



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DATE: MAY 25, 2021

FROM: OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY WARDS: ALL

SUBJECT: RIVERSIDE'S AIR QUALITY WORKSHOP

ISSUE:

Receive a workshop presentation on Riverside's Air Quality from staff and guest speakers discussing local and regional air quality, assessing local air quality, and identifying potential intervention and monitoring programs. The workshop is specifically focused on the necessity of air pollution & emissions monitoring programs and how the City can effectively communicate with the public regarding local air quality.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council:

1. Conduct a workshop to discuss Riverside's Air Quality and provide input; and
2. Receive and file the staff report and presentations.

BACKGROUND:

The Inland Empire area, due to its geographical location and weather patterns, is highly susceptible to the formation and retention of smog and poor air quality. Air quality is dependent on prevailing levels of mixtures of gases and small particles. Over time exposure to high levels of these gases and particles or pollutants can impact health. Children, the elderly, and those with certain health conditions are most vulnerable to air pollution. Particulate Matter (PM) and ozone levels are the primary concerns related to air quality in California. The formation of ozone is associated with high temperatures, increasing during warmer seasons and summer, while PM is primarily produced from the burning of fuel. Due to the topographical plane of the City of Riverside and the surrounding valley, pollution produced in the area can be trapped, and smog can form. Three major freeways, State Route 60, State Route 91, and the I-215 freeway all pass through the City carrying high volumes of traffic with significant use by heavy-duty vehicles, which are historically associated with high emission of PMs. Furthermore, poor air quality in the greater Los Angeles region, shifted by weather & wind, can become trapped within the geographical bounds

of the Inland Empire.

Due to the variations experienced in air quality, it is recommended that air quality levels in select locations be monitored to determine the effects of regional and local interventions.

The University of California Riverside (UCR) in cooperation with the City of Riverside Public Works Department has been implementing air quality monitoring technologies and accumulating data regarding the state of local air quality and the potential for clean transportation to improve local air quality in the City's Innovation District.

DISCUSSION:

Public Works staff will provide a workshop presentation on the significance of air quality and pollution for Riverside and a brief presentation on the latest technologies available for air pollution mitigation and public communication strategies. Additionally, Dr. Matthew Barth, Director & Dr. Cesunica Ivey of the Center for Environmental Research and Technology (CE-CERT) at University of California, Riverside will provide a presentation on air pollution and emissions related projects in the City of Riverside.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this workshop.

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Approved by: Al Zelinka, FAICP, City Manager
Approved as to form: Kristi J. Smith, Interim City Attorney

Attachments:

1. Presentation