

Action Summary Minutes
San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

February 2, 2021
10:00 a.m.

Meeting held via video teleconferencing with the Central Region Office (Fresno). This meeting was also webcast. Given the international COVID-19 pandemic, and consistent with the California Department of Public Health's recommendations and Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20, no physical location was provided for public attendance.

1. CALL TO ORDER – The Chair, Kevin Abernathy, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. He announced the District was responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by holding this meeting in a manner consistent with Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-33-20 and California Department of Public Health's recommendations for social distancing. He quickly summarized that the meeting was being held via video teleconference and webcast with no physical location for public attendance. However, he said members of the public who wished to address the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) members would be provided the opportunity to do so during the appropriate commenting periods. He thanked the CAC members and the public for their patience as we continue with the Zoom meeting format in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. ROLL CALL – was taken and a quorum was present to hold the meeting and to take action.

<u>County</u>	<u>Member Name/Interest Group</u>	<u>Location</u>
Fresno	Manuel Cunha / IAIG (P)	VTC
	Kevin Hamilton / EIG (P)	VTC
	Gary Yep / CIG (P)	VTC
Kern	Les Clark / IAIG (P)	VTC
	Wayne Clausen / CIG (P)	VTC
Kings	Laura Brown / IAIG (P)	VTC
Madera	Don Horal / IAIG (P)	VTC
	Brittany Dyer / EIG (P)	VTC
Merced	Kevin Abernathy / IAIG (P)	VTC
	Roger Hoffdahl / IAIG (P)	VTC
San Joaquin	Ned Leiba / EIG (P)	VTC
	Chris Savage / IAIG (P)	VTC
Stanislaus	Richard O'Brien / CIG (P)	VTC

Tulare	Derek Williams / IAIG (P)	VTC
	Jose Sigala / CIG (A)	VTC

* (P) = Primary, (A) = Alternate, IAIG = Industry/Ag Interest Group, EIG = Environmental Interest Group, CIG = City Interest Group

3. APPROVE MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 AND OCTOBER 6, 2020, AND DECEMBER 1, 2020 – Chairman Abernathy asked for member comments on the minutes. Hearing none, he deemed the minutes as approved.
 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None
 5. CHAIR COMMENTS – None
 6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/APCO COMMENTS – Samir Sheikh, Executive Director/APCO, provided the CAC members an update on a few key items:
 - The District has three new board members: San Joaquin County Supervisor Richard Rickman, Stanislaus County Supervisor Vito Chiesa, and Tulare County Supervisor Amy Shuklian. In addition, a process is underway with the Special City Selection Committee to appoint a representative for the Northern Region small city vacancy.
 - In December 2020, the Governing Board extended the District’s emergency economic assistance relief measures that were put in place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These measures will now be in place through December 31, 2021.
 - In December 2020, the Governing Board adopted the 2020 Staff Report and Recommendations on Agricultural Burning and increased funding for the District’s Alternatives to Open Agricultural Burning Incentive Pilot Program. The Board’s actions build on over a decade of prior efforts to progressively reduce the open burning of agricultural materials. In light of the challenges for the remaining categories, the Board’s action calls for significant and sustain funding for existing and emerging alternative practices. The report has now been sent to CARB, who has final approval authority over the recommendations. The report is scheduled for consideration at CARB’s February 2021 hearing.
- Public Comment: None
7. UPDATES ON ATTAINMENT PLANS AND RULES – Jessica Coria, Program Manager Air Quality Science and Planning, provided an update on the District’s planning and rule development efforts.

Mr. Cunha said he has concerns about the ongoing impacts faced by the restaurant industry due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Coria said the District is closely monitoring the economic impacts of the pandemic and has formed a restaurant working group to evaluate opportunities and challenges for reducing emissions from this sector.

Mr. Clark commented on the flare rule, and said there are still areas that need to be discussed included dealing with stranded gas, which is a viable energy source which should be considered. Regarding the expedited BARCT schedule, he asked about the public process these measures will be taken through. Morgan Lambert, Deputy APCO, responded that staff is holding public workshops on the results of the BARCT determinations. For rules requiring enhancements to meet BARCT, the District will utilize a formal notice and comment rulemaking process that will consider cost-effectiveness and socio-economic impacts.

Ms. Brown asked for clarification on the next steps for Rule 4702. Ms. Coria responded that a draft rule that is available and posted for public review. She added they are planning to take it to the Governing Board for consideration in the coming months.

Public Comment: None

8. VERBAL REPORT FROM CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD – Laura Carr, CARB representative, said the Board did not hold a hearing in January 2021.

Public Comment: None

9. APPOINT CAC SUBCOMMITTEE FOR HEARING BOARD APPOINTMENTS – Morgan Lambert, said the CAC has been tasked by the Governing Board with interviewing candidates for the District's 3 Regional Hearing Boards. He said there is currently a vacancy for a Primary Engineer in the Southern Region and asked the Chair to appoint members representing the Northern, Central, and Southern Regions to this Subcommittee to interview the candidates.

Mr. Abernathy appointed Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Cunha, Mr. Hamilton, Ms. Zimmerman, and Mr. Clausen to the CAC Subcommittee for Hearing Board Appointments.

10. UPDATE ON AIR QUALITY FUNDING IN PROPOSED STATE BUDGET – Tom Jordan, Senior Policy Advisor, provided an update on the District's state budget advocacy efforts and the air quality funding contained in the Governor's January proposed budget. He said staff recommend that CAC members submit a letter to the Governor outlining the Valley's air quality challenges and the state commitments in the recent air quality attainment plans, supporting the air quality funding levels in the Governor's proposed budget, and supporting inclusion of the AB2522 DMV Fee in the proposal to extend the funding for the Carl Moyer and AB 118 programs to 2045.

Chairman Abernathy voiced agreement with staff's recommendation and said every regulatory commitment that ultimately lands at the District has a price tag. He said the current budget is really a very minimal amount of the overall price tag of each of these regulatory commitments that the District has made to the state and locally. He added this is certainly a step in the right direction, but there is still a long way to go. He said supporting the budget requests are in the best interest of public health.

Mr. Hamilton said the assembly budget hearings have already kicked off and requested staff to send out an email with information on upcoming budget hearings that are relevant to the District, so that members can participate and advocate for funding.

Mr. Cunha made a motion to ask Chairman Abernathy to work with Mr. Sheikh and Mr. Jordan to draft a letter addressed to the Governor which shows unanimous support from CAC members. He added that support would include extension of the AB2522 DMV Fee, which has tremendously helped the Valley's rural communities to get street sweepers, trucks and tractor equipment which have greatly benefitted these communities. He added this would be a great opportunity for the Industry/Agriculture and Environmental Interest Groups to come together to support this request.

Ms. Dyer thanked Mr. Jordan for bringing this to the members' attention. She mentioned the Governor's Forest Management Task Force recently released a comprehensive action plan to reduce wildfire risk and improve the health of forests and wildlands. The plan focuses heavily on air quality, and being able to bring these funds to the Valley would be very beneficial. She added her support for the letter, and the need to get the letter out in a timely manner.

Public Comment: None

Moved: Cunha
Second: Hamilton
Ayes: Cunha, Clark, Brown, Horal, Hoffdahl, Savage, Williams, Hamilton, Temple, Dyer, Abernathy, Leiba, Yep, Clausen, O'Brien, Sigala
Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried to submit a letter to the Governor outlining the Valley's air quality challenges and state commitments, supporting the air quality funding levels in the Governor's proposed budget, and supporting inclusion of the AB2522 DMV Fee in the proposal to extend the funding for the Carl Moyer and AB 118 programs to 2045.

11. IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW SCHOOL AIR FILTRATION PROGRAM IN AB 617 COMMUNITIES – Todd DeYoung, Director of Grants and Incentives, provided an update on the District's new School Air Filtration Program that will be operated within

the AB 617 Communities of Shafter and South Central Fresno. The program aims to reduce exposure to air pollutants by installing advanced air filtration systems in schools within the respective AB 617 communities. Consistent with the Board-adopted Community Emission Reduction Programs (CERPs), \$1.5 million will be made available in South Central Fresno and \$250,000 for Shafter.

Mr. Leiba commented that the Stockton AB 617 Community Steering Committee is interested in monitoring air quality inside and outside of classrooms. He asked if the Shafter and Fresno AB 617 communities were considering similar monitoring. Mr. DeYoung said the focus currently was on outreach to schools within the communities and on reducing exposure to air pollutants by installing advanced air filtration systems in the classrooms. Mr. Leiba said pairing monitoring with the air filtration systems funded by this program would be informative.

Public Comment: None

12. UPDATE ON DISTRICT'S RESPONSE TO CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD'S REVIEW OF DISTRICT EMISSION REDUCTION CREDIT PROGRAM – Mr. Lambert gave an update on the District's efforts in response to the CARB review of the District's Emission Reduction Credit Program.

Mr. Savage asked when staff estimated final recommendations for enhancements to the District's Offset Equivalency System would be brought forward. Mr. Lambert said staff is working with CARB, EPA, and the Public Advisory Workgroup to evaluate the outcomes of the prior year equivalency report and potential enhancements to the program moving forward. Mr. Savage said this is such a major issue for the District and stakeholders, it is important that this remain a standing item on future CAC agendas.

Public Comment - None

13. AB 617 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES –

- a. Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer, provided an update on the District's ongoing activities related to AB 617 implementation. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the District has been working with the Community Steering Committees to re-envision the process and community engagement in light of stay-at-home orders and social distancing recommendations. The Community Steering Committees are continuing to have meetings utilizing online meeting tools. The South Central Fresno and Shafter communities are continuing to work on implementing the Community Emission Reduction Programs (CERPs) approved earlier last year. The Stockton community is working to develop a Community Air Monitoring Plan and CERP for consideration by the District and CARB. Ms. Holt reported that Annual Progress Reports for the South Central and Shafter communities were submitted to CARB as required by AB 617.

Ms. Holt also reported that the District has submitted 5 project plans to CARB for the use of Community Air Protection incentive funds to implement measures contained in the South Central and Shafter CERPs. These following projects have been approved by CARB:

- Truck re-route study in Fresno
- Commercial lawn and garden
- Residential lawn and garden
- Alternatives to agricultural burning
- Low-dust nut harvester

The District is currently working with the Community Steering Committees to develop outreach campaigns for the different incentive measures.

- b. Vernon Hughes, CARB Office of Community Air Protection, provided an update on efforts underway by CARB to implement AB 617. Moving forward, CARB will be partnering with the districts on CERP implementation, working on updates to the AB 617 Blueprint based on lessons learned during Year 1, compiling and sharing resources on strategies, and continuing the development of tools to support the program (AQ View Data Portal, Emissions Inventory, and Technology Clearinghouse). In addition, each year CARB considers the selection of new communities for the program. On November 20, 2020, CARB released draft recommendations for Year 3 communities, which included Arvin/Lamont, South Los Angeles, and Richmond. The Board will considered the selection of new communities in February 2021.

Mr. Leiba said the Stockton AB 617 Steering Committee members were looking forward to receiving cost benefit information for the various proposals in their community at their February 16th meeting.

Public Comment: None

14. OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS REPORT – Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer, provided an update on District outreach activities. She said the District's Annual Kids Calendar is available digitally on the District's website for printing

Mr. Cunha suggested publishing all of the artwork from past Kids Calendars as positive recognition of the efforts the Valley children.

Public Comment: None

15. CAC MEMBER COMMENTS – Mr. Cunha requested that CARB provide an update on the plan to address the disposal of treated agricultural stakes given the recent veto by

the Governor of a piece of legislation that would have facilitated the cost-effective disposal of the material.

Mr. Williams provided a quick update on the recent EJAG meeting held in January 2021.

16. VOLUNTEER TO PRESENT REPORT DURING GOVERNING BOARD MEETING –

Meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Next Meeting –The next CAC meeting is scheduled on March 2, 2021. The meeting will be held via video teleconference (VTC).