

**Imperial County Air Pollution Control District
1 Year Work Plan
May 2019 – May 2020**

I. Project Title and Information

Report Number	AB617 – YR2
Title	ICAPCD Annual Report AB617
Name of Grantee	Imperial County Air Pollution Control District
Grant Number	G18-MCAP-02

Background

In response to Assembly Bill (AB) 617 (C. Garcia, Chapter 136, Statutes of 2017), the California Air Resources Board (CARB) established the Community Air Protection Program (CAPP). The Program’s focus is to reduce exposure in communities most impacted by air pollution. The Imperial County Air Pollution Control District (ICAPCD) in partnership with Comite Civico del Valle (CCV) submitted a nomination to CARB for the communities of El Centro, Heber, and Calexico, and this corridor was selected CAPP community. AB 617 is designed to implement a strategy to reduce emissions of toxic air contaminants and criteria pollutants in environmental justice communities affected by a high cumulative exposure burden, and provide education to these communities to increase awareness on air quality matters. In coordination with Comite Civico del Valle (CCV), the ICAPCD is the responsible agency for administering AB 617 activities, including but not limited to the implementation of the Community Emissions Reduction Program and Community Air Monitoring Plan (Program(s)) in the El Centro, Heber, and Calexico Corridor.

AB617 Community Steering Committee (CSC)

In late 2018, ICAPCD in conjunction with CCV assembled the steering committee for the El Centro-Heber-Calexico Corridor. Referred to as the AB 617 Community Steering Committee (“Steering Committee”), this group is intended to be involved with all aspects of the Monitoring Plan and community emissions reduction program (“Emissions Reduction Program”), including participant recruitment, identification of key objectives, monitoring site selection, emission reduction strategy selection, and evaluation and dissemination of results. The Steering Committee is also intended to maintain communication with other Community members throughout the planning process to gather input from concerned citizens and facilitate ongoing discussion.

As Table 2 displays, the Steering Committee consists of 15 members made up of two *ex-officio* co-chairs (representing ICAPCD and CCV) and 13 Community representatives. Some of these Community representatives are affiliated with various organizations around Heber, El Centro, and Calexico, including school districts, local government commissions, businesses, and non-profit organizations. They were selected to participate in the Steering Committee based on their potential to act as leaders and contribute technical expertise during planning. In the event that any Steering

Committee members are unable to perform their duties, alternates were selected to step in. As of November 18, 2018, 13 meetings have been held and 1 workshop.

The AB617 monthly meetings are held at the El Centro Regional Medical Center’s Community Education Center located at the Imperial Valley Mall, Heber Community Center in Heber, or at the Calexico Neighborhood House. These locations has been extremely beneficial as they are located in the AB 617 Corridor and provide adequate parking and also adequate space for a growing and increase of attendees to the AB617 meetings. At every meeting the ICAPCD provides dinner and translation services, and the meetings serve as a hub for networking as officials from throughout the state (CARB, DPR, CalEPA, etc.) are frequently in attendance and allows locals to speak with them face-to-face. Our meetings start is at 5:30PM and officially end at 7:30 PM, but you will often see individuals speaking with one another until 9:00 PM.

Table 1: AB617 Community Steering Committee (CSC)

Table 2. AB 617 Community Steering Committee Members, 2018-2019		
Representing	Members	Alternates
Co-Chair (ICAPCD)	Matt Dessert	Reyes Romero
Co-Chair (CCV)	Luis Olmedo	Christian Torres
Community Corridor	Mersedes Martinez	Rosa Guerrero
Community Corridor	Diahna Garcia-Ruiz	Bob Fischer
Community Corridor	Rene Felix	Tomas Oliva
Community Corridor	Mireya Diaz	Sandra Mendivil
Community Corridor	Kristian Salgado	Chris Gomez Wong
Community Corridor	Blake Plourd	Steven Snow
Community Corridor	Sergio Cabanas	Michael Moore
Community Corridor	Virginia Mendoza	Marlene Flores
Community Corridor	Aide Fulton	VACANT
Community Corridor	Mary Salazar	Sarah Vandiver
Community Corridor	John Hernandez	Paul Monarrez
Community Corridor	Dr. Saima Khan	VACANT
Community Corridor	VACANT	Juan Villa

Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP)

The ICAPCD in conjunction with RAMBOL (ICAPCD consulting services) is developed a Community Air Monitoring Plan (“Monitoring Plan” or “Plan”) by which presents objectives and

methodologies for community air monitoring in the El Centro-Heber-Calexico Corridor in Imperial County, California (“Community”). This Plan was developed in response to the selection of this Community to conduct community air monitoring under the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Community Air Protection Program (CAPP), a program established to help implement California Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617). This Plan specifically addresses the 14 elements laid out for community air monitoring in CARB’s Community Air Protection Blueprint (“Blueprint”), a guidance document developed for the CAPP. These elements ultimately serve to address three objectives, which are to:

- Determine the reason for conducting community air monitoring;
- Describe how the community air monitoring will be conducted; and
- Identify how the data will support action to reduce air pollution within the Community.

When brought together, the 14 elements demonstrate how the Community plans to conduct air monitoring at the local scale to generate air quality data that is accurate, accessible, transparent, and understandable, and ultimately useful towards improving local air quality. The CAPP was presented and approved by the AB617 CSC on September 11, 2019.

Community Emission Reduction Plan (CERP)

The ICACPD in conjunction with RAMBOLL, ICAPCD’s consulting services, developed a Community Emission Reduction Program Plan (CERP) which presents objectives and methodologies for the Community Emission Reduction Program in the El Centro-Heber-Calexico Corridor in Imperial County, California (“Community”). This Plan was developed in response to the selection of this Community to implement an emissions reduction program under the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Community Air Protection Program (CAPP), a program established to help implement California Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617). This Plan specifically addresses the planning elements laid out in CARB’s Community Air Protection Blueprint (“Blueprint”), a guidance document developed for the CAPP.¹ The CERP planning elements will be address two main health-based objectives, which are:

- Maximizing progress on reducing exposure to toxic air contaminants that contribute to cumulative exposure burdens within selected communities; and
- Reducing exposure caused by localized particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in aerodynamic diameter (PM_{2.5}) sources to achieve healthful levels of PM_{2.5} within the community.

This Plan demonstrates how the Community plans to reduce emissions at the local scale by identifying targets and implementing strategies to improve local air quality and ultimately satisfy these health-based objectives. The CERP will was approved the AB617 CSC on October 2, 2019, approved by the Imperial County Air Pollution Board of Director’s on by October 8, 2019. On January 15, 2020, the CARB Board of Director’s held a meeting in Imperial County and heard

¹ California Air Resources Board. 2018. *Community Air Protection Blueprint*. October. Available at: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2018-10/final_community_air_protection_blueprint_october_2018.pdf.

testimony from AB 617 CSC and the public. Finally, the CARB Board of Director’s approved the CERP on this day.

Outreach

As part of the commitment to community engagement and outreach, ICAPCD staff operates a website dedicated to AB 617 activity in Imperial County.² The site offers background information on AB 617 and has pages for information on the Steering Committee members, meetings and events (including notes and recordings from past meetings), contact information, and links to important resources such as the CARB home page and websites for local air monitoring networks. Additionally, both District and CCV staff have maintained that they will be available as resources to anyone with questions or just looking to gather more information about CAPP implementation in Imperial County. Information regarding the dedicated District contact person for this Plan is provided below.

The ICAPCD has also created a website devoted specifically to AB 617. On this website you can find all meeting materials, AB 617 background information, CSC Member bios, subscription and comment form, and links to various agencies. Please visit www.ICAB617Community.org to access our website.

We believe these are the accomplishments that can’t be measured. This level of community engagement and building is what makes AB 617 unique and innovative. Allowing those to voice their thoughts, concerns, or simply share their knowledge of a subject while also providing resources and funds to help these objectives come to fruition is what excites the ICACPD the most on continuing our work on AB 617.

Implementation of Expenditures

In addition, both air districts and CARB have implementation costs associated with meeting the requirements of statute, oversight responsibilities, and reporting requirements applicable to all California Climate Investments.

The ICAPCD has incurred expenses through the implementation of AB617. The below expense report reflects the expenses incurred from May 2019 through May 2019.

AB617 - Imperial County APCD Expenses	
Specific Task Grant Cost Recovery	\$ 550,000.00
Finalized and prioritized community areas	
Drafted, reviewed and submitted final recommendations	
Community meetings and developing the community air monitoring plan	
Formed the air quality steering committee for the selected corridor, El Centro, Heber, and Calexico.	

² ICAPCD. AB 617 Imperial County: Calexico, Heber, El Centro Corridor. Available at: <https://www.icab617community.org/>.

Organized and hosted 13 community meetings, including the development of meeting materials for monthly steering committee meetings (attachment A)	
Organized and hosted 1 workshop (June 19, 2019)	
With the steering committee inputs, drafted and finalized a community steering committee charter and developed a list of air quality concerns.	
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(Approved by AB617 CSC on February 13, 2019)	
Researched potential monitoring options, including professional and low cost sensor and monitoring platform for the enhanced community monitoring.	
Compiled the criteria pollutant emissions inventory for permitted sources in the AB617 community and provided to the community.	
*includes staff time	
Consultants	
Ramboll	\$ 384,000.00
Community Engagement, technical assessment, Development of emission reduction targets and metrics, evaluation and selection of reduction strategies, development of enforcement plan, report preparation, and CEQA Analysis.	
*Harder & CO.	\$ 84,069.00
Discussion Methods & Refine Proposed Strategies, Finalize Facilitation Strategies, Prepare for Meeting Facilitation, and Meeting Facilitation.	
BARCT Implementation	\$ 34,000.00
Adopted an expedited schedule for the implementation of BARCT	
Participated in the AB 617 BACT/BARCT working group	
Conducted preliminary development of BARCT rulemaking	
*Comite Civico Del Valle	\$ 96,395.00
Community Engagement and Community Outreach	
Troubleshooting and Maintenance of Existing and expanded Corridor	
Attended meetings, workshops, and participated in conference calls	
AB617 Services	\$ 36,576.00
OGMA Translation Services	
AB617 Stipends	\$ 13,725.00

Steering Committee Members and alternates who attend the meetings receive a stipend of \$75 per meeting.	
Other Expenses	\$ 51,555.00
Travel	
Equipment/Supplies/software	
Food Incentive	
Advertising	
Total Grant Funds Expended:	\$ 1,250,320.00
Total Grant Award: \$2 Million	
Total Grant Fund Remaining:	\$ (749,680.00)
*Grant Agreements expenditures have not been all liquidated. Therefore, remaining budget does not reflect all expenditures.	

Issues Encountered This Year

Due to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) the April was cancelled. However, the ICAPCD and CCV are discussing other possible methods to hold the meetings. A survey was emailed and calls were made to all AB 617 CSC members to ask their capabilities of a virtual meeting via telephone, ZOOM, Skype, etc. These results are still pending.

Work In Progress

The ICAPCD is currently working on the following activities:

1. Community monitoring – The ICAPCD continues to work with the AB 617 CSC on the CAMP objectives. Dialog will continue with the implementation of the CAMP.
2. As a continued effort to the enhancement of the monitoring plan, the ICAPCD considered the purchase of 2 mobile monitoring units. The placement of these mobile units are in discussion with the AB CSC.
3. The ICAPCD, Comite Civico del Valle, and the AB 617 CSC is working on the deployment of the 14 community monitors.
4. BARCT Implementation – The APCD is evaluating BARCT sources. If necessary, the ICAPCD will analyze rulemaking if need be, to establish BARCT requirements for these operations.