

Action Summary Minutes

San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

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

Thursday, January 21, 2021

9:00 a.m.

Meeting held via Zoom Webinar and 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 MEETING TO ORDER – The Chair, Supervisor Craig Pedersen, called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m.
2. ROLL CALL – was taken and a quorum was present.

Present:

Drew M. Bessinger, Mayor	City of Clovis
Vito Chiesa, Supervisor	Stanislaus County
David Couch, Supervisor*	Kern County
Christina Fugazi, Councilmember	City of Stockton
Buddy Mendes, Supervisor	Fresno County
Tania Pacheco-Werner, Ph.D.	Appointed by Governor
Lloyd Pareira, Supervisor, Vice Chair	Merced County
Craig Pedersen, Supervisor, Chair	Kings County
Alvaro Preciado, Councilmember	City of Avenal
Monte Reyes, Councilmember	City of Porterville
Robert Rickman, Supervisor	San Joaquin County
Dr. Alexander Sherriffs	Appointed by Governor
Supervisor Amy Shuklian	Tulare County
Tom Wheeler, Supervisor	Madera County

**arrived at 9:44 a.m.*

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. WELCOME NEW GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS SUPERVISOR VITO CHIESA, SUPERVISOR ROBERT RICKMAN, AND SUPERVISOR AMY SHUKLIAN – Chairman Pedersen and Samir Sheikh, Executive Director/APCO, gave a warm welcome to the newest Governing Board members, Stanislaus County Supervisor Vito Chiesa, San Joaquin County Supervisor Robert Rickman,

and Tulare County Supervisor Amy Shuklian.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR – Item Numbers (15 – 19): *These matters are routine in nature and are usually approved by a single vote. Prior to any action by the board, the public was given the opportunity to comment on any consent item.*

15. APPROVE ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY UNIFIED AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEETING OF DECEMBER 17, 2020
16. RECEIVE AND FILE LIST OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS FOR 2021
17. RECEIVE AND FILE OPERATIONS STATISTICS SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER 2020
18. RECEIVE AND FILE BUDGET STATUS REPORTS AS DECEMBER 31, 2020
19. RECEIVE AND FILE QUARTERLY UPDATE TO THE BEST AVAILABLE CONTROL TECHNOLOGY (BACT) CLEARINGHOUSE

Public Comment: None

Moved: Bessinger
Seconded: Mendes
Ayes: Bessinger, Chiesa, Fugazi, Mendes, Pacheco-Werner, Pareira, Preciado, Reyes, Rickman, Sherriffs, Shuklian, Wheeler, Pedersen
Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried to approve Consent Calendar Item Numbers 15 – 19

6. PUBLIC COMMENT – *The following persons commented on this item:*

- Connie Young, Citizens Climate Lobby
- Jenny Holtermann, Water Association of Kern County
- Andrea De Zubiria
- Clare Statham
- Janet Dietz-Kamei
- Cynthia Pinto-Cabrera, Central Valley Air Quality Coalition

7. S.T.A.R. RECOGNITION (Service, Teamwork, Attitude, Respect) –
Chenecua Dixon, Personnel Director, presented this item which recognized the following employees who reached a service milestone in the 4th quarter of 2020:

Five Years of Service

Martin Velasco, Senior Air Quality Instrument Technician
Christal Martinez, Office Services Manager
Cassandra Melching, Air Quality Education Representative
Michael Corder, Senior Air Quality Specialist

Ten Years of Service

Donny Hockett, Air Quality Assistant
Bethany Whitney, Office Assistant
Lily Liu, Programmer/Analyst
Cecilia Rocha, Programmer/Analyst

Fifteen Years of Service

Noemi Calderon, Office Assistant

Twenty Years of Service

Patia Siong, Supervising Air Quality Specialist
Colette Kincaid, Senior Air Quality Specialist

8. RECEIVE AND FILE COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT AND SINGLE AUDIT REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020 –
Mehri Barati, Administrative Services Director, introduced Fausto Hinojosa of Price Paige Company Accountancy Corporation who reported on their annual audit of the District's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and federally funded grant programs in accordance with the Federal Single Audit Act of 1984.

Supervisor Mendes thanked Mr. Hinojosa for always doing great work. He said he was not surprised to see the great results from this audit, because the District's Finance team does a great job.

Supervisor Wheeler also recognized and thanked the District's Finance team for their terrific work.

Dr. Sherriffs thanked the District's Finance team and the auditors for their good work. He said this was an excellent report for introducing the newer Board members to how work is done at the District and the great way things are managed.

Mayor Preciado thanked the auditing team and District staff for doing a great job,

saying this information was very helpful and was an important piece in the District's transparency and gaining the trust of the community.

Chairman Pedersen gave kudos to staff for being professional and efficient in everything they do. He added it was a good illustration for the newest Board members of the millions of dollars that flow through to the public to improve the Valley's air quality for its residents.

Public Comment: None

Supervisor Couch arrived at 9:44 a.m.

9. APPROVE THE DISTRICT'S 2021 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM – Mr. Sheikh introduced this item and provided a brief history of the District's Legislative Platform and how it has been used to advocate on the local, state, and federal level to advance the District's mission. Mr. Sheikh introduced Tom Jordan, Senior Policy Advisor, who presented the District's 2021 Legislative Platform that contains the District's top priorities for the upcoming legislative session and general principles that will guide the District when taking positions on specific legislative and regulatory proposals, including:

- (State/Federal) Funding for Clean Air Projects
- (State/Federal) Ensure the State Secures and Allocates Adequate Incentive Funds to Meet the State's Commitment in the Valley's PM2.5 Attainment Plan
- (State) Cap and Trade Funding for Valley Clean Air Projects
- (State) AB 617 Implementation
- (State/Federal) Disadvantaged Community Policies
- (Federal) Work with Administrative Branch Including EPA to Advance Streamlined and Efficient Implementation of the Clean Air Act Mandates
- (Federal) National Standards for On-Road Heavy-Duty Trucks, Locomotives, and other Mobile Sources under Federal Jurisdiction
- (State) Truck Emissions Verification
- (State/Federal) Support Greenhouse Gas Reduction Measures that Provide for Local Criteria and Toxic Air Emissions Benefits
- (State) District Policy Position on The Deployment of Near-Zero and Zero Emission Technologies
- (Federal) Support inclusion of funding for clean transportation corridors, the deployment of alternative fuel infrastructure, and the deployment of zero and near-zero emission heavy-duty vehicles in the re-authorization of the transportation bill and federal budget
- (State) Support Legislation Extending the Carl Moyer Program and the District's Existing Authority for DMV Fees to Match Applicable Federally Mandated Attainment Deadlines
- (State) Support Policies Designed to Provide Real-Time Accurate Air Quality Information to the Public during Wildfires and Other Air Quality

Episodes

- (State/Federal) Support efforts that provide for cost-effective alternatives to open burning of agricultural waste
- (State/Federal) Technology Advancement
- (State/Federal) Support adequate resources and policies to reduce the impact of wildfires and their attendant public health impact

Mr. Jordan introduced Sylvia Solis-Shaw and Paul Yoder with Shaw, Yoder, Antwih, Schmelzer, and Lange, the District's state legislative advocates, and Lynn Jacquez, CJ Lake, LLC, the District's federal legislative advocate, who gave an overview of the current status at the state and federal level.

Councilmember Fugazi thanked staff and the legislative advocates for all of the work they are doing for the District. She asked if there was any discussion at the state level regarding catalytic converters and the high rate of theft that is currently taking place in the state. She commented on the high cost of replacing these CARB-approved converters and asked if there was anything that can be done to assist with these costs.

Mr. Yoder responded that he was not aware of this issue, but noted there is extensive documentation that should be taking place when a used catalytic converter is taken to a salvage yard. He added they have run bills in the past for the San Joaquin Valley on metal theft and it may be time to resuscitate those conversations with the state legislature delegation.

Dr. Sherriffs thanked the legislative advocates for centering our discussion and thinking about the future. He also thanked them for the work done in the past on behalf of the District. He said he wanted to highlight that the priorities as laid out are very good, but he encouraged the Board to elevate climate change issues as a priority, because clearly that will be a priority at the federal level and it never hurts to align with state and federal priorities. He added with the discussion at the state level, there has been some pushback in terms of the cap and trade mission of reduction of greenhouse gases, and referencing the public comments regarding climate change at the beginning of the meeting, said they were quite eloquent and to the point. He acknowledged the District's mandate is criteria pollutants, but said climate change is real and what is happening now and into the future is making our air quality challenges greater. He said the current wording that we would support those greenhouse gas reductions that provide for local and toxic emission benefits misses the important point that climate change is making our air quality worse so that there are many ways we can embrace that challenge. He voiced support for the Moyer and DMV fee extension, and said it was an important piece of the incentive funding necessary to advance clean air projects in the Valley.

Supervisor Mendes said he supports the District's advocacy positions contained within the Legislative Platform.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner thanked staff for their continued commitment to the air quality and public health of the Valley. She said the District's Legislative Platform keeps us relevant in terms of emerging policy directions at the state and federal level. She echoed Dr. Sherriffs' comments on the continued emphasis of climate change and thanked staff and the legislative advocates for the work that is already outlined in the platform. She said item number 5, currently reads "the District will oppose measures that dilute local control by diverting local revenues or the authority over the expenditures of local resources to the state and federal government. She said she feels that paragraph, as it reads, was disconnected with the rest. She proposed the language be changed to add at the end of that statement, "where there will be a clear negative impact to disadvantaged communities."

Vice Mayor Reyes thanked Mr. Jordan and the legislative advocates and noted he attended a presentation by Mr. Yoder in a leadership program years ago, which was instrumental in his decisions to become a public officeholder and thanked him. He voiced support for AB 617 funding, and said it was essential to support the engagement and emission reduction efforts in the Valley's disadvantaged communities. Regarding the statement about greenhouse gases and climate change, he said he feels a balanced, practical approach is needed. He said that piece has to be also looking at the journey to solutions that we will need to make, so timing is very important. He also voiced support for DMV fees, as well as forest management.

Supervisor Rickman thanked staff and the legislative advocates for their very informational updates. Regarding forest management and policy priorities, he asked if there was a process or advocacy that reviews current regulations that may inhibit forest management. He said he has seen examples more in local ordinances than anywhere else. Mr. Jordan responded there were general statements in the platform about reducing regulatory impediments, and added they have been more geared towards the federal land managers than those local issues. He said the District does support efforts to ensure that residents are able to perform hazard reduction type activities around residences and structures.

In regards to the Councilmember Fugazi's comments about catalytic converters, Supervisor Rickman asked about the role that the Air Resources Board enforcement staff may play. Mr. Sheikh responded that, based on Councilmember Fugazi's and Supervisor Rickman's concerns, staff can incorporate the need for better policy or resources to deal with this issue as part of the advocacy for this year.

Supervisor Wheeler acknowledged that catalytic converter theft is a big issue. He said regarding climate change, the Board has directed staff to address this issue regularly and they continue to advocate on its behalf. He said he did not see a need to change the verbiage on the platform. He thanked the legislative advocates for all of their hard work on behalf of the District.

Councilmember Fugazi agreed with Supervisor Rickman's comments regarding catalytic converters, and said she wanted to make sure there was discussion at the state level on how we can mitigate or eliminate this issue as well as working with CARB to make sure that we are able to get affordable converters that meet their requirements. She added currently they are seeing 20 to 30 stolen in one night in the Stockton area.

Supervisor Pereira left at 10:45 a.m.
Supervisor Couch left briefly at 11:00 a.m.

Chairman Pedersen thanked all of the legislative advocates for their hard work on behalf of the District.

Public Comment: *The following persons commented on this item:*

- Janet Dietz-Kamei
- Kevin Hamilton, Central CA Asthma Collaborative
- Connie Young, Citizens Climate Lobby

Moved: Wheeler
Seconded: Mendes
Ayes: Bessinger, Chiesa, Fugazi, Mendes, Preciado, Reyes, Rickman, Shuklian, Wheeler, Pedersen
Nays: Pacheco-Werner, Sherriffs

Motion carried 10 – 2 to approve the District's 2021 Legislative Platform

Supervisor Couch returned at 11:32 a.m.

10. APPROVE IMPLEMENTATION OF SCHOOL AIR FILTRATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM IN AB 617 COMMUNITIES – Todd DeYoung, Director of Grants and Incentives, presented this item and recommended the Board approve the implementation of the District's new School Air Filtration Program consistent with the adopted Community Emission Reduction Programs (CERPs) for Shafter and South Central Fresno AB 617 communities and future AB 617 communities, as applicable.

Mr. Sheikh thanked the AB 617 Community Steering Committee members and school district representatives who participated on a subcommittee that was instrumental in developing the new program.

Mayor Bessinger asked if there was any consideration to allowing charter schools and other similar schools to apply for funding. Mr. DeYoung responded schools that are publicly funded were eligible for this program. He said unfortunately, private and religious schools were not eligible per state law. Mayor Bessinger suggested the District can still share the technology information with privately-funded schools.

Mr. Sheikh said at the Board's direction, staff can incorporate this information in the District's Healthy Air Schools program. Mayor Bessinger suggested adding nursery schools and daycare centers to receive that information.

Vice Mayor Reyes said this was a great program. He said the lessons learned will be beneficial to all school districts and will draw the attention of districts that do not reside in AB 617 communities.

Dr. Sherriffs said this was a great program and highlights how these identified needs at the AB 617 community level bubble up and may benefit communities throughout the Valley. He said District staff have gone to a great deal of effort pulling together information to develop this program and this information needs to be shared on the District's website. He said the District can be a key player in getting the information out to help protect the health of all of our children, regardless of the setting they are in at a particular time. He thanked staff for their great work and said this was an added benefit to the AB 617 process. Councilmember Fugazi said she was super excited about the program and about the prospect of the AB 617 Stockton community also participating in the program. She said there are almost a dozen schools in their AB 617 boundary.

Public Comment: *The following persons commented on this item:*

- Janet Dietz-Kamei
- Kevin Hamilton

Supervisor Couch left at 11:44 a.m.

Moved: Sherriffs
Seconded: Wheeler
Ayes: Bessinger, Chiesa, Fugazi, Mendes, Pacheco-Werner
Preciado, Reyes, Rickman, Sherriffs, Shuklian,
Wheeler, Pedersen
Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried to approve implementation of school air filtration incentive program in AB 617 communities

11. AUTHORIZE \$150,000 IN FUNDING FOR SOCIOECONOMIC ANALYSES IN SUPPORT OF REGULATORY DEVELOPMENT – Jon Klassen, Director of Air Quality, Science, and Planning, presented this item and recommended the Board authorize \$150,000 in funding to obtain services to assist the District in performing the necessary socioeconomic analyses for upcoming District regulatory development efforts.

Dr. Sherriffs said this is obviously very important work, part of how this board struggles with balancing our charges and what we are trying to achieve in terms

of health and a vibrant economy. He asked how this is different than what the District has usually done. Mr. Sheikh responded this recommendation was consistent with the Board's established policy for conducting the required socioeconomic component of regulatory development. That policy that guides this particular piece of the process is something that the Board has regularly reviewed. He added it is a state mandate to conduct this analysis.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner clarified the Board would only be voting on whether or not to authorize funding to conduct socioeconomic analysis consistent with existing Board policy. Mr. Sheikh responded affirmatively.

Vice Mayor Reyes said this reinforces his previous comments on supporting a balanced approach to reaching our goals in a timely manner.

Public Comment – *The following persons commented on this item:*

- Janet Dietz-Kamei

Moved: Mendes

Seconded: Bessinger

Ayes: Bessinger, Chiesa, Fugazi, Mendes, Pacheco-Werner, Preciado, Reyes, Rickman, Sherriffs, Shuklian, Wheeler, Pedersen

Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried to authorize \$150,000 in funding for socioeconomic analyses in support of regulatory development

12. VERBAL REPORT ON CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD ACTIVITIES – Mr. Sheikh said Dr. Sherriffs served on the CARB Board during the December meeting and suggested he provide this report on highlights of the California Air Resources Board meeting of December 10, 2020. Mr. Sheikh also thanked Dr. Sherriffs for his many years of service on the CARB Board and congratulated Dr. Pacheco-Werner on her new appointment to the CARB Board.

Dr. Sherriffs said it has been a great privilege to serve on the CARB Board to represent the Valley and said Dr. Pacheco-Werner was already diving into the issues that she will be wrestling with at the February meeting. He reminded everyone on the Board that her success depends on them in terms of their advice, their listening, and their guidance. He added he knows she is interested in hearing from each and every one of our Board members. He added he was very confident in Dr. Pacheco-Werner's abilities, interest, and representation on the CARB Board.

13. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/APCO COMMENTS – Mr. Sheikh highlighted an issue raised by several public members due to high levels of stagnation and poor

dispersion on the Valley floor. He said it has been noted there has been significant outreach conducted regarding air quality levels, the available tools to track and understand air quality, and the actions residents can take, such as not burning in wood burning fireplaces and heaters, to help. In addition, he said this is a big reminder of how important it is to keep reducing emissions from mobile sources and other sources of NOx that react under these stagnant conditions to form PM2.5 in the atmosphere. On a positive side, he said in the past we would have seen much higher concentrations of PM2.5 under the same meteorological conditions.

14. GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – Chairman Pedersen welcomed the new Board members again and said Mr. Sheikh would be organizing opportunities to get oriented on District programs and activities. He also encouraged and extended his assistance, as well as the assistance of any of the other Board members to help them get acclimated to their new roles.

Chairman Pedersen adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

ADJOURN

The next scheduled meeting of the Governing Board is: Thursday, February 18 2021, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting starts at 9:00 a.m., in the Central Region Office, Governing Board Room, 1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue, Fresno. The meeting will be held via video teleconference (VTC) with the Northern Region He