

Chapter 5d: Green Spaces

Community Concerns

Green spaces such as parks and reserves, sporting fields, greenways and trails, and community gardens provide a variety of environmental benefits to residents. Green spaces may help lower air pollution,¹ reduce noise, and keep temperatures cool. Additionally, residents who live near green spaces may be encouraged to engage in physical activity which can improve physical health, reduce depression and anxiety, and improve cognitive function.² The CSC has prioritized increasing green spaces by conducting tree planting, establishing school gardens, installing vegetative buffers near freeways, greenways and/or tree canopy covers. Please see Appendix 5 – Green Spaces for more information.

Actions to Reduce Emissions or Exposure

To address community interest in increasing green space in SELA, the South Coast AQMD and the CSC developed four (4) actions for the Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP). The table below provides goals, actions, metrics, and a timeline to increase green space in SELA.

¹VOCs and NOx produce ozone and secondary organic aerosols in the presence of sunlight. Therefore, low VOC emitting trees should be planted so that they do not contribute to air pollution.

²C. Haaland and C.K. van den Bosch. Urban Forestry & Urban Greening 14 (2015) 760 – 771. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ufug.2015.07.009>. Accessed July 30, 2020.

Table 1 – Goal: Increase Green Space in SELA					
	Action	Responsible Entity	Metric	Timeline	
				Start	Complete
A	Collaborate with land-use, state and local agencies (e.g., Public Works, Parks and Recreation), non-profit organizations, and the CSC to develop a list of low-VOC and drought tolerant trees	South Coast AQMD	Number of agencies and nonprofits identified Number of meetings with land-use agencies, state and local agencies, and nonprofit organizations Present the list of trees to the CSC	1 st quarter, 2022	4 th quarter, 2025
B	Evaluate opportunities to use future settlement funds to support community green space projects (e.g., bikeways, river paths, transit corridors).	South Coast AQMD	Report results of evaluation to CSC	2 nd quarter, 2021	2 nd quarter, 2022
C	Collaborate with nonprofits, local, and regional agencies to provide letters of support and air quality information for urban greening funding opportunities, including maintenance. Collaborate with nonprofits, local, and regional agencies to identify potential metrics to measure progress in increasing tree canopy in SELA.	South Coast AQMD	Number of support letters provided	1st quarter, 2021	4th quarter, 2025
D	Work with CSC, state, and local agencies to identify and prioritize locations for installing vegetative buffers near freeways, particularly near the I-710.	South Coast AQMD	Number of meetings, with land-use agencies, and state and local agencies to discuss vegetative buffers Prioritized list of potential locations for vegetative buffers	1 st quarter, 2022	4 th quarter, 2022