
Appendix 2b:

Environmental Justice Timeline as Presented by the Community Co-Leads

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in Appendix 2b are those of the SLA community co-leads and/or community and do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD).

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1943: The *Los Angeles Times* reported that a pall of smoke and fumes descended on downtown, cutting visibility. Striking in the midst of a heat wave, the “gas attack” was nearly unbearable. As a result, the city implemented [the creation of an air pollution permit system](#).

1947: The **Los Angeles County Air Pollution Control District** was formed—the first such body in the nation.

1890S

EARLY 1900S

1943

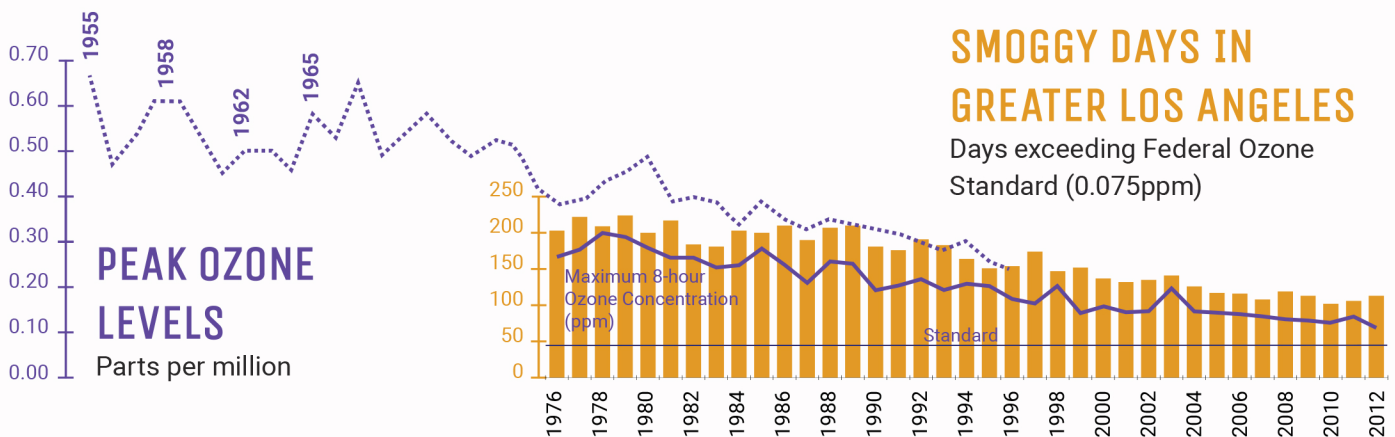
1945

1947

1890s: At the turn of the nineteenth century, the [automobile arrived in Los Angeles](#).

Early 20th century: [Discriminatory real estate practices](#) such as redlining cemented a pattern of exclusionary development that allowed for White home ownership in suburban neighborhoods of Los Angeles, while **concentrating industrial activity** in non-White and immigrant neighborhoods, including in and around South Central LA. During this time of rapid growth, several national firms established plants: Goodyear, Firestone, Phelps Dodge, and U.S. Steel.

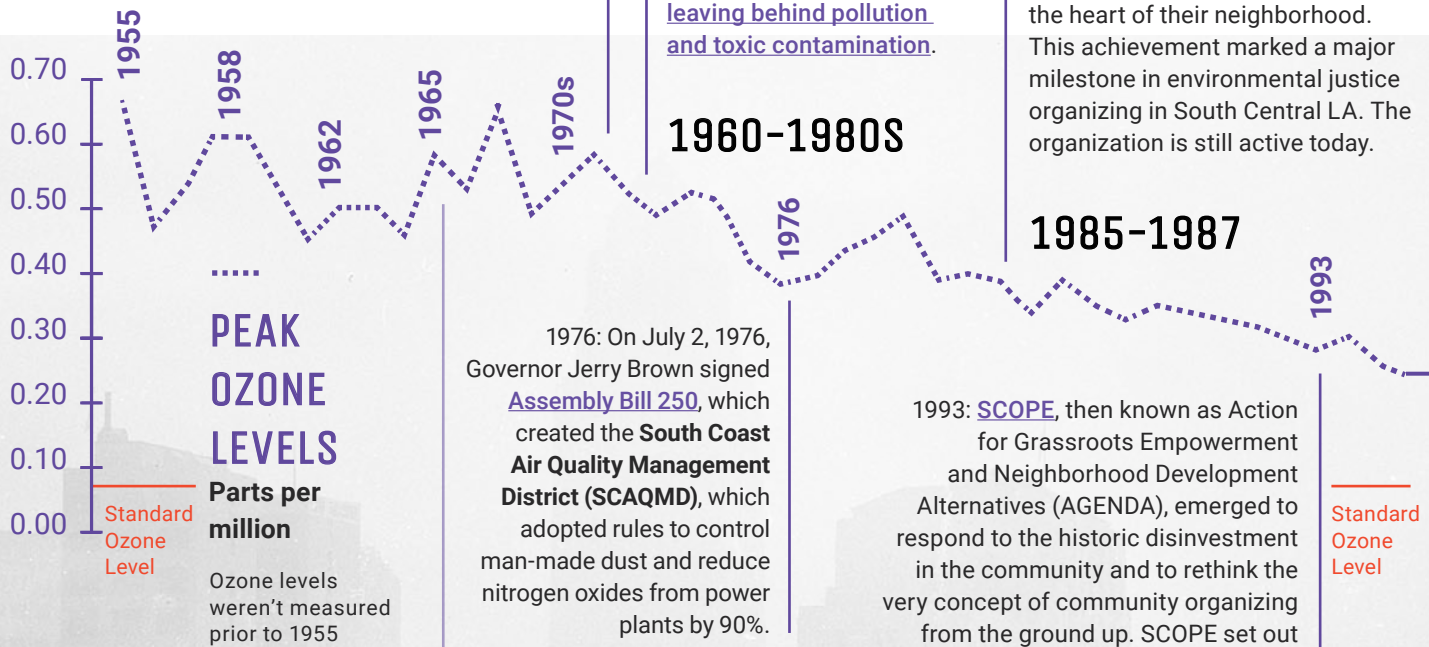
1945: To address the growing challenge of smoke and fumes, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors appointed a Smoke and Fumes Commission. Following their recommendations, the supervisors banned emissions of dense smoke and established an office of the [Director of Air Pollution Control](#). The City of Los Angeles adopted a similar smoke regulation that same year, but the other 45 cities in the county took little or no action.



1970s: A dense, visible smog hung over Los Angeles making it hard to see the mountains. This prompted the passage of the 1970s legislation at the height of the national environmental movement—the [Clean Air Act](#). This pivotal policy required the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish standards for common and widespread pollutants, including particulate matter, ozone, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, and lead.

1960-1980s: Middle income White populations began to leave the urban core—a phenomenon known as “white flight.” Mimicking this out-migration, industries also began to leave central city communities to relocate on the peripheries of cities, [leaving behind pollution and toxic contamination](#).

1985-1987: A community group called the [Concerned Citizens of South Central LA](#), comprised primarily of African American women, [successfully blocked the construction of a waste-to-energy incinerator](#) (LANCER) in the heart of their neighborhood. This achievement marked a major milestone in environmental justice organizing in South Central LA. The organization is still active today.



1976: On July 2, 1976, Governor Jerry Brown signed [Assembly Bill 250](#), which created the **South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)**, which adopted rules to control man-made dust and reduce nitrogen oxides from power plants by 90%.

1967: A diverse group of California leaders came together to unify statewide efforts to address severe air pollution to create the State Air Resources Board, committing California to a unified, statewide approach to aggressively address the serious issue of air pollution in the state.

1993: [SCOPE](#), then known as Action for Grassroots Empowerment and Neighborhood Development Alternatives (AGENDA), emerged to respond to the historic disinvestment in the community and to rethink the very concept of community organizing from the ground up. SCOPE set out to build the capacity of residents through political education, leadership development and civic engagement.

Standard Ozone Level



2012: With the [RePower LA Coalition](#), SCOPE successfully advocated for LADWP to: 1) increase its energy efficiency budget from \$55 million to \$128 million; 2) increase its renewable energy portfolio from 10% to 15%; and 3) adopt a set of principles for investment priorities in LADWP’s energy efficiency budget.

2005: As an alternate member of the **California Environmental Protection Agency’s Environmental Justice Advisory Committee** that oversaw the creation of Environmental Justice plans for each Cal EPA board and departments, PSR-LA and other Environmental Justice groups advanced recommendations around the implementation of precautionary approaches and the development of working definitions of cumulative impacts.

2006: Assembly Bill 32, the [California Global Warming Solutions Act](#), was passed by the California legislature, requiring CARB to implement strategies to reduce California’s greenhouse gas emission. A central measure is the Cap-and-Trade program, which sets a declining cap on emission from industries producing the highest GHGs. PSR-LA and environmental justice organizations engaged in education, organizing and advocacy efforts to ensure AB 32 is rooted in equity, does not overly focus on market-based mechanisms and actually reduces emissions at the source.

2009: [A South LA immigrant mother led the fight](#) to relocate Palace Plating, a metal finishing facility generating hazardous waste across the street from one of the largest elementary school campuses in the nation. South LA students, teachers, and families were the determining factor in forcing city government and state regulators to take action after over a decade of testing and fines resulted in little improvement.

2000 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2012

2000: As a leading environmental health organization in Los Angeles, [PSR-LA](#) sponsored and organized the first precautionary principle conference—a seminal event which greatly influenced PSR-LA’s future work and led to the introduction of the precautionary principle to Cal EPA, and a precautionary principle conference sponsored by the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

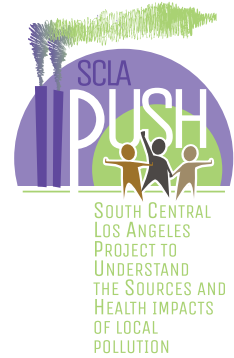
2007: **Environmental Justice organizations sue CARB over Cap-and-Trade** impacts on communities of color and low income communities.

2008: PSR-LA and SCOPE co-led the Los Angeles Apollo Alliance campaign to connect residents to healthy and sustainable green jobs.

2010: **The South LA Building Healthy Communities (South LA BHC)** initiative is launched, and aimed to build the capacity of the community to core drivers of health disparities, including environmental challenges. This collaborative successfully engaged new voices in air quality and climate policies and campaigns (including AB 32), advanced affordable housing, and advocated for health-based anti-displacement policies.

2006 – 2008: The Greater Baldwin Alliance was convened to bring attention to the need for a Community Standards District (CSD) to counter the uncontrolled emissions of noxious gases related to oil extraction, to eliminate adverse health, safety and environmental impacts from the Baldwin Hills Oil Field. The [final plan](#) established [the Community Advisory Panel \(CAP\)](#). To address remaining concerns, Community Health Councils joined one of four lawsuits against Los Angeles County that resulted in [an agreement](#) to strengthen health and safety protections for households living near drilling operations.

2014: PSR-LA actively promoted community driven advocacy for the South and Southeast Los Angeles community plans.



2013: South Central LA organizations engaged in the implementation of SB 375, the [Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act](#), that aims to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emission through innovative transportation and land use policy.

2016: At the AllenCo oil drilling site in the South Central LA University Park neighborhood, nearby residents filed hundreds of complaints (while production at the site increased by 400%) and formed People Not Pozos as a vehicle to address the impacts of this drilling site and to sustain community pressure.

2017: **Creation of the LEAP-LA Coalition** led by PSR-LA in collaboration with Councilmember Paul Koretz, Communities for a Better Environment (CBE), SCOPE, Esperanza Community Housing, and Pacoima Beautiful. LEAP-LA seeks to transition the City of Los Angeles from being an extractive, fossil-fuel-based economy to one that is rooted in the principles of restoration, ecological balance and intersectional justice.

2019: PSR-LA led the creation of the **SCLA-PUSH initiative**.

2013

2014

2016

2017

2018

2019

2013: PSR-LA, SCOPE, Communities for a Better Environment (CBE), Esperanza Community Housing, Redeemer Community Partnership, Black Women for Wellness (BWW), and Holman United Methodist Church created [Standing Together Against Neighborhood Drilling-LA \(STAND-LA\) coalition](#). STAND-LA's intent is to end neighborhood oil drilling in the City of Los Angeles.

2016: With statewide coalition partners in CA Climate Equity Coalition and the [California Environmental Justice Alliance](#), we successfully advocated to pass a set of landmark climate bills (SB 32, AB 197, AB 1550, and AB 2722) that set targets to reduce greenhouse gases by 2030; bring accountability and transparency to state climate agencies and top polluters; and address the need for targeted climate investments in communities on the frontlines of poverty and pollution.

2018: Environmental Justice organizations in South LA were instrumental in pushing CARB to change a key program rule. State agencies will now have to report on key indicators of job quality and access, including the number of workers from frontline and low-income communities who are hired and trained on Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) projects, as well as wages paid and benefits provided.

2019: the LEAP-LA Coalition established the world's first [Climate Emergency Mobilization Office \(CEMO\)](#) at the City of Los Angeles. This office will be guided by a Climate Emergency Commission with strong Indigenous and frontline representation, in close coordination with Community Assemblies that will identify local priorities, clean production, Just Transition models, and economic justice.

