



West Oakland
Environmental
Indicators
Project

WOCAP steering committee working session

October 1, 2025

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September – STEP Tree Planting and Stewardship

Presentation – AB 617

CARB funded research

AB 617 Evaluation: West Oakland CSC Outreach



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on AB 617

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Discussio
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Past Research on AB 617

- CSC inclusion and authority (London and Nguyen 2025*)
- Collaboration and conflict among CSC, community, industry and government (London and Nguyen 2025*)
- Industry presence and influence (Harrison and Contreras 2023)
- Community power and leadership (MacIver et al. 2022; Garoupa et al. 2023)
- Funding instability and distribution challenges (Fowlie, Walker, and Wooley 2020; MacIver et al. 2022)
- Representation (MacIver et al. 2022)
- Struggles with aggressive implementation timelines (Fowlie, Walker, and Wooley 2020)
- Critiques over lack of concrete emissions reductions (Fowlie, Walker, and Wooley 2020; London et al. 2020)

*Portside as a community of focus

UC Davis Study on AB 617

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

Jonathan K London, Ph.D. and Peter Nguyen, Ph.D.

With support of the UC Davis Justice Lab Research Team

UC DAVIS
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN ECOLOGY

 **UC DAVIS**
Center for Regional Change



Jonathan London is willing to do a **Zoom call** with you to share the results from his study.

This research is mainly focused on equitable processes and is backward looking.

AB 617 Evaluation Workplan

Rachel Morello-Frosch, Manuel Pastor, Jim Sadd, Mijin Cha,
Madi Swayne, Vanessa Carter Fahnestock, Libby Hurtado Koolik,
Jeffer Giang, Austin Mendoza, Connie Valencia, and Nicolas Gutierrez
III



Evaluation Principles

- Elevate equity in the evaluation process
- Employ an evaluation approach that is participatory and collaborative
- Because of multiple studies, minimize additional work by stakeholders and residents in AB617 communities and their Steering Committees

Evaluation Goal

Evaluation of AB617 / CAPP based on an analysis of five communities at the end of their CERP implementation that focuses on process as well as outcomes, and includes practical recommendations for data collection and a framework for future evaluation of the program



Outcomes



- Evaluation of AB 617 / CAPP that focuses on process and outcomes, including temporal assessments of air quality and emissions;
- Recommendations for future data collection efforts that can support evaluations of the CAPP going forward;
- An evaluation process in which community members' feedback is reflected in the research and that yields information that supports their ongoing work to address air quality challenges, enhance their collaboration with air districts and CARB, and shape future improvements of the CAPP; and
- Provide a framework for future evaluations of the CAPP.

Evaluation Objectives

**With a focus on how communities experienced AB617 / CAPP,
CERP objectives achieved, and environmental outcomes:**

Based on overarching objectives articulated in CERPs from study communities, assess progress on outcomes;

Assess whether and how the program has advanced equity in process and outcomes;*

Elucidate strengths of the program that should be reinforced and replicated;

Elucidate what challenges exist in the program and how they should be addressed; and

Recommend a framework for future evaluation approaches and data collection efforts with the goal of continuously improving the CAPP.

*see next slide for a definition of equity

How Do We Define Equity?

Past

Prioritizes strategies that will close environmental equity gaps in air pollution burdens, especially by race/ethnicity, region, wealth, and exposure (e.g., hazards and amenities), to improve environmental quality and health for all communities.

Present

Involves partnership throughout the process that centers the perspectives of EJ communities, supports authentic community participation, while also strengthening the health and environmental well-being of the entire state.

Future

Considers the future by leveraging funding and other strategies for long-term environmental quality, community health, and organizational capacity; mitigates future harm that might result from new policies and incorporates evaluation metrics to promote adaptable, effective, and equitable implementation.

Evaluation Process

Complete Preliminary Research

- Continue scanning literature for best practices in evaluation
- Complete a document analysis for communities that will be evaluated
- Identify datasets that we will use for analysis

Complete processes to ensure ethical research
(i.e., Institutional Review Board review)

Vet this workplan through the Design Team and CARB



Evaluation Process

Scour extant research on study communities to answer research questions, avoid duplication, and sharpen lines of inquiry, including:

- Documents from CARB
- Annual and other reports
- CSC meeting recordings from prior year or more
- Existing research on CAPP (e.g., Jonathan London studies, etc.)

The findings for each community and overall will be compiled and gaps identified before approaching communities for more interviews.

Preliminary Themes of Importance to Communities in Evaluation based on Document Reviews and Conversations with Design Team members

	West Oakland	Shafter	East LA	Portside	Calexico, Heber, El Centro
Emission Sources of Concern					
Ports / Shipyards	x			x	
Vehicular traffic	x	x	x	x	x
Vehicle idling (trucks, passenger, school bus)	x	x	x		x
Agriculture / Agricultural Burning / Agricultural Dust		x			x
Residential Burning	x	x			x
Industrial Emissions	x	x	x		
Oil and gas production	x	x			
Trains and railyards	x	x	x		
Pollutants of Concern					
PM2.5	x	x	x	x	x
PM10			x		x
NOx		x	x		x
SOx					
Diesel PM / Black Carbon	x	x	x	x	
VOCs		x	x	x	
Ozone		x			x

	West Oakland	Shafter	East LA	Portside	Calexico, Heber, El Centro
Environmental Quality Improvements					
Estimating emissions reductions	x	x			x
Improved public health	x	x	x	x	x
Urban Greening and/or Land use improvements	x	x			
Paving parking lots for dust reduction					x
Governance and Process Issues					
Third party facilitation of CSC meetings	x	x	x	x	x
Co-lead CSC model (AD and CBO)	x				x
Enforcement of existing regulations	x	x	x	x	x
Transnational issues impacting community				x	x
Infrastructure with researchers and local government	x				
Institutionalization of EJ in local government	x				
Use of incentives vs. regulation			x		

Evaluation Process

Present the plan to the Community Steering Committees of:

- West Oakland
- Shafter
- Calexico / El Centro / Heber
- East LA / Boyle Heights / West Commerce
- Portside Environmental Justice Communities (San Diego)

Receive feedback on their priorities for this evaluation and potential interviewees.



Evaluation Process

Data collection

- Develop interview protocol
- Interview up to 10 people per community
 - Interviewees: CSC members, Air District Staff, key Environmental Justice voices in the community, CERP incentive recipients
 - We will aim to conduct these in-person on site visits
- Attend 2-3 CSC meetings per location (if they still meet)



Evaluation Process

Qualitative Data Analysis

- Based on interviews, we will refine our analytic framework which draws inspiration from the People's Blueprint's themes:
 - Achieving Equity and Justice
 - Governance
 - Readiness for Partnership and Collaboration
 - Lessons Learned and Adaptive Implementation
 - Monitoring and Modelling for Community Air Protection
 - Community Engaged Data Collection and Analysis
 - Developing Community-Driven Solutions
 - Participatory Budgeting and Funding
 - What strategies and metrics are most important for your community?
- We will also assess progress towards overarching objectives articulated in CERPs from study communities and assess progress on outcomes

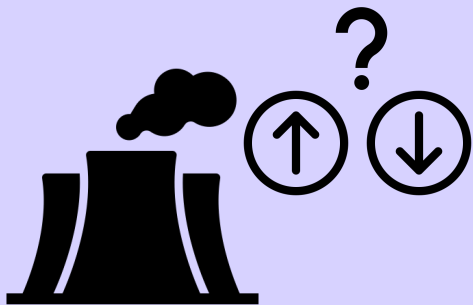
Evaluation Process

Quantitative Analysis

- Little existing quantitative research. Why?
 - Communities get to choose their own strategies and data collection varies across them
 - Lack and inconsistency of data availability across communities
 - Health outcomes studies are beyond the scope of this evaluation, and data challenges and statistical power issues pose challenges for such analyses.
 - Other

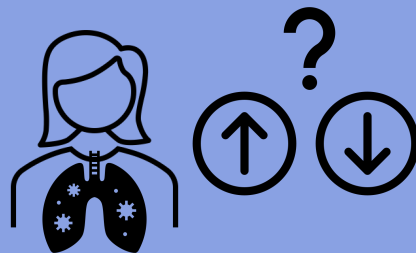
Quantitative Analysis

Draft Work Plan & Goals



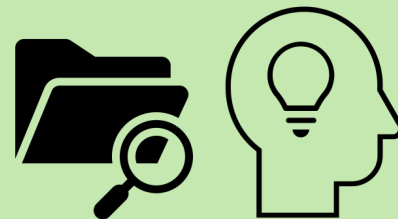
Trends in Emissions

How have emissions changed within AB617 communities versus within the surrounding areas?



Trends in Exposure

How have exposures to harmful air pollutants changed for residents of AB617 communities versus the surrounding areas?

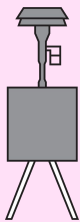


Data Gaps & Opportunities

Where are there opportunities for improved air pollution monitoring and tracking?

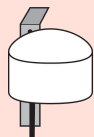
Quantitative Analysis

How are we using monitoring data?



Regulatory Monitors

Monitors deployed and maintained by state and federal government

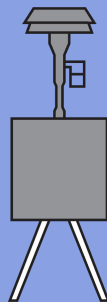


Community Monitors

Low-cost sensors deployed as part of AB617 by communities

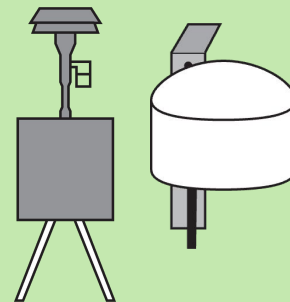
Exposure Trend Validation

Do our modeled estimates line up with what the ground measurements tell us?



Monitor Siting Analysis

Are the monitors that have been placed in the communities adequately capturing places of high concentration?



Evaluation Process

Finalizing Results

- Presentation of Preliminary Draft Report of Evaluation Results to CARB, the Design Team, and other interested parties
- Incorporation of feedback
- Finalization of short and long versions of the report

Timeline

[illegible]

Background Research:

What We *Think* We Know About West Oakland

Process - Strengths

- Seen as model in terms of process .
- Co-created with BAAQMD and WOEIP
- Extensive Subcommittees
- Third-party facilitator
- Consensus based decision-making

Process - Shortcomings

- Limited resident participation
- Maybe too many indicators
- Youth participation was limited
- Unclear if model is replicable due to time and resource intensiveness

Outcome - Strengths

- Alignment across policy levels
- Established targeted equity-based pollution reduction
- 114 project funded

Outcome - Shortcomings

- Did not achieve equity-based targets for pollution reduction
- PM 2.5 reductions did not meet target

Discussion

- Did we miss anything? Are there any gaps in our existing knowledge about West Oakland?
- What are priority metrics for the community?
- Are there any other questions about AB617 you like our help figuring out?
- Who should we interview?

Thank you!



Questions/Comments, please feel free to email J. Mijin Cha jmijin@ucsc.edu

EPA – Clean Ports Program

Port of Oakland's Zero Emissions Project

- \$322 million, community-led initiative
- support over 660 pieces of zero-emissions equipment, including 475 drayage trucks
- Working with CBOs: WOCAN, Black Cultural Zone, Rose Foundation and WOEIP
- creating clean energy career pathways and **measurable** improvements in local air quality



Timeline (February 2025 – December 2028)

Year 1 – 2025

Year 2 – 2026

Year 3 – 2027

Year 4 – 2028



WOEIP's role

- Bridge between community and decision-makers
- Ensure Port investments reflect WOCAP priorities
- Fenceline monitoring
- Convene community voices in planning and implementation



WOCAP Strategies (2025 Focus)

- Optimizing the Port's appointment system (Strategy #FSM-6)
- The Port of Oakland studies the effects on truck flow, congestion and related potential health impacts due to increasing visits from larger container ships
- (Strategy #43)
- Continue the work of “greening” the shipping industry (Strategy #63)



WOCAP (2026 and beyond)

- Transition to zero-emission cargo handling equipment & trucks
- Strengthen truck management programs (reduce idling, rerouting, enforce bans)
- Expand shore power and clean vessel technology
- Develop clean fueling & charging infrastructure
- Monitor port-related emissions with community-led systems



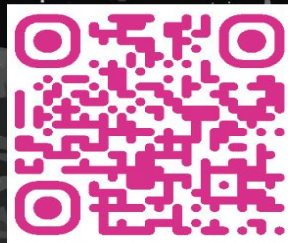
Open Forum

WHAT TO DO WITH THE 980 FREEWAY?

REPAIRING HARM AND RE-IMAGINING POSSIBILITY

**980
BLOCK
PARTY**

**COMMUNITY ART AND
VISIONING ACTIVATION**
www.980BlockParty.org



SAT, OCT. 25, 2025
10AM-4PM

PRESERVATION PARK
OAKLAND, CA

EVOLK!

Thank you.



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