

AB617 Community Steering Committee Meeting (El Centro-Heber-Calexico)

Frequently Asked Questions

September 2020

Question	Answer	Answer Provided By	Date Question Asked
Community Steering Committee Members			
1. Is there an opportunity to include contributions towards zero-emission transit buses?	The current project plans in development are related to existing strategies in your CERP. There is one strategy related to electrifying bus strategy, but it was related to school buses. If you are proposing identifying funding or partial funding for zero-emission transit buses, that would have to be captured under "Update to your CERP." That would be included as a new strategy because I don't think there's an existing strategy at this point.	Ramboll	9/9/2020
2. On the budget commitments, I recall we had about \$5 million set aside for the three items that you reviewed with us. Will we have a presentation for whether it will lead to strategies for those other 3 or 4 remaining items we identified in our budget commitments?	That is how the budget was put together and allocated; that does not mean that it is locked in stone. As we go forward, we can amend the CERP, which is the process that we are now beginning.	ICAPCD	9/9/2020
3. Is there a deadline to formally submit public comments on CERP updates so that they can be included?	We were tentatively planning on sharing draft plans with you all at next month's meeting and, ideally, we would receive that feedback, you know, probably in the next couple of weeks. But again, we can talk about that timeline, a bit more.	Ramboll	9/9/2020
4. Can we get a high-level survey out between meetings, including cost share versus no cost share, award criteria, etc.?	We would be happy to facilitate something like that so that we can get feedback from the community. I will circle back with the District, CCV and Harder + Company so that we can discuss how that gets rolled out.	Ramboll	9/9/2020
5. Does the State have information on what the budget allocations are going to be and is there more money expected in the 2020 budget?	My understanding is that there were implementation funds included in the budget for this program and it is a similar amount to what was provided last year. The CAP Incentive funds, which go towards the projects themselves, are dependent upon the sales. I believe that the calculated sales have to reach a certain amount before those funds would be available.	CARB	9/9/2020

6. Are there any expectations of how that is going to move forward?	We do not have those numbers yet or that kind of contract. Your assistance, knowledge and insight in these areas have been a key to try and maintain that we are getting the proper exposure and success of AB 617 for future budget allocation problems in Sacramento.	ICAPCD	9/9/2020
7. With the mobile monitor, would there be any need to monitor the PM?	We do have a number of monitors in the area that we can leverage that have a high-level analysis of PM10 pm PM2.5 in Calexico, as well as with the monitors that we have in the IVAN network that monitor PM. I am not entirely sure if we need that in the mobile monitor. Instead, we're recommending we use our money wisely and fill in the data gaps with parameters and pollutants that are not to be monitored at all in Calexico, as it pertains to the New River.	ICAPCD	9/9/2020
8. Will the mobile monitors be able to monitor methane?	I know this has been brought up from time to time, in terms of the entire corridor countywide from different sources. I'm not sure if we've discussed methane as it pertains to this project. I will defer to any discussion to the Co- Chairs and if anybody else wants to see us pursue this with this mobile monitoring platform.	ICAPCD	9/9/2020
9. Does the proposal for mobile monitoring include physically purchase equipment or is it just contract of service that will provide the equipment?	We have gone back and forth with the pros and cons, whether we are going to rent this out or purchase it. We are going to be looking at 6-month deployments. That is something that we're going to nail down between us and the Co-Chairs – whether we are going to go forward with renting the equipment initially of if we want to take on the higher cost initially and using it to further vocations and other projects down the line. We will have an update for you next month.	ICAPCD	9/9/2020
10. Now that you are in contacts with the Superintendents and the Principals at the schools, have you had a chance to talk to them about the air monitors? It would be a great opportunity to use those contacts to educate them about the marquees.	<p>It has been challenging to speak with the Principals because of their security measures. Sometimes we have to communicate via the maintenance person. The Principals seem very interested in helping the community in any ways that they can.</p> <p>The Flag Program is not something that Edgar Ruiz from CCV is working on. It's a good idea to try new things, but there are challenges. Not everybody wants to talk about air quality or pollution.</p>	CCV	9/9/2020
11. How are the Air Board and OCAP moving forward with an update at the CARB meeting? What is the update about? Did they consult with the CSC and environmental justice to ensure that that voice is present in the updates? Is it our message?	We have a Board hearing on the 24 th of this month and it originally came about when our board considered the two reductions programs for the San Joaquin Valley back I February. At that time, the Board asked that there be a report back to the Board regarding those. Since then, it was recognized that it might be an opportunity to do an initial report back.	CARB	9/9/2020

	We are working with Air Districts and reaching out to Steering Committees now. We are going to the Board on the 24 th , but that is just an initial discussion on implementation. The logistics are still being worked out as far as what we will be discussion and how the actual discussion will occur.		
12. Can I propose that the El Toro Expansion is part of the agenda?	I did have a conversation with Matt Dessert, Co-Chair. It was well-understood that this was a limitation that the county would have. I did communicate it to John, but only to the extent of making that known. I did further clarify that I did have a conversation with the Chair as to whether the County Counsel was also referring to limitations to Comité Civico, stating that we would have a problem with that. This was the direction from the Council to the County Department – not a limitation of Comité Civico.	CCV	9/9/2020
13. If I had brought up these concerns as Co-Chair on behalf of a CSC Committee member, would that have eased the concerns with the County Counsel or is any agenda item regarding El Toro Expansion application a concern?	As Co-Chairs we put the agenda together, and we generally try to come to some type of consensus or agreement there. I believe the legal correspondence with the County Counsel, involves CCV, although I haven't seen it. These are tedious waters we are navigating now. We can still make successes in discussing this in general and planning out land use futures. But we should come to some type of agreement, as we have, about what the agenda items are and if there's a conflict of interest or if there's a concern over litigation.	ICAPCD	9/9/2020
14. How do we continue to respond to the CSC to concerns about the El Toro Expansion? Should this be something that, perhaps, needs more discussion with your legal?	It should involve both Co-Chairs discussion, at a minimum. Legal counsel at the County and other legal counsels can be referenced to assist us, but this is something that you and I should handle together. At this point in time, it is anticipated. That is why there is no further information on this. What I would propose to Mr. Dessert in that conversation is that we have a 3 rd person, unbiased, step in. It is a very common practice that when there is a conflict, you excuse yourself.	ICAPCD	9/9/2020
15. Are we allowed to ask AB 617 to send us the public information that is already gathered about the El Toro Expansion?	We'll take that into discussion and doing everything we possibly can to follow through on both the comments from CSC members.	ICAPCD	9/9/2020
16. Aren't there already public documents from the Committee approval of the El Toro expansion, as well as the Planning Commission?	Yes, there is. We can put that together and make that information available, separate from an agenda item. We can do that for the Committee to educate them.	ICAPCD	9/9/2020

Public Comments			
<p>17. Are maintenance costs included in urban greening projects, such as water to keep the projects alive for the long-term?</p>	<p>I suspect that they would only cover the up-front, one-time costs. I will have to investigate that and provide a response after the fact.</p>	<p>Ramboll</p>	<p>9/9/2020</p>
	<p>[9/25/2020 Update] The Urban Greening Project Plan being developed under the El Centro-Heber-Calexico CERP will need to follow the precedent established by the existing Urban Greening Program Guidelines drafted by the California Natural Resources Agency under the California Climate Investments Program. Appendix C of those guidelines states, "Only direct costs are eligible. General administrative costs and overhead (e.g., costs calculated as a percentage of other direct costs, such as telephone, utilities, and space rental, etc.) and endowments for ongoing project maintenance are not eligible and will not be reimbursed." Our interpretation of this language is that something like water for ongoing maintenance of an Urban Greening project would not be an eligible cost; however, we will be confirming this with the California Air Resources Board during their review of the draft Project Plan.</p>		

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Frequently Asked Questions

July 2020

Question	Answer	Answer Provided By	Date Question Asked
Community Steering Committee Members			
1. Are these guidelines in addition to what we already have outlined in our CERP?	Your community is one of the ones that we did not have guidelines in place on how to fund those certain measures that you developed with your Air District. Now that the framework is finally in place, we give you the project criteria that your project must abide by. They are minimal, but there are some guidelines that you have to follow to get those measures into actual projects.	CARB	7/15/2020
2. Will our CERP have to fit within these guidelines? Are there incentives, in addition, to something that is not yet in our CERP?	Your formation of the CERP is based on a blueprint. To get those projects funded, you are going to have to follow these guidelines. As far as additional funding, that goes into the allocations per year. If you develop your CERP measures and there's funding provided, you'll be able to use this guideline to fund those projects/measures.	CARB	7/15/2020
3. Is this a separate plan/application that needs to be developed and attached? Or is this something that can be done in a parallel path?	Yes, it will be a separate document that you will submit to CARB. We are requiring the Air District and the community to put together a project plan that takes elements out of the CERP and into a separate document.	CARB	7/15/2020
4. If there are future strategies added to our CERP, what is the flexibility to be able have a living document?	We developed this chapter to work in tandem with the CERPs as a living document. Any type of project that you add to your CERP will still be allowed to undergo this exact process. We intend this chapter to be used in perpetuity as long as there is a CERP program in place.	CARB	7/15/2020

5. How is the living strategy to the guidelines going to continue to work together in the evolution of our local CERPs?	Another element of this process is that we are trying to engage all the districts that are involved in thinking about having projects that can apply to multiple communities. We are developing a webpage that will allow all the districts the ability to connect with other districts and see what other type of projects are going to be available as well.	CARB	7/15/2020
6. What is the timeframe about in the Mobile Monitoring Chart?	We requested that the consultants tell us how long it would take them to do an analysis of the New River. They said that to get a full analysis, they need 1 year of analysis to do that. Aerodyne provided a 2-year proposal, just in case, together with the 1-year.	ICAPCD	7/15/2020
7. Is APCD staff going to make a recommendation on which proposal for mobile monitoring or is the hope here for all of us to weigh in on which one we prefer and that the committee hone in on the preferred applicant?	We are going to let this be on the Committee, based on proposals that we receive. We will be putting a document together with Pros and Cons for each proposal for the Committee to make a comparison.	ICAPCD	7/15/2020
8. Can someone remind me why the trailer is significant? Why would we want it or why could we do without it?	There is no security for the standalone monitor we would have near the New River. In previous meetings, we discussed that maybe a trailer would be best because it will be enclosed and it would have solar, good security and AC/ventilation. Security is going to be very important, given the areas we have seen to place the monitor.	ICAPCD	7/15/2020
9. Do you have any idea what the cost of the trailer is?	It varies. One of them is up to \$400,000. The trailer itself is going to \$200,000-\$250,000. It will depend on the size and amenities.	ICAPCD	7/15/2020

<p>10. Is there a write up that describes the job scope of the unit, goals, and length of use that we are needing the mobile monitor? I do not think we have the complete details of usage to be able to make fair comparison.</p>	<p>We have to find out ourselves what is needed out there. All these consultants bring different ideas. We are trying to streamline to see what to bring out there. We do not want just any type of analysis or monitoring that we're not going to be able to use for future projects/results. We will bring it back to table with all these questions to the consultants and see what is actually needed out there.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>7/15/2020</p>
<p>11. I was looking through all this information and I see that there are a lot of pollutants that could be monitored via mobile monitoring. Could "more" be detrimental to what we are trying to achieve? It is not realistic keeping all this data for a year timetable.</p>	<p>I do not think more is best. We just need to focus on what is needed out there and that is what we are trying to find out. We know that PM monitoring and perhaps even older monitoring is out there. It also depends on what the equipment itself is capable.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>7/15/2020</p>
<p>12. Are there opportunities to discuss mobile monitoring more in the future and perhaps have more education on the benefits of what we really want to focus on monitoring?</p>	<p>The research we have to do is not only the pollutants that we want to measure, but the equipment we will use.</p>	<p>ICAPCD</p>	<p>7/15/2020</p>

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Frequently Asked Questions

June 2020

Question	Answer	Answer Provided By	Date Question Asked
Community Steering Committee Members			
1. Can equipment/instrumentation function properly in high degree weather?	Not answered		6/17/2020
2. What is the timeline to get the best quality data at first location – New River?	It depends on many factors, such as availability of instrumentation, components that come from overseas, what is being measured and how long the monitoring will last.	Sonoma Technology	6/17/2020
3. Will the monitor from Sonoma Technology be able to identify high concentration emissions coming from the border?	Yes. In the past, these monitors have been able to measure toxic metals and chemical fingerprints of concrete/asphalt emissions.	Sonoma Technology	6/17/2020
4. Does Sonoma Technology have experience working with residents, community members and Air Districts?	Yes. Sonoma Technology is currently training residents in the Bay Area to change filter and they have worked with schools on how to use air sensors and interpret data.	Sonoma Technology	6/17/2020
5. How much would it cost for the project for Sonoma Technology?	ICAPCD is currently just reviewing proposals; a decision has not been made. About \$450,000 remains for mobile monitoring.	ICAPCD	6/17/2020
6. Can we have another presentation to discuss cost and plans for the Mobile Monitoring Platform?	It may be helpful to have an individual conversation with one of CSC members.	ICAPCD	6/17/2020
7. Can we also help plant edible fruit trees under the Calexico Urban Green Infrastructure Proposal?	Yes, but they would have to check with the City Attorney's office to define if areas would be leased out or if people could eat the fruit as they please.	City of Calexico	6/17/2020
8. What is the cost of the bamboo trees?	It is about \$150 per tree plus installation fee. They benefit is that they grow fast.	City of Calexico	6/17/2020

9. How can funds from AB617 be leveraged to enhance or expand these presented greening projects in Calexico and incorporate community residents to partake in them?	Selecting an organization that works well with the community and involving the community through Public Visioning workshop.	City of Calexico	6/17/2020
10. Does the Mobile Monitoring Platform cover the cost of infrastructure and maintenance cost?	The grant requested has money set aside for water using a recycled water system. It would be expensive to set up the infrastructure and recurring costs may be an issue in the future. This could be solved by forward thinking grant planning to makes sure that maintenance costs are covered or there is a major investment in purple pipe infrastructure.	City of Calexico	6/17/2020
11. Does anyone at CARB have status on AB617 funding about current fiscal state budget?	\$50 million in implementation funding (same as last year) was in the budget passed by the legislature. It is now on the Governor's desk, and it is possible that he will be doing line-item vetoes. However, for now, it is in the budget.	CARB	6/17/2020
Public Comments			
12. Is it normal for air pollution cameras not to update regularly? The camera on Brawley has not updated since Sunday, June 14 th .	There have been staff out in that area. The Air District will check the status of this.	ICAPCD	6/17/2020

AB617 Community Steering Committee Meeting (El Centro-Heber-Calexico)

Frequently Asked Questions

May 2020

Question	Answer	Answer Provided By	Date Question Asked
Community Steering Committee Members			
1. What would you say is the response from the [air monitoring] locations as far as the sector? Is that coming along or is there some added work that the committee needs to do?	Yes, the pandemic has introduced challenges with scheduling meetings with contacts at air monitoring locations. CCV encouraged committee members to contact CCV staff if they want to share contact information for anyone who lives nears those sites who is willing to facilitate a siting scenario.	Comite Civico Del Valle	5/13/2020
2. How much of the data collected by the monitors are going to be considered outliers, given the reduced traffic from the pandemic? And how has that affected out attainment ability?	Currently, that narrative of reduced traffic has not been captured by the monitors. This has been noticed more so in the community. It has not affected attainment; everyone is working hard to focus in the areas that have more health concerns, like asthma.	ICAPCD	5/13/2020
3. Money for trees. When is this going to be the priority for AB617?	The minimum funding for urban green projects is \$200,000. They have received three proposals, one being from the City of Calexico. They might open another RFP for more proposals.	ICAPCD	5/13/2020