards the implementation of community greening projects.

In April 2026, the AB 617 North-Imperial Community Steering Committee will be tasked with identifying urban greening project guidelines and language in Request For Proposals. The application period will begin in Summer 2026 for qualifying applicants in the AB 617 Community of Brawley, Westmorland, and Calipatria.

ENHANCING PERMITTING CONDITIONS

The Permitting Division is focused on a review of permit operating conditions for facilities requiring a Permit to Operate in the North End Community, which include operations such as automotive paint booths, hay compressing, and seed milling. The permit conditions will be enhanced to include clear and descriptive language, measurable operating parameters, references to external documents, & periodic self-inspections.

In 2026, facility owners and operators with a Permit to Operate in the North End Community will begin to receive these revised permit conditions, and they will be given time to implement enhanced requirements. Imperial County APCD is committed to ensuring all permitted facilities are controlling facility-wide emissions with the best available control technology.



SOUTH END COMMUNITY

Calexico-El Centro-Heber
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ENFORCEMENT AT GASOLINE FACILITIES

The Compliance Division continues focusing on comprehensive inspections at gasoline dispensing facilities, specifically in the AB 617 South Corridor of Calexico, Heber, and El Centro. Gasoline fuel has the potential to emit volatile organic compounds and toxic air contaminants (such as benzene) which contribute to serious health impacts to public health. It is important that APCD Compliance Division verifies these gasoline dispensing facilities are maintaining vapor recovery components in a leak free state and a vapor tight state. Gasoline dispensing facilities in compliance are monitoring vapor leak warnings and alarms from the in-station diagnostic system. The goal of the Compliance Division is to keep gasoline dispensing facilities in full compliance with air quality regulations.



BENEFITS OF AB 617 FUNDING AT SCHOOLS

The Meadows Union School District received AB 617 funding for electrical vehicle infrastructure and for the paving of unpaved areas at their school in the South End Corridor of Calexico, Heber, and El Centro. In April 2026, representatives of the school district will be presenting to the Community Steering Committee the benefits realized for students, parents, and faculty.

Beyond emission reductions, these projects improved infrastructure for a public school serving a socioeconomically disadvantaged population. Meadows Union School District will present new opportunities granted to their school district, as a result of their Assembly Bill 617 funded projects.



GENERAL AIR DISTRICT UPDATES

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RULE 900 AMENDMENT & TITLE V UPDATES

* Imperial County Air Pollution Control District is currently working on possible amendments to Rule 900 removing Affirmative Defense Provisions due to US Court of Appeals decisions. The Air District is working on holding informational workshops with various stakeholders and the public. Final actions updating the rule will be pending finalization of any litigation and receiving guidance from the US EPA.



2025

Annual Enforcement Review



RULE 900 – TITLE V FACILITIES

During the February 2026 North-End Community Steering Committee meeting, Imperial County APCD staff presented a brief update on possible revisions to the Air District's Rule 900 in pursuance of consistency with EPA's changes to the Title V program. Rule 900 applies to facilities obtaining or subject to a Title V permit pursuant to the federal Clean Air Act.

As of this publication, Rule 900 revisions have been deferred due to a recent court decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals in September 2025 reversing EPA's changes. The ICAPCD will remain in communication with U.S. EPA for any future guidance that may reopen the need for revisions to Rule 900.

2025 ANNUAL ENFORCEMENT REVIEW

In March 2026, Imperial County APCD published a 2025 Annual Enforcement Review which provides a retrospective of efforts by the Permitting Division and Compliance Division.

For example, the Permitting Division began enhancing permit conditions for gasoline dispensing facilities to include detailed records of vapor recovery monitoring alarms. Meanwhile, the Compliance Division issued over 60 Notices to Comply and over 100 Notices of Violations in 2025.

This 2025 Annual Enforcement Review is available online on the ICAPCD main website.



NORTH END MEETING DATES

- ☐ Monday, May 18 at Westmorland Youth Hall
- ☐ Monday, June 15 at Calipatria High School Library
- ☐ Monday, July 18 at Brawley Teen Center

MONTHLY MEETINGS

SOUTH END MEETING DATES

- ☐ No May Meeting
- ☐ No June Meeting
- ☐ Wednesday, July 8 on Zoom – Link Online AB 617 Website

QUARTERLY MEETINGS



www.icab617community.org/