



Community Meeting in Mecca, California

*Environmental Protection Agency
Pacific Southwest - Region 9
August 29, 2023*

Itinerary

Introductions

Presentation of the EPA agency

Plenary

Group discussion

Questions and answers

Closing and next steps

Guide for a productive meeting

- ▶ Be respectful to all other members and perspectives.
- ▶ Actively participate and stay focused on the topic.
- ▶ Be concise when contributing during meetings to optimize time for everyone to contribute.
- ▶ Involve all participants.
- ▶ When sharing meeting discussion reports, do not attribute discussions to any individual participant.

EPA's mission: to protect human health and the environment.

Ensure Americans have clean air, land, and water

Ensure compliance with federal laws that protect human health and the environment.

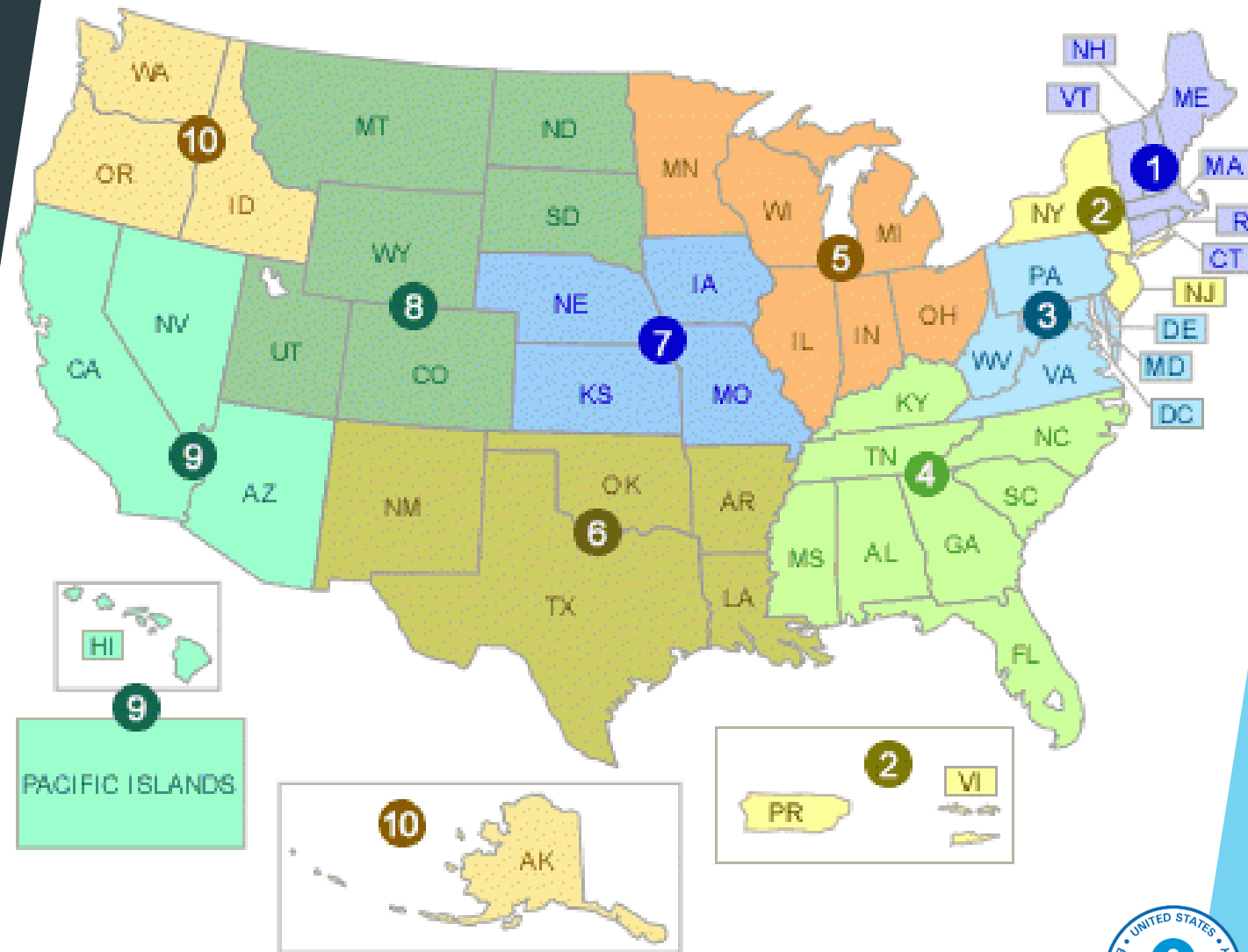
Interact with communities in meaningful ways to discuss and address environmental and public health concerns.

What is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ?



What is the EPA?

- Who: Federal Government Employees protecting community health and the environment
- Where: Our head office is located in Washington, DC, and there are 10 regional offices located across the country.
- The Region 9 office is located in San Francisco and our area covers CA, AZ, NV, HI, the Pacific Islands, and 148 Recognized Tribal Nations.
- There are two local offices in San Diego and Los Angeles



Air Compliance and the Clean Air Act

The EPA regulates air pollution emissions from mobile and stationary sources under the Clean Air Act (CAA).

The (CAA) requires stationary source facilities, such as power plants, to take measures to control dust (particulates) through the use and maintenance of pollution control equipment.

Air Compliance and the Clean Air Act

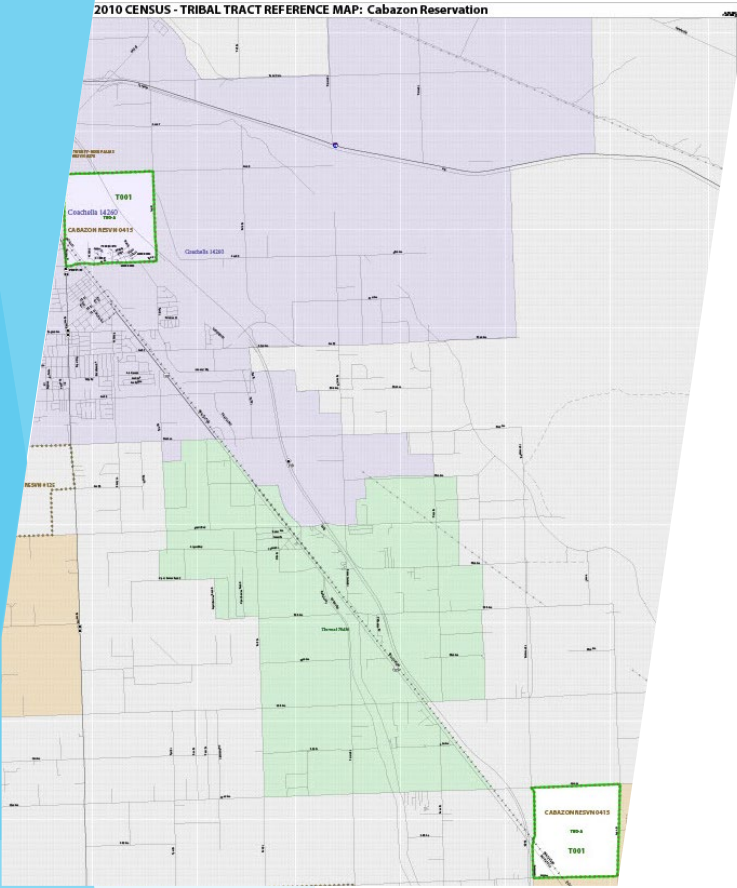
Dust and other particles in the air can be a threat to human health.

EPA inspects stationary sources of air pollution, such as power plants, and assesses facilities for compliance with applicable CAA requirements.

GreenLeaf Desert View Power Plant (DVP)

- DVP is a power generating facility located on the lands of the Cabazon Band of Mission Tribe Indians Reservation.
- The facility burns woody biomass (trimmed trees, urban wood waste, orchard removal trees, fruit pits and shells etc) to produce steam to generate electricity.
- EPA monitors facility compliance with regulatory requirements and consults with tribal government when compliance issues are identified.

2010 CENSUS - TRIBAL TRACT REFERENCE MAP: Cabazon Reservation



The DVP Operation

DVP sells power to the Imperial Irrigation District, which is an independent public agency that supplies power to Imperial and the Coachella Valley.

The facility is permitted to operate two boilers that drive a steam turbine generator (47 megawatts/hrhour) which is enough electricity for ~35,250 homes (7x the population of Mecca)

For fuel, DVP is allowed to burn:

- *Municipal woody waste,*
- *Commercial and industrial wood waste,*
- *Leftover railroad ties and*
- *Corrugated paper waste*

The federal government works with state and local governments to support Assembly Bill (AB) 617 for emissions reduction efforts in the Eastern Coachella Valley.

Federal Level

United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA)

- Sole permitting authority
- Federal enforcement authority
- Collect emissions fees

Statewide

California Air Resources Board

- Direct control over mobile sources outside the DVP fence
- No state authority with DVP

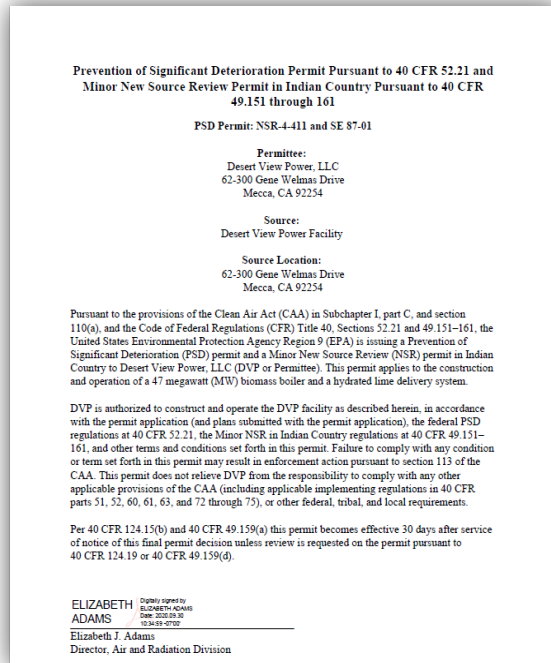
Local Level

South Coast Air Quality Management District

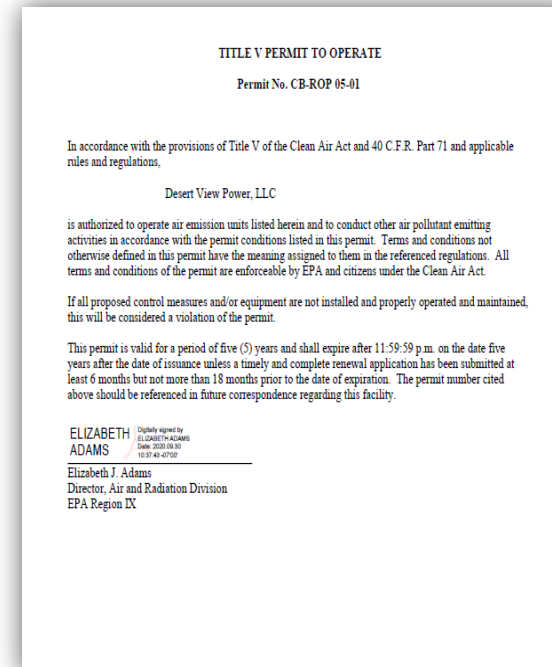
- Granted limited enforcement authority
- Collect emission fees



The facility is regulated by the building permit, operating permit, and additional federal regulations from the EPA.



PSD and Minor NSR Permit was approved on September 30, 2020.



The Title V permit was approved on September 30, 2023.



EPA Application Process _

Inspection

Investigation

Violation Notice

Settlement Discussions/Negotiations

Settlement

- Penalty fee
- Corrective actions
- Additional Actions to improve the environment with certain requirements and parameters

Notice of Violation (NOV)

An NOV was issued to DVP in June 2022

NOVs are a step in enforcement actions taken by the EPA for the facility to take action and come into compliance

The NOV for DVP alleges violations of excess emissions of several pollutants: hydrochloric acid, mercury, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrous oxides, opacity, and particulate matter.

EPA is currently in negotiations which are part of Settlement Discussions



How do I get further information ?

- ▶ Copy of Notice of Violation (NOV) to DVP:

<https://foiaonline.gov/foiaonline/action/public/submissionDetails?trackingNumber=EPA-R9-2023-000424&type=Request>

- ▶ Copy of DVP Inspection Report:

<https://foiaonline.gov/foiaonline/action/public/submissionDetails?trackingNumber=EPA-R9-2023-000425&type=Request>

- ▶ Environmental Justice Hotline: (800) 962 -6215

- ▶ Clean Air Act : <https://www.epa.gov/clean-air-act-overview>

- ▶ Air Quality Review in his Location: <https://www.airnow.gov/>

- ▶ Information about the Air Quality Index: <https://www.airnow.gov/aqi/aqi-basics/>

- ▶ Health effects from air pollution: <https://www.epa.gov/environmental-topics/air-topics>

- ▶ As report a violation: <https://www.epa.gov/report-violation>



▸ Questions ?

Instructions for Group Discussions



1 facilitator for each group.



45 minutes



3 questions



Participants can use the anonymous worksheet and/or comment cards to write additional comments or questions

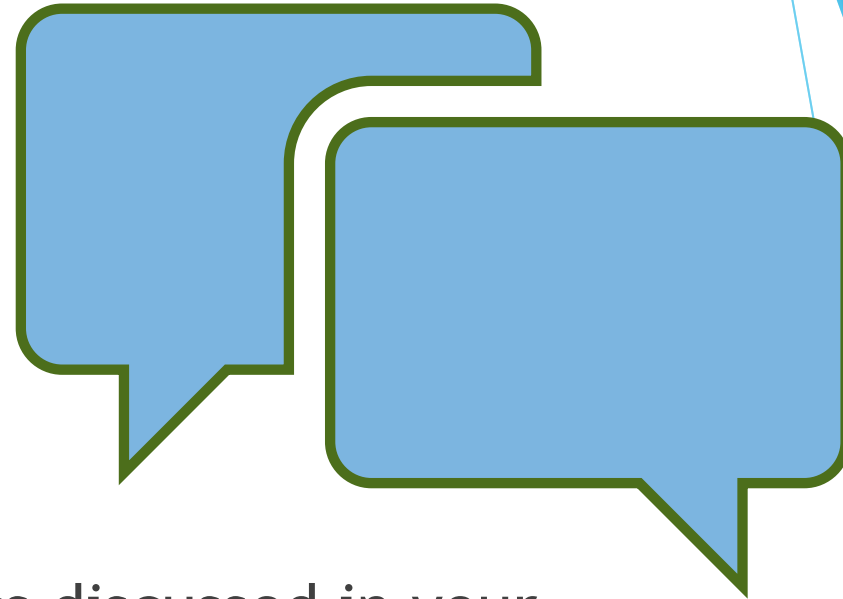
Discussion Questions

After learning what the notice of violation is and how it affects air quality, what are your concerns?

What else would you like to share with EPA staff?

What's the best way to share information about this project?

Discussion in plenary



Let's talk about three of the topics discussed in your group.

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