

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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After outpour of local residents' impassioned testimony, Project Committee withholds support for a specific plan on 710 freeway expansion

Local residents demand to address potential displacement of hundreds of families, businesses, homeless shelters, and consequences of pollution in an area already worst in nation for air quality.

Late last night, the Project Committee decided not to adopt a specific plan on the expansion of the 710 freeway. The move was a reaction to local residents demanding the Committee abide by "[Motion 22.1](#)" — an LA Metro resolution that was adopted as a result of community input that demanded a zero emissions corridor, targeted local hiring, and protection from displacement, among other benefits. The project moves next to LA Metro for review, and local residents will continue to stress concerns with truck pollution's impact on public health — including respiratory and cardiovascular conditions, birth defects, and cancer.

Photos from the event can be found [here](#).

"It's promising to see key Project Committee members — many of whom were elected to represent the interests of their constituents — listening to the voices of local residents, who were calling for protection from evictions and for supporting a real commitment to zero emissions technology and local job creation," **said Dilia Ortega, Youth Program Coordinator with Communities for a Better Environment**. "We will be looking next to LA Metro, as it takes up the project plans for review. Metro members should honor community demands and urge Caltrans to do the same."

"The Bell Shelter gives me all of the resources I need to better myself," **said Maria Sara Rivera, who currently lives in the Salvation Army Shelter in the City of Bell**. "They help a lot of people and I can't imagine tearing it down. I don't want to be without a home."

Local residents, and members of the Coalition for Environmental Health and Justice, who would be affected by the 710 expansion project, had been making office visits to their local district representatives, concerned that what was being proposed by Caltrans would be forcing their

families to choose between being displaced from their homes and breathing even more polluted air.

Truck pollution can affect public health and [related mortality rates, including respiratory, cardiovascular, birth defects, and cancer](#). The communities that live along the 710 corridor are urging Caltrans and Metro LA to consider and study the safest alternative to take advantage of the use of zero-emissions technology in transportation and eliminate eviction from homes, while providing maximum benefits to local families in terms of local jobs.

The area along the corridor is already affected negatively and disproportionately by high levels of air pollution, high rates of asthma, and other health conditions. Southern California [has the worst ozone pollution in the country](#), and big rig trucks are [the main contributors to the problem](#). With truck traffic along the corridor expected to multiply in the coming years, the decision on this project will generate negative impacts for hundreds of thousands that live along the corridor for decades to come.

The plan to expand the 710 freeway — a main artery that serves to transport goods that arrive at the [top and most polluting port in the nation](#) - would set a precedent for transportation planning policy of widespread consequences. The project has also been included in [Governor Brown's list of priorities for financing from Trump's infrastructure plan](#).

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