

AB617 Community Steering Committee Meeting (El Centro-Heber-Calexico)

Frequently Asked Questions

February 2023

Question	Answer	Answer Provided By	Date Question Asked
Community Steering Committee Members			
1. What kind of input is San Diego State University (SDSU) requesting from the AB617 Community Steering Committee (CSC) and the local community in regards to the Community-Focused Collaborative Research Plan?	SDSU is focused on the first-hand knowledge of the community and working to get community voices via community engagement meetings. The goal is to bring people together to have a series of activities to help identify concerns (e.g., diseases, groups of people). We are not requesting any action from the CSC at this time. SDSU is still awaiting a response from the Institutional Review Board (IRB). Once the IRB approved the Community-Focused Collaborative Research Plan, SDSU hopes to engage CSC members in a community capacity and not an official one.	SDSU	2/8/23
2. Where can information be found on San Diego State University's Community-Focused Collaborative Research engagement plan?	The engagement plan information has been submitted and approved by CARB.	SDSU	2/8/23
3. CSC members know that there is a request to expand the AB617 corridor beyond El Centro, Heber, and Calexico which would include another CSC. If the proposed request for AB617 CSC expansion were to happen, would SDSU community engagement committee be a separate committee?	Imperial County Air Pollution (ICAPCD) has nominated the north end of Imperial Valley and that has proved to be a challenging task. CARB is approving the expansion and it would include. There is a hearing from CARB on 2/23 to decide the proposed communities of Westmorland, Brawley, and CaliPatria communities are approved this year. Given that the SDSU community engagement committee is an effort through Comite Civico del Valle (CCV), California Air Resources Board (CARB) and SDSU, this committee would be different from the AB617 CSC efforts	Imperial County Air Pollution (ICAPCD)	2/8/23
4. Based on the Community Air Monitoring data, which day has shown to have the most air contamination?	It is difficult to pinpoint this, considering the many variables (e.g., the weather) that may impact air contamination. At the next meeting, CCV can analyze this data further to retrieve this information by viewing averages day by day or week by week. Data can also be analyzed by the hour; however, the data platform tends to crash due to the large amount of data.	CCV	2/8/23

	Future analyses may also include any trends or hotspots.		
5. Are there only IVAN 617 monitors available for review on the AQview website or are there other monitors as well?	All monitors under CARB and the IVAN network are available on AQview. The AQview will soon have AB617 communities as well as an effort to integrate more monitor data across California.	CCV and CARB	2/8/23
6. Will other pollutants, besides PM 2.5 and PM10, be captured with the new IVAN Mobile Monitor ("Rayo")?	CCV is currently looking at various technologies as the current use of optical sensors captures particular matter and is impacted by movement. CCV is looking into a system that monitors the intake of air and, are in communication with companies to support this effort.	CCV	2/8/23
7. Are there plans to monitor methane with Rayo (the IVAN Mobile Monitor)?	Methane is already being monitored; however, there are plans to incorporate it into "Rayo", the mobile monitor. Right now, Rayo is typically being used to conduct maintenance on the monitors. When the new technology for sensors is decided on, CCV will monitor for methane as well.	CCV	2/8/23
8. . What has been done to improve their quality conditions shown by the Community Air Monitoring data, that could possibly be impacted by the border crossing lines into Mexicali?	The air pollution is noticeable in the data as well as in our everyday lives. There is difficulty controlling the flow of traffic in Calexico. The air quality issue was brought to the attention of Imperial County Transportation Commission (ICTC) and currently has not started being addressed.	CCV	2/8/23
9. How many monitors are there in each city in the Corridor with respect to their urban sprawl and their corresponding peaks?	CCV does not have the numbers available currently for all cities. However, Heber has 2 monitors - one monitor is at the school district, and on Dogwood - which was a recommendation from CCV four years ago. The numbers and percentage per capita for El Centro and Calexico can be presented at the next meeting during the Community Air Monitoring presentation	CCV	2/8/23
10. What is the range of the air monitors? According to the maps, there aren't any monitors that are close to the border.	There are 2 monitors near the border-one is on 1 st Street at a tax office and the other is at the airport. CCV can look at trends for these two monitors specifically, as opposed to looking at the entire city of Calexico and bring back this information for the March 2023 CSC meeting	CCV	2/8/23

11. Does Calexico monitor car traffic into Mexicali similar to how Mexicali monitors car traffic into Calexico?	CalTrans will be implementing traffic monitoring from Calexico into Mexicali this year similar that is like the monitor in San Ysidro.	CCV	2/8/23
12. What is the budget for the Electric Bus Project and is there a requirement for matching funds?	There is not a full budget nor a cap for the Electric Bus Project. However, there is sufficient funding for this project. It is estimated that charging stations cost approximately \$60k to \$150k and electric buses cost \$450k. The budget would be dependent on the number of applications submitted.	IPCACD	2/8/23
13. What is the closing date for the Electric Bus Project applications?	There is no Request for Proposal (RFP) as of today and, as a result, there is no closing date.	IPCACD	2/8/23
14. Will technical assistance be provided by the Air District for schools who want to apply for the Electric Bus Project?	Yes, there is technical assistance available to everyone who applies. The Air District will follow up with any incomplete applications.	IPCACD	2/8/23
15. Are chargers applicable to only the buses or will chargers be available for the public as well?	This will depend on the application, but individuals may apply for just a charger. This would be a separate application.	IPCACD	2/8/23
Public Comment			
No public comment.			

January 2023

Question	Answer	Answer Provided By	Date Question Asked
Community Steering Committee Members			
1. How many active members do we have on the AB 617 Community Steering Committee (CSC), including alternates?	There are currently 8 active members in total – 4 primary and 4 alternate. There are currently 15 vacancies total (primary and alter and recruitment for new members will continue until all the vacancies are filled.	ICAPCD (Imperial County Air Pollution Control District)	1/11/23

2. Did the air monitoring update only include Calexico, or did it also include the corridor? Is there a way to see specific areas that may have higher contamination levels?	The data allows for more insight into specific areas such as Northern and/or Southern areas of Calexico. CCV can re-examine the data to look at the air pollution levels in specific areas. Furthermore, the next presentation will have more information regarding where the next monitors will be installed. Lastly, peak time measurements will be recorded to give more insight into what may be occurring at a specific time of day.	CCV (Comite Civico del Valle) and ICAPCD	1/11/23
3. Are the air quality spikes from the winter months being easily communicated to residents? For example, via a text message notification system.	Yes, there are 2 communication methods. This first is CCV Air Alerts (website: IVAN Imperial - Alerts Air (ivan-imperial.org)). The second is called AirNow through the regulatory alert system (website: AirNow.gov). These two communication systems allow for email and text notifications.	ICAPCD	1/11/23
Public Comment			
No public comment.			

*There was no AB 617 CSC Meeting held in December 2022.

November 2022

Question	Answer	Answer Provided By	Date Question Asked
Community Steering Committee Members			
1. Regarding the haboob (i.e., dust storm) on October 6 th : Where are the locations of the dust cameras?	Geographically, each camera is located at their stations in El Centro, Brawley, Westmorland, and Niland.	ICAPCD (Imperial County Air Pollution Control District)	11/9/2022
2. What is the number of dust cameras available?	There are a total of 8 dust cameras at 4 different sites.	ICAPCD	11/9/2022
3. Where can individuals access the live stream of the dust cameras?	A live feed of the dust cameras can be found on the IACPD website. The direct link is shared here: Dust Cams of Imperial County, CA - Imperial County Air Pollution Control District	ICAPCD	11/9/2022

<p>4. Is there a link on the ICAPCD website to access the irrigation districts cameras as well?</p>	<p>No, there is currently no link to the irrigation district's cameras on the ICACPD. However, this may be of consideration in the future.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>11/9/2022</p>
<p>5. Regarding the haboob (I.e., dust storm) on October 6th: Which actions took place to alert the public about the haboob? Were there any actions that did not take place that should have?</p>	<p>The haboob was an unexpected event called a surge. Stations in San Diego and in Phoenix were aware of an incoming storm, however, were unaware that it would develop into a haboob and do not have specific advisories for this type of event.</p> <p>Folks can access the following resources to keep update on any advisories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Weather Service • ICAPCD website • Twitter • Facebook • Sonoma Technology <p>There were no advisories sent regarding the haboob, however, there was some knowledge that one was incoming. An alert was sent via a new program around 1:30 pm but the National Weather Service reported a glitch and did not receive the alert. The alert was designed to connect with the National Weather Service to warn the public to keep their windows up, stay indoors, limit exposure, avoid outdoor activity, and to run an air conditioner or air purifier.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>11/9/2022</p>
<p>6. Do any of the community air monitors have the capability for cameras?</p>	<p>Currently, the community air monitors do not have cameras. They are measuring in real time for particular matter only. The ability to add cameras depends on the location as not every monitor will be available to add a camera, however, there are some that can (e.g., monitor in El Centro).</p> <p>Adding cameras to these monitors is a possibility that is being investigated, however, cost and network availability are issues. There is also connection loss in the more rural areas of Imperial Valley so there is a need for a solution to have a better network signal beyond a mobile hotspot (e.g., a</p>	<p>Comite Civico del Valle (CCV)</p>	<p>11/9/2022</p>

	broadband line).		
7. Regarding mobile and stationary sources: There are many facilities that are stationary but with a lot of traffic and materials are often moved to other locations. Are these facilities requiring dual permits, and if so, are they coordinating when they need to be inspected and updated?	Background information: The emission of the movement of materials (e.g., unloading, offloading, and picking up) are captured with the stationary source permit. The emission of vehicles over unpaved surfaces, resulting in dust emissions, are also processed at the facility. The tailpipe emissions from the engines are subject to California regulations (e.g., CARB). Anything dealing with the stationary source's footprint is all put together into the facility's potential to emit.	ICAPCD	11/9/2022
8. Clarification question regarding question 7 and expansion: If there is a rail and trucks moving in and out of the facility, then there is one permit regulating the entire footprint for a particular facility? Once in transit then CARB regulates it but what about in the case of expansion? How is this impacted?	Stationary source permits will look at an expansion in what they're producing on a daily or annual basis. The emission points will be tied to their production limits and an estimate of the facility's potential to emit will be determined. But the emissions from a rail line or from trucks are out of ICAPCD's control as it is regulated by CARB or USCPA.	ICAPCD	11/9/2022
Public Comment			
No Public comment.			

***There was no AB 617 CSC Meeting held in October 2022.**

September 2022*

Question	Answer	Answer Provided By	Date Question Asked
Community Steering Committee Members			
<p>1. What stage in the process is the new rule amendment?</p>	<p>These amendments are policies and administrative procedures – not goals or regulations. These policies lie within our regulatory agencies within the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District (ICAPCD). These do not be presented to the Board of Supervisors. These policies were last adopted in 1986 and have been modernized. The new amendments have also been vetted and approved by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). We are now presenting these before the AB617 Community Steering Committee (CSC).</p> <p>If anyone has any other questions, they can reach Thomas</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>9/14/2022</p>

	Brinkerhoff at thomasbrinkerhoff@co.imperial.ca.us . We also have our advisor, Reyes Romero.		
2. Does the new rule amendment need to go to the Board of Supervisors and, if so, has that been scheduled?	The new rule amendment does not need to go before the Board of Supervisors; therefore, it will not be scheduled to go before the Board.	ICAPCD	9/14/2022
3. What CAL/AQI are used in each category, and can this information please be included in the Air Monitoring presentation moving forward?	<p>CALs in the conversion done by the IVAN network to have a like the Standard Air Quality Index (AQI) used by regulatory agencies. Since the IVAN Monitors are community-level, we use CAL instead of AQI.</p> <p>The range for CAL is 50 lbs. Green is 0-50 lbs, Yellow is 51-100 lb, Orange is 100-150 lbs, and Red is anything over 150 lbs These are the same colors we have used since the IVAN Air Monitors were implemented in 2016.</p> <p>There is a more detailed description on the IVAN Monitoring website in the FAQ section. https://ivan-imperial.org/resources/ivanfaqs</p>	Comite Civico del Valle (CCV)	9/14/2022
4. Which location is the IVAN monitor currently down and how why has it not been working?	<p>The monitor is currently down on Imperial Avenue in Calexico. This is one of the monitors that is solar powered. During maintenance, there was an electrical short and one of the fuses needs to be replaced. Fortunately, the monitor was not damaged, and the necessary parts have been ordered. The monitor has been down for about 3 weeks.</p> <p>There is still monitoring happening in Calexico, given that there are other monitors capturing data within the city.</p>	CCV	9/14/2022
5. How many monitors have been installed to date.	For AB617, all 15 monitors that were requested by the CSC have been installed.	CCV	9/14/2022

6. How many community networks have started uploading data to the Community Air Quality Data Portal (AQview)?	If you go to the download tool (https://aqview.arb.ca.gov/continuous-monitoring-data) you can see that there is data from all across the state from various AB617 communities. Different communities have different amounts of data uploaded. We also collect data from other communities, besides the AB617 communities.	California Air Resources Board (CARB)	
7. Is it possible to use AQview to compare pollutants across different communities?	It is possible to use the download tool (https://aqview.arb.ca.gov/continuous-monitoring-data) to compare different communities. When doing comparisons, it is important to ensure that the same pollutants are being compared. If you want to view only AB617 communities, you need to ensure that you are using the right filter as well.	CARB	9/14/2022
8. Is CARB going to make AQview website more interactive, such as including maps?	Yes, the next phase of the website will include a real-time map and a time series tool. This is planned to be released in the fall. Currently, our goal is to make the data available.	CARB	9/14/2022
9. Can the ICAPCD provide an update on the remainder of the AB617 budget?	The budget will be discussed during November's meeting. ICAPCD just received new funding in August for new incentive projects in the corridor.	ICAPCD	9/14/2022
10. How much longer will the CSC exist?	The AB617 has been in existence for almost five years. The first year is primarily for the development of the Community Emission Reduction Program (CERP). Then it takes five years to implement the CERP. The district can continue to progress for an additional five years after the first five.	CARB	9/14/2022
Public Comment			
1. Who should the community contact to express their concerns about the retention basins that are being used for baseball and soccer fields?	Community members can call The Imperial County Public Health Department, Division of Environmental Health at (442) 265-1888. Community members can leave their name, phone number and name of the park and the department will return their call.	ICAPCD	9/14/2022

***There was no AB 617 CSC Meeting held in August 2022.**

July 2022

Question	Answer	Answer Provided By	Date Question Asked
Community Steering Committee Members			
11. Does the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District (ICAPCD) have enough staff to regulate and enforce the comprehensive list of regulations outlined?	Yes, ICAPCD has enough staff to enforce the Rules and Regulations.	ICAPCD	7/13/2022
12. Are you aware of any upcoming policies updates for the future lithium extraction?	ICAPCD wants to remind everyone that policies are extensions of Rules and Regulations. Policies are general guidelines of how various staff can carry out their duties. These new technologies you mentioned should be covered under the Air District Policies 10, 24, 26 and 28 guidelines reviewed today.	ICAPCD	7/13/2022
13. What is the relationship between the ICAPCD and the Hearing Board? Is the ICAPCD the same as the Hearing Board?	The Hearing Board is a body that is independent of the ICAPCD. Any application or petition for Hearing Board is filed and reviewed by ICAPCD. That application must be forwarded to the Hearing Board. There also must be a 23-day Public Notice provided. It is the Hearing Board's decision for variance to be issued. Beyond that, there is an appeal process which is provided by the Hearing Board.	ICAPCD	7/13/2022
14. Are there certain industries that raise any flags, in terms of the violations of Variance?	No. The issues occur at different facilities. If the violations cannot be corrected within the allotted time frame, they are able to begin the process for applying for the Variance.	UC Davis	7/13/2022
15. For the Community Air Monitoring Network (CAMN) Update, was the data for June 2022?	The graph displayed was for May and June.	CCV	7/13/2022
16. Will the future CAMN updates include data from the recent	Comite Civico del Valle (CCV) plans to bring University of California, Davis (UCD) back to report on the analysis of data. There is a monitor in Seeley and we can ask them to do a	CCV	7/13/2022

Seeley, CA fire?	trend analysis to see how the air quality was in Seeley and how it changed as we move to the Imperial Valley.		
17. Will the CERP Survey be going out in both English and Spanish?	Yes, the survey will be available in both English and Spanish.	ICAPCD and Harder + Company	7/13/2022
18. What were the allocations for the four grant proposals presented today?	The Targeted Air Shed was approximately \$7 million and for the Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP) it was \$67,000. We don't have the exact numbers in front of us and we can get back to everyone with the exact amounts for the grant proposals.	ICAPCD	7/13/2022
19. Does the ICAPCD work with any local vendors for the AWWN Equipment Exchange Program (LEEP) and how much was allocated towards that?	ICAPCD works with The Green Station, from Los Angeles. We do not currently have a local vendor.	ICAPCD	7/13/2022
20. Have there been any updates on the lithium tax for the forthcoming extraction?	This is very preliminary but there will be different tax tiers depending on the quantity that is extracted. This is more of a statewide guideline and is not exclusive to Imperial County. This will also include an economic feasibility study that has to be completed by the end of next year.	CCV	7/13/2022
Public Comment			
Is there a plan to address the amount of dirt that is kicked up into the air by trucks and other speeding vehicles?	It depends on which Rule and Regulation applies to that location - for example, Regulation 8, Fugitive Dust Sources. There are certain criteria that must be followed in order to mitigate unpaved roads. The ICAPCD encouraged CSC members and the public to inform the ICAPCD when there are air quality issues - online or by phone - and they will investigate to ensure that applicable rules and regulations are being followed.	ICAPCD	7/13/2022

<p>Is there a cap for the number of people that can participate in LEEP? If so, can the cap be increased?</p>	<p>ICAPCD has a \$65,000 cap per year for all equipment through LEEP. This year there was an issue where some equipment ran out before others. In the future, ICAPCD will review the numbers to see which type of equipment should be increased for next year. There is also a conversation about increasing the \$65,000 cap and it may be possible for next year.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>7/13/2022</p>
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June 2022

Question	Answer	Answer Provided By	Date Question Asked
Community Steering Committee Members			
<p>N/A *</p>			
Public Comment			
<p>1. Is the Imperial Valley AB617 page available in Spanish?</p>	<p>Yes, it has the option to change language on the website.</p>	<p>APCD</p>	<p>06/08/2022</p>
<p>2. What are the Department of Transportation and ICAPCD doing to provide incentives for clean vehicles? San Joaquín, Bay Area and South Coast Air Districts have additional incentives than those offered by the state.</p>	<p>Traditionally, those programs that are targeting the most impacted communities have really gone to the biggest air districts. Smaller communities, like El Centro-Heber-Calexico, have not had that extra opportunity to get that incentive funding that's been going to San Joaquin Valley, South Coast, the Bay area, and San Diego. However, there's going to be more funding to come.</p>	<p>California Transportation Commission (CTC)</p>	<p>06/08/2022</p>
<p>3. There are no sidewalks or bike lanes in the Heber Community to the Imperial Valley Mall on Dogwood Rd. Additionally, teenagers walk near the canal or on Dogwood Rd due to lack of</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>06/08/2022</p>

paving infrastructure.			
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*June 2022 consisted of a 90-minute Listening Session and no questions were posed by committee members.

May 2022

Question	Answer	Answer Provided By	Date Question Asked
Community Steering Committee Members			
1. For the Air Quality Analysis of Salton Sea Air Basin, can you please explain the discrepancy between the PM10 slide earlier in the presentation which showed the Corridor in red and the subsequent slide that indicated that the PM10 is low in the Corridor.	The first slide shows the national <i>maximum</i> average values for 24-Hour PM10 between 2009 and 2020. This means that the maximum value for each year has been plotted. The subsequent slide shows data between 2009 and 2019. However, this slide is showing <i>monthly</i> averages over the 11-year period.	University of California, Davis (UC Davis)	5/11/2022
2. For the Air Quality Analysis of Salton Sea Air Basin, is the Naval test base near Salton Sea or NAF El Centro?	TBD	UC Davis	TBD
3. What is UC Davis going to do to identify what factors make Calexico an air quality outlier compared to other cities in the Imperial Corridor?	UC Davis and Comite Civico del Valle (CCV) are collaborating on a research project to set up and IMPROVE monitor for an entire year. This monitor will collect particulate matter every 3 days, based on size. UC Davis will extract the particulate matter and run a chemical analysis, which will tell us the elemental composition. Using Positive Matrix Factorization (PMF), a statistical tool used by the US Environmental Protection Agency, to help determine potential sources of the particulate matter. In order for PMF to be effective, there has to be an idea of which sources emit specific particulate matter. This will be obtained by conducting a literature review.	UC Davis	5/11/2022

4. Where will the IMPROVE monitor be placed in Calexico?	The IMPROVE monitoring project has not been funded yet. However, UC Davis and CCV will begin sampling in June 2022 and that will be co-located with one of the current IVAN monitors off Miller Road. This sampling will only be collecting particulate nitrate, which will identify with isotopes of where that nitrogen was emitted. UC Davis hopes to distinguish between agricultural sources and traditional combustion sources.	UC Davis	5/11/2022
5. Will the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District (ICAPCD) and the Community Steering Committee (CSC) be able to review and revise the Community Emissions Reduction Programs (CERP) this year?	Yes, the CERP can be reviewed and revised at any time. ICAPCD will need to add a few things to the current CERP. We will bring the CERP revisions to the CSC within the next 2 meetings.	ICAPCD	5/11/2022
6. Will the new Urban Greening and Paving ad hoc committee be the ones revising the CERP or how does the revision work.	All CSC members can suggest updates and revisions to the CERP at any time – not just ad hoc committee members.	ICAPCD	5/11/2022
7. Is it possible to create a timeline for CERP updates and revisions?	Yes, that is possible. ICAPCD will provide a timeline during the next two (2) CSC meetings. We are currently accepting feedback from all committee members.	ICAPCD	5/11/2022
Public Comment			
4. None			5/11/2022

April 2022

Question	Answer	Answer Provided By	Date Question Asked
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Community Steering Committee Members

<p>5. Can Sonoma Technologies provide a copy of the New River Pollutant Monitoring Project – 6-month Extension presentation?</p>	<p>Sonoma Technologies will send the presentation to Belen Leon, Imperial County Air Pollution Control District (ICAPCD), so that they can distribute the presentation to the CSC. This is the same information that has been provided in the memo in the agenda packet. The only difference is that one is a presentation, and the other is in memo format.</p>	<p>Sonoma Technologies</p>	<p>4/6/2022</p>
<p>6. Is it in the scope of work for Sonoma Technologies to provide information to the community once the analysis is complete, particularly those who live near the New River, to engage them and keep them informed of what is happening?</p>	<p>Yes, it is in the scope of work for Sonoma Technologies to summarize what has been observed and share that information. Sonoma Technologies will work with the ICAPCD to get this information out there and involve residents. We believe the community's feedback will help paint a full picture.</p>	<p>Sonoma Technologies</p>	<p>4/6/2022</p>
<p>7. When will the analysis of the New River be completed?</p>	<p>The New River Project is currently scheduled to end in May of 2022. However, Sonoma Technologies is requesting a 6-month extension to capture all four seasons. This extension request will also provide the option to get more testing. This is being brought to the Community Steering Committee (CSC) to vote for approval on this extension.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>4/6/2022</p>
<p>8. Does the AB617 budget currently have enough funds to provide an extension for the New River Project?</p>	<p>Yes, there are enough funds in the budget to support the New River Project extension. When Sonoma Technologies submitted their proposal, it was under budget.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>4/6/2022</p>
<p>9. Will the Ad-Hoc Committees be chaired by an ICAPCD staff, or will it be composed of only CSC Members?</p>	<p>The Ad-Hoc Committees will be comprised of only CSC members.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>4/6/2022</p>

10. Have there been any prosecutions since Air District Policies 23 and 25 came into effect?	For the last several decades, ICAPCD has not had to go as far as to obtain an inspection warrant. When we are being impeded by any degree, when carrying out inspections, then we issue a Notice of Violation and go back out. Usually, informing the entity that a warrant can be obtained, the situation is resolved. In the majority of cases, ICAPCD are allowed entry during inspections.	ICAPCD	4/6/2022
Public Comments			
11. Is it possible that the New River's hydrogen sulfide contaminants be contributing to the high rates of cancer that I have heard about from my neighbors?	Sonoma Technologies believes that providing the community with chronic exposure information would be helpful. Given the information that has been collected to date, that questions cannot be answered. However, the compounds that are being measured at the New River are air toxic that are known to have health impacts. However, to answer the question being posed, there would need different, multi-year, research that is probably beyond the scope of AB617.	Sonoma Technologies	4/6/2022

March 2022

Question	Answer	Answer Provided By	Date Question Asked
Community Steering Committee Members			
1. Will the increase in funding (\$121,000) for Sonoma Technology cover funding for the rest of the 2022?	This updated funding will allow for continued services through November 2022.	ICAPCD	3/9/2022
2. For the Community Air Monitoring Network, does the monitor installed at the Calexico Outlets really cost \$350 per month?	The monitor is not at the outlets, it is at the Imperial Valley Mall. We had a challenging time trying to host a monitor there and \$350 per month is what they requested. Comite Civico del Valle (CCV) connected with the Calexico	CCV	3/9/2022

	Outlets and they referred us to the airport. We worked closely with the city to get the monitor at the airport. There was a need for an encroachment permit and the city was open to providing that. That monitor is already collecting data.		
3. Is there an application for the CSC to view the AB617 monitors?	There are different ways to access the data. The IVAN data is on the IVAN application. CCV is looking into updating the mobile application that we launched a couple of years ago to incorporate the new monitors. I believe the data from the monitors that have been contracted out by ICAPCD will be provided by Sonoma Technology. Any data that is funded by AB617 will be available on AQview at some point, which will be available for the public. There is not specific application now for what you are requesting, but you can access the data on the web which is formatted for both desktop and mobile viewing.	CCV	3/9/2022
4. On the U.S. side of the border, there are days where is no agricultural burning allowed. Does a similar policy exist in Mexicali or on the Mexican side?	We have similar programs, and it was challenging to implement initially. We will continue to monitor to see if there are continued improvements and for opportunities to strengthen government programs. Our hope is to decrease agricultural burning as much as possible.	Secretaría del Campo y Seguridad Alimentaria de Baja California	3/9/2022
5. Do you know if during those periods of increased agricultural burning in Mexico coincide with an increase of ag burning on the U.S. side?	The terms in which agricultural burning should be carried out remain very general. There is no regulation on the days, hours, or weather conditions under which agricultural burning can take place. However, I know that there is a bill in the local congress of Baja California to regulate and legalize agricultural burning. Within that law, you would be able to find those things that you mentioned, including needing a burn permit or providing a burn notice. Once it becomes a law, it can be implemented within the next 5 years and, subsequently, escalate to other measures to prevent the burning of agricultural waste.	Secretaría del Campo y Seguridad Alimentaria de Baja California	3/9/2022
6. What is the agricultural burning that you referred to with Bermuda grass, asparagus and wheat attributed to? Is it because it is	The decrease in agricultural burning has been consistent for the past three cycles and can, perhaps, be attributed to having smaller surface areas. This indicated that some activities, such as conservational agriculture, minimum tillage and not burning	Secretaría del Campo y Seguridad Alimentaria de Baja	

<p>being planted, because they are sowing it less or because there are agricultural practices that are being removed?</p>	<p>straw have been rewarding to Mexicali farmers.</p>	<p>California</p>	<p>3/9/2022</p>
<p>7. Can you tell me more about how livestock fattening impacts the atmosphere?</p>	<p>In Mexicali there is an important cattle fattening sector. There are 3 or 4 large ranchers dedicated to fattening. It is a problem because the areas around the fattening locations are typically clouded with dust. It is essential to regulate the industry – whether they have to water the area or have sprinklers in place to mitigate that dust. However, this does not occur in all cases. I would like to note, that the environmental authority for atmospheric emissions in Baja California has been working with programs to minimize the emissions that can stem from this industry.</p>	<p>Secretaría del Campo y Seguridad Alimentaria de Baja California</p>	<p>3/9/2022</p>
<p>8. Would it be possible to leverage AB617 funds and collaborate with Mexico to educate or incentivize communities to reduce burning on both side – particularly around the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s efforts to reduce contamination along the border?</p>	<p>ICAPCD has met with Mexico about 3 times to discuss and review burn programs and how they work. The dialogue is already occurring.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>3/9/2022</p>
<p>9. Does the Imperial County Transportation Commission (ICTC) hope to launch shared transportation program through the Micro-transit pilot you talked about?</p>	<p>ICTC has explored these types of opportunities – particularly those that serve the larger spans of the county. However, there have been challenges with the headways of equipment to make regional services an option. This Micro-transit pilot in Calexico would allow for an opportunity to determine what can be replicated in other jurisdictions.</p>	<p>ICTC</p>	<p>3/9/2022</p>

<p>10. Can ICTC clarify what they mean by an action plan to have or not have California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)?</p>	<p>There are no established criteria to guide the preparation of a plan for the reduction of greenhouse gases (GHG) through CEQA. Essentially, the plan must have a certain level of measures. Because of the amount of staffing and enforcing required, jurisdictions found it challenging to meet those. Agencies preferred to have plans that provided a baseline that quantified emissions.</p>	<p>ICTC</p>	<p>3/9/2022</p>
<p>11. Where can the public find the Regional Climate Action Plan in its entirety?</p>	<p>There document can be found here: https://www.imperialctc.org/assets/documents/transportation-plans-and-studies/ICTC-Regional-Climate-Action-Plan_FINAL.pdf Please note that it is a 500-page document</p>	<p>ICTC</p>	<p>3/9/2022</p>
<p>12. Will there be new chargers installed in Calexico to be used with the new electric vans mentioned in the ICTC Regional Climate Action Plan?</p>	<p>There is infrastructure that is proposed as a part of this effort. However, I do not have any specific details regarding locations. I know that there will be one in Calexico on 3rd Street, between Rockwood Avenue and Heffernan Avenue. I can confirm that the plan is for the chargers to be accessed by the public.</p>	<p>ICTC</p>	<p>3/9/2022</p>
<p>13. Does the CSC need to take any further steps to begin implementing the ad hoc committees?</p>	<p>If the CSC wants to provide information to ICAPCD that you want to include in the scope, please provide it so that it can be included.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>3/9/2022</p>
<p>14. How much is allocated to the Lawn Equipment Exchange program and how is it being funded?</p>	<p>The Lawn Equipment Exchange Program is being funded through one of our DMV accounts. The amount of funding is \$65,000 per year. ICAPD provides a subsidy in order to bring the cost down.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>3/9/2022</p>
<p>Public Comments</p>			

N/A			
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February 2022

Question	Answer	Answer Provided By	Date Question Asked
Community Steering Committee Members			
1. According to the Community Air Monitoring Update presentation, Calexico has the worst air quality, compared to Heber and El Centro. How is that considered the best air quality in Calexico?	As we can see on the graph, Calexico has worse air quality than Heber and El Centro. However, my comment was that Calexico has better air quality than we have had in January.	CCV	02/09/2022
2. How much did the air quality improve in Calexico, between January and February?		CCV	02/09/2022
3. What is the difference air quality in Calexico during April and November when there is more vehicle traffic -both locally and across the border - and more travel here from the north?	During those months, the air quality was worse. It was about 10% higher. That was due to the influx of vehicle traffic towards the end of the year.	CCV	02/09/2022
4. Is air quality worse in Imperial Valley during the colder months than during warmer ones or are they about the same?	It's not dependent on whether it's hot or cold. It has more to do with the activities that are occurring in Imperial Valley and the influx of vehicle traffic. We would even stress the importance of taking meteorological events as a factor in air	CCV	02/09/2022

	quality.		
5. Is it fair to say that, overall, Calexico has worse air quality than the other cities?	Yes, according to data, Calexico had the worse air quality at the time these readings were analyzed.	CCV	02/09/2022
6. Were all of the monitors functional when these readings were collected?	Over 75% of the monitors were functional.	ICAPCD	02/09/2022
7. Is it possible that if we had 100% of the monitors functional, we would have more data points throughout the rest of the city?	When a monitor stops working, they are typically only offline for approximately one day – not the whole month. These data we analyzed are the best representation, overall, of the air quality.	CCV	02/09/2022
8. What is the location of the last monitor that needs to be installed?	The last monitor we installed is approximately 6 blocks from the border and was installed 2 days ago. The data presented today did not include readings from that monitor. However, there are other IVAN monitors that are installed near the border and that data was included in today’s presentation.	CCV	02/09/2022
9. Does the New River Improvement Project essentially take the water that comes across the border, collects in the 72-inch pipe which then takes it to the wetlands to be treated and improve the water quality?	Yes, that is correct. I would like to add that we are also removing trash from the river, since trash is a pollutant. This trash will be removed in Calexico. The river will be rerouted downstream from Calexico to be treated because nobody wanted to add more wetlands and treatment ponds in downtown Calexico.	City of Calexico	02/09/2022
Public Comments			
N/A			

AB617 Community Steering Committee Meeting (El Centro-Heber-Calexico)

Frequently Asked Questions

January 2022*

Question	Answer	Answer Provided By	Date Question Asked
Community Steering Committee Members			
10. Will there be an electric charging infrastructure built at the Calexico Intermodal Transportation Center for the future electrification of the bus fleet?	<p>The Imperial County Transportation Commission (ICTC) is currently looking at options to potentially build infrastructure at the facility that would allow us to be able to integrate our fleet should we electrify our fleet.</p> <p>ICTC also has a pilot on-demand transit system, similar to Uber, that might be online by the end of this year. The plan is for those vehicles to be zero-emissions and they will need to be charged. ICTC is looking at the opportunity to explore opportunities to integrate potential funding from the CSC.</p>	ICTC	01/12/2022
11. Will the city of Calexico dictate how the Calexico Intermodal Transportation is built?	Yes, the City of Calexico will own the facility. The city is an active participant in the development of the facility. They have reviewed the various concepts that have to do with the facility, as well as improvement plans and building structure – such as the city’s request for public restrooms.	ICTC	01/12/2022

<p>12. Is there a plan to have transportation for the Calexico East Port into the downtown area, potentially reducing the lines from the border?</p>	<p>As a part of ICTC’s analysis of the transit needs, from the border perspective, ICTC has investigated the issue of the Calexico East Port because of the long distance. ICTC has identified the high need for a transit facility at the East Port as part of the Regional Transportation Sustainable Communities Strategy.</p> <p>However, the funding need for the Downtown Port has been determined to be a higher priority. This has been the focus of the funding opportunities that have been available to ICTC.</p>	<p>ICTC</p>	<p>01/12/2022</p>
<p>Public Comments</p>			
<p>1. Do the results of the preliminary monitor data from El Centro and Heber mean that most of the exceedances in El Centro are locally sourced?</p>	<p>The pollution should have been picked up in Heber as well. However, the monitors did not detect an increase in particulate matter during November and December 2021. The pollution does not solely come from Mexico, there are also local sources of pollution.</p>	<p>CCV</p>	<p>01/12/2022</p>

***There was no AB 617 CSC Meeting held in December of 2021.**

AB617 Community Steering Committee Meeting (El Centro-Heber-Calexico)

Frequently Asked Questions

November 2021

Question	Answer	Answer Provided By	Date Question Asked
Community Steering Committee Members			
1. Would it be possible for the City of El Centro to seek guidance from our Community Steering Community advisory group in the future for the Environmental Justice (EJ) work?	The City of El Centro will keep that in mind and come back to the CSC for implementation of the Environmental Justice (EJ) work.	City of El Centro	11/17/2021
2. How would the City of El Centro characterize their outreach efforts and public participation for the EJ work?	The City of El Centro outreached at the opening of the Aquatic Center's grand opening approximately two years ago. We got a lot of useful information from that event. The City of El Centro tries to outreach at events that are already scheduled to occur.	City of El Centro	11/17/2021
3. Does the City of El Centro plan to use Juniper trees as a mitigation effort for those places with heavy diesel truck usage?	The picture in our slide is from the Tuscon, AZ because the City of El Centro wanted to show that there are landscape materials that are compatible with a desert area. These Juniper trees in the picture were placed to catch some of the dust from the agricultural areas outside of town. However, we did not think about using these trees for diesel pollution.	City of El Centro	11/17/2021
4. If businesses apply for the Ag Burning Credit for one year, can they increase their burning the following year and then reapply for reduction credit the following	It depends on what is occurring with that business or farmer. But generally, yes, it is up to the business or farmer to decide whether they reapply each cycle or not. They can get Agricultural Reduction Emissions Certificate that is good for multiple years. The credit for this certificate declines 25% per	ICAPCD	11/17/2021

year?	year. On the other hand, the Stationary Credits are given when a permanent facility does a voluntary reduction in their emissions by implementing emissions reducing technology. The Stationary Credit is more limited in scope and the price is much higher, albeit static.		
5. How much is the Credit for Agricultural Reduction Emissions?	There are equations based on AP42 calculations and it depends on the acreage of the fields and the types of products being burned. The dollar amounts depend on the open market. The Air District manages is responsible for knowing what is on the list.	ICAPCD	11/17/2021
6. How many monitors are online for the Community Air Monitoring Program (CAMP)?	Comite Civico del Valle (CCV) is currently working on installing the last 3 monitors, which means we have 12 monitors online for AB617.	CCV	11/17/2021
7. Can CSC members attend any part of the IVAN network training with CARB and APCD?	CSC members cannot attend any of the trainings, due to COVID restrictions. There will be opportunities in the future for CSC members to attend similar trainings.	CCV	11/17/2021
Public Comments			
2. No public comments.			

AB617 Community Steering Committee Meeting (El Centro-Heber-Calexico)

Frequently Asked Questions

October 2021

Question	Answer	Answer Provided By	Date Question Asked
Community Steering Committee Members			
8. How many of the Community Air Monitoring Program (CAMP) monitors have been installed to date?	At this time, there are 12 monitors that are fully installed and collecting data. Comite Civico Del Valle (CCV) is currently working on installing 2 more monitors, which would total to 14. We are currently trying to recruit a site near Enrique Camarena in Calexico, which would put the number at 15. That would complete the Community Steering Committee's (CSC) plan of having 15 monitors installed.	CCV	10/08/2021

9. Is it possible to start a conversation about enhancing the CAMP monitors to see if there are other pollutants that can be monitored or to install cameras to capture extraordinary events?	CCV believes in the process of IVAN and that these monitors can act as a mobile lab site. CCV can add sensors as needed. CCV is not tied to one single technology and if a better piece of equipment comes out, we would consider it. If the CAMP is updated and the CSC feels that there needs to be other things measured, changing the sensors will be easier. Most of the legwork came from recruiting sites.	CCV	10/08/2021
10. What was the total sum of monies the CSC approved for the Imperial County of Education (ICOE) for Urban Greening Projects during the September 2021 meeting?	There was a total of \$191,000 approved for ICOE West Urban Greening Projects. The proposal for the Paving Project for ICOE is \$338,107.00. This proposal will be on the table for a vote today.	ICAPCD	10/08/2021
11. Previously, we talked about having minimum funding for these projects under the (Community Emissions Reduction Program) CERP, but not maximums. Would it be possible to put a maximum on these proposals and is there a way to limit who can apply?	Under the CERP, we do have minimums set, but not maximums. That was because there are numerous different types of projects that require different amounts of funding. The CERP does not limit who can apply and that was based on CSC recommendation, but they did make certain provisions – such as funding 50% for businesses and 100% for schools. We can always go back to the CERP and revise it if the CSC feels that there need to be additions.	ICAPCD	10/08/2021
12. Does the Air District have any updates on the subcommittee formation?	Yes, the Air District is currently working on figuring out the Brown Act as it relates to the subcommittees. It also seems that we must create a charter.	ICAPCD	10/08/2021
Public Comments			
3. No public comments.			



AB617 Community Steering Committee Meeting (El Centro-Heber-Calexico)

Frequently Asked Questions

September 2021*

AB 617 CSC Meeting FAQ: 2021-2023

Question	Answer	Answer Provided By	Date Question Asked
Community Steering Committee Members			
13. What was our budget commitment for the Urban Greening and Paving Projects?	The amounts previously discussed were minimums because we were unsure of how many projects would be received. Currently, the urban greening projects budget minimum is \$200,000 and the Paving Projects minimum is \$2,500,000. We can go over these amounts, if necessary.	ICAPCD	9/08/2021
14. How is the health benefit calculated for the Urban Greening and Paving Project?	This question was not answered during the meeting.	TBD	9/08/2021
15. Do we want to impose a maximum among that any one application can be awarded?	We did not set a maximum amount because we had funds available. For future proposals, the Air District will engage the community steering committee (CSC) to help determine if there should be a maximum amount for funding those future projects.	ICAPCD	9/08/2021
16. Can you explain the methodology used to calculate the Annual Emission Rates?	This is based on the information that was provided by the applicant. We asked for the number of passes, or trips per day, in the are and the number of days per year that the area is used. We also used the vehicle miles travelled and multiplied it by the emission factor of 2 pounds of PM10, per vehicle mile travelled. We also use 99% of controlled efficiency.	ICAPCD	9/08/2021
17. Can you provide guidance on the breakout discussion? How do we approach that the cost of these projects is over \$6 million, but we allocated only \$2.5 million Paving Projects?	The Air District wants to remind you that the amounts agreed upon for funding were minimum amounts. AB617 has enough to fund all these projects. During the breakout rooms, the intention is for the CSC to discuss these projects and see if they are beneficial for the community.	ICAPCD	9/08/2021

18. Will the cost over \$2.5 million for Paving Projects be moved from other budgets and tiers in the community emissions reduction program (CERP)?	Yes, we want to go ahead and start the AB617 Projects. At this time, we have a total of 14 projects – 7 Urban Greening and 7 Paving Projects. If all the proposed projects were funded, there would still be \$5.2 million remaining.	ICAPCD	9/08/2021
19. Do we know if the the proposed Paving Projects that are currently used as agricultural land have to undergo CEQA and subject to the Williamson Act?	Yes, the Air District and the CSC have to take California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) into consideration. We will follow the guidelines and the requirements. Once these projects are approved, the Air District will go back and see if there are any other requirements that need to be fulfilled. The Williamson Act has expired and no longer has any effect on the projects.	ICAPCD	9/08/2021
20. Does the CSC need to take into consideration the added heat island effect when we are voting on the Paving Projects and what that will cause for local communities?	California Air Resources Board, as well as some of the proposed projects, require specific paving materials. The Air District would have to get back to you with specific information from CARB.	ICAPCD	9/08/2021
21. Is there a logic of how the proposed Urban Greening site locations were selected? Are these trees going to neighborhoods that need them or are the going to private locations where they could use private funds?	Most of these locations are government facilities, but Tito Huerta Park is a public park and is currently handled by Heber Public Facilities. That is all the information the Air District has for now, but we can get more information from the applicant and get back to CSC.	ICAPCD	9/08/2021
Public Comments			
4. How can I be added to the Air District's AB 617 email distribution list?	Visit the ab 617 for this community: https://www.icab617community.org/ Scroll to the bottom of the page and add your name and email where it says "Subscribe below to be added to our AB 617	Harder+Co	10/27/2021

	mailing list”.		
5. Where are the trees in the Paving Projects plan?	Under this scope, the proposals did not provide that information. However, if they are required to plant trees per square foot of paving, we would address that with the appropriate planning departments.	ICAPCD	9/08/2021

*There was no AB 617 CSC Meeting held in August of 2021.

AB617 Community Steering Committee Meeting (El Centro-Heber-Calexico)

Frequently Asked Questions

July 2021

Question	Answer	Answer Provided By	Date Question Asked
Community Steering Committee Members			
22. Did Heber and Dogwood Elementary have community monitoring before?	Comite Civico del Valle (CCV) is currently working with Dogwood Elementary staff to find a location in the school to install the equipment. The staff will help us ensure that it is placed in an accessible location so that CCV can conduct maintenance. The monitor at Heber has been there for close to 5 years. That monitor is from the original Imperial Valley Air Monitoring Network project.	CCV	07/14/2021

<p>23. Can CCV add a description about air quality levels with age-specific information to the "Preliminary Analysis-Heber" chart?</p>	<p>Yes, CCV can add a description for each of the Community Air-Quality Levels (CALs) and what the CALs mean. The unhealthy sensitive receptor is for the elderly, kids, and other individuals with various medical conditions.</p>	<p>CCV</p>	<p>07/14/2021</p>
<p>24. Is there a way to compare the data in the Preliminary Analysis – Heber slide with other locations throughout the State?</p>	<p>CCV will coordinate with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to identify whether there is a way to conduct comparisons across different regions. I know that, currently, it is possible to make comparisons within the Imperial Valley monitors.</p>	<p>CCV</p>	<p>07/14/2021</p>
<p>25. In regard to the Scoping Plan, how does California’s 2035 target date for electric vehicles affect the overall carbon neutrality plan for the year 2045?</p>	<p>As part of the Scoping Plan, CARB must take into consideration greenhouse gas targets set by the California State Legislature and the 2045 carbon neutrality target, as well as any other executive orders and legislative mandates. CARB will be evaluating scenarios in which certain endpoints are reached at certain times, such as the sale of Electric Vehicles. We consider all the circumstances and goals that affect the Scoping Plan – which are all sectors.</p>	<p>CARB</p>	<p>07/14/2021</p>
<p>26. Is it correct that the Southern California Association of Governments gets a small portion of funding and the remainder goes to Imperial County Transportation Commission?</p>	<p>CARB acknowledges that transportation funding is complicated. Some state funding goes to metropolitan planning organizations, such as Southern California Association of Governments, and is then distributed locally. Other funding stream go directly to transit agencies and other streams of funding can be pursued independently by local jurisdictions.</p> <p>As a reminder, these funding projects are very competitive. It is important to establish the planning process to build projects that could qualify for funding.</p>	<p>CARB</p>	<p>07/14/2021</p>

<p>27. Can you provide CCV and the air district the breakdown of The Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015 (SB 350) vouchers and how the funding has been distributed to Imperial County?</p>	<p>Yes, CARB will send this to CCV and Imperial County Air Pollution Control District (ICAPCD).</p>	<p>CARB</p>	<p>07/14/2021</p>
<p>28. Have any AB617 communities leveraged their funding for projects under the California Climate Investments funding?</p>	<p>CARB does not have specific information about whether other AB 617 communities have coordinated that activity. However, by looking at our project map, we can see that there are a lot of projects that are coincidental within the AB617 communities. There might be some of that happening, but CARB can provide more specifics after the meeting.</p>	<p>CARB</p>	<p>07/14/2021</p>
<p>29. Is it possible to leverage funding for projects from the California Climate Investment funds, along with the AB617 allocations that are being awarded to the Heber-Calexico-El Centro community steering committee (CSC)?</p>	<p>Yes, that is certainly possible.</p>	<p>CARB</p>	<p>07/14/2021</p>
<p>30. How do the priorities from the Scoping Plan align with the California Climate Investments and the portfolio of new opportunities that are available for funding?</p>	<p>The Scoping Plan is very high level and sets up a plan for reaching climate targets from now until 2045. In the Scoping Plan, CARB focus on outcomes. In the implementation plan, that is where community representatives can find specific programs or regulations that are adopted that lay out how and when we will proceed to get those outcomes.</p>	<p>CARB</p>	<p>07/14/2021</p>
<p>31. Does CARB have any information on how the new legislation signed by Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) on 7/14?</p>	<p>CARB will follow up with DTSC so that they can come present and speak about the new legislation. CARB does not have any specifics at this time.</p>	<p>CARB</p>	<p>07/14/2021</p>

<p>32. Was anyone aware that there is possibly a truck parking company moving in to 89 E Main Street? I am concerned about trucks idling.</p>	<p>This is County jurisdiction, so it would have to go through the Planning Department and, perhaps, get a permit from ICAPCD. ICAPCD will follow up with CSC members' concerns.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>07/14/2021</p>
<p>Public Comments</p>			
<p>6. Where are the bikes available at the Calexico Port of Entry?</p>	<p>This question was directed to CARB, but they cannot address this item.</p>	<p>CARB</p>	<p>07/14/2021</p>
<p>7. What are the plans to provide protection for ridership in view of recent deaths and assaults?</p>	<p>The active transportation planning processes incorporate a safety component and are taken into consideration in order to get projects implemented.</p> <p>CSC member, Mark Baza, from the Imperial County Transportation Commission (ICTC) responded. He indicated that the deaths were not directly on the buses, but that ICTC has engaged the Calexico Police Department regarding safety issues. There is not enough funding to provide daily security on the buses.</p>	<p>CARB/ICTC</p>	<p>07/14/2021</p>

AB617 Community Steering Committee Meeting (El Centro-Heber-Calexico)

Frequently Asked Questions

June 2021

Question	Answer	Answer Provided By	Date Question Asked
Community Steering Committee Members			
33. Is the additional \$6,300 requested for the New River Pollutant Monitoring Program's pesticide component for the entire duration of the project?	<p>Yes, it is for the entire duration of the project and beyond. Initially, Sonoma Tech did not include the shelter stamped drawings in their quote. When we requested approval for the location, we found out that to make the shelter valid, we would need to pay this amount for the stamped drawing.</p> <p>Once we acquire this stamped drawing, we will be able to move the monitors to a different location if we chose to. Without the stamped drawing, we would have to start the process over.</p>	Imperial County Air Pollution Control District (ICAPCD)	06/16/2021

34. What is the status of the School Air Filtration project?	The contracts are completed, and they have been submitted, reviewed and approved by the County Council. The School District has returned the signed contracts. The school districts are agreeing to do 7 schools in the corridor.	ICAPCD	06/16/2021
35. How much will the School Air Filtration project cost?	The cost will be approximately \$450,000 for the 7 schools. There is a difference between the AB617 funds and the Supplemental Environmental Projects that were funded through the state. Through the AB 617 Allowable Cost contract, there are certain allowable costs. For example, the maintenance would not be an allowable cost – IQ Air would train the school maintenance team to maintain the Air Filtration systems, and the filters would be provided for 5 years.	ICAPCD	06/16/2021
36. Does this contract for the School Air Filtration project cover all of the schools in El Centro?	No, it is currently only for 7 schools. We are working on leveraging funds from the Supplemental Environmental Projects to cover all 31 schools in the corridor.	ICAPCD	06/16/2021
37. Does the California Air Resources Board (CARB) have any recommendations or comments regarding the Technical Subcommittee structure or the Brown Act?	CARB has taken part of conversations between the Air District and other AB617 Brown Act compliant committees. It is CARB's understanding that those committees that are subject to Brown Act had to create subcommittees that were compliant with Brown Act.	CARB	06/16/2021
38. Should the AB 617 committee seek advice from the County Council regarding how to proceed with the technical subcommittee?	Yes, Belen Leon, from the Air District, will contact the Council.	ICAPCD	06/16/2021
39. Where can the public access the enforcement policies on the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District website?	<p>The Air District is in the process of updating the policies on the website. It may be on the Rules & Regulations page or, having a separate section for Policies.</p> <p>In the interim, if any members of the committee or the public would like a copy of the revised policies, they can</p>	ICAPCD	06/16/2021

	contact the Air District to receive and electronic copy.		
40. Is it possible for ICAPCD to condense these policies in a pamphlet? Can the Air District also create a pamphlet on how to submit public comment in a manner that is friendly and relatable to residents?	ICAPCD will take these recommendations to improve the website to break down the information in a manner that is more palatable for the public.	ICAPCD	06/16/2021
41. Is it possible to submit a violation complaint online to include a picture of the violation?	Please email your recommendations to Thomas Brinkerhoff so that the Air District can attempt to incorporate these into the revisions. The Air District does not have the capability to this right now, but the public is encouraged to email these images to Thomas Brinkerhoff.	ICAPCD	06/16/2021
42. Policy 17 has not been updated in 28 years?	Yes, that is correct.	ICAPCD	06/16/2021
43. Will someone be assigned to immediately address the complaints submitted via Policy 17?	<p>Across Air Pollutions Districts, there is a standard 24-hour window to respond. The Air District attempts to get an inspector out as soon as possible. Even if we do not catch the event while it is in progress, there are ways to find out if there are illegal events occurring.</p> <p>The Air District has four full-time inspectors and an extra health inspector that just joined the team. The Air District will try to do patrols so that the events are caught even before there are even complaints logged in the system.</p>	ICAPCD	06/16/2021
44. Would AB617 be able to include a brief blurb in the corridor's CERP or CAMP regarding the complaint process?	This information is already in the Enforcement Section of the AB617 CERP. This is one of the reasons why we are modernizing and making Policy 17 more transparent.	ICAPCD	06/16/2021
45. How does this committee stay proactive for emission-causing activities that occur during night-time operations of	There are certain activities and sectors that don't fall under the umbrella of the Air District. AB617 and the public can continue to bring these up so that the public is informed of	ICAPCD	06/16/2021

businesses?	the appropriate enforcement agencies.		
Public Comments			
8. Is the California Market Express still a candidate to host the monitor for the Community Air Monitoring Network?	Comite Civico del Valle (CCV) did contact the property manager for the Plaza where the California Market is, but he said that there is already another air monitor. He did not want too many pieces of equipment on the property. If any committee members have any information on whether the California Market is separate from the other areas, please let Christian Torres know, and CCV can contact the property owner.	CCV	06/16/2021
9. Can you provide an update on the planting trees program to the report card?	The Air District is still finalizing the due date for the Urban Greening Project.	ICAPCD	06/16/2021
10. I think that possibly having drones set up on an as needed basis to monitor certain areas for violations.	N/A	N/A	06/16/2021
11. When will Urban Greening Project be coming up on the agenda?	The Urban Greening Proposal will be closing tomorrow, 06/17/2021 at 5pm. The Air District will review application in June and July. The applications will be brought back to the AB617 CSC and applicants will be notified in August 2021.	ICAPCD	06/16/2021
12. Who asks the detailed questions related to the Urban Greening Projects? For example, who needs to maintain it and costs, etc.	Those questions are part of the application itself.	ICAPCD	06/16/2021

AB617 Community Steering Committee Meeting (El Centro-Heber-Calexico)

Frequently Asked Questions

May 2021

Question	Answer	Answer Provided By	Date Question Asked
Community Steering Committee Members			
1. Is there going to be any potential to record Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) that are emitting or evaporating from the New River or are the pesticides being tested strictly materials that are drifting in aerially?	Sonoma Tech is going to set up all the instrumentation up on a shelf that is going to be sitting very close to the New River – the downward side is the goal. Whatever is in the air and can be absorbed into the cartridge is what we will be able to include in the concentration pool. That limits the study to things that are in the air only. The goal is not to take any sampling of the water or anything else that can be there. However, the hope is that by setting the shelter up close to the New River, we hope that we are getting those direct emissions coming from the river.	Sonoma Tech	05/19/2021
2. Is there any type of air monitoring that can capture the evaporation or the VOCs coming from the New River or is that better left to some type of water sampling model?	Sonoma Tech hopes to capture whatever is volatilizing off the New River without being on top of the river or doing Chamber Studies – where there is a chamber set on top of the water and capturing what is coming off the water. Sonoma Tech will not be taking that approach – their focus is on the air quality itself. The approach that Sonoma Tech is taking, with setting up the shelter near the New River is a good representation of what nearby home and communities are being exposed to.	Sonoma Tech	05/19/2021
3. How does Sonoma Tech plan to tie their data to the METDATA, given that the samplers are going to run for 6 days or 12 days?	The 6-day period is an average measurement. Sonoma Tech will look at the measured compounds and the wind pattern and see what the average during that time period was like. There are limits to what Sonoma Tech can do – there won't be a 1:1 time stamp. The approach is to look at these different	Sonoma Tech	05/19/2021

	<p>compounds and compare it to what we find from the Polyurethane Foam (PUF) Samplers and to see if there is any correlation. We have various graphical representations to do that, for example pollutions rises, which look at the concentrations in a given space, based on the wind direction.</p> <p>Having short-term, transient meteorological components will allow Sonoma Tech to identify instances of interest. For example, if we a observed a BTEC spike in a region of interest, we would make a note of it and examine the PUF cartridge to see if there is something present that was not present in other background measurements. The METDATA and the other measurements would inform interpretation, but the PUF Samples 6-day and 12-day average measurements.</p>		
<p>4. Can the AB617 CSC expect to get a summary of what the impacts are to the findings or recommendations for further analysis to quantify? Can the CSC anticipate that we will be able to describe what the potential health impacts are for residents in the surrounding area?</p>	<p>Sonoma Tech will write a report to share with the air district and the CSC, once the analysis has been completed. We will also be presenting our findings at the end of the study period.</p>	<p>Sonoma Tech</p>	<p>05/19/2021</p>
<p>5. Will there be a Phase II of the New River Monitoring where Sonoma Tech would move farther north as the New River flows and capture if there are any changes from the International Border location into the Imperial Valley and through the Imperial Valley?</p>	<p>Sonoma Tech is only contracted to do a 6-month monitoring period, as close to the New River as possible. The equipment that Sonoma Tech used for this study will remain with the air district. In the future, if there is funding and opportunity, this can possibly be done.</p>	<p>Sonoma Tech</p>	<p>05/19/2021</p>

6. Were the criteria for selecting a location for the New River Monitoring that the pesticide sample be close to the International Border?	Yes, the proximity to the International Border was part of the original Request for Proposal requirements.	Sonoma Tech	05/19/2021
7. Is Sonoma Tech considering our extreme climate that can accelerate evaporation for the New River Monitoring?	Sonoma Tech wants to make sure that we are capturing the right seasons for this study. We are trying to do everything we can to get the equipment set up so we can begin the monitoring. In the future, getting the right time/season is definitely critical to getting more information.	Sonoma Tech	05/19/2021
8. Who should the public contact regarding abandoned or obsolete spurs, specifically in El Centro?	The public can contact Lupe Valdez from Union Pacific at lvaldez@up.com to report in the El Centro area. However, just because a railroad is not being utilized every day, it does not mean that it is abandoned. There could be a number of reasons why that track is not utilized, but there is a legal process to classify a track as "abandoned." Lupe Valdez can be contacted to help determine if the track is part of UP or she can help determine who the property owner is and how they can be contacted.	Union Pacific	05/19/2021
Public Comments			
N/A			

AB617 Community Steering Committee Meeting (El Centro-Heber-Calexico)

Frequently Asked Questions

April 2021

Question	Answer	Answer Provided By	Date Question Asked
Community Steering Committee Members			

<p>1. Is the alternate site for the Community Air Monitoring Plan on Danenberg Dr & Dogwood Rd extremely important or can it be anywhere around there? All the intersections around there are privately owned.</p>	<p>This intersection was recommended by the Community Steering Committee. The IV Mall, which is near Danenberg Dr & Dogwood Rd is listed as a primary location. Comite Civico Del Valle (CCV) encourages the CSC to consider that if the CSC were to look for a monitor near the Danenberg Dr location, there is already another monitor on that list that is nearby.</p>	<p>CCV</p>	<p>04/21/2021</p>
<p>2. Could you use a commercial property near the new side of the Port of Entry, if the owners gave this committee permission? For example, the new gas station that just got built.</p>	<p>Both public and private entities host monitors. They would just have to give CCV permission, confirm that the proposed location is safe and that CCV can access power and complete maintenance – within reasonable hours.</p> <p>The only thing CCV needs to do is check with the scientific consultants to see if there would be any wear and tear on the actual quality unit inside the monitor. CCV wants the monitors to be stable for a long time.</p>	<p>CCV</p>	<p>04/21/2021</p>
<p>3. Are there specific pesticides that will be tested using the mobile monitoring unit?</p>	<p>Yes, there are a range of pesticides that will be monitored. It is going to monitor a wide array of dozens of pesticides.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>04/21/2021</p>
<p>4. Can the CSC get a list of the pesticides that will be monitored in the mobile unit?</p>	<p>The ICAPCD will provide a list of potential pesticides that can be detected to the CSC.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>04/21/2021</p>
<p>5. Are we sampling for chemical components that are common to a wide variety of pesticides with the mobile monitoring unit?</p>	<p>Yes, that is correct.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>04/21/2021</p>
<p>6. Will pesticide data and all the monitoring data from the New River monitoring unit have to be formatted and put on AQ View for the public to download?</p>	<p>If the site at the New River is a Stationary Park Trailer Site, the data would be provided in the same format as the dialogue date. CARB recommends that a meeting is organized between corridor stakeholder and CARB to discuss this and answer any other questions regarding the project.</p>	<p>CARB</p>	<p>04/21/2021</p>

<p>7. Is there a way to allocate more of the funding towards Urban Greening Projects? Through the VW settlement, there is a lot of funding available but for some reason Urban Greening is one of the lowest funded, but they can provide the highest mitigation of air pollution and dust.</p>	<p>The ICAPCD just got the Urban Greening plans approved. The \$500,000 that you see under "Estimated Costs" are from the initial Community Emission Reduction Program (CERP) Budget.</p> <p>The committee can recommend increasing that now that the district has received a second year of funding. We may also leverage funding under other grants. ICAPCD will investigate that.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>04/21/2021</p>
<p>8. Are the Enhanced Flag Program and the marquees going to be two separate tasks?</p>	<p>The Air District had to separate those because the Enhanced Flag Program was not part of the initial CERP approval. We had to redo the Project Plan for Chapter 6 and that is where we had to introduce the Enhanced Flag Program. The marquee installation is part of the Flag Program that has been enhanced. Instead of having a flag manually changed, we would have the marquee updating the air quality.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>04/21/2021</p>
<p>9. In the future, if there is adequate funding, will the 12 schools that get the Enhanced Flag Program will also get a marquee and installation?</p>	<p>Correct, that is included in the Project Plans.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>04/21/2021</p>
<p>10. In the CERP Project/Budget Commitments, the ones with the asterisk are committed. Do we know when then Enhanced School Flag Program will begin?</p>	<p>There is no proposed timeline for that Project yet since we were recently notified that it was approved.</p> <p>Right now, we have the request for proposals for the Paving Project and Urban Greening.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>04/21/2021</p>
<p>11. What will be the approach to try leverage what IID is doing with trees to what AB617 is trying to do with trees in the Corridor?</p>	<p>Matt Dessert will look on the Calendar of Events to see how IID will approach that. The Air District will bring that conversation up to see if we can leverage those monies or activity, of possible.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>04/21/2021</p>

	Right now, we just want IID to be a part of AB617, but we can discuss this subject with them as well.		
12. Is there someone from Comite Civico representing the valley in the Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (EJAC)?	<p>EJAC does have an open solicitation for other Environmental Justice members.</p> <p>CCV has a seat on the EJAC, and Luis Olmedo is the representative. It is their second term on the AB32 Advisory Committee.</p>	CCV	04/21/2021
Public Comments			
N/A			

AB617 Community Steering Committee Meeting (El Centro-Heber-Calexico)

Frequently Asked Questions

March 2021

Question	Answer	Answer Provided By	Date Question Asked
Community Steering Committee Members			
1. Do applications for pesticides increase during certain months of the year that increase exposures to our communities?	There are trends. Our applications tend to pick up in the fall – September, October, November – we have quite a few applications. I think that is our peak. We still have a lot in the winter to control winter pests, but the applications are fewer. In the spring, we have another peak. You can generalize that the pests you see in your own home, can be seen in the field as well.	Ag Commissioner’s Office	3/10/2021
2. Are there any waivers or exceptions on current pesticide use in our communities for those	I’m not aware of any waivers for banned pesticides. Chlorpyrifos was recently unregistered, and there’s no waivers for use. In fact, you are not even allowed to possess it	Ag Commissioner’s Office	3/10/2021

pesticides that are scheduled to be banned or outlawed – but are still being used?	anymore in California. There are always pesticides that are under scrutiny at a state level, but none that are being phased out or banned.		
3. Does the Ag Department have any concerns regarding field burning of fields that have had pesticides applied and air quality?	We don't regulate field burning at all, that goes to the Air Pollution Control District. In practice, I would think that before they burn a field, they're not applying pesticides because it is an additional expense that would just get burned off. I don't think it's common practice. It's not something that has come up that I am aware of.	Ag Commissioner's Office	3/10/2021
4. When you talk about pesticides, is it all inclusive – herbicides, fertilizers and other chemicals that are used on crops – or are there other things?	No, it does not apply to everything. Pesticides are defined in code and it does not include fertilizer. Fertilizer is not regulated by our office. Yes, herbicides, insecticides, fungicides – even your household cleaners like bleach and antibacterial are considered a pesticide as well. If it has a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency registration number, generally, it is a pesticide.	Ag Commissioner's Office	3/10/2021
5. Does the Ag Commissioner's Office enforce anything related to runoff from the fields?	There are rules. It involves pesticide-specific on the labels for certain pesticides. You can't apply them while there's water running off. Later, when you irrigate the fields, there might be residues that are getting in the water. The Department of Pesticide Regulation conducts surface water sampling and testing. If we get a report of that happening – and it usually comes in the form of someone reporting a fish kill or something like that – we will investigate. If it is determined that the runoff came from an application, then we will absolutely enforce action against the applicator of that job.	Ag Commissioner's Office	3/10/2021
6. Does the Ag Commissioner's Office have any contacts for farm labor buses that pick-up laborers in Calexico? The Transit Commission is hoping to include them in the near future transit	The office registers all of the farm labor contractors operating in the County, so we could provide a list of farm labor contractors. We don't have specific information on the buses or transportation in general, but I think you could probably get it individually from the contractors. You can email agcom@co.imperial.ca.us and address it to	Ag Commissioner's Office	3/10/2021

center being built in Calexico.	Rachel and I will provide that information.		
7. Does Ag Commissioners office monitor legacy locations, such as PureGro or other locations like that?	I think it is the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the Imperial County Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) that monitor that. We are aware of the current pesticide dealers, but we don't keep records on older locations. We only keep 5-10 years' worth of records. We inspect current licensed and registered pesticide dealers.	Ag Commissioner's Office	3/10/2021
8. Does the California Department of Food and Agriculture regulate fertilizers in California?	Yes, they do. The Ag Commissioner's office doesn't get involved in that program, but we do refer fertilizer, manure and other types of compost issues complaints to them.	Ag Commissioner's Office	3/10/2021
9. What is the most frequent violation the Ag Commissioner's Office finds in the fields, for example leaks or spills?	It varies on the type of inspections. For example, in pesticide use monitoring inspections, label violations are the most common – violation of Food and Ag Code 12973. When we preform the headquarters inspections, it's usually paperwork related to respiratory record-keeping or failure to maintain those records. For field worker safety inspection, it's usually some kind of misinformation on required paperwork by Department of Pesticide Regulation that is not on site.	Ag Commissioner's Office	3/10/2021
10. The Ag Commissioner's Office mentioned that sometimes there are spills in the New River. When you detect the spill in the New River, who is it reported to? Who has jurisdiction?	Let me clarify that we do not sample from the New River. We sample the field and any adjacent immediate areas. The California State Water Resources Board and California Department of Toxic Substances Control might be the ones that do that, but I am not sure.	Ag Commissioner's Office	3/10/2021
11. Is there an 1-800 number for companies that have been storing pesticides and chemicals for years? How do you destroy them?	Household hazardous waste operate locally, and they will take pesticides from homeowners. They require it to be labeled. As long as you are in one of the cities that contracts with them, they take it off your hands at no charge.	Ag Commissioner's Office	3/10/2021

<p>12. How much easement does the railroad have on either side of the railroad tracks?</p>	<p>It varies. We measure it from the edge of the outside rail – in some cases it’s 100-foot right-of-way and others 60 feet. It is not always consistent, but if you give me specific areas, I can tell you. It is normally at least 25 feet, which leaves enough space for trucks that provide maintenance.</p>	<p>Union Pacific</p>	<p>3/10/21</p>
<p>13. Did Union Pacific submit a report to the Office of Emergency Services, even though there was not spill?</p>	<p>Whenever we have a derailment, we submit reports to a number of agencies, including the Public Utilities Commission. Everything has to be inspected to make sure that there was no spill or damage. I think they did.</p>	<p>Union Pacific</p>	<p>3/10/21</p>
<p>14. If Union Pacific did report to the Office of Emergency Services, can you please come back and update the CSC? Why are the rail cars still sitting on the East side of Central, between Main and Orange in El Centro?</p>	<p>Yes, once I confirm I can come back and report to the CSC.</p>	<p>Union Pacific</p>	<p>3/10/21</p>
<p>15. Is the same analysis presented at the March 2021 meeting available for all of the IVAN monitors laid out in summarized format?</p>	<p>CCV conducts the preliminary analysis specifically for AB617 meetings. We are working on a re-design of IVAN to be able to include Tableau, which is the tool that is helping me show these findings. We hope that will be available for all the monitors that will be live. Using Tableau, we would be able to, for example, help you compare what was happening in a certain location.</p>	<p>CCV</p>	<p>3/10/21</p>
<p>16. In the slide showing preliminary findings, has that been correlated to high wind events or high occurrence of PM2.5? Have there been any analyses done on that?</p>	<p>This is preliminary and we are just looking at community air quality levels, which is the guide used by IVAN, developed by the Imperial Project. I have not gone back to correlate those events to high elevations. We could go back and do that. I think the California Air Resources Board would be interested in that.</p>	<p>CCV</p>	<p>3/10/21</p>

Public Comments

N/A			
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AB617 Community Steering Committee Meeting (El Centro-Heber-Calexico)

Frequently Asked Questions

February 2021*

Question	Answer	Answer Provided By	Date Question Asked
Community Steering Committee Members			
1. Do we have air quality monitors within proximity to these schools for the air filtration systems?	Yes. For example, in El Centro we have a regulatory monitoring site on the roof of our building. There are also multiple IVAN monitors situated throughout the corridor – both existing and new ones that we are trying to get online.	ICAPCD	2/10/2021
2. Have you selected a location for the New River monitor or is that still to be determined?	When we put out the request for proposal (RFP), we did not want to specify a location, knowing that there would be some back and forth between the company and working with other agencies and the City of Calexico. We will make these decisions as we move forward with the contract to determine a location based on proximity and security. We will bring that information back to the AB617 Community Steering Committee (CSC).	ICAPCD	2/10/2021

<p>3. What is the length of time that the New River monitor will be in place? Will it be in a single location only or will it move to multiple locations?</p>	<p>We drew up the request for proposal so we could get a sense of what the impacts are on the New River. This will be at one location unless we run into issues or situations during the study. The location is near the New River. The length of time we plan to keep it at that location to capture the various seasonal months would be from summer to winter of this year – 6 months in total.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>2/10/2021</p>
<p>4. Is it possible to create a sub-committee of selective CSC (Community Steering Committee) members now that we are moving forward with this process for Sonoma Tech?</p>	<p>We have subcommittees written into the bylaws, so, yes, we can look at that. We can also keep everyone involved on an ongoing basis.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>2/10/2021</p>
<p>5. Did the CSC get the opportunity to see the submitted request for proposal (RFP) for the New River in its entirety?</p>	<p>Yes, we had the full RFP on both the AB617 and the Air Pollution Control District's websites. When we sent the packets out last week, we invited community members to see the full proposals. If anybody wants a copy of that, please let ICAPCD know, and we will be happy to e-mail that and any related documentation.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>2/10/2021</p>
<p>6. Which equipment from the New River proposal can also be used in the future to measure pesticides emissions?</p>	<p>We did put in another category in this RFP for pollutants that we can pursue and look at in the future.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>2/10/2021</p>
<p>7. Will all equipment used for the New River monitoring, aside from single use samplers, be owned by ICAPCD?</p>	<p>As we can see in the RFPs, some of this equipment will be owned. Some equipment, such as PCV equipment will be rented out.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>2/10/2021</p>
<p>8. Can additional equipment be installed for New River monitoring, with the understanding that pesticides will be inevitable pollutant that</p>	<p>When we select a company for the New River proposal, one of the things that we will see are hazardous air pollutants. Depending on the levels found in the analyses, we can draw conclusions and see if there are any concerns revolving around pesticides contaminating the New River area and if it</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>2/10/2021</p>

may and should be a priority?	is affecting the health of our residents – whether it be Calexico or the County.		
9. Are we just asking for the companies to prepare a New River project and not moving the monitors in the future for future projects?	We wanted to make this proposal and get this equipment off the ground at one location that makes sense for what we want to be looking at on the New River. We will concentrate on certain pollutants and get further data to fill in the gaps on what impact the New River has on the community. This is basically an extension of all the discussions we had regarding Mobile Monitoring.	ICAPCD	2/10/2021
10. How soon can any of these New River monitors be up and running?	Based on the proposal and on the RFP that was put out last year, we want to get this project up and running by July – maybe August at the latest.	ICAPCD	2/10/2021
11. Regarding the Paving Project for the High School on Highway 98, are there are budget considerations for additional trees or greenery and not just the paving of the lot?	The committee needs to look at what we can fund through our different mitigation categories. The CSC to address the paving for particulate matter emissions. In the future, we can highlight greenery to compliment a project such as this.	ICAPCD	2/10/2021
12. What is the difference between the suggested sites that are highlighted red versus blue for the Community Air Monitoring?	The sites in red are the ones that I’ve mentioned we already have monitors near them. Initially, we discussed the issue of saturation of monitors in certain areas (1-1.5 miles from each other). The sites in blue are ones where we don’t have monitors yet. For example, in Heber, we only have one at Heber school.	CCV	2/10/2021
13. In terms of the Preliminary Analysis – Calexico, are we aware of what is causing the changes in those months where the data is showing more definite red markers? I know	They are very different locations, so we can’t attribute it to one thing. You can see the north end of Calexico and the West end of Calexico; it can be two different things that we are capturing. I would not attribute it to seasonal workers – there could be other factors. If we want to quantify which pollutants are in that area, the CSC can propose another	CCV	2/10/2021

that there are a lot of seasonal workers from September through April. [Community Air Monitoring Update]	project to find that out because there are ways to filter sampling and find out what is in those particulates.		
14. Regarding the Alleyway Paving Project, if the AB617 funds get applied to every one of these projects and then get reimbursed, will those be two different transactions? Will the AB617 continue to be able to make decision on what happens to those reimbursed funds?	I don't know if our AB617 funds can be used for this purpose, but it can help facilitate the activity. It would show smart leveraging of our partnership. If we are able to do this with support from CARB (California Air Resources Board) and CSC, the AB617 funds managed by the Air District would pay for Phase I – around \$1 million dollars for paving alleys to reduce PM10. The second transaction would be specifically reimbursed back to the AB617. There would be a loss of interest on AB617 funds.	ICAPCD	2/10/2021
Public Comments			
How are the readings from the AB Monitors compared with the close monitors from Air Pollution Control?	We haven't done a 1-to-1 comparison with any of the AB617 regulatory monitors that we have installed. If that is something that the CSC is interested in, we can connect with APCD to discuss that.	CCV	2/10/2021

***There was no AB 617 CSC Meeting held in January 2021.**

AB617 Community Steering Committee Meeting (El Centro-Heber-Calexico)

Frequently Asked Questions

December 2020

Question	Answer	Answer Provided By	Date Question Asked
Community Steering Committee Members			
1. Do we have any type of monitoring when we have these atmospheric events - either at feed lots or composting sites - where it's an exceptional event when something happens in the atmosphere and things linger?	We have five (5) Air Pollution Control District monitors around the valley. We also have the IVAN monitoring network that is being expanded through the AB617 corridor. I believe those monitors are up and running in the Heber area corridor.	ICAPCD	12/17/2020
2. Does that haze - where you can smell it, but are unsure what it is - occur at composting sites and what is that airborne thing?	Those smells do not only occur at composting operations. They also occur at other operations and those are odor/nuisance complaints. We do accept complaints for those, but that it not really our area of governance on the nuisance. If anyone from the public has any concerns - whether from the feedlot or other sources - feel free to call our office and report it and we will open an investigation. We are required to respond to those concerns within 24 hours.	ICAPCD	12/17/2020
3. Is there any type of monitoring of what the haze contains, in terms of airborne particulates?	Yes, we do monitor that haze. For example, if you look towards the south and you see the haze, that is PM2.5, which is captured on the PM2.5 monitors. This is PM2.5 being produced by neighbors in the south. In the summer, it is ozone. Those are also captured by California Air Resources Board and the Environmental Protection	ICAPCD	12/17/2020

	Agency.		
4. What equipment can be purchased where both the regulators and the community can share learning on air measurements?	We have talked about some toxics monitoring around the New River and perhaps moving those blockers further north to along the Salton Sea and capture some of these areas along the way. Those are the type of toxics monitoring that we are talking about doing through a contract with the AB617 funding. I don't know if we're going to be able to do any other mobile monitoring or mobile monitoring platforms. I believe there's been discussions in the past of methane. CCV is involved with some methane monitoring development. Ideally, some low-cost methane monitoring development	ICAPCD	12/17/2020
5. How do you move forward with rulemaking while addressing emissions? What has been the process behind this policy? Land use is an element of the blueprint.	<p>The county has a second department, and they have a standard notification process and public hearing process, no different than what happened with this composting rule. During COVID, it has been difficult to get word out about these hearings.</p> <p>We recognize that land use is a big issue we are seeing withing these communities. However, there isn't anything within statute that brings in those land use agencies into the requirements that are outlined in statute. We need to see how to bring those agencies into the process and bring them into the conversation from the beginning so that they can see the issues that the communities are raising concerns about and, subsequently, figure out how to include those in plans that they are developing.</p>	ICAPCD/CARB	12/17/2020
6. Do you have updates on eligibility for other communities in Imperial Valley that could benefit from participating in AB617?	We received a response that that the rest of the Imperial County that we submitted, with a focus on the areas in and around the Salton Sea, were not accepted. We will provide more information in the February 2021 presentation.	ICAPCD	12/17/2020

AB617 Community Steering Committee Meeting (El Centro-Heber-Calexico)

Frequently Asked Questions

November 2020

Question	Answer	Answer Provided By	Date Question Asked
Community Steering Committee Members			
1. Why isn't McCabe school on the Flag program?	There are other schools that haven't been able to participate in the school flag program for different reasons, including funding or, at the time, willingness from the school to participate. Currently there are 24 schools in the SFP, under different	CCV	11/18/2020

	programs at CCV not under AB617 yet.		
2. Approximately how much Year One funding do we have left to continue doing Tier One and Tier Two projects?	Looking at what we have available, discounting certain administration money that can be taken out of there, we have flexibility to see how we can run that program. The only funds we have taken from that \$7.9 million, to date, have been paying out the cost of the Pavement Project at Calexico High School – that was between \$200 and \$300 thousand. We also used a larger portion, approximately \$97,000. We are looking at about \$300,000 deducted from the \$8 million. So, there are, overwhelmingly, a large majority of those funds to be used.	ICAPCD	11/18/2020
3. Do any of these projects or existing projects originally had landscaping requirements? That's something where we might be able to take into consideration bridging the greening and paving.	<p>We have significant funding to do these projects. ICAPCD has expressed the desire to get the input into CARB to get this program moving sooner rather than later. Once we get it going, we should be able to roll it out in a much more aggressive manner.</p> <p>We do have an existing list of projects that have been done with asphalt paving – or some type of a pilot program. We can go back and revisit all those sites to revisit them for additional trees or urban greening or look at other sites for additional greening projects.</p>	ICAPCD	11/18/2020
4. Did I hear you say that all composting operations are 45 tons or less? If they are all 45,000 tons or less, what is the smallest and largest?	The smallest composting operation permitted with the ICAPCD has an annual throughput of 15,000 tons per year and the largest has an annual throughput of 90,000 tons per year.	ICAPCD	11/18/2020
5. Did I hear that there are eight composting operations in our county? Are they all on feedlot sites or are they offsite?	There are a total of eight (8) composting facilities permitted by the ICAPCD. Seven (7) out of the eight (8) permitted composting facilities are located adjacent to a feedlot.	ICAPCD	11/18/2020

<p>6. Who set the 100,000-ton limit? Does that come from some type of a scientific report/study/model?</p>	<p>Every time the ICAPCD develops a Rule, we have to do a cost-effective analysis, which is what determines at what point it is cost-effective to require facilities to mitigate. In this case, any facility that has an annual throughput between 0 and 100,000 tons per year has to mitigate their VOC and ammonia emissions based on what we call "housekeeping control measures."</p> <p>Any facility that has an annual throughput greater than 100,000 tons per year, with the production being a lot larger, it would be cost effective for the operation to invest the capital cost on the foundation of control equipment.</p> <p>This is part of the record and can be found on the ICAPCD website.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>11/18/2020</p>
<p>7. Are you saying that the San Joaquin Valley also has that 100,000-ton limit?</p>	<p>Yes, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District has the 100,000 ton per year limit.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>11/18/2020</p>
<p>8. When was Imperial County first required to implement either Rule 430 or a rule similar to this?</p>	<p>Technically, it is not a requirement. When ICAPCD/Imperial County adopted the 2018 Annual PM2.5 State Implementation Plan, the ICAPCD committed to develop and implement a composting rule to bring additional emissions reductions to benefit Public Health.</p> <p>Imperial County has never required to do it; it was a measure determined to be cost-effective for Imperial County</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>11/18/2020</p>

	<p>because we have composting facilities and the District committed to develop this Rule.</p>		
<p>9. How does the emissions reductions comport with Air Pollution Control District's 2018 State Implementation Plan for Imperial County annual standards?</p>	<p>This question is directly linked to the footnote, reproduced here for convenience. Because of the information provided within the footnote the comment here originates with the assumption that:</p> <p>1) the calculated Ammonia levels are less in the Imperial County 2018 PM2.5 Plan (Plan) as compared to the calculated Ammonia levels for Rule 430, and</p> <p>2) SIP assumption included adoption in 2019 and implementation in 2020, thus no effect in 2020 and needing even additional reductions to meet SIP goals.</p> <p>"For example, "Current", "With Control", and "Reduction" NH3 levels are less under the SIP as compared to the County's estimates. Compare CARB (Apr. 2018) SIP, PDF p. 97-98</p> <p>(https://ww3.arb.ca.gov/planning/sip/planarea/imperial/final_2018_ic_pm25_sip.pdf) with Item 22 Staff Report (supra fn. I), PDF p. 39. So too, while the SIP assumed adoption in 2019 and implementation in 2020, Rule 430 will have no effects in 2020 and may require even additional reductions to meet the SIP goals."</p> <p>The comment ignores the analysis presented in previous</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>11/18/2020</p>

	<p>pages of Chapter 5 which describe the Air District’s Control Strategy, analyzed in accordance with the Clean Air Act (CCA) requirements, which concluded that with the exception of “wood burning devices”, the current Air District rules along with state mandated rules satisfy the nonattainment requirement for the Annual PM2.5 Standard. In summary, the analysis looked at all sources, stationary, mobile and area sources, that emit direct PM2.5 emissions, looked at all the various control measures available for those sources, and identified which control measures were applied and which were not applied. The analysis identified only one control measure that had not been applied, the control for “wood burning devices”. Thus, the only rule that would affect the SIP for attainment purposes was the non-adoption of a “wood burning device[]” rule. The Air District adopted Rule 428, Wood Burning Appliances, on September 11, 2018 and EPA approved the rule into the SIP with an effective date of September 30, 2019.</p> <p>Finally, the comment fails to consider the role that Additional Reasonable Measures (ARM) play within the scheme of the Plan. The modeling demonstrated that precursor emissions such as ammonia (NH3), and nitrogen oxides (NOx) were not significantly impacting PM2.5 levels. However, recognizing that these precursor emissions could affect</p>		
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	<p>ozone, the Air District chose to identify ARM rules that would assist in improving air quality within Imperial County. The Plan lists four ARM rules that although would not significantly contribute to nonattainment, their adoption would provide an added level of improvement to air quality thus added protection of the public health.</p> <p>Finally, all calculated reductions were based on current practices, i.e. the implementation of water management practices to control ammonia emissions. The corresponding AB 617 CSC Meeting FAQ: 2020 percentage used to calculate the reductions were derived from EPA's Control Techniques for Composting Operations. Thus, all assumptions for implementation and subsequently calculation of reductions do not affect the overall emission reductions necessary for attainment but rather, as page 97 (PDF) of the Plan explains, "[m]ore research may need to be done to determine the final reductions in ammonia emissions expected to occur due to this rule."</p>		
<p>10. How reliable is CARB's emissions inventory methodology, given it assumes a high volume of green waste?</p>	<p>The methodology was peer reviewed and recommended by both CARB and US EPA. The Air District concurred after lengthy discussions regarding the analysis. CARB and EPA modelling experts peer reviewed and concurred this was the best methodology to use.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>11/18/2020</p>

<p>11. How well does Rule 430 correlate with San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control, Rule 4565 South Coast Air Quality Management District, and Rule 1133?</p>	<p>The Air District reviewed those rules that the California Air Resources Board (CARB) identified in their Rules database. After review of each of the Rules, looking at the area’s nonattainment status, classification of their nonattainment status, climatological and meteorological conditions, number and type of operations, and evaluating the purpose of each rule, the Air District in consultation with CARB and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) concluded that the San Joaquin Rule 4565 would be best suited as a model rule. Thus, the Air District modeled Rule 430 specifically after the San Joaquin Rule 4565.</p> <p>Specifically, the South Coast Rule 1133 is an administrative rule creating a registration program without any mitigation measures. In addition, Rule 1133 rule exempts 7 types of composting including Agricultural and recreational composting.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>11/18/2020</p>
<p>12. What meaningful limitation is provided for the Recreational Facility exemption and what basis was used to determine that these emissions were not significant?</p>	<p>According the South Coast Final Staff Report for the proposed composting rules and the San Joaquin Staff Report for Rule 4565, the exempt operations for recreational facility composting are “...generally conducted in small scales or do not cause inadvertent decomposition.” While a cursory review of Imperial County Recreational Facility Composting yielded no results, according to the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) these type of facilities are exempt at the State level because they are not producing the product</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>11/18/2020</p>

	commercially.		
13. What management practice and technological options (example Table A and B, respectively) (collectively mitigate measures) were not considered or deemed infeasible, including but not limited to measures addressing windrow composting methods?	All measures found in the San Joaquin Rule 4565 were deemed feasible and incorporated into Rule 430. This included all applicable test methods and/or source testing.	ICAPCD	11/18/2020
14. Beyond biofilter/in-vessel composting, what other technological options were considered that may be more effective?	All measures found in the San Joaquin Rule 4565 were deemed feasible and incorporated into Rule 430. Review of known technological studies by the South Coast AQMD and more generally through the United States Composting Council did not reveal any "...other technological options... that may be more cost-effective."	ICAPCD	11/18/2020
15. Why does the cost-effective study rely on a 13-year methodology employed by San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District?	The methodology used to determine cost effectiveness is a standard method widely used by air districts in California. The air district used the same equipment cost from SJAPCD Staff Report because it was considered conservative and appropriate to be used in our cost-effective analysis.	ICAPCD	11/18/2020
16. What scientific basis supports the 100,000-wet ton per year throughput for more aggressive mitigation measures addressing active/curing composting activities?	This question is directly linked to the footnote, reproduced here for convenience. The comment then is concerned that the APCD is acting for the benefit of industry over the public health. "Coincidentally, this threshold would exempt all existing composting facilities from more stringent standards, which	ICAPCD	11/18/2020

	<p>suggests regulatory capture of the APCD that is acting in the benefit of industry over public health.”</p> <p>Quite to the contrary. The 100,000 tons per year threshold was originally studied and examined by the South Coast AQMD in its technology assessment for Rule 1133. The initial review identified that those facilities 100,000 tons per year or more had an annual emissions of 89 tons/year of VOC, uncontrolled and 147 tons/year of ammonia, uncontrolled. The threshold in the final revision of the Staff Report was used only to identify the large facilities. In keeping with the concept first developed by the South Coast assessment, the Air District applied the concept as a threshold, addressing those facilities potentially emitting higher levels of emissions.</p> <p>To address the overall concern of the comment, that facilities smaller than 100,000 tons per year are not controlled, currently best management practices are in place in accordance with the USEPA and State standards. In fact, although BMP’s are currently being practiced there is no regulatory framework to assure that these practices are maintained during the most emissive phases of the composting operation. Balance between keeping industry functioning and protecting the public health is accomplished</p>		
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	by the mitigation measures in Table A for facilities under 100,000 wet tons.		
17. What measures prevent operators from piecemealing operations at several facilities below the threshold to avoid more stringent mitigation measures?	According to Imperial County Rules and Regulations, contiguous or adjacent facilities are considered one facility and therefore limited to 100,000 tons per year threshold. In any event, regardless of size the facility will be required to implement BMP's.	ICAPCD	11/18/2020
18. How does Rule 430 change current measures under Rule 201, such that compliance with Rule 430 may avoid more significant reductions potentially available via Rule 201.	<p>This question is directly linked to the footnote, reproduced here for convenience. The comment then is concerned with the applicability of a Class 8 exemption under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).</p> <p>“Such a case would make inapplicable a Class 8 exemption under the California Environmental Quality Act.”</p> <p>First the ICAPCD Rule 201 Permits Required is an administrative rule and does not contain “regulatory measures,” standards of performance or other requirements that provide for reductions. A Class 8 Exemption applies to those actions by regulatory agencies for the protection of the environment. Rule 430, as stated above is being adopted to further reduce air quality thus further protect the public health. The rule does not require construction activities nor does it relax and existing federal, state or local standards. For convenience CEQA Guideline section 15308 is reproduced</p>	ICAPCD	11/18/2020

	<p>here:</p> <p>“Class 8 consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment. Construction activities and relaxation of standards allowing environmental degradation are not included in this exemption.”</p>		
19. Heber Public Utility District Children’s Park Tree Planting Project sounds like a good project. You don’t have \$35,000 from one of your other funds to get this off the ground?	We are focusing on the corridor to break ground on this type of urban greening projects. We are very focused on getting other projects out the door. We are looking forward to breaking ground on this with the leadership of AB617 and the large amount of monies in that bank account at this time.	ICAPCD	11/18/2020
20. Are the projects being presented coming back to the agenda for the committee to take action at some point? When should the members expect that?	ICPCD are sharing these proposals because these are proposals that we received from entities in the communities. We will not move forward with these projects until the project plans are approved by CARB. Once they are approved, we can open up the process to receive formal applications from projects such as this. ICAPCD will then give recommendations to this committee for approval.	ICAPCD	11/18/2020
Public Comments			
21. Is there an agenda item regarding a tree project that the that Heber Public Utility District would like to start in Heber? [HPUD] sent the AB617 meeting a letter through APCD.	ICAPCD did receive the letter from HUPD and it is on the agenda packet for the committee. It is on our agenda to discuss that letter for that proposal for the greening project at Heber at the children’s park.	ICAPCD	11/18/2020

AB617 Community Steering Committee Meeting (El Centro-Heber-Calexico)

Frequently Asked Questions

October 2020

Question	Answer	Answer Provided By	Date Question Asked
Community Steering Committee Members			
1. Do we have any noise pollution control in the county? This is not necessarily AB617 related.	We would like to bring that back later in the discussion so that we can have a more complete conversation and, possibly, add it as an agenda item.	ICAPCD	10/14/2020
2. Which companies were spared from Inspection and have they been inspected since?	One was a Sandblaster that was not in operation in 2019, so we couldn't inspect it. The other was an Emergency Generator that only operates 20-50 hours, at max, for maintenance and testing. We couldn't coordinate each station because it is an unmanned facility.	ICAPCD	10/14/2020
3. How do these complaints, violations and compliance rates compare to similar to Otay Mesa border area in San Diego?	CARB presented border inspection results for 2019 on the last CSC. For the same year, CARB conducted 1597 inspections in 26 border area locations for San Diego. The results show 1597 inspections with 1393 compliant results (87%), 161 emission violations (10%) and 43 non-emission violations (3%).	CARB	11/17/2020
4. What is your expectation regarding the trucks at the Port of Entry with Mexico? How will you be monitoring the new citations that you will be imposing? Are you going to have control of that?	On the slide titled "Heavy-Duty Diesel Vehicle Enforcement in 2019 Imperial County, there is a map. On the bubble to the right, it shows the inspections we do in the border area. So, that is a high priority spot for us. I can provide the link to the visualization tool; it will give you a better idea of how we keep track of the citations and the compliance rate. If you zoom in, you can see the specific location per year and the	CARB	10/14/2020

	compliance rate per program. Every program keeps their own data and we put it together and upload it to this tool and it is available to the public.		
5. How do you plan to monitor idling for the school drop off? Will the schools be trained?	We can try to enforce that, but we don't have the authority. We can, however, help put those signs. We are working with Community Outreach and Enforcement Section to develop guidelines and potentially provide training for schools and communities so we can help them implement the "No Idling Programs."	CARB	10/14/2020
6. Are you going to get students involved to bring awareness?	Yes, that is key. We will try to provide a more integrated program for that.	CARB	10/14/2020
7. Is there potential to reroute heavy-duty diesel that travel through Calexico?	Yes. I know that we got input back in 2019 from a workshop. Part of the strategies on this pilot is re-routing of those trucks. Hopefully when we have more structure, we can implement that. We will have to coordinate with other agencies. If CSC wants to work on re-routing, we won't have to wait for a pilot.	CARB	10/14/2020
8. Once a citation has been issued, is the amount of the citation reduced once the violator has created action to correct the measure?	<p>If it is an in-use citation with emissions impact, the amount is not reduced unless they qualify for a financial hardship.</p> <p>There are no reductions in penalty for any HDVIP citations (ECL, Tampering, and Smoking).</p> <p>If it is a minor violation without emissions impact and they provide corrective action within 30 days (example is labeling or reporting), then the citation penalty could potentially be waived. This only applies to Air Toxic Control Measure citations (STB, TRU, ORE, etc.).</p>	CARB	11/17/2020

<p>9. How many schools currently have the Flag Program - both in the corridor and outside? I think before we start assigning those schools, we could have a presentation on this so it could be our baseline for where we're moving to.</p>	<p>Currently there's a total of 24 schools under the School Flag Program. There are seven (7) schools that have the School Flag Program in the AB 617 Community Corridor, there's also Meadows Elementary which is slightly off the corridor. These schools are currently implementing the Program under other existing programs and funders. Comite Civico del Valle provides training to school personnel to carry out the SFP objectives.</p>	<p>CCV</p>	<p>10/23/2020</p>
<p>10. In the CERP Project/Budget Commitments from our March 11, 2020 agenda, there were two separate items for the Flag Program. When I went to look at it, there was the Enhanced Flag Program, which was \$240,000.00 commit cost and the Flag Program Marquee and Installation for, I think \$400,000.00. Are we considering these as two separate projects?</p>	<p>The table of CERP Project/Budget Commitments from the March 2020 Community Steering Committee meeting agenda was presented to demonstrate potential ways in which the available AB 617 funds could be allocated to various project types based on strategies outlined in the CERP. The projects listed in the table for Enhanced Flag Program and School Flag Program Marquee and Installation would both serve the same strategy from the CERP, M-4: Expanded/Improved School Flag Program. This strategy is described in Chapter 4 of the CERP, stating "...the District is proposing to assist as many schools as funding permits in the Corridor in implementing the program. Specifically, the District would provide the materials and training necessary for successful implementation... ..Under this strategy the District would also consider ways to enhance the school flag program, including the potential for use of electronic marquee signs." As the CERP describes it, this strategy was created to leave flexibility for the District and the Steering Committee to allocate funds towards projects to initiate or enhance existing flag programs with traditional materials (i.e., flags), electronic marquees, or both. Ultimately though, these are part of the same greater project type/CERP strategy.</p>	<p>Ramboll</p>	<p>11/03/2020</p>
<p>11. How do we balance out the schools that have more income versus the schools that have less income that derived for the</p>	<p>Although that isn't listed as one of the Project Criteria, that is something we can implement. We would have to think about how to do that in a systematic way. I would be interested to</p>	<p>Ramboll</p>	<p>10/14/2020</p>

School Districts?	hear if the rest of the Committee is interested in that.		
12. What is the process to submit an application to become CSC Member? Is it on the website?	The process of identifying and selecting members for the CSC is the responsibility of APCD and CCV, per the bylaws. We will send out to application to all the CSC members, so you can have it and point out to your contacts or your associates to join our CSC.	ICAPCD/CCV	10/14/2020
13. Can you please expand on the expansion of air purifier for homes? Are you expanding the Public Health program to provide air purifiers for homes with asthmatics?	Yes, we connected with the County Health Department. Implementing it has been challenging, due to the resources being zeroed in on the pandemic. We are looking to see how we can get this implemented in-house with APCD and CCV.	ICAPCD	10/14/2020
14. I saw that the Board of Supervisors approved the air purification for the home of patients with asthma. So, it was never implemented?	It was approved by the Board. We communicated with the Public Health Department about the funding in the Spring of this year. Since the Spring, the Public Health Department's resources have been utilized for the pandemic. We will look into that and note that. These funds were outside of the AB617 Program.	ICAPCD	10/14/2020

AB617 Community Steering Committee Meeting (El Centro-Heber-Calexico)

Frequently Asked Questions

September 2020

Question	Answer	Answer Provided By	Date Question Asked
Community Steering Committee Members			
1. Is there an opportunity to include contributions towards zero-emission transit buses?	The current project plans in development are related to existing strategies in your CERP. There is one strategy related to electrifying bus strategy, but it was related to school buses. If you are proposing identifying funding or partial funding for zero-emission transit buses, that would have to be captured under "Update to your CERP." That would be included as a new strategy because I don't think there's an existing strategy at this point.	Ramboll	9/14/2020
2. On the budget commitments, I recall we had about \$5 million set aside for the three items that you reviewed with us. Will we have a presentation for whether it will lead to strategies for those other 3 or 4 remaining items we identified in our budget commitments?	That is how the budget was put together and allocated; that does not mean that it is locked in stone. As we go forward, we can amend the CERP, which is the process that we are now beginning.	ICAPCD	9/14/2020
3. Is there a deadline to formally submit public comments on CERP updates so that they can be included?	We were tentatively planning on sharing draft plans with you all at next month's meeting and, ideally, we would receive that feedback, you know, probably in the next couple of weeks. But again, we can talk about that timeline, a bit more.	Ramboll	9/14/2020

4. Can we get a high-level survey out between meetings, including cost share versus no cost share, award criteria, etc.?	We would be happy to facilitate something like that so that we can get feedback from the community. I will circle back with the District, CCV and Harder + Company so that we can discuss how that gets rolled out.	Ramboll	9/14/2020
5. Does the State have information on what the budget allocations are going to be and is there more money expected in the 2020 budget?	My understanding is that there were implementation funds included in the budget for this program and it is a similar amount to what was provided last year. The CAP Incentive funds, which go towards the projects themselves, are dependent upon the sales. I believe that the calculated sales have to reach a certain amount before those funds would be available.	CARB	9/14/2020

6. Are there any expectations of how that is going to move forward?	We do not have those numbers yet or that kind of contract. Your assistance, knowledge and insight in these areas have been a key to try and maintain that we are getting the proper exposure and success of AB 617 for future budget allocation problems in Sacramento.	ICAPCD	9/14/2020
7. With the mobile monitor, would there be any need to monitor the PM?	We do have a number of monitors in the area that we can leverage that have a high-level analysis of PM10 pm PM2.5 in Calexico, as well as with the monitors that we have in the IVAN network that monitor PM. I am not entirely sure if we need that in the mobile monitor. Instead, we're recommending we use our money wisely and fill in the data gaps with parameters and pollutants that are not to be monitored at all in Calexico, as it pertains to the New River.	ICAPCD	9/14/2020
8. Will the mobile monitors be able to monitor methane?	I know this has been brought up from time to time, in terms of the entire corridor countywide from different sources. I'm not sure if we've discussed methane as it pertains to this project. I will defer to any discussion to the Co- Chairs and if anybody else wants to see us pursue this with this mobile monitoring platform.	ICAPCD	9/14/2020

<p>9. Does the proposal for mobile monitoring include physically purchase equipment or is it just contract of service that will provide the equipment?</p>	<p>We have gone back and forth with the pros and cons, whether we are going to rent this out or purchase it. We are going to be looking at 6-month deployments. That is something that we're going to nail down between us and the Co-Chairs – whether we are going to go forward with renting the equipment initially or if we want to take on the higher cost initially and using it to further vocations and other projects down the line. We will have an update for you next month.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>9/14/2020</p>
<p>10. Now that you are in contacts with the Superintendents and the Principals at the schools, have you had a chance to talk to them about the air monitors? It would be a great opportunity to use those contacts to educate them about the marquees.</p>	<p>It has been challenging to speak with the Principals because of their security measures. Sometimes we have to communicate via the maintenance person. The Principals seem very interested in helping the community in any ways that they can.</p> <p>The Flag Program is not something that Edgar Ruiz from CCV is working on. It's a good idea to try new things, but there are challenges. Not everybody wants to talk about air quality or pollution.</p>	<p>CCV</p>	<p>9/14/2020</p>
<p>11. How are the Air Board and OCAP moving forward with an update at the CARB meeting? What is the update about? Did they consult with the CSC and environmental justice to ensure that that voice is present in the updates? Is it our message?</p>	<p>We have a Board hearing on the 24th of this month and it originally came about when our board considered the two reductions programs for the San Joaquin Valley back I February. At that time, the Board asked that there be a report back to the Board regarding those. Since then, it was recognized that it might be an opportunity to do an initial report back.</p> <p>We are working with Air Districts and reaching out to Steering Committees now. We are going to the Board on the 24th, but that is just an initial discussion on implementation. The logistics are still being worked out as far as what we will be discussion and how the actual discussion will occur.</p>	<p>CARB</p>	<p>9/14/2020</p>

<p>12. Can I propose that the El Toro Expansion is part of the agenda?</p>	<p>I did have a conversation with Matt Dessert, Co-Chair. It was well-understood that this was a limitation that the county would have. I did communicate it to John, but only to the extent of making that known. I did further clarify that I did have a conversation with the Chair as to whether the County Counsel was also referring to limitations to Comité Civico, stating that we would have a problem with that. This was the direction from the Council to the County Department – not a limitation of Comité Civico.</p>	<p>CCV</p>	<p>9/14/2020</p>
<p>13. If I had brought up these concerns as Co-Chair on behalf of a CSC Committee member, would that have eased the concerns with the County Counsel or is any agenda item regarding El Toro Expansion application a concern?</p>	<p>As Co-Chairs we put the agenda together, and we generally try to come to some type of consensus or agreement there. I believe the legal correspondence with the County Counsel, involves CCV, although I haven't seen it. These are tedious waters we are navigating now. We can still make successes in discussing this in general and planning out land use futures. But we should come to some type of agreement, as we have, about what the agenda items are and if there's a conflict of interest or if there's a concern over litigation.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>9/14/2020</p>
<p>14. How do we continue to respond to the CSC to concerns about the El Toro Expansion? Should this be something that, perhaps, needs more discussion with your legal?</p>	<p>It should involve both Co-Chairs discussion, at a minimum. Legal counsel at the County and other legal counsels can be referenced to assist us, but this is something that you and I should handle together.</p> <p>At this point in time, it is anticipated. That is why there is no further information on this. What I would propose to Mr. Dessert in that conversation is that we have a 3rd person, unbiased, step in. It is a very common practice that when there is a conflict, you excuse yourself.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>9/14/2020</p>
<p>15. Are we allowed to ask AB 617 to send us the public information that is already gathered about the El Toro Expansion?</p>	<p>We'll take that into discussion and doing everything we possibly can to follow through on both the comments from CSC members.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>9/14/2020</p>
<p>16. Aren't there already public documents from the Committee approval of the El Toro expansion, as well as the Planning Commission?</p>	<p>Yes, there is. We can put that together and make that information available, separate from an agenda item. We can do that for the Committee to educate them.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>9/14/2020</p>

Public Comments

17. Are maintenance costs included in urban greening projects, such as water to keep the projects alive for the long-term?	I suspect that they would only cover the up-front, one-time costs. I will have to investigate that and provide a response after the fact.	Ramboll	9/14/2020
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AB617 Community Steering Committee Meeting (El Centro-Heber-Calexico)

Frequently Asked Questions

July 2020

Question	Answer	Answer Provided By	Date Question Asked
Community Steering Committee Members			
1. Are these guidelines in addition to what we already have outlined in our CERP?	Your community is one of the ones that we did not have guidelines in place on how to fund those certain measures that you developed with your Air District. Now that the framework is finally in place, we give you the project criteria that your project must abide by. They are minimal, but there are some guidelines that you have to follow to get those measures into actual projects.	CARB	7/15/2020
2. Will our CERP have to fit within these guidelines? Are there incentives, in addition, to something that is not yet in our CERP?	Your formation of the CERP is based on a blueprint. To get those projects funded, you are going to have to follow these guidelines. As far as additional funding, that goes into the allocations per year. If you develop your CERP measures and there's funding provided, you'll be able to use this guideline to fund those projects/measures.	CARB	7/15/2020
3. Is this a separate plan/application that needs to be developed and attached? Or is this something that can be done in a parallel path?	Yes, it will be a separate document that you will submit to CARB. We are requiring the Air District and the community to put together a project plan that takes elements out of the CERP and into a separate document.	CARB	7/15/2020
4. If there are future strategies added to our CERP, what is the flexibility to be able have a living document?	We developed this chapter to work in tandem with the CERPs as a living document. Any type of project that you add to your CERP will still be allowed to undergo this exact	CARB	7/15/2020

	process. We intend this chapter to be used in perpetuity as long as there is a CERP program in place.		
5. How is the living strategy to the guidelines going to continue to work together in the evolution of our local CERPs?	Another element of this process is that we are trying to engage all the districts that are involved in thinking about having projects that can apply to multiple communities. We are developing a webpage that will allow all the districts the ability to connect with other districts and see what other type of projects are going to be available as well.	CARB	7/15/2020
6. What is the timeframe about in the Mobile Monitoring Chart?	We requested that the consultants tell us how long it would take them to do an analysis of the New River. They said that to get a full analysis, they need 1 year of analysis to do that. Aerodyne provided a 2-year proposal, just in case, together with the 1-year.	ICAPCD	7/15/2020
7. Is APCD staff going to make a recommendation on which proposal for mobile monitoring or is the hope here for all of us to weigh in on which one we prefer and that the committee hone in on the preferred applicant?	We are going to let this be on the Committee, based on proposals that we receive. We will be putting a document together with Pros and Cons for each proposal for the Committee to make a comparison.	ICAPCD	7/15/2020
8. Can someone remind me why the trailer is significant? Why would we want it or why could we do without it?	There is no security for the standalone monitor we would have near the New River. In previous meetings, we discussed that maybe a trailer would be best because it will be enclosed and it would have solar, good security and AC/ventilation. Security is going to be very important, given the areas we have seen to place the monitor.	ICAPCD	7/15/2020

9. Do you have any idea what the cost of the trailer is?	It varies. One of them is up to \$400,000. The trailer itself is going to \$200,000-\$250,000. It will depend on the size and amenities.	ICAPCD	7/15/2020
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<p>10. Is there a write up that describes the job scope of the unit, goals, and length of use that we are needing the mobile monitor? I do not think we have the complete details of usage to be able to make fair comparison.</p>	<p>We have to find out ourselves what is needed out there. All these consultants bring different ideas. We are trying to streamline to see what to bring out there. We do not want just any type of analysis or monitoring that we're not going to be able to use for future projects/results. We will bring it back to table with all these questions to the consultants and see what is actually needed out there.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>7/15/2020</p>
<p>11. I was looking through all this information and I see that there are a lot of pollutants that could be monitored via mobile monitoring. Could "more" be detrimental to what we are trying to achieve? It is not realistic keeping all this data for a year timetable.</p>	<p>I do not think more is best. We just need to focus on what is needed out there and that is what we are trying to find out. We know that PM monitoring and perhaps even older monitoring is out there. It also depends on what the equipment itself is capable.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>7/15/2020</p>
<p>12. Are there opportunities to discuss mobile monitoring more in the future and perhaps have more education on the benefits of what we really want to focus on monitoring?</p>	<p>The research we have to do is not only the pollutants that we want to measure, but the equipment we will use.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>7/15/2020</p>

AB617 Community Steering Committee Meeting (El Centro-Heber-Calexico)

Frequently Asked Questions

June 2020

Question	Answer	Answer Provided By	Date Question Asked
Community Steering Committee Members			
1. Can equipment/instrumentation function properly in high degree weather?	Not answered		6/17/2020
2. What is the timeline to get the best quality data at first location – New River?	It depends on many factors, such as availability of instrumentation, components that come from overseas, what is being measured and how long the monitoring will last.	Sonoma Technology	6/17/2020
3. Will the monitor from Sonoma Technology be able to identify high concentration emissions coming from the border?	Yes. In the past, these monitors have been able to measure toxic metals and chemical fingerprints of concrete/asphalt emissions.	Sonoma Technology	6/17/2020
4. Does Sonoma Technology have experience working with residents, community members and Air Districts?	Yes. Sonoma Technology is currently training residents in the Bay Area to change filter and they have worked with schools on how to use air sensors and interpret data.	Sonoma Technology	6/17/2020
5. How much would it cost for the project for Sonoma Technology?	ICAPCD is currently just reviewing proposals; a decision has not been made. About \$450,000 remains for mobile monitoring.	ICAPCD	6/17/2020
6. Can we have another presentation to discuss cost and plans for the Mobile Monitoring Platform?	It may be helpful to have an individual conversation with one of CSC members.	ICAPCD	6/17/2020

9. How can funds from AB617 be leveraged to enhance or expand these presented greening projects in Calexico and incorporate community residents to partake in them?	Selecting an organization that works well with the community and involving the community through Public Visioning workshop.	City of Calexico	6/17/2020
10. Does the Mobile Monitoring Platform cover the cost of infrastructure and maintenance cost?	The grant requested has money set aside for water using a recycled water system. It would be expensive to set up the infrastructure and recurring costs may be an issue in the future. This could be solved by forward thinking grant planning to makes sure that maintenance costs are covered or there is a major investment in purple pipe infrastructure.	City of Calexico	6/17/2020
11. Does anyone at CARB have status on AB617 funding about current fiscal state budget?	\$50 million in implementation funding (same as last year) was in the budget passed by the legislature. It is now on the Governor's desk, and it is possible that he will be doing line-item vetoes. However, for now, it is in the budget.	CARB	6/17/2020
Public Comments			
12. Is it normal for air pollution cameras not to update regularly? The camera on Brawley has not updated since Sunday, June 14 th .	There have been staff out in that area. The Air District will check the status of this.	ICAPCD	6/17/2020
7. Can we also help plant edible fruit trees under the Calexico Urban Green Infrastructure Proposal?	Yes, but they would have to check with the City Attorney's office to define if areas would be leased out or if people could eat the fruit as they please.	City of Calexico	6/17/2020
8. What is the cost of the bamboo trees?	It is about \$150 per tree plus installation fee. They benefit is that they grow fast.	City of Calexico	6/17/2020

AB617 Community Steering Committee Meeting (El Centro-Heber-Calexico)

Frequently Asked Questions

May 2020

Question	Answer	Answer Provided By	Date Question Asked
Community Steering Committee Members			
1. What would you say is the response from the [air monitoring] locations as far as the sector? Is that coming along or is there some added work that the committee needs to do?	Yes, the pandemic has introduced challenges with scheduling meetings with contacts at air monitoring locations. CCV encouraged committee members to contact CCV staff if they want to share contact information for anyone who lives nears those sites who is willing to facilitate a siting scenario.	Comite Civico Del Valle	5/13/2020
2. How much of the data collected by the monitors are going to be considered outliers, given the reduced traffic from the pandemic? And how has that affected out attainment ability?	Currently, that narrative of reduced traffic has not been captured by the monitors. This has been noticed more so in the community. It has not affected attainment; everyone is working hard to focus in the areas that have more health concerns, like asthma.	ICAPCD	5/13/2020
3. Money for trees. When is this going to be the priority for AB617?	The minimum funding for urban green projects is \$200,000. They have received three proposals, one being from the City of Calexico. They might open another RFP for more proposals.	ICAPCD	5/13/2020

