

# Assessing the Successes, Challenges, and Lessons Learned from AB 617 to Map a Collaborative Way Forward



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*With support of the UC Davis Justice Lab Research Team*

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**AB 617 Peer to Peer Learning Network**  
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# Study Purposes



Provide independent analysis of achievement of AB 617's ambitious goals



Focus on participant experiences and perceptions



Offer data-driven recommendations to all stakeholders to learn track change over time, learn from experience and enhance on—going performance

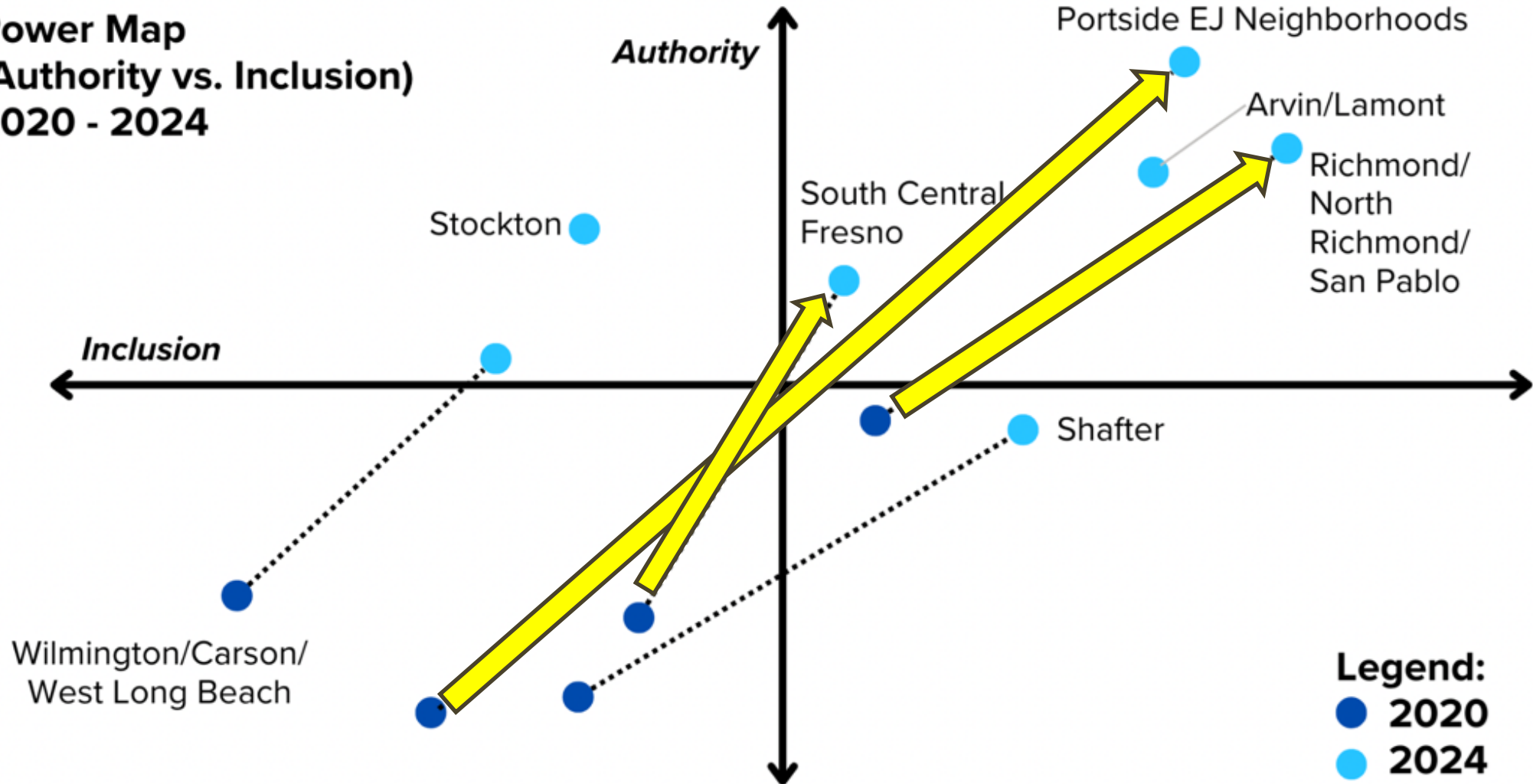
# Study Questions

Process	How well is AB 617 implementation meeting the legislation and Blueprint's goals of <u>community leadership and decision-making</u> ?
Initial Outcomes	How well is AB 617 implementation meeting the legislation and Blueprint's goals of <u>developing the basis for improving air quality</u> in AB 617 selected communities?
Understanding	What factors help <u>explain</u> these process and outcomes?
Application	What are lessons learned that can be <u>used to improve implementation</u> of AB 617 and to inform similar efforts in other policies and places?

Methods	
<b>Case Study Sites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arvin/Lamont, Fresno, Portside EJ Neighborhoods Richmond/ North Richmond/ San Pablo, Shafter, Stockton, Wilmington/ Carson/ West Long Beach</li> </ul>
<b>Participant Observations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observations 264 public meetings (over 800 hours) between September 2018 and June 2024</li> <li>• Meetings include CSCs, subcommittees, agenda-setting, AB 617 Consultation Group, and CARB Board</li> </ul>
<b>Interviews</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 110 interviews conducted between 2018 and 2024 (2018-2021 n=45); (2022-2024 n=65)</li> </ul>
<b>Document Review</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Content analysis of CERPs, CERP trackers, annual progress reports, and other related documents</li> </ul>
<b>Statewide Survey</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducted from July to September 2023</li> <li>• 244 responses (22 in Spanish) from 18 of the 19 CSCs</li> </ul>
<b>Data Analysis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thematic coding of interview transcripts and meeting observation notes</li> </ul>

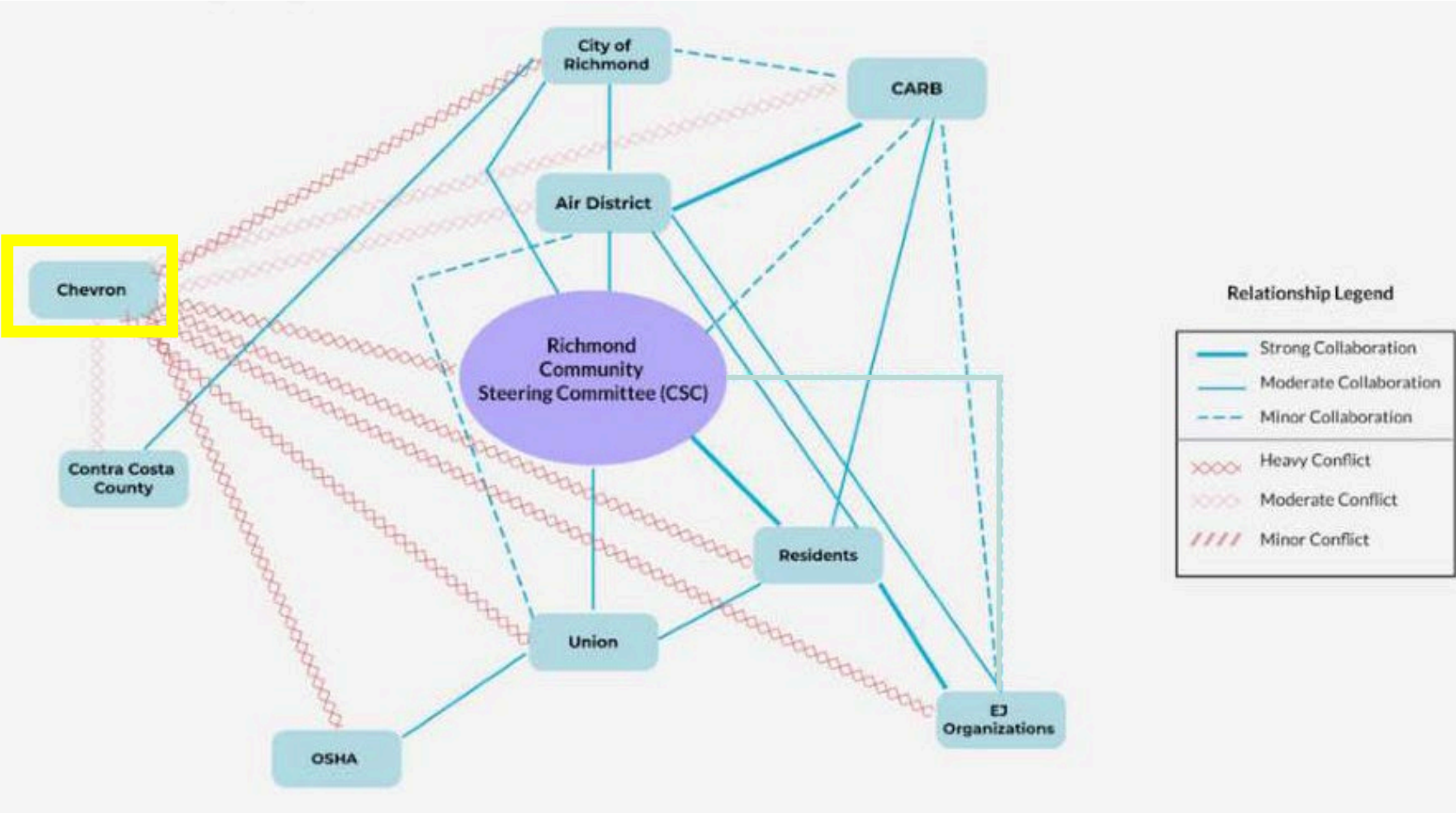
# Community Power is Uneven But Improving

**Power Map**  
(Authority vs. Inclusion)  
2020 - 2024

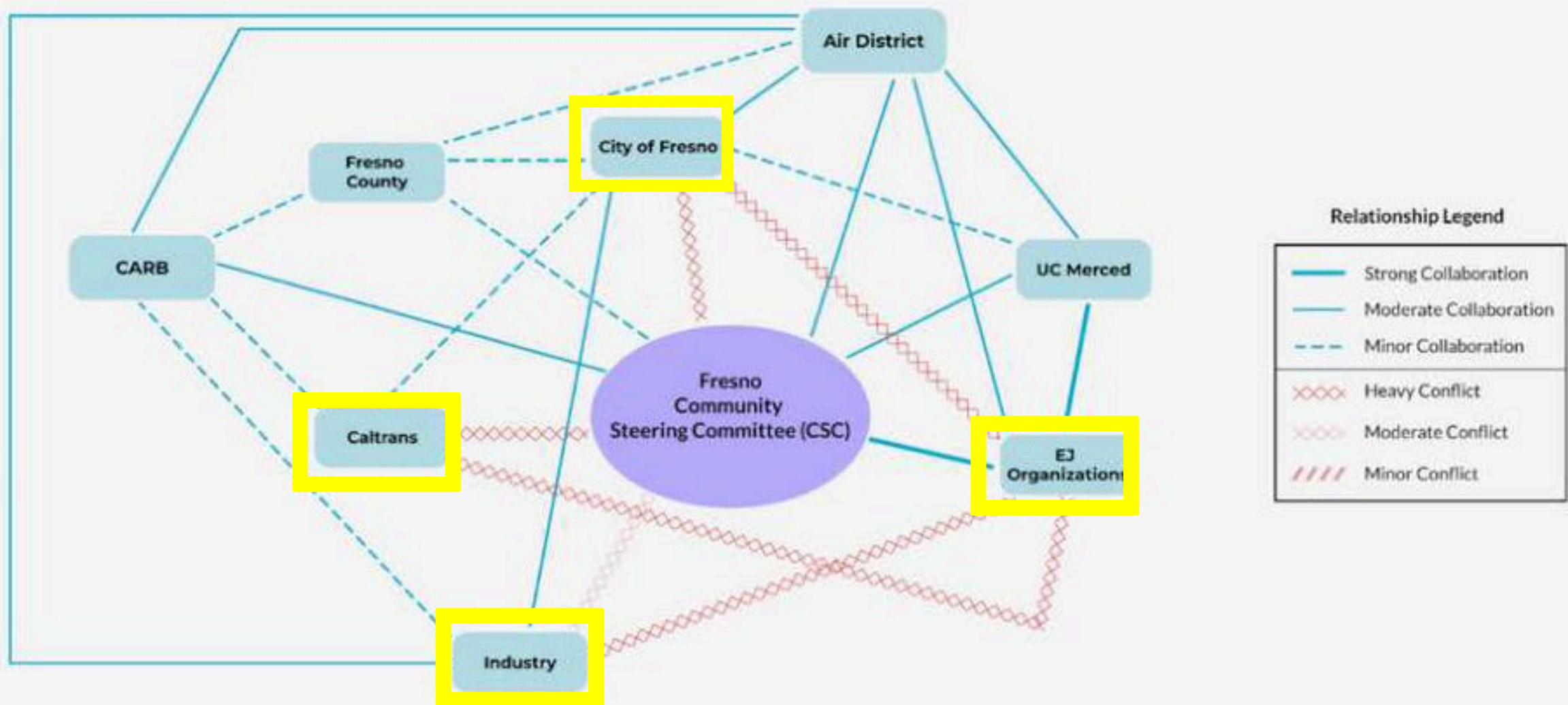




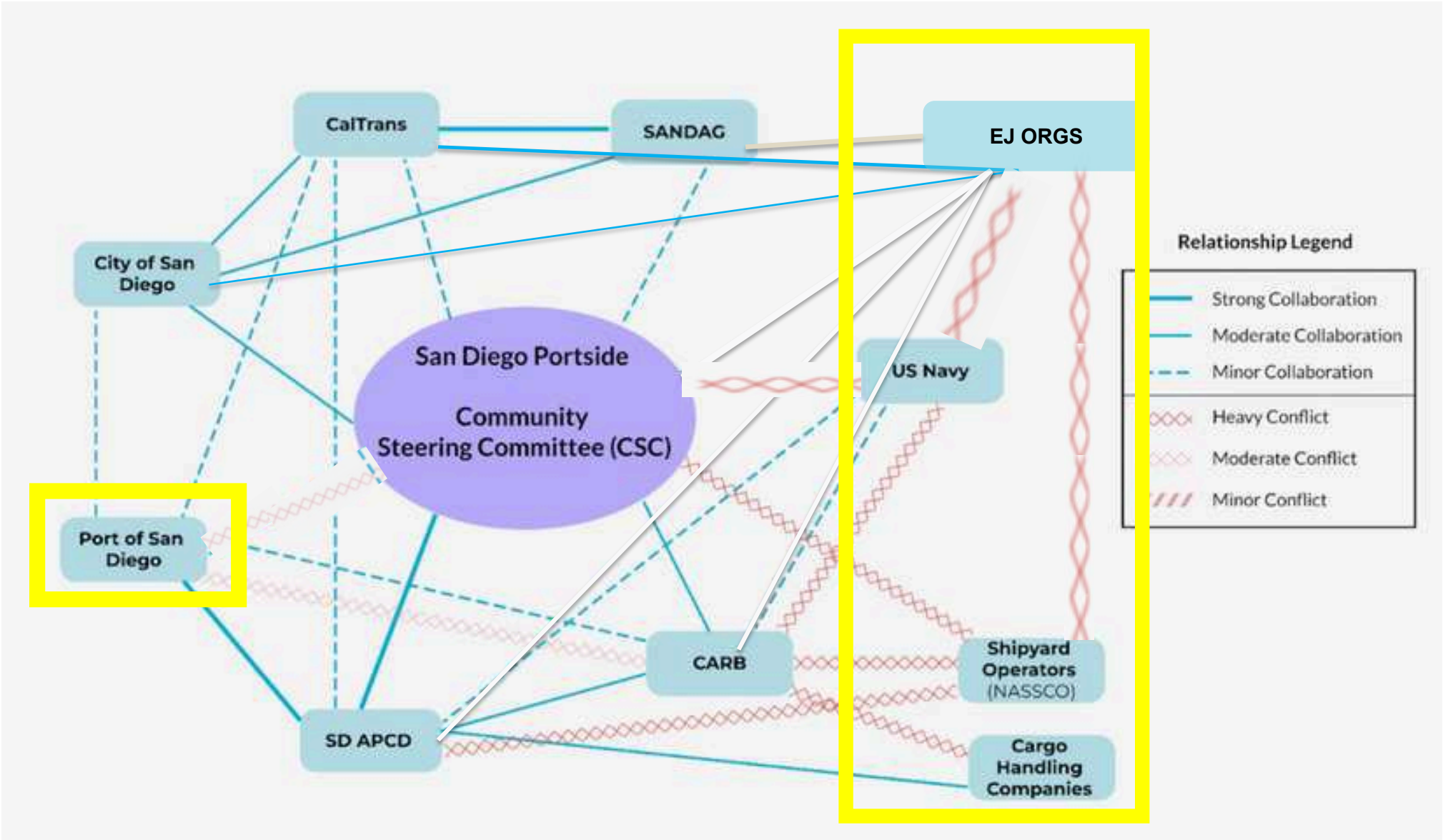
# Richmond/ North Richmond/ San Pablo: Refinery Management



# Fresno: Heavy-Duty Truck Rerouting



# Portside EJ Neighborhoods: Port Activities Management





# Key Lessons Learned

## Process

- Community power has been built by local advocacy
- Air District and other agency support for community power is growing but still uneven
- Opportunity and challenge to grow a robust “implementation ecosystem”

## Outcomes

- Significant progress has been made in investing in clean air strategies.
- Effective and sustainable implementation depends on growing the “implementation ecosystem” and continued community advocacy

## Future Steps

- Value AB 617 as process of building grassroots democracy
- Embrace the expansion of policy scope and scale
- Long-term success requires collaborative commitment to process and results

# Recommendations

## Legislature

- Sustain and grow funding (contingent on performance)
- Expand authorities of AB 617 (other agencies, other issues)

## CARB

- Maintain accountability of Air Districts to communities in implementation phases
- Facilitate engagement by other state agencies in “implementation ecosystem”
- Ensure effective and consistent implementation of Blueprint 2.0

## Air Districts

- Expedite community priorities (rules/ enforcement as well as incentives)
- Actively engage other agency partners in “implementation ecosystem”
- Learn from each other’s promising practices

## Community Organizations and Residents

- Focus on community capacity-building roles and agency accountability for results
- Learn from each other’s promising practices

## Other Public Organizations (state, cities/ counties, local agencies)

- Actively participate in implementation ecosystem
- Implement learning from AB 617 experience throughout agencies (\*also for CARB and Air Districts)

# Contact

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Final products

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