

Action Summary Minutes
San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY GROUP (EJAG)

Central Region Office, Governing Board Room
1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue, Fresno, CA.

Monday, March 16, 2009
1:00 p.m.

The Environmental Justice Advisory Group Meeting was held via video teleconference (VTC): Central Region Office, Governing Board Room, 1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue, Fresno, the Southern Region Office, VTC Room, 34946 Flyover Court, Bakersfield and the Northern Region Office, VTC Room, 4800 Enterprise Way, Modesto.

1. CALL TO ORDER - Meeting called to order at 1:20 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL - was taken and a quorum was present to hold a meeting.

County	Member Name/Interest Group	Location
San Joaquin	Jeremy Terhune, At-large Rep.	Central
Stanislaus	Rosenda Mataka, At-large Rep.	Central
Merced	Melissa J. Kelly Ortega, At-large Rep.	Central
Madera	Catherine Garoupa, At-large Rep.	Central
Fresno	Lourdes Medina, At-large Rep.	Central
	Kevin Hamilton, CAC*	Central
	Riley Jones, CAC	Central
	Amarpreet Dhaliwal, CAC	Central
Kern	Linda MacKay, At-large Rep.	South

**Arrived during item #6*

Staff present in Central Region Office (Fresno) – Rick McVaigh, Deputy APCO; Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer; Claudia Encinas, Bilingual Public Information Representative; Maricela Velásquez, Senior Public Information Representative

Staff present in the Northern Region Office (Modesto) – Anthony Presto, Public Information Representative

Staff present in the Northern Region Office (Bakersfield) – Brenda Turner, Public Information Representative

Members of the Public present in the Central Region Office (Fresno) – Lois Innis, Rey León, Sarah Sharpe and Derek Williams

3. APPROVE MINUTES OF MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2009 – Melissa Kelly-Ortega made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Second by Rosenda Mataka. Amarpreet Dhaliwal and Linda MacKay abstained. The minutes were approved as corrected.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS– Ms. Lois Innis mentioned that in DC there are roundabouts to reduce air pollution; they are also used in Europe. She mentioned that it would be very cost effective in the San Joaquin Valley.
5. CHAIR COMMENTS – The Chair provided the EJAG members with pesticide guide cards from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR). Maricela Velásquez of the District also made available the community guide from DPR.
6. EJAG GOALS FOR 2009 – A detailed discussion took place regarding two of eight long-term EJAC goals: providing effective tools to EJAG communities and outreach.

Chair Lourdes Medina opened the discussion on tool development. Jeremy Terhune proposed leadership building in grassroots communities. Ms. Medina posed the question of how to inform EJ communities of rules that affect their businesses. Linda McKay used the state truck-idling rule as an example. Derek Williams suggested creating a list of compliance resources and opportunities would be helpful. Ms. McKay brought the conversation back to mapping EJ communities. Rick McVaigh said the District has done some mapping, based on census tracts, which the District will provide to the group. Amarpreet Dhaliwal cited statistics that one in five people in the Valley live in poverty and the Valley's income is 32 percent less than other regions in the state.

Kevin Hamilton joined the meeting.

Ms. Medina suggested a one-year goal to map and identify EJ communities and an accompanying two-year goal to disburse this to elected officials. Mr. McVaigh asked whether the goal was to map more populations or create more maps. Ms. Medina restated Goal No. 1 as mapping to better relate the air district to mapped communities.

Ms. Medina opened discussion on Goal No. 2: District outreach through advertising and grass root communications. She asked about EJ community access to District outreach. Catherina Garoupa suggested adding an EJ component to air-management certificates through Fresno State. Ms. Medina asked about incorporating such education in primary grades. Jaime Holt of the District said the District has been again approached by Fresno State about conducting an air-quality program through continuing education, but there is no funding available through Fresno State. However, she said a possibility exists to establish something similar as a result of new climate change [legislation]. Ms. Holt explained the middle- and high-school curriculum offered through the Air District. She also said elementary

curriculum is being amended and will be available next year. She provided copies of the current elementary curriculum to EJAG members.

Derek Williams asked if air quality could be incorporated into Boy and Girl Scout merit badge programs.

After the break, Ms. Medina asked if another objective could be incorporated under Goal 2. Kevin Hamilton proposed 1) the Air District identify and create a list of community-based organizations that serve EJ communities; and 2) to conduct outreach through community health centers. He used Mary-Michal Rawling as a favorable example through her work in Merced with a grant from the Hewlett Foundation. He said to accomplish this goal, EJAG would need a curriculum and funding to implement it.

Ms. Medina said that EJAG would serve as an advisory body to the District in the execution of Goal No. 2. She asked how EJAG could help the District incorporate EJ issues into existing District outreach programs and collaborations. Melissa Kelly-Ortega suggested incorporating EJ issues into the flag program. Ms. Holt said it was possible but would need to be concise.

Sarah Sharpe elaborated on a town hall discussion raised by Ms. Garoupa and suggested creating a work plan during the first year, in which locations and presentations would be identified. Mr. Hamilton said the group needs to keep its goals achievable.

Ms. Garoupa motioned to amend EJAG's goals to include identifying EJ map topics and creating deliverables within the next year. Mr. Hamilton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

7. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Public Information Requests Fee Waiver -- Rosenda Mataka questioned how communities without adequate funding can obtain critical public information that typically requires a fee. She suggested that the group develop a waiver. Jaime Holt of the District requested guidance on how to assess the need for a waiver and who would be included in the definition of an Environmental Justice community. Lourdes Medina asked if the item should be tabled. Rick McVaigh of the District clarified the current policy regarding processing public records, which includes evaluating staff time necessary to compile information. Ms. Medina proposed setting a committee meeting to define the issues. Mr. McVaigh said staff will be responsive to any direction from the committee. Kevin Hamilton asked if such a waiver currently exists; Mr. McVaigh said no. Mr. Hamilton asked if a waiver requires board action and suggested developing an application. Mr. McVaigh said staff would report back at the next meeting. Ms. Mataka suggested other air districts should be contacted in the event they use such a waiver. Ms. Medina tabled the item until the next meeting.

- b. Outreach Materials – This item was tabled until next month due to time constraints.
- 8. PUBLIC COMMENTS (SECOND OPPORTUNITY) – None.
- 9. EJAG MEMBER COMMENTS AND EJAG SUGGESTIONS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE PRESENTATION OF THE EJAG REPORT DURING THE CAC MEETING ON TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2009 – None.
- 10. VOLUNTEER TO PRESENT EJAG REPORT DURING CAC MEETING, TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2009 AT 10:00 A.M. – Ms. Medina volunteered to report at the April meeting.

Adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Next meeting – The next EJAG meeting is scheduled on Monday, April 20, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.