

AB 617 Evaluation Shafter CSC Outreach

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Discussion

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)

*Shafter 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.

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

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

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)



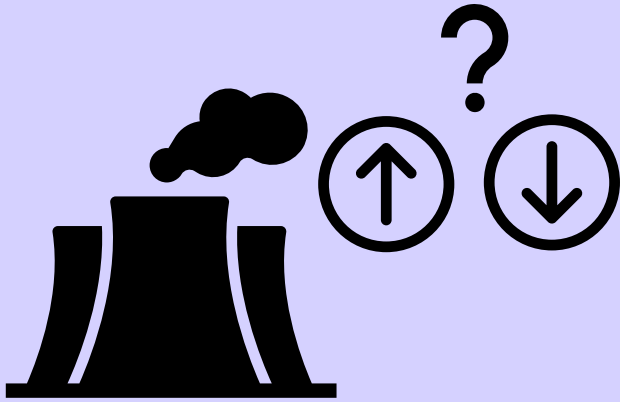
Evaluation Process

Quantitative Analysis

- We will also assess progress towards overarching objectives articulated in CERP from study communities and assess progress on outcomes
- 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

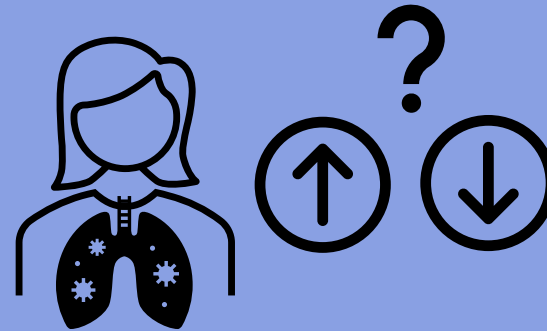
Quantitative Analysis

Draft Work Plan & Goals



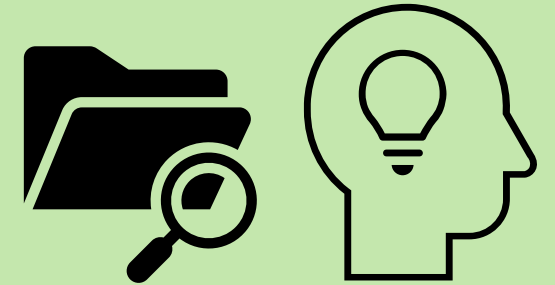
Trends in Emissions

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?

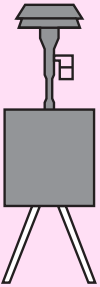


Data Gaps & Opportunities

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

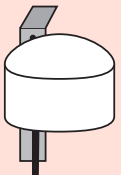
Quantitative Analysis

How are we using monitoring data?



Regulatory Monitors

Monitors deployed and maintained by state and federal government

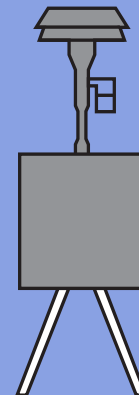


Community Monitors

Low-cost sensors deployed as part of AB617 by communities

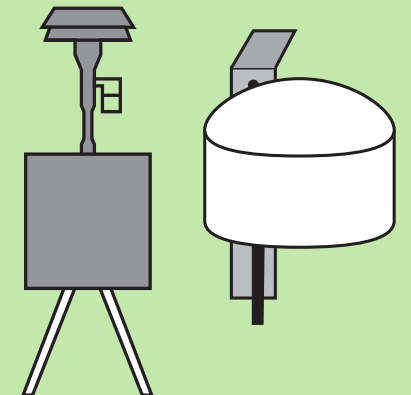
Exposure Trend Validation

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 Shafter

Process - Strengths

- CERP/CSC action item trackers
- Third-party facilitator
- Subcommittees
- Interest group representation
- Participatory budgeting
- Interactive workshops

Process - Shortcomings

- Industry-aligned opposition
- Early jurisdictional confusion
- Charter inconsistency around voting process
- Language barriers

Outcome - Strengths

- Community resilience, statewide benefit
- Budget reallocation, regional benefit
- Responsive infrastructure planning

Outcome - Shortcomings

- Potential distrust of public benefits

Thank you!

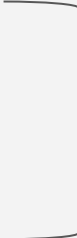


We'll be reaching out for interviews!

Evaluation Process

Quantitative Analysis

○ Our Approach

- Aim 1: Temporal trends in **Emissions**
 - Aim 2: Temporal Trends in **Modeled Exposure**
 - PM2.5
 - Aim 3: Temporal trends in **Observed Exposure** Across Time (depending on feasibility & data availability)
 - PM2.5 and NO2
 - PLUS: qualitatively evaluate the spatial patterns of current community monitoring efforts in our target communities
 - Aim 4: Identification of **Data Gaps and Opportunities**
- 
- Three spatial domains:
(1) within community borders,
(2) within the air district jurisdictions, and
(3) statewide