

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

October 5, 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 public health recommendations and Assembly Bill 361, 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.
2. **ROLL CALL** – was taken and a quorum was present to hold the meeting and one member short from the City Interest Group to take action.

County	Member Name/Interest Group	Location
Fresno	Manuel Cunha / IAIG (P)	VTC
	Kacey Auston-Tibbetts / EIG (P)	VTC
	Gary Yep / CIG (P)	VTC
Kern	Les Clark / IAIG (P)	VTC
Kings	Laura Brown / IAIG (P)	VTC
	Alene Taylor / EIG (A)	VTC
	Dennis Tristao / CIG (P)	VTC
Madera	Don Horal / IAIG (P)	VTC
San Joaquin	David Phippen / IAIG (A)	VTC
	Ned Leiba / EIG (P)	VTC
Stanislaus	Chris Savage / IAIG (P)	VTC
	Richard O'Brien / CIG (P)	VTC
	Thomas Helme / EIG (A)	VTC
Tulare	Derek Williams / IAIG (P)	VTC
	Greg Gomez / CIG (P)	VTC

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

3. APPROVE MINUTES FOR MAY 4, 2021, JUNE 1, 2021, AND AUGUST 3, 2021 – Chairman Abernathy asked for member comments and corrections to the minutes from May 4, 2021, June 1, 2021, and August 3, 2021. Hearing none, he deemed the minutes approved.

Public Comments - None

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

5. CHAIR COMMENTS – None

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/APCO COMMENTS – Samir Sheikh, Executive Director/APCO, provided the CAC members with an update on the following items:

- The District Governing Board recently accepted \$8.4 million in additional state funding to support the ongoing operation of the District's Drive Clean in the San Joaquin vehicle replacement program in the 2021-22 fiscal year. The Board also adopted program enhancements to increase participation and accessibility to the program by Valley residents while ensuring continued focus on eliminating high-polluting vehicles and achieving cost-effective emissions reductions.
- Due to the significant impacts across the Valley from wildfire smoke, the District has been focusing extensively on outreach to Valley communities and residents. The District has been working with schools, the media, cities, counties, health officers, and the broader community at-large to make sure that Valley residents are aware of the tools that are available to help them understand air quality conditions and the steps that they can take to protect themselves during wildfire smoke episodes. Furthermore, the District will be taking an item to the Governing Board to participate, along with the Bay Area AQMD and South Coast AQMD, in a new pilot program to establish clean air centers. Under the program, grant funding will be available to support the purchase of air filtration units to be used at these clean air centers to provide Valley residents a safe place to go to avoid the impacts of wildfire smoke.

Mr. Williams commented on the billions of dollars available and wondered if there would be an opportunity for the District to work with CARB to ask legislators to give funding to single owner operators or small fleet owners to help get their trucks into compliance. Mr. Sheikh said there has been a lot of interest, particularly with CAC members, to address smaller fleets. He said members would hear an update on the state budget later in this meeting outlining current state priorities.

Mr. Abernathy expressed interest in a way to carve out funding for lower mileage agricultural trucks, especially since it looks like we will be utilizing FARMER. He said by 2023 the majority of agricultural trucks will be out of compliance.

Public Comment: None

7. UPDATES ON ATTAINMENT PLANS AND RULES – Jessica Coria, Program Manager, provided an update on the District’s planning and rule development efforts.

Public Comment: None

8. VERBAL REPORT FROM CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD – Laura Carr, CARB representative, gave a brief update on recent and upcoming actions by CARB.

Public Comment: None

9. APPOINT ENVIRONMENTAL INTEREST GROUP REPRESENTATIVE(S) TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY GROUP – Morgan Lambert, Deputy APCO, notified members of the current Environmental Justice Advisory Group vacancy for the CAC Environmental Interest Group Primary Representative.

Chairman Abernathy asked Mr. Leiba if he would consider moving from the Alternate to the Primary Representative seat. Mr. Leiba accepted the nomination as Primary member.

Public Comment: None

Moved: Williams
Seconded: Tristao
Ayes: Cunha, Clark, Brown, Horal, Phippen, Savage, Williams, Williams, Auston-Tibbetts, Taylor, Abernathy, Leiba, Helme, Yep, Tristao, Ward, O’Brien, Gomez
Nays: Non

Motion unanimously carried to recommend the Board appoint Ned Leiba, as Environmental Interest Group Primary Representative, and Kacey Auston-Tibbetts, as Environmental Interest Group Alternate Representative on EJAG.

This item was tabled until later in the meeting

10. UPDATE ON 2021-22 STATE BUDGET

11. PLANNING EFFORTS FOR FEDERAL PM2.5 AND OZONE STANDARDS – Jon Klassen, Director of Air Quality Science and Planning, gave members and overview of planning efforts for Federal PM2.5 and Ozone Standards.

Mr. Cunha thanked staff for the informational presentation and commended District staff and the Board for a tremendous amount of emission reductions achieved through their efforts in conjunction with businesses and industry. He said CARB and its mobile sources regulations would be key to the Valley attaining the standards. He expressed

concern whether their maintenance program for trucks will be a successful program without adequate funding and resources.

Chairman Abernathy said it will take more zero-emission trucks to do the same job due to their increase in weight. He suggested taking an interim step of looking at CNG and LNG trucks that are 0.02 grams per brake horsepower-hr. Mr. Sheikh responded that the Board's position is that we definitely support zero emissions technology where feasible and that is becoming increasingly available. He said for Class A long haul trucks there are some real issues, from a technology availability point of view, for the distance ranges required for long haul trucks. Chairman Abernathy said he feels CARB is overly ambitious in trying to get everything to zero emissions, and should focus on CNG and more easily obtainable technology in the near-term. He said they would be missing a huge opportunity to benefit public health in the Valley by not taking advantage of these technologies.

10. UPDATE ON 2021-22 STATE BUDGET – Samir Sheikh, Executive Director/APCO, provided an update to members on the current status of the 2021-22 State Budget that is now with the Governor for action. The Budget contains significant air quality funding which will help the Valley reduce criteria and greenhouse gas emissions in support of local and state goals. The District is working with a coalition of stakeholders to continue to advocate for the Valley's fair share on funding and is working with CARB and other state agencies to move forward with funding distribution and program implementation.

Mr. Phippen said he appreciated how many dollars are available for the different alternatives to agricultural burning. He said his family operation was dealing with sticks that have a lot of rocks which were not possible to grind. This year, he said they began using air curtain burners, which have been a successful alternative. He said it is imperative that the CAC shares with CARB that air curtain burners are a very important alternative and should be considered for funding. Mr. Sheikh clarified that under the current state guidelines, the funding is only available for non-combustible alternatives. He added they could certainly play a role and there will be a variety of technologies that ultimately will assist in handling the large organic streams in our region. He added this was an eligible category under USDA-NRCS funding.

12. POTENTIAL AMENDMENTS TO DISTRICT RULES 4352 (SOLID FUEL-FIRED BOILERS, STEAM GENERATORS, AND PROCESS HEATERS) AND 4354 (GLASS MELTING FURNACES) - Jessica Coria, Program Manager in the District's Air Quality Science and Planning Department, provided a brief update on potential amendments to lower emission standards for municipal solid fuel-fired boilers, steam generators, and process heaters and glass melting furnaces. Consistent with commitments in the District's 2018 PM_{2.5} Plan, opportunities to reduce NO_x emissions for these source categories are being explored. In addition, the District is considering lowering the PM and SO_x emission standards for these source categories.

13. AB 617 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES –

- a. Jessica Olsen, Director of Community Strategies and Resources, provided an update on the District's ongoing activities related to AB 617 implementation. The District has continued to regularly meet with all four Community Steering Committees (CSCs) using online engagement platforms to design and implement the community-driven AB 617 process.

The newest community of Arvin/Lamont in southern Kern County has been meeting regularly as a CSC since May. The boundary, charter, and CSC membership has been finalized and the committee has begun the discussion around sources of air quality concern and health impacts in preparation for designing the community air monitoring and emissions reduction programs.

The South Central Fresno and Shafter committees have continued to meet monthly in addition to subcommittee meetings, which are scheduled as needed. CARB recently approved the program plan for the vegetative barriers and urban greening measures in both the Shafter and South Central Fresno, and the District Governing Board took action to formally begin implementing these programs in those communities. CARB continues to work with the District on several other pending program plans for both communities, and community air monitoring in both communities has been underway.

The District recently went through a community-driven process to select a new facilitation team for all four communities. Community members were asked to submit questions for applicants, then attended a webinar where they could learn more about each facilitation team. In the end, each community that participated submitted a majority recommendation for Harder + Company to be the next facilitation team.

- b. Deldi Reyes, Chief of the CARB Office of Community Air Protection, provided an update on efforts underway by CARB to implement AB 617. On October 28, 2021, CARB will hold a public meeting to receive an informational update on AB 617 Community Air Protection and Air Toxics Programs.

Public Comment: None

14. OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS REPORT – Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer, provided an update on District outreach activities, including things residents can do to protect themselves from wildfire smoke, seeking drawings from Valley children for the District's Kids Calendar, participating in outreach events to highlight the District's key public facing grant programs: lawnmower exchange program, the Burn Cleaner woodstove change out program, and several programs that can help residents get into cleaner vehicles. She also notified members of California Clean Air Day on October 6th.

Public Comment: None

15. CAC MEMBER COMMENTS – Mr. Cunha thanked Mr. Leiba for representing CAC members on EJAG. Mr. Abernathy thanked Ms. Auston-Tibbetts for agreeing to serve as alternate.
16. VOLUNTEER TO PRESENT REPORT DURING GOVERNING BOARD MEETING – Mr. Abernathy volunteered to present the report during the Governing Board meeting on October 21, 2021

Meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

Next Meeting – NO MEETING IN NOVEMBER. The next CAC meeting is scheduled on December 7, 2021. The meeting will be held via video teleconference (VTC).