

Chapter 1: Introduction

AB 617 was signed into California law in July 2017 and focused on addressing local air pollution impacts in environmental justice (EJ) communities. The bill recognizes that while California has seen tremendous regional air quality improvement, some communities are still disproportionately impacted. Many communities in the South Coast AQMD experience impacts from air pollution sources near places where people live. Major air pollution sources in EJ communities include mobile sources (trucks, locomotives, etc.) and industrial facilities. These communities also experience social and economic disadvantages that add to their cumulative burdens. The AB 617 program accelerates actions and provides additional resources to address air quality in these communities.

In 2018 (Year 1), CARB designated ten AB 617 communities statewide (see Figure 1-1), including three South Coast AQMD communities. On December 13, 2019 (Year 2), CARB designated twoⁱ additional AB 617 communities in South Coast AQMD (see Figure 1-1), including, Southeast Los Angeles and Eastern Coachella Valley. In October 2020, the South Coast AQMD Governing Board recommended that CARB select South Los Angeles to be a designated AB 617 community.

Figure 1-1: Statewide AB 617 Communities as of 2019



ⁱ Eastern Coachella Valley, Stockton, and Southeast Los Angeles were designated in 2019 to develop both a community emissions reduction plan and a community air monitoring plan. San Diego was designated in 2018 to develop a community air monitoring plan, which was expanded in 2019 to develop a community emissions reduction plan.

Local air districts are tasked with developing and implementing CERPs and CAMPs in partnership with residents and community stakeholders. The CAMP includes air monitoring efforts to enhance our understanding of air pollution in the designated communities and support CERP implementation.

Figure 1-2: Overview of Southeast Los Angeles Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) Timeline



Purpose of the Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP)

The CERP is developed to achieve air pollution emission and exposure reductions within the Southeast Los Angeles community and address this community's air quality priorities. The plan describes the community outreach conducted to develop the CERP and provides emissions and exposure reduction actions, an implementation schedule, and an enforcement plan.

Some actions in the CERP include a series of steps to address certain air quality concerns raised by the CSC. These actions provide flexibility for plan adjustments when new information becomes available. Staff will provide an annual progress report to the South Coast AQMD Governing Board on CERP implementation and identify actions that may require Board action.

CERP Development Process and Emphasis on Community Input

Community engagement and input to inform both the process and the actions in the CERP are a primary element of the AB 617 program. Public meetings, workshops, conversations, and communications among committee members, South Coast AQMD, and CARB staff contribute to developing and implementing the plan. Chapter 2 describes the CSC and outreach efforts for CERP development.

About this Community

This community includes South Gate, Florence-Firestone, Walnut Park, Huntington Park, Cudahy, and Bell Gardens (Figure 1-3).

Figure 1-3: Southeast Los Angeles Community Boundary and Emissions Study Area

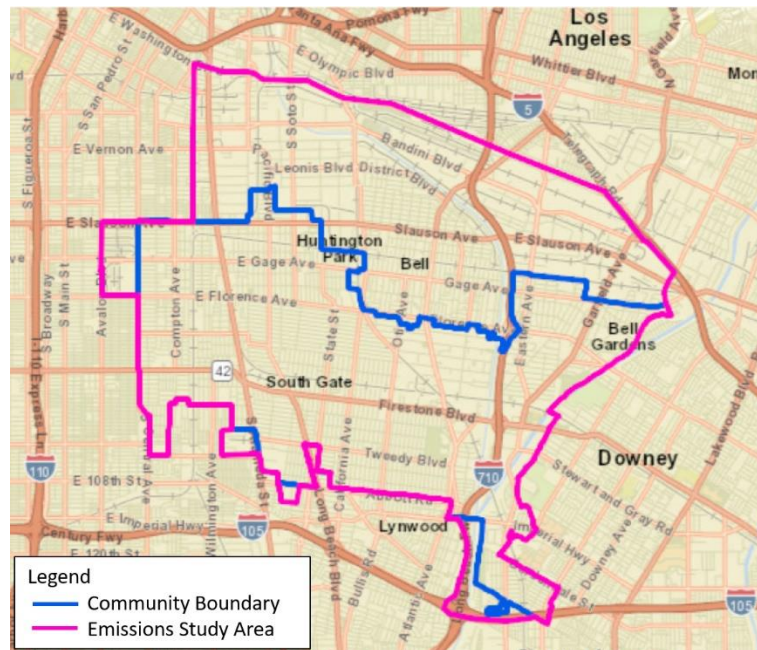


Figure 1-4: Location of the Southeast Los Angeles community in the South Coast AQMD jurisdiction

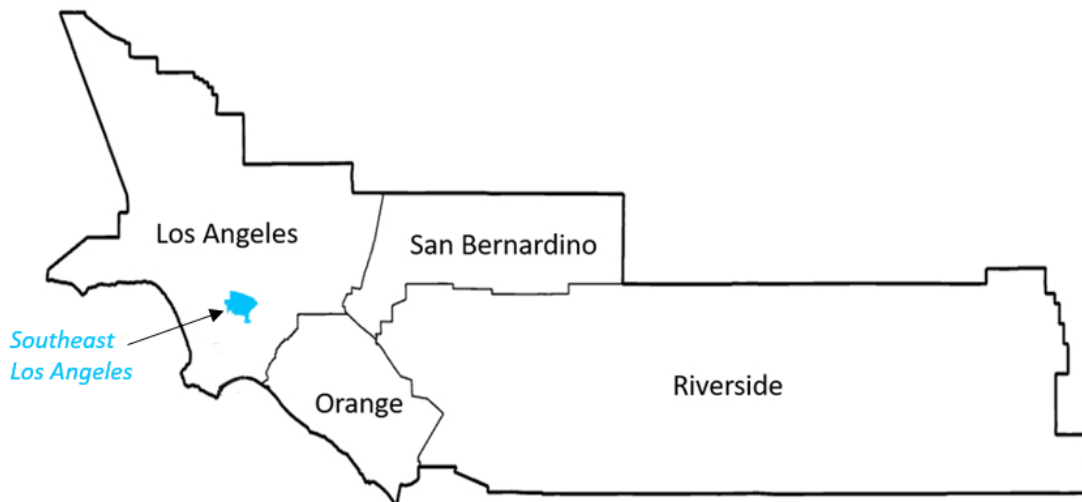


Figure 1-5: Population of the Southeast Los Angeles community, based on 2010 Census

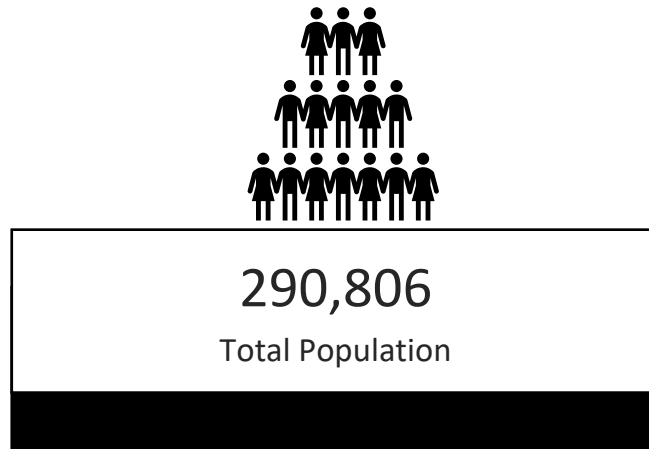
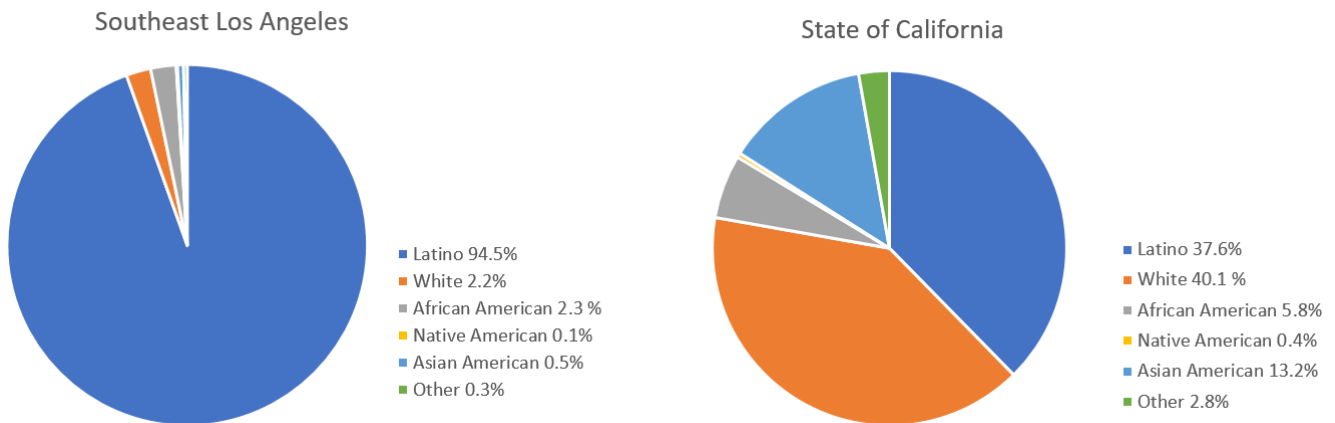


Figure 1-6: Population by Race/Ethnicity in Southeast Los Angeles and the state of California, based on 2010 Censusⁱⁱ



More than 290,000 people live within the Southeast Los Angeles community (Figure 1-3). Most of the people living in this community are Hispanic or Latino (Figure 1-6). About 2.2% of the residents in this community are White, and 2.3% are African American. The population in this community is younger than the average California population, with about 17.8% of children under the age of 10 years and 6.2% adults over the age of 65 years (Figure 1-7). These age categories are particularly important because young children and older adults can be more sensitive to air pollution's health effects.

ⁱⁱ Definitions of races are the same as CalEnviroScreen 3.0.

Figure 1-7: Age profile in Southeast Los Angeles and the state of California, based on 2010 Census

