

Community-Focused Enforcement at CARB

Community-Focused For CARB, community-focused enforcement means:

- Targeting efforts in areas where they are needed most, and
- Partnering with impacted residents so that community priorities inform and guide our work to address air pollution issues within our authority.

Why is this approach necessary?

Community-focused enforcement is necessary for two key reasons:

- CARB recognizes and is committed to addressing the fact that certain communities bear a greater burden of air pollution than others. While we are responsible for enforcing air quality regulations throughout the state, we prioritize enforcement in impacted communities.
- Second, and equally important, impacted communities know their neighborhoods best and play an important role in identifying concerns at the community level.

In 2021, CARB's Enforcement Division staff had discussions with environmental justice communities and learned:

- EJ communities continue to be impacted by emission sources operating in their communities despite relatively high compliance rates in these communities.
- More enforcement is needed.
- Our enforcement efforts have been successful to a point, but the harm communities are experiencing is still not being fully addressed.
- Pockets of noncompliance are still present in several areas of the state - even where vehicle and equipment operations are compliant. For example, it is often the sheer volume of vehicles operating in communities that may be causing cumulative impacts not addressed by current regulations.
- While enforcement is not a tool that can solve all problems, there is room for us to expand the scope of support we can provide in these communities.

How is CARB implementing this approach?

To target our efforts in areas where they are needed most, CARB's Enforcement staff are using **an area focused investigation strategy approach**.

What is an area focused investigation strategy?

- Concentrates investigations and enforcement in areas identified by the community and to ensure that community priorities are central in the development of the enforcement plans and in the guidance of its implementation, CARB partners with community members.
- Requires collaborating with the community to identify actions that may help solve the more complex problems experienced within the community.
- Document and report on our understanding of the issues, results, and lessons learned from our work, and collaborate with the community to develop next steps.
- This approach has been used in several Community Air Protection Community Steering Committees (CSC) and in communities that are not part of CSCs.

How are communities identified for this approach?

Going forward CARB will rely on this approach as one way to bring enforcement actions and solutions to communities outside of the Air District-convened CSC process for those communities that would benefit from targeted enforcement. We look forward to learning from and further developing this approach with more communities and partner agencies.