

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, February 24, 2022
5:30 p.m.

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 5:31 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL – was taken and a quorum was present

Present:

Jasmeet Bains, M.D.	Kern County At Large Representative
Dennis Brazil	Merced County At Large Representative
Manuel Cunha, Jr.	CAC Industry / Agricultural Interest Group (Alternate)
Laura Gutile	Madera County At Large Representative
Thomas Helme, Vice Chair	Stanislaus County At Large Representative
Ned Leiba	CAC Environmental Interest Group (Primary)
Nayamin Martinez, Chair	Fresno County At Large Representative
Richard O'Brien	CAC City Interest Group (Primary)
Esperanza Vielma	San Joaquin County At Large Representative
Derek Williams	Tulare County At Large Representative

Absent:

Rechima Dean	Ethnic Small Business Owner
Keith Freitas	Kings County At Large Representative
Dary Rezvani	Ethnic Small Business Owner

3. APPROVE MINUTES FOR JANUARY 27, 2022 – Ms. Martinez asked if there were any comments regarding the Minutes for January 27, 2022. Hearing none, she deemed the minutes as approved.

Public Comment: None

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

5. CHAIR COMMENTS – None
6. APCO/DEPUTY APCO COMMENTS – None
7. UPDATE ON ATTAINMENT PLANS AND RULES – Morgan Lambert, Deputy APCO, introduced Jessi Fierro, the District's new Director of Planning, who provided an update on the District's attainment plan and rule making efforts.

Mr. Leiba commented on the EPA Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee's review of the federal particulate matter standards and said it seems they will be recommending to lower the standards for PM2.5. He said it was important to begin planning for the new standards.

Ms. Martinez asked if the District required that translation services be requested by participants in advance of workshops, or if they would automatically provide them. Ms. Fierro responded that District Workshop Notices ask participants to request translation services.

Mr. Lambert announced to members that the District has transitioned to a new email notification listserv platform and said members who were signed up with the old platform should have received notification to sign up with the new version.

Public comment: None

8. IMPACTS OF WILDFIRES ON WATER QUALITY – Dr. Jasmeet Bains, Kern County At-Large member, presented information on the impacts of wildfires on water quality.

EJAG members in attendance thanked Dr. Bains for her informative presentation. Ms. Martinez said she had no idea that wildfires were also affecting the water quality in our area, which is already so dramatically affected by drought. She asked about current research or legislation to address this issue. Dr. Bains said without question, there needs to be a procedure for warning the public about unsafe water, especially after a wildfire as well as testing for water quality.

Mr. Cunha commented on the need for better forest management to lower the risks of wildfires in the state. He added that agriculture has done their part by reducing agricultural burning and he hoped the federal government would pay attention to forest management as reducing wildfires is critical to air and water quality. He asked Dr. Bains to forward her presentation to USDA/NRCS and State Director Carlos Suarez because it would open the door for good communication and highlight the importance of much needed research in this area.

Dr. Bains said the most important point is that the state and federal government needs to invest in strong scientific research about this issue. Mr. Helme

suggested scheduling another presentation at a future EJAG meeting on forest management, climate change, PG&E and other factors that affect wildfires. He added it would help members be better advocates at the state level for increased prevention measures for wildfires.

Mr. Brazil suggested sharing this presentation with every state elected official. Ms. Martinez suggested also sharing with the State Water Board and all agencies that have a stake in this issue. She said it was important to eliminate silos and for all agencies to work together to resolve this critical issue.

9. NEW ZERO EMISSION HEAVY-DUTY DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS – Todd DeYoung, Director of Grants and Incentives, provided an update on a recent award to the District of \$36.6 million in state cap-and-trade funding for two zero emission heavy-duty truck demonstration projects.

Mr. Brazil asked if the manufacturers would be able to meet the project timeframe. Mr. DeYoung responded affirmatively.

Mr. Cunha expressed numerous concerns, including the increased weight of the trucks requiring drivers with a Class A license; higher weight of electric trucks potentially doubling the cost per load to transport; higher maintenance and replacement battery costs. Mr. DeYoung thanked Mr. Cunha for pointing out these important questions regarding heavy duty, electric vehicles and said part of the goal of this project is to answer these questions. He said the companies involved in this project have done extensive analyses on range and weight penalty and factored in how they can make a project like this truly work.

Dr. Bains agreed with Mr. Cunha's question and mentioned concern about the potential impacts to roadways from the heavier vehicles.

Ms. Martinez mentioned she was recently invited to be a part of an advisory group for a green energy and technology academy located at Edison High School. She said they are trying to help kids develop the knowledge and skills that can make them job ready, especially for greener jobs such as solar panel technologies and electric vehicle mechanics. She suggested contacting the academy to see if there are opportunities for the high school students to be a part of this project. She agreed with concerns mentioned about the new technology but added that it was important to remember that residents in surrounding areas, many of which are in poorer, industrial communities, would benefit from breathing cleaner air because of the electric vehicles.

Mr. Cunha agreed and asked District staff to partner with vocational programs to improve training opportunities for Valley teens.

Public Comment - None

10. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022 – Ms. Martinez said the Ad Hoc Subcommittee met prior to this meeting and were still working on the Goals and Objectives document. She said they would work on specific language for member consideration, prior to the next meeting.

11. AB 617 UPDATE – Jessica Olsen, Director of Community Strategies and Resources, provided an update on recent activities in the District's AB 617 communities.

Public Comment - None

12. POTENTIAL FUTURE EJAG MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

- Wildfires and forest management
- Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART) studies on air pollution

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.) –

16. VOLUNTEER TO PRESENT REPORT DURING GOVERNING BOARD MEETING ON THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2022 (TENTATIVE) AT 9 A.M. –
Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Next Meeting – The next EJAG meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 28, 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.