

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, September 16, 2021
9:00 a.m.

Given the international COVID-19 pandemic, and consistent with the California Department of Public Health's recommendations and Governor Newsom's Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20, this meeting was held via Zoom Webinar and video teleconferencing with the Central Region Office (Fresno). This meeting was also webcast.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER – The Chair, Supervisor Craig Pedersen, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. ROLL CALL – was taken and a quorum was present.

Present:

Drew M. Bessinger, Councilmember	City of Clovis
David Couch, Supervisor	Kern County
Christina Fugazi, Vice Mayor	City of Stockton
Deborah Lewis, Mayor Pro Tem	City of Los Banos
Buddy Mendes, Supervisor	Fresno County
Tania Pacheco-Werner, Ph.D.	Appointed by Governor
Craig Pedersen, Supervisor, Chair	Kings County
Alvaro Preciado, Mayor	City of Avenal
Monte Reyes, Mayor	City of Porterville
Robert Rickman, Supervisor	San Joaquin County
Alexander Sherriffs, M.D.	Appointed by Governor
Amy Shuklian, Supervisor	Tulare County
Tom Wheeler, Supervisor	Madera County

Absent:

Vito Chiesa, Supervisor	Stanislaus County
Lloyd Pareira, Supervisor, Vice Chair	Merced County

Chairman Pedersen said he was attending in a remote location and was concerned about potential connectivity issues. In the absence of Vice-Chair Pareira, he appointed Supervisor Mendes to act as Vice-Chair Pro Tem for this

meeting.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR – Item Numbers (14 – 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.*

14. APPROVE ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY UNIFIED AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEETING OF THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2021

15. RECEIVE AND FILE LIST OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS FOR 2021

16. RECEIVE AND FILE OPERATIONS STATISTICS SUMMARY FOR AUGUST 2021

17. RECEIVE AND FILE BUDGET STATUS REPORTS AS AUGUST 31, 2021

18. APPROVE CONTRACT WITH CHESTER LABNET TO PROVIDE LABORATORY SPECIATION ANALYSIS OF PARTICULATE MATTER 2.5 SAMPLES

19. APPROVE CONTRACT WITH ATMOSPHERIC ANALYSIS & CONSULTING, INC. TO PROVIDE LABORATORY ANALYSIS OF TOXIC ORGANIC COMPOUNDS

Public Comment: None

Moved: Wheeler

Seconded: Mendes

Ayes: Bessinger, Couch, Fugazi, Lewis, Mendes, Pacheco-Werner, Reyes, Rickman, Sherriffs, Shuklian, Wheeler, Pedersen

Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried to approve Consent Calendar (Items 14 - 19)

Mayor Preciado arrived at 9:07 a.m.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT – *The following persons provided public comments at this meeting:*

- Clare Statham, Fresno Resident
- Janet Dietz-Kamei, Fresno Resident
- Connie Young, Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL)

6. VERBAL UPDATE ON THE 2021-22 STATE BUDGET – Samir Sheikh, Executive Director/APCO, introduced Tom Jordan, Senior Policy Advisor, who has been working with him and a number of partners in a Valley-wide coalition to continue advocating for air quality resources in the state budget. Mr. Jordan provided an update to Board members on the current status of the 2021-22 State Budget that is now with the Governor for action.

Supervisor Wheeler asked about the \$2 million allocated to the District for work on controlled burns. Mr. Jordan responded the funding is for work the District does in support of prescribed burning efforts.

Supervisor Mendes expressed concern at state control over certain funding, considering the District is very efficient at getting the funding out and reducing emissions.

Dr. Sherriffs congratulated staff, especially Mr. Jordan, for their extraordinary work on bringing these resources to the Valley. He said the climate money at the state level will continue to have a very important benefit in terms of our air quality work in the Valley.

Vice Mayor Fugazi echoed Dr. Sherriffs' sentiments, adding that she attended an agricultural summit in Stockton over the past weekend and it was touching to hear farmers speak about how important the environment is to them. She added knowing there is money in the budget to help them obtain the equipment they need in order to better protect our environment is essential.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner said it is evident how much the District is using the available funding for the zero-emission transmission, which is outstanding. She said it was important to note the low-NOx truck funding was being used for low-NOx versus zero-emissions because there aren't trucks to fulfill that need at the moment. Mr. Jordan responded affirmatively and said there was a recognition that there are currently no electric trucks to fulfill certain sectors.

Chairman Pedersen said one of the things that concerns him is that the administration talks about resilience and water needs to be a larger issue in this discussion. He said anything related to water in the Central Valley has been tossed aside and residents need to come together as a community and reframe the discussion about water in the Central Valley because next year, without some massive weather change, millions of acres of agricultural land will be fallowed. This will lead to uncontrolled dust and unmanaged lands because there is simply

no water, and is especially concerning when looking at the population growth that has occurred in California.

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

- Connie Young, CCL

7. ACCEPT \$8,400,000 IN ADDITIONAL STATE REVENUE TO FUND THE DISTRICT'S DRIVE CLEAN IN THE SAN JOAQUIN VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM AND APPROVE PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS – Brian Dodds, Program Manager, presented staff recommendations to the Board for the ongoing operation of the District's Drive Clean in the San Joaquin vehicle replacement program in the 2021-22 fiscal year. Mr. Dodds also presented recommended 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.

Tom Knox, Executive Director of Valley Clean Air Now (CAN), addressed the Board and discussed the successful partnership between his organization and the District in implementing this important program.

Councilmember Bessinger said this is one of his favorite programs at the District because it helps people who are in the greatest need in our disadvantaged communities. He suggested staff conduct outreach at the various Councils of Government meeting in the Valley so the more residents in disadvantaged communities could take advantage of the program.

Dr. Sherriffs thanked staff for their work on this outstanding program, as well as Mr. Knox. He said the priorities were clear in terms of reaching the worse polluting vehicles and penetrating as deeply as possible into the most disadvantaged communities and assisting those with the greatest need. He said he was absolutely in favor of expanding the criteria as outlined by staff. He asked how we could continue to expand the program while ensuring that we are targeting the vehicles that are causing the most pollution and getting residents into the cleanest cars possible. Mr. Dodds responded the District has seen increased participation in the program and the proposed criteria changes address many of the obstacles that prohibited previous participants from taking part in the replacement program. He added the team at Valley CAN are assisting participants select the cleanest replacement vehicles feasible.

Mayor Pro Tem Lewis thanked staff for their outreach in the City of Los Banos, which has led to increased participation in their region. She added she has been working diligently since she was made aware of the program to assist the cities within her county by providing information to staff members, city managers, and councilmembers to arrange for outreach for this program. She said as a Board member, it is important to her to ensure as much of this information gets out to the public as possible. She added it was important to use different venues for

outreach as not everyone has Facebook, or even internet access. Lastly, she suggested all Board members do what they can to get this program information out in their jurisdictions.

Mr. Sheikh thanked Mayor Pro Tem Lewis for her diligent work with District staff and Valley CAN to get this information out to the community. He said it has been impressive to see how much energy and interest Mayor Pro Tem Lewis has in really helping to promote this program. He also thanked the other Board members for their participation in outreach for this program and attending program events in their jurisdictions.

Mayor Reyes thanked staff for the great work on this program and for continuing outreach in Porterville. He applauded the change of the model year for qualifying vehicles to 2006, and said the advancements in technology after that year are notable.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner said this is truly the best program in the state, which has been studied scientifically and proven. She encouraged Board members to read the report and said it really highlights how this program is hitting those communities in the Valley that are targeted. She added this program has made a footprint in every one of those communities, which is no small feat and said she is really excited about all of the proposed changes because that will ensure the footprint is only going to get larger.

Mayor Preciado thanked staff and Valley CAN for their outreach in west-side communities and said he supported expanding the outreach and criteria to reach more residents in the area.

Supervisor Mendes thanked staff for modernizing the program and expanding the criteria to make the program available to more Valley residents. He applauded Valley CAN for their outreach in addition to the District's outreach which has led to the popularity of the program. He said this program was especially important in the Valley where there are more disadvantaged than non-disadvantaged communities. He said this was a great program, and what makes it great is how District staff runs it with Valley CAN. He thanked the other Board members who have participated in outreach in their areas.

Supervisor Shuklian said she had the opportunity to attend two events recently in her jurisdiction, which was very educational for her. She added that she also heard advertising on the radio for these events, which was a great medium to get the word out. She applauded staff for the great job working with Valley CAN on this successful program.

Public Comment: None

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

Motion unanimously carried to accept up to \$8,400,000 in funding from the California Air Resources Board to be utilized in the District's Drive Clean in the San Joaquin vehicle replacement program; authorize the Board Chair, with Executive Director/APCO recommendation, to execute an agreement with Valley Clean Air Now for the implementation of the District's Drive Clean in the San Joaquin vehicle replacement program for the \$8,400,000 initial state allocation to the District for this program in the 2021-22 fiscal year; approve enhancements to the Drive Clean in the San Joaquin Vehicle Replacement Program, consistent with State Clean Cars 4 All Program Guidelines, 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, including: (1) expanding the eligibility criteria from the current requirement of 1999 and older vehicles, to 2006 and older vehicles, and (2) eliminating the requirement to fail an emissions test in order to qualify for funding under the program; and authorize the Executive Director/APCO, on behalf of the Board, to make administrative changes to the program as necessary.

8. APPROVE VOLUNTARY EMISSION REDUCTION AGREEMENT WITH FIFTH STANDARD SOLAR PV, LLC TO MITIGATE AIR QUALITY IMPACTS – Brian Clements, Director of Permit Services, presented this item which recommended the Board approve a Voluntary Emission Reduction Agreement (VERA) with Fifth Standard Solar PV, LLC.

Dr. Sherriffs thanked staff for their great work and collaboration with the county and business involved. He said as a rule the District strives to spend the funding in the area nearest the impact from the business and asked if there were any thoughts on how this funding would be spent. Mr. Sheikh responded it was generally District policy to try and find emission reduction projects close to the proposed project. He added these funds feed into a pipeline of many different grant programs and can be used in a variety of opportunities. He said at this point, it was too early to tell what those specific projects would be.

Public Comment: None

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

Motion unanimously carried to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the attached Voluntary Emission Reduction Agreement with Fifth Standard Solar PV, LLC to receive funds in the amount up to \$573,012 to mitigate air quality impacts from the Fifth Standard Solar Complex located in Fresno County; and authorize staff to identify, fund, and manage emission reduction projects to mitigate air quality impacts from the Fifth Standard Solar Complex.

9. UPDATE ON THE 2021 WILDFIRE SEASON AND DISTRICT EFFORTS – Jon Klassen, Director of Air Quality, Planning, and Analysis, and Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer, provided an update on the current 2021 wildfire season and ongoing District efforts.

Supervisor Wheeler thanked staff for this important work.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner said she appreciates seeing District staff on Spanish language media because it is important to get the message out to our entire population. She mentioned it was difficult for her to find the District's wildfire page on the District's homepage and suggested highlighting it in a different way. She voiced appreciation for the use of graphics on the wildfire page, and suggested the messaging about seeing ash as an indicator of wildfire impacts should be the first thing residents see when checking the wildfire page.

Mr. Sheikh thanked Dr. Pacheco-Werner for continuing to help refine the District's outreach messaging for wildfires, adding she has been very involved since she joined the Board. He said staff would follow up on her suggestions to see if there were any opportunities for making the wildfire page more visible on the District's website.

Supervisor Shuklian said the wildfires in Tulare County are continuing to grow and thanked the District for placing additional air monitors in the region to help keep residents informed of current air quality status. She added there was an additional request at a recent Board of Supervisors meeting to place more monitors in southern Tulare County.

Mayor Reyes thanked staff of behalf of Porterville and Tulare County for helping to get those monitors in place. He said to visualize what these monitors are telling people is very important because showing them what the air quality is like has a lot more impact than simply telling them.

Dr. Sherriffs thanked staff for the report and for continuing to move ahead of the curve. He said he looked forward to hearing more about the pilot program and clearly addressing our status as a public health agency and looking for collaboration and ways to provide the safe places for people when air quality is challenged in the extreme and people may not be safe in their homes.

Supervisor Shuklian left at 11:49 a.m.

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

- Cynthia Pinto-Cabrera, Central Valley Air Quality Coalition (CVAQ)
- Janet Dietz-Kamei, Fresno Resident
- Connie Young, CCL
- Clare Statham, Fresno Resident
- Manuel Cunha, Nisei Farmers League

10. RECEIVE UPDATE ON ATTAINMENT PLANNING EFFORTS FOR FEDERAL PM2.5 AND OZONE STANDARDS – Mr. Klassen and Jessica Coria, Program Manager, provided an update on the status and next steps for the District attainment planning efforts for federal PM2.5 and ozone standards.

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

- Cynthia Pinto-Cabrera, Central Valley Air Quality Coalition (CVAQ)
- Janet Dietz-Kamei, Fresno Resident
- Connie Young, CCL
- Thomas Menz, Fresno Resident

11. VERBAL REPORT ON CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD ACTIVITIES – Dr. Pacheco-Werner said the conversations at this meeting were so relevant to what is happening at CARB and was a good reminder for all to remain active, not only as District Board members, but also in their respective roles as decision-makers in their jurisdictions. She said there are very important regulations coming up that will have tremendous impact on the ozone and PM2.5 plans, including many reductions that will need to be made in our region on mobile sources. She added the District is on track for success in this area with all of the program changes being made.

12. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/APCO COMMENTS – Mr. Sheikh updated the Board on a potential Governing Board Study Session. He said this meeting is traditionally conducted with face-to-face interactions and staff are still looking for a timeframe that would make sense to hold this meeting. He said he would keep the Board updated. He also thanked the Board members for participating in various clean air vehicle events and said staff would continue to keep Board members apprised of upcoming events. In addition, he updated Board members on the successful launch of the significantly expanded Alternatives to Agricultural Burning program on September 1, 2021. He added there was a lot of outreach

taking place to growers to make sure they are aware of the various resources available to them. Finally, he announced that the District's Annual Report to the Community, which has been a great resource for sharing information about District activities with Valley residents, is now available in both English and Spanish language versions in hard copy and on the District's webpage.

13. GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – Dr. Sherriffs agreed with Dr. Pacheco-Werner's comments and said the PM2.5 and ozone plan presentation was optimistic with being very much on target for meeting very difficult goals. He said it speaks volumes about the work that the District, industry, environmental organizations, and residents have done. But, he said it was clearly dependent on work continuing as it is hardly a done deal. The path is there but it is dependent on continued collaboration between all of these partners and he reminded all from a public health standpoint, our goal is to not just meet but exceed the expectation. The sooner we meet these goals, the greater the benefit to the public.

Chairman Pedersen thanked staff for the great presentations and the public for attending. He said clearly District staff and the Board are working hard to meet and achieve the goals that we have set forth over the many years of this organization, and agreed it will take a team effort to continue to move forward. He voiced hope that EPA will encourage better conversations with District staff while working on the next air quality attainment plans.

ADJOURN

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

The next scheduled meeting of the Governing Board is: Thursday, October 21, 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 Zoom audio and video teleconference (VTC).