

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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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 community leadership and decision-making?

Initial Outcomes

How well is AB 617 implementation meeting the legislation and Blueprint's goals of developing the basis for improving air quality in AB 617 selected communities?

Understanding

What factors help explain these process and outcomes?

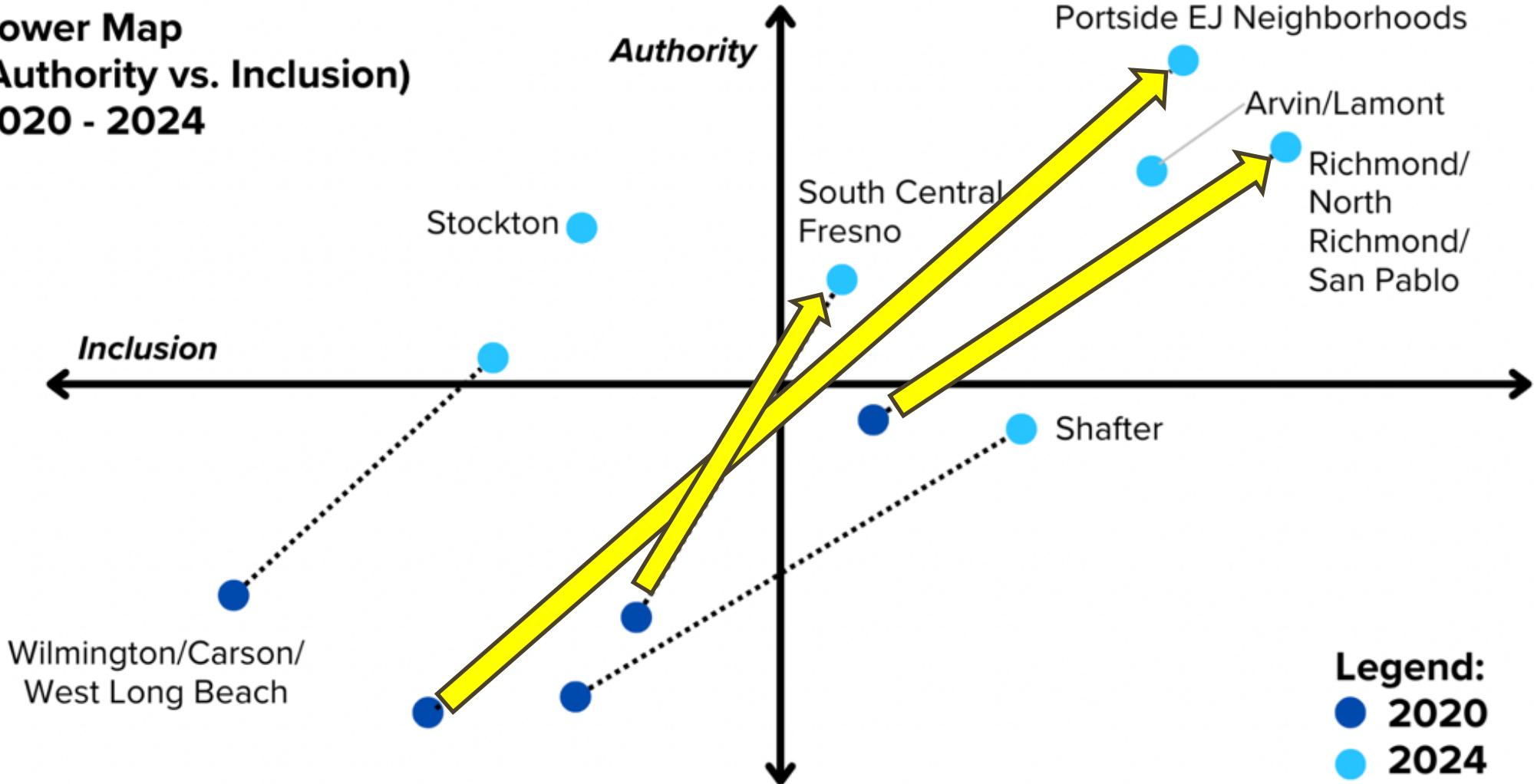
Application

What are lessons learned that can be used to improve implementation of AB 617 and to inform similar efforts in other policies and places?

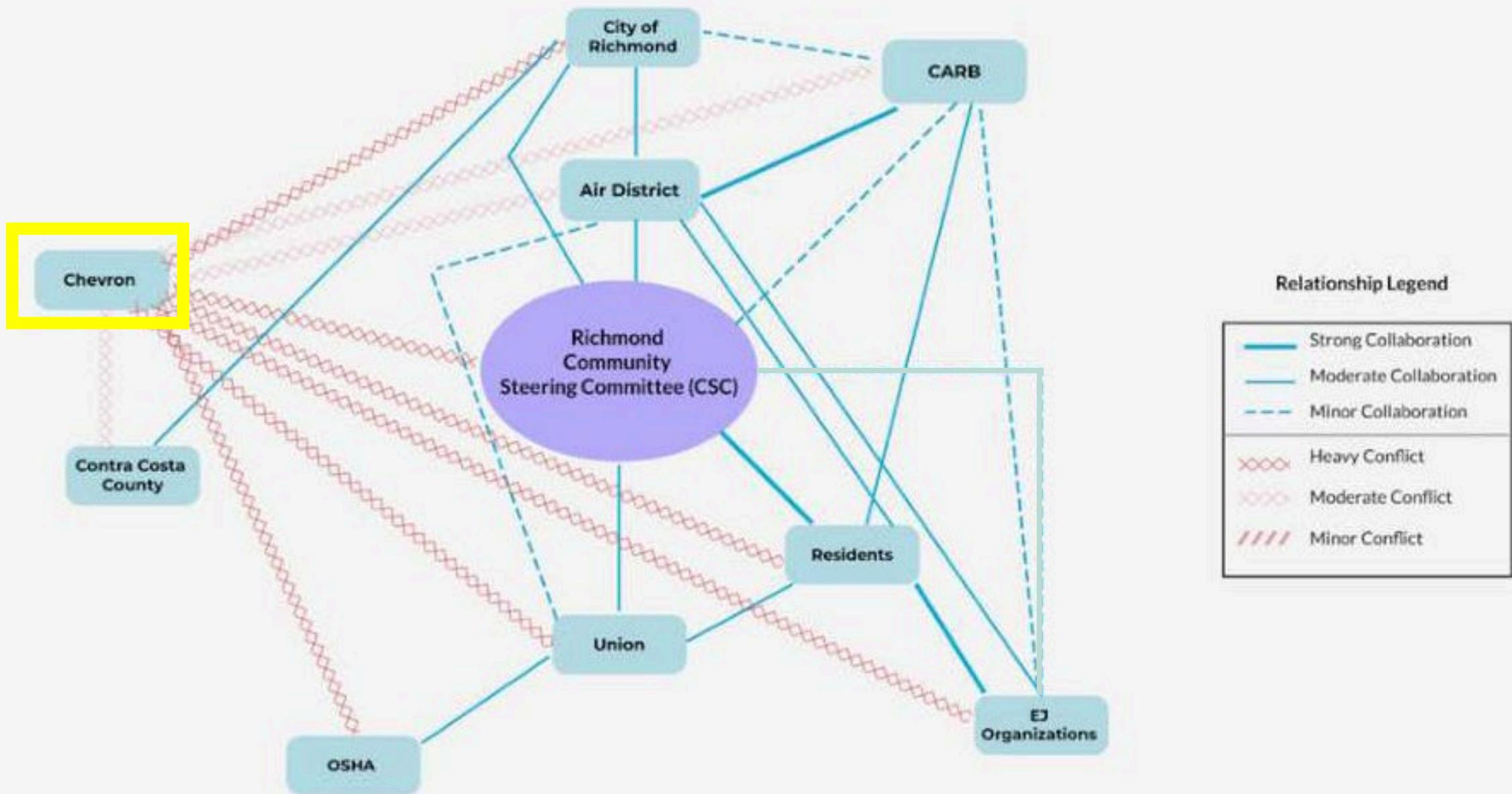
Methods	
Case Study Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arvin/Lamont, Fresno, Portside EJ Neighborhoods Richmond/North Richmond/ San Pablo, Shafter, Stockton, Wilmington/ Carson/ West Long Beach
Participant Observations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observations 264 public meetings (over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

Community Power is Uneven But Improving

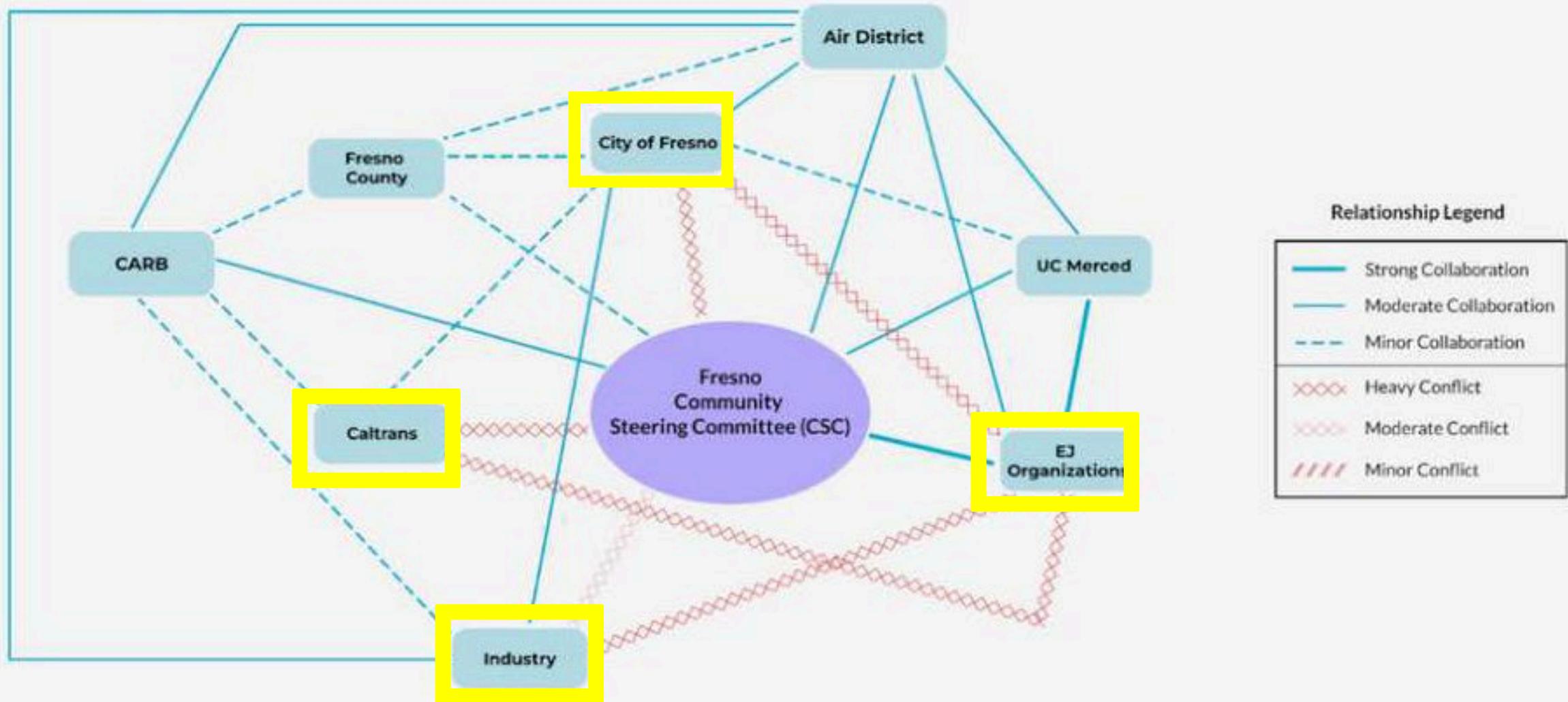
Power Map
(Authority vs. Inclusion)
2020 - 2024



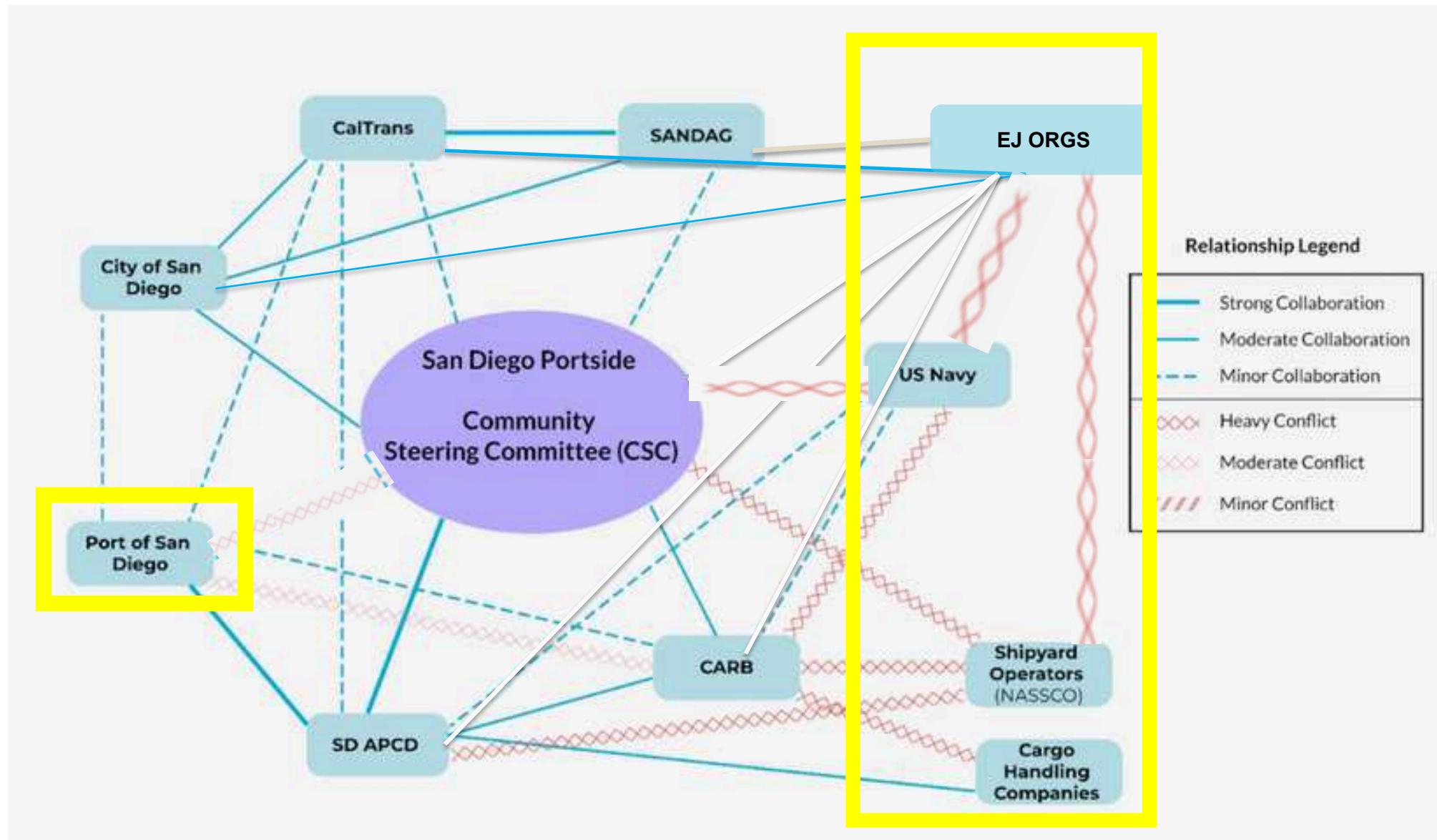
Richmond/ North Richmond/ San Pablo: Refinery Management



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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