



# **2024 AB 617 Annual Report**

Community Emissions Reduction Program Progress Report for Stockton, South Central Fresno, Shafter, & Arvin/Lamont

**San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District**

**November 4, 2024**

The communities of Shafter, South Central Fresno, Stockton and Arvin/Lamont have been prioritized by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (District) and subsequently selected by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) as communities in the San Joaquin Valley to receive clean air resources available under AB 617. AB 617 provides mechanisms and resources to implement community-specific air quality monitoring networks; to develop, implement, and track emission reduction programs; to improve availability of data and other technical information; and to

invest substantial funding in the community through voluntary incentive funding measures. Importantly, these measures are guided by advice and knowledge of local community members, through their input and involvement on Community Steering Committees (CSCs) for each AB 617-selected community.

**2018**

South Central Fresno & Shafter selected for AB 617



**2019**

Stockton selected for AB 617



**2020**

South Central Fresno & Shafter CERPs approved by  
CARB



**2021**

Arvin/Lamont selected for AB 617



**2021**

Stockton CERP approved by CARB



**2022**

Arvin/Lamont CERP approved by CARB



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## **TODAY**

The District has worked closely with all four Community Steering Committees to implement CERP measures and bring clean air to residents of the San Joaquin Valley.

The District continues to collaborate with each of the CSCs, made up of residents, and representatives from local non-profits, businesses, and agencies, to prioritize and implement the measures included in the District Governing Board-adopted, CARB-approved Community Emissions Reduction Programs (CERPs). These efforts include engaging with Valley residents, businesses, agencies, and other stakeholders to identify and implement clean air measures and investments in the selected communities.

## **San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Communities Selected for AB 617**



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### **Stockton**

Stockton is the largest metropolitan area in the Northern Region of the District, with a current estimated population over 310,000. A number of heavily trafficked freeways pass through th...



### **South Central Fresno**

The community of Fresno is the largest metropolitan area in the San Joaquin Valley, the fifth largest city in California, and is the largest inland city in California. The current estimated...



### **Shafter**

The rural community of Shafter in Kern County has a current estimated population of over 19,000, and is influenced by rural sources of emissions, including the agricultural and oil an...



### **Arvin/Lamont**

The City of Arvin and nearby Lamont are part of a small, rural community in Southeast Kern County, and have long been recognized as one of the most air quality impacted areas of th...

## **Stockton AB 617 Community Emissions Reduction Program Progress Report**

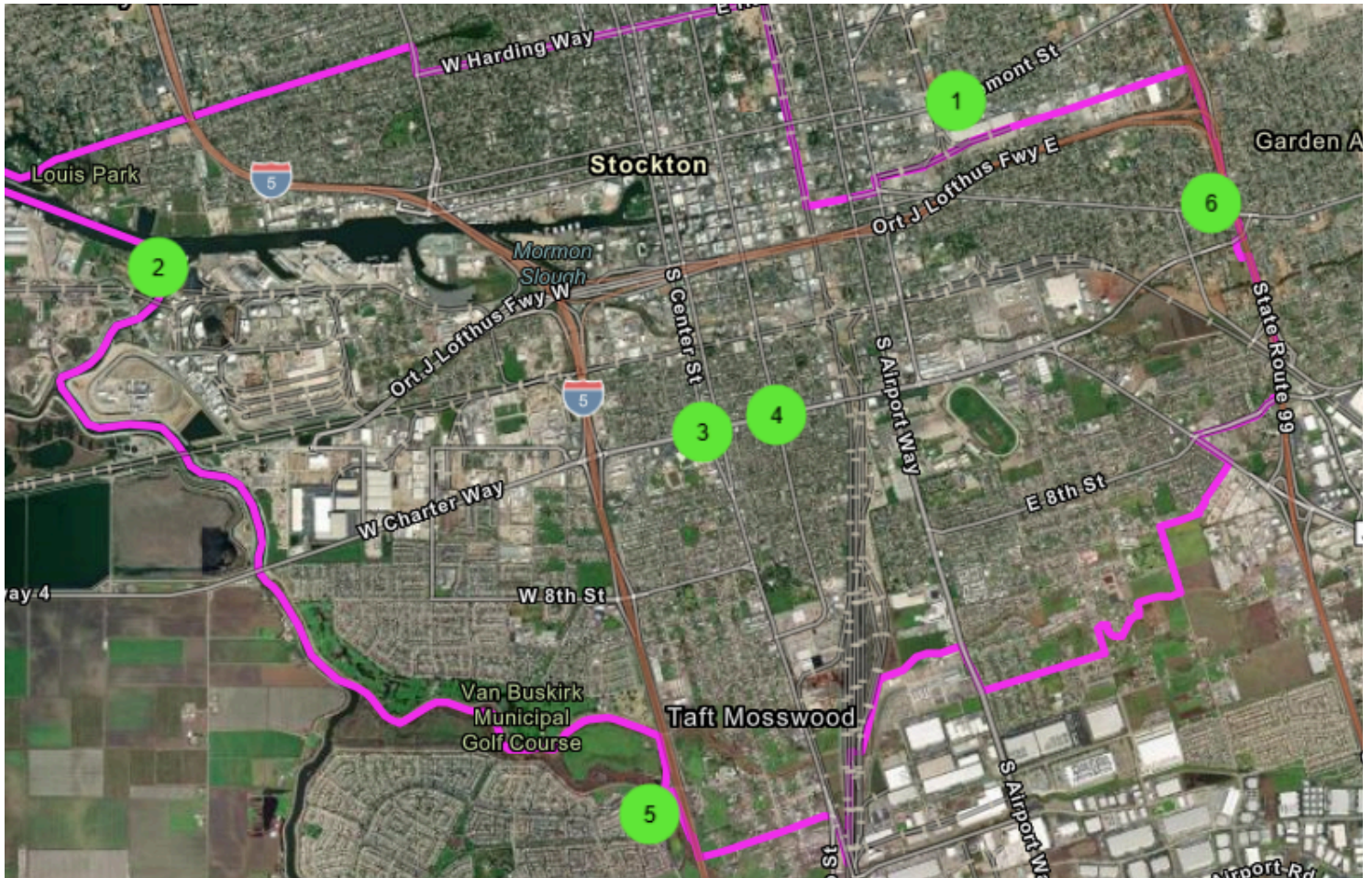
The Stockton CERP and Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) were developed by the CSC, District, and CARB, with the support of local agency partners within the Stockton community. Since CERP adoption by the District Governing Board in February 2021

and by the CARB Governing Board in July 2021, the District has continued to meet with the Stockton CSC to prioritize and implement the community-developed clean air measures and solicit feedback on how to continue enhancing the CERP. The District has also invested significant staff time researching, developing, procuring, and deploying air monitoring equipment for the community air monitoring network within the Stockton community based on the community-developed CAMP, regularly informing the committee about community air monitoring results and efforts. Through the adopted CERP, the District is working with the CSC, CARB, agency partners, local businesses, and other community partners to invest over \$31.5 million in incentive funding for a variety of clean air projects in the Stockton area. As included in the CERP, these District and CARB commitments will reduce 66 tons of PM2.5, 698 tons of NOx, and 53 tons of VOCs in Stockton, as well as significant air toxics emissions in the community, particularly with respect to diesel particulate matter from mobile sources, the main contributor to community air toxics health risk.

To date, the Stockton community has made significant progress in reducing emissions through implementation of various incentives, enforcement, regulatory, mitigation, and outreach measures. The District is working on implementing all CERP measures, with particular focus efforts on the measures that were highly prioritized by the CSC. This report summarizes the progress of CERP implementation in Stockton since September 1, 2023.

The CERP and the many air quality improvement strategies it includes would not be possible without the tremendous commitment and effort shown by the Stockton CSC members. This engaged group of individuals includes residents, community and faith based organizations, local businesses, the City of Stockton, San Joaquin County, Port of Stockton, school representatives and other stakeholders in the Stockton AB 617 boundary. Additionally, the CARB staff, members of state and

local agencies including the San Joaquin Council of Government, California Department of Transportation, and Housing Authority of the County of San Joaquin have also provided information and guidance to assist the CSC members in the development of the air quality improvement strategies in the CERP.



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## Event Successfully Exchanges 155 Mowers for Stockton

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### Community Residents



On Thursday May 23, the District hosted a Lawn Mower Exchange event to exchange 155 old, polluting gas-powered lawn mowers with **FREE zero-emission, electric Stihl lawnmowers to residents of the Stockton AB 617 community.** In addition, staff was also on hand to distribute **FREE residential air purifiers** to community members through the AB 617 Clean Air Rooms program.

Gas-powered yard care equipment presents a significant source of localized air pollution in Valley neighborhoods. These small engines have no emission controls and pollute substantially more than newer passenger vehicles. **Statistically, one gas lawnmower produces the equivalent emissions of 12 late-model cars operating for the same amount of time.**

Throughout the CERP implementation process, the District has worked closely with the CSC to assess interest, understand evolving priorities, and support reallocating funding to CERP measures when the need arises. Following the event, CSC members expressed interest in additional events and supported a funding reallocation to shift \$200,000 from the Diesel Switcher Locomotives measure to the

Residential Lawn and Garden measure to allow for an additional 400 lawn mower replacements and an additional lawn mower exchange event. The District is currently working with partner organizations to hold the next event in early 2025.

## 2 Connecting with Community at the Port of Stockton



In April 2024, the District hosted an in-person CSC meeting at the Port of Stockton's Lindley House. In-person events are important opportunities to build stronger community relationships and create space for members to collaborate on important decision-making.

Prior to the meeting, the Port of Stockton invited the CSC on a tour of the inland Port. Located by the Delta of the San Joaquin River, the tour highlighted the Port's history, wildlife, general operations, recent infrastructure improvements, and showcased their state of the art cargo handling equipment upgrades. It was a great opportunity for community members to learn and see firsthand the work the Port is doing to improve air quality in the Stockton community.

This year, two community co-hosts helped design and lead the CSC meeting with 56 community members, including residents, local businesses, community-based organizations, and partner agencies. The meeting focused on advancing three important CERP commitments: bike lanes, passenger vehicle repair and replacement, and community outreach efforts, through soliciting feedback and recommendations. The District will continue working with the CSC to incorporate

these important in-person opportunities in the implementation efforts of the Stockton AB 617 Community.

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### **New Bike Lanes to be Installed in Southwest Stockton**



The CSC worked extensively with the District and City of Stockton to identify and support a bike lane project to ultimately reduce vehicle emissions by promoting active transportation.

The funding in the CERP offered a crucial opportunity to leverage funds with a City of Stockton project aimed at increasing safety and active transportation by constructing bike lanes, missing sidewalks, curb ramps, and safety features, such as high-visibility crosswalks with flashing beacons, in disadvantaged communities. This project is an important piece of the City's Master Bike Plan and aims to connect several elementary, middle and high schools in the area.

The funding allocated in the Stockton CERP for bike lanes will go specifically towards bike lane installation and include removal and installation of striping, crack, and slurry sealing within the Stockton AB 617 boundary. In total, the project will

cost an estimated **\$3,073,410**, of which the Stockton CERP allocation will cover **\$500,000**.

## 4 Tree Plantings for a Greener Stockton Community



The CSC and District have taken a significant step forward on two highly-prioritized CERP measures: urban greening and vegetative barriers, by supporting proposals put forth by Little Manila Rising. Over the past couple of years, the Tree Subcommittee has worked with the District to develop and issue a Request for Proposal (RFP), to invite qualified organizations to implement urban greening and vegetative barrier projects through the Stockton AB 617 community. Through this process, the District worked closely with the CSC and applicant to develop proposals that meet the requirements of the AB 617 program and community.

During the October meeting, CSC members unanimously supported Little Manila Rising's urban greening and vegetative barrier proposals, totaling \$2 million in projects. This funding will pave the way for planting projects that can effectively mitigate air quality issues, enhance biodiversity, and create green spaces for residents to enjoy, while also supporting a broader vision of community empowerment and environmental stewardship through Little Manila Rising's workforce development efforts. As the next step, the District is working to contract with Little Manila Rising so they can begin planting trees next year.

## 5 **Bringing cleaner cars to the Stockton Community**



In May 2024, the Stockton AB 617 Passenger Vehicle Replacement program opened, which aims to replace 2006 or older cars with newer plug-in hybrid or electric vehicles and supports low-income households who face financial challenges in transitioning to cleaner cars. Since the program opened, Valley CAN

has hosted monthly weeknight workshops to assist interested applicants, with many households in attendance.

To ensure community-centered implementation of incentive-based measures, the District is committed to providing updates on CERP implementation, particularly in the event of high demand or challenges, allowing the CSC to give feedback on necessary program or funding adjustments. In preparing for the opening of the AB 617 Stockton-specific program, the District already saw a demand in the Stockton community through the Valleywide Passenger Vehicle Replacement program and worked with the CSC at the April in-person meeting to reallocate an additional \$2 million to support the measure.

As of October 2024, 84 residents have applied for the program and are on their way to drive a newer, cleaner vehicle.

## 6 Stockton Back-to-School Outreach



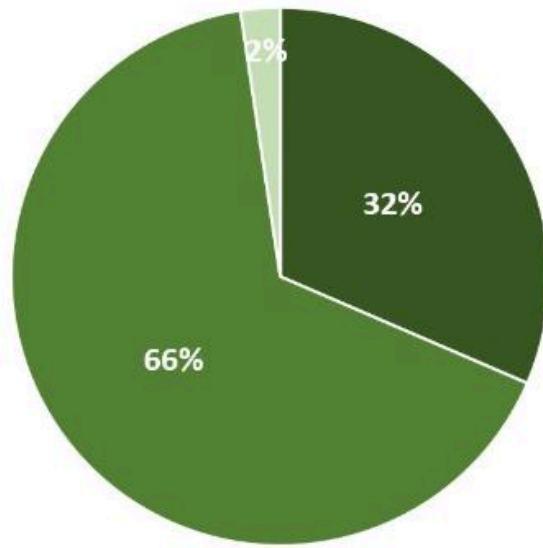
This Fall, the District conducted its annual back-to-school outreach in the Stockton AB 617 boundary as the school season begins to connect with parents, students and school staff about air quality and District resources and programs. Outreach efforts take place during morning drop-offs, afternoon pick-ups, and other school events, such as coffee hours. This year staff visited Roosevelt Elementary, Aspire Rosa Parks Academy and Spanos Elementary. More than 350 informational packets with outreach materials were handed out to parents and school personnel.

## **Tracking CERP Progress**

The District and CSC established strong metrics to track progress in the Stockton CERP. Recognizing the CSC's desire to track and measure implementation progress, the District developed a measure tracker, updated monthly under "Track Stockton Progress" on the Stockton AB 617 Community Webpage. District staff have taken the opportunity to share the tracker with the community on multiple occasions and have continued to incorporate CSC feedback to refine and improve the tracker.

### **CERP Measure Tracker**

Of the 47 measures in the adopted CERP, 17 are incentives measures where the District and CSC worked to identify the number of units targeted for replacement throughout implementation of the CERP. Of those incentive-based measures, the majority of the funds (98%) are already obligated to projects or funding is currently in progress. A small remainder of the funds (2%) are tied to measures that the District is working with the CSC and CARB to develop project plans for approval.



■ Funds Obligated ■ Funding in Progress ■ Identifying Pathway for Measure