SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COALITION
3519 Broadway, Sacramento, CA 95817 https://sac-ejc.org

05/28/2026

FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
26-3-2: Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Amendments to the Regulation for the Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions And
26-3-3: Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Amendments to the Regulation for the California Cap on Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Market-Based Compliance Mechanisms

Dear California Air Resources Board and Executive Staff Members:

On behalf of our board of Directors, advisors, and coalition members, I am writing to oppose the NDI and the proposed allowances that will negatively impact diverse and deeply invested constituents throughout our communities: Solano, Yolo, Placer, Sacramento counties and our statewide counterparts.

Your decision today, to our neighbors and allies, will sound like "a fox will guard the hen house" policy. What is more concerning is that your decision today may set a risky precedent for favoring **shareholder primacy** and **downsizing and redistribute corporate policies**. We do not approve that CARB's decision will become a tool for stifling innovation by thousands of independent California stakeholders who are proud to call themselves agents of caring for the environment and an effective watchdog for corporate polluters.

The following is a list of meaningful accomplishments that have helped thousands in the backyards of the greater Sacramento Valley, where thousands have acquired the necessary knowledge of better air quality management policies that improve public health. The job is not done, but none of this would be possible without the current Climate Investments that bring meaning to everyday Californians.

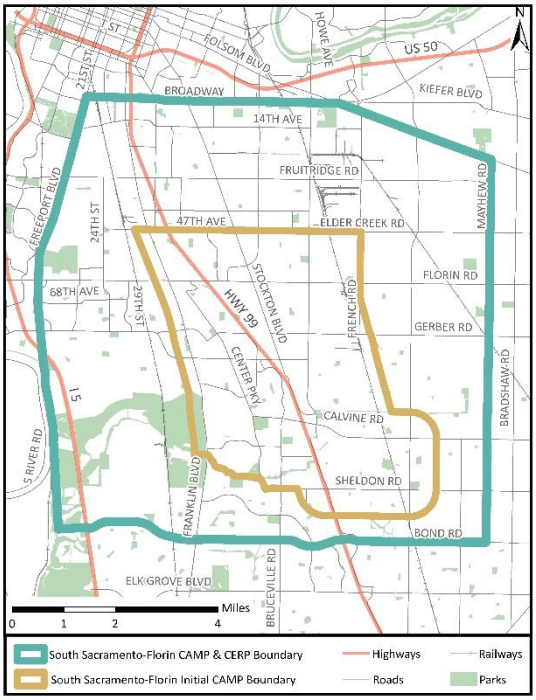
1. **We have provided dozens of educational workshops and hundreds of 1-1 meetings with vulnerable communities about the importance of caring for the environment. These initial ground education efforts have created the necessary awareness in the community for people to demand higher standards of environmental protection.**

2. **We have two representatives from Sac-EJC on the South Sacramento AB617 Community Steering Committee. A committee formed by the Sacramento Air Quality Management District (Sac-AQMD). The Sac-AQMD oversees implementing AB617 initiatives to reduce air pollution in South Sacramento. Despite challenges, we have gathered support from the State and institutional faith-leaders, nonprofits, and civic groups that have helped create an inclusive space for everyday residents in south Sacramento.**

3. **We assisted and developed leaders that have led the protection of over 1000 low-income tenants who were facing unfair harassment and poor environmental housing conditions in South Sacramento. In a period of the last three years, the housing companies/agencies improved housing conditions and improved treatment of tenants, many whom were elderly and disabled. Today, we have created a referral system to teach tenants to defend themselves. We**

now only intervene in complex cases with the help of the District Attorney's office, free legal services, or available pro-bono attorneys.

4. **Sac-EJC helped persuade air quality officials to expand the boundaries of the AB617 project to cover more vulnerable areas in South Sacramento. This effort took three years of persistence and advocacy. By this time, all our networks across the community were key in "nudging" local officials to take our community's recommendations. This level of grassroots influence takes time.**



5. **When we began this work, South Sacramento had very little or no air quality monitoring systems. Vulnerable communities are seeing a shift in how officials take care of the environment in low-income areas. Sac-EJC secured a $500,000 grant from the State of California to install air quality equipment to test for toxic compounds for the next two years in South and North Sacramento. With the help of an MIT air quality expert, Sac-EJC will have a fully professional analysis of Toxic Emissions in highly impacted areas and have employed local university students to learn from our top-notch air quality consultant. See map of improved air quality monitoring.**

   The results of these initiatives have the potential to improve the health of over 250,000 low-income residents in Sacramento. For the first time in its history, south Sacramento is being taken seriously by air quality regulators.

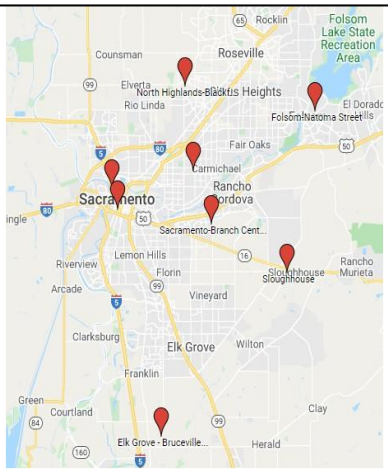
SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COALITION

3519 Broadway, Sacramento, CA 95817 https://sac-ejc.org

2019, Limited Air monitoring in Low-Income Communities

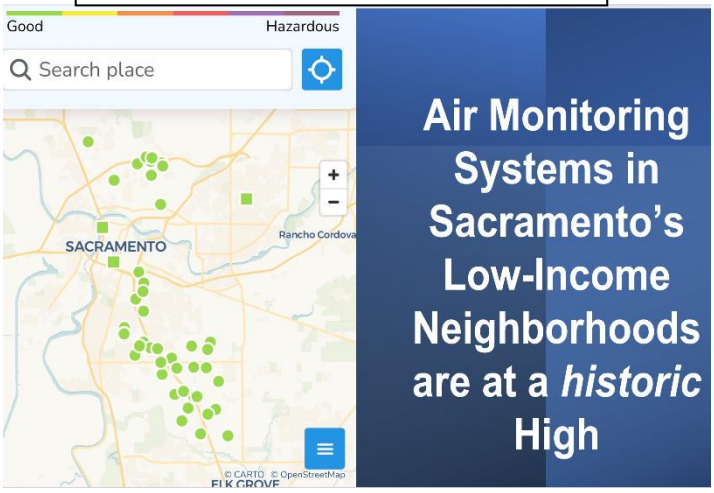
- **Federal Monitors** Data is admissible in court for violations of the Clean Air Act (US EPA)
- They gather specific data to help regulators reduce/mitigate pollution
- Why are there no **F**ederal **A**ir **Q**uality Monitors in South Sacramento?

Source: Sacramento AQMD



- Monitores **Federales** detectan violaciones de la leyes de la calidad del aire (US EPA)
- Miden los niveles de contaminación para dar datos al gobierno para reducir/mitigar problemas
- ¿Por que no hay monitores de aire **Federal** en el Sur de Sacramento?

2026, Air monitoring in Low-Income Communities, Calibrated by State California Air Resources Board Standards (Monitors belong to various jurisdictions and agencies. Including Sac-EJC)



6. **Finally, we have expanded our efforts in surrounding counties. We have joined efforts with Placer People of Faith Together, the Latino Leadership Council, Community Resources Project, CRLAF, Common Ground-IAF, the California Promise Coalition, the California Environmental Justice Coalition, and RISE Economy. Together we are taking on the more difficult structural challenges that burden our communities, such lack of affordable housing, polluted air and water. By continuing our relationship building work on the ground, we will establish a more sustainable future.**

Our commitment to live out the true democratic promise and to strive to and protect our eco-systems will continue. We strongly urge the CARB members and executive staff to create a more inclusive process that combats widening inequality and injustice.

Please contact me if you have any questions at 916-809-4111.

Respectfully,

Herman Barahona
Executive Director
(916) 809-4111
herman.barahona@sac-ejc.org