

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

Thursday, April 28, 2022

Given the international COVID-19 pandemic, and consistent with public health recommendations and Assembly Bill 361, this meeting was held via Zoom Webinar and video teleconferencing with the Central Region Office (Fresno). This meeting was also webcast. No physical location was provided for public attendance.

1. CALL TO ORDER – The Chair, Nayamin Martinez, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL – Roll was taken and a quorum was present

Present:

Nayamin Martinez, Chair	Fresno County At Large Representative
Thomas Helme, Vice Chair	Stanislaus County At Large Representative
Laura Gutile	Madera County At Large Representative
Ned Leiba	CAC Environmental Interest Group (Primary)
Kacey Auston-Tibbetts	CAC Environmental Interest Group (Alternate)
Richard O'Brien	CAC City Interest Group (Primary)
Orchel Krier	CAC City Interest Group (Alternate)
Rechima Dean	Ethnic Small Business Owner
Chris McGlothlin	CAC Industry / Agricultural Interest Group (Alternate)
Derek Williams	Tulare County At Large Representative
Dennis Brazil	At-large Representative

Absent:

Jasmeet Bains, M.D.	Kern County At Large Representative
Manuel Cunha, Jr.	CAC Industry / Agricultural Interest Group (Primary)
Keith Freitas	Kings County At Large Representative
Dary Rezvani	Ethnic Small Business Owner
Esperanza Vielma	San Joaquin County At Large Representative

3. APPROVE MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 24, 2022 – Nayamin Martinez asked if there were any comments regarding the Minutes for February 24, 2022. Hearing none, she deemed the minutes as approved.

Public Comment: None

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None
5. CHAIR COMMENTS – Ms. Martinez congratulated the District on their new program with CARB that offers grants to schools for clean air projects.
6. APCO/DEPUTY APCO COMMENTS – Ryan Hayashi announced that the District is accepting applications for the Ethnic, Small Business Owner seat in the Environmental Justice Advisory Group.
7. UPDATE ON ATTAINMENT PLANS AND RULES – Jessi Fierro, Director of Air Quality Planning, provided an update on the District’s attainment plan and rule making efforts.

Public comment: None

8. GUEST PRESENTATION BY STUDENTS FROM THE CENTER FOR ADVANCED RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY (CART): AIR QUALITY IN THE AB617 COMMUNITIES OF FRESNO AND SHAFTER – Valley students, Jorge Soto, Yazmin Ramos, Parker Cordero, and Richard Vue presented their report and findings on air quality monitoring in AB 617 communities.

Laura Gutile asked a follow up question about why PM_{2.5} air quality data for Edison was higher than the one in Malaga.

Ryan Hayashi responded to Laura’s follow-up question by sharing that as part of the AB 617 community air monitoring plan, the District is continually reviewing air quality data to better understand differences between air monitoring sites and shared specific actions being undertaken to determine potential sources.

9. LAUNCH OF DISTRICT ZERO-EMISSION SCHOOL BUS REPLACEMENT AND FUELING INFRASTRUCTURE INCENTIVE PROGRAM – Aaron Tarango, Program Manager, announced the recent launch of the District’s new Zero-Emission School Bus Replacement and Fueling Infrastructure program.

Dennis Brazil asked how long the process will be for a school district once they submit an application under the program and what happens to the old school bus. Mr. Tarango said the process could take up to a couple months to complete inspections and finalize contacts, and then the wait time for the new bus could be anywhere from six to twelve months. Mr. Tarango said the old buses are required to be scrapped.

Ned Leiba asked for a cost comparison of regular diesel buses and the zero-emission buses, which were priced at \$400,000 per bus in the presentation. Mr. Tarango said that diesel buses are \$180,000 to \$200,000 per bus. Mr. Leiba also asked for analysis of the cost effectiveness of the program and Mr. Tarango

outlined the Carl Moyer Cost-Effectiveness ratio at \$276,000 per ton of pollutants.

Richard O'Brien asked about the required charging time for zero-emission school buses and Mr. Tarango clarified that for every 10 buses replaced, 14 charging stations will also be installed. Mr. O'Brien noted that some rural communities may have trouble meeting the standards for electric charging which potentially reduces public access to this program.

Nayamin Martinez raised a concern about the equity of the "first-come, first-serve" aspect of the program, arguing that larger school districts have resources on-hand to apply for this program, while smaller districts may not. Martinez asked if anything has been done to accommodate low-income school districts. Mr. Tarango highlighted an upcoming public workshop that all Valley school districts were invited to attend to learn about the process. He also clarified that the District intends for this program to continue growing after the initial launch, which will effectively extend the reach of the program.

Tom Helme asked if further information about the funding of zero-emission school buses can be shared with the public to increase the reach of this program. Mr. Tarango noted that alternate funding options will be covered during the upcoming public workshop for this program. Mr. Helme also asked if the District will release guidance on how to maintain new zero-emission technology and Mr. Tarango shared that community colleges already provide free classes regarding zero-emission vehicle maintenance.

Public Comment - None

10. UPDATE ON ENHANCEMENTS TO THE DISTRICT'S AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT PROGRAM – Aaron Tarango presented on recent enhancements to the Agricultural Equipment Replacement program to increase program incentive levels to better align with target of 50-60% of eligible equipment costs, and increase access to small growers by increasing funding amounts and establishing pilot used-tractor trade-up program.

Dennis Brazil was pleased to hear the announcement about electric tractors coming soon and asked if there was a list of dealers that could be released to the public. Mr. Tarango clarified that the program will be open to all dealers, not just specific ones.

11. AB 617 UPDATE – Ryan Hayashi provided an update on recent activities in the District's AB 617 communities.

Dennis Brazil asked if the Lawnmower Exchange program would be spread across the whole Valley and Mr. Hayashi clarified that the District does currently

see great participation across the Valley in the District's Clean Green Yard Machine rebate change out program.

Nayamin Martinez asked about in-person AB 617 meetings for the Fresno and Shafter communities. Mr. Hayashi clarified that the in-person meetings will be scheduled based on need. Ms. Martinez also asked for more information about an upcoming Community Air Protection Funding public workshop at the District. Mr. Hayashi said the purpose of the workshop is to present, discuss, and receive feedback on upcoming opportunities for community investment through Community Air Protection funding in the San Joaquin Valley.

Public Comment - None

12. POTENTIAL FUTURE EJAG MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

- Nayamin Martinez suggested presenting an update on the Clean Air Centers program before wildfire season starts. She emphasized the importance of public information about the health risks associated with wildfires so the public can make informed decisions about whether or not engage in outdoor activities.
- Richard O'Brien suggested an analysis of pending legislation that may impact air quality, like the AB 285 Gas Tax increase for example.
- Tom Helme suggested a review of the American Lung Association's Annual Report and a report on the causes of wildfires and its impacts on air quality and health.

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS (2ND Opportunity) – None

14. EJAG MEMBER COMMENTS – None

15. VOLUNTEER TO PRESENT REPORT DURING CAC MEETING ON TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022 (TENTATIVE AT 10 A.M.) – No report will be necessary

16. VOLUNTEER TO PRESENT REPORT DURING GOVERNING BOARD MEETING ON THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2022 (TENTATIVE) AT 9 A.M. – No report will be necessary

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Next Meeting – The next EJAG meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 23, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be held via video teleconference (VTC), with the Central Region Office (Fresno), the Northern Region Office (Modesto) and the Southern Region Office (Bakersfield) participating.