

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, January 27, 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 Vice Chair, Thomas Helme, called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL – was taken and a quorum was present

Present:

Dennis Brazil	Merced County At Large Representative
Rechima Dean*	Ethnic Small Business Owner
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	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:

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

**arrived at 6:38 p.m.*

3. APPROVE MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 28, 2021 – Mr. Helme asked if there were any comments regarding the Minutes for October 28, 2021. Hearing none, he deemed the minutes as approved.

Public Comment: None

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

5. CHAIR COMMENTS – None

6. APCO/DEPUTY APCO COMMENTS – Morgan Lambert, Deputy APCO, provided updates on the following:

- Governing Board approved an additional \$4 million in funding for continued operation of the Tune In Tune Up vehicle repair program for the remainder of 2021-22 fiscal year
- Governing Board accepted \$20.8 million from the federal EPA to replace diesel ag tractors, heavy-duty trucks, and fireplaces/non-certified wood-burning devices. The proposals were selected under the highly-competitive federal Targeted Airshed Grant program.

Mr. Williams suggested that a percentage of incentive funds for tractor replacement be set aside for smaller farming operations. Todd DeYoung, Director of Grants and Incentives, said generally the small farming operations do not use their equipment enough to prove cost effective reductions. However, he said staff is working with community agricultural groups to identify ways that smaller farmers can receive incentive funding to purchase newer equipment. He added the District's Alternatives to Agricultural Burning program does set aside a certain percentage for small growers.

Ms. Martinez echoed Mr. Williams' suggestion and said that funds should also be set aside to replace diesel trucks for smaller owner operators. She said EJAG should continue to advocate for the smaller growers who may not know about these programs to have a chance to participate and not let all of the funding go to the large operations who have knowledge of funding availability and the manpower to apply for the incentives. On the same note about making things more easily accessible, she asked how Valley CAN determined where to conduct their outreach events. Mr. DeYoung said the District and Valley CAN to ensure target the program to cover small and large communities across all 8 counties.

Ms. Vielma said at the last Tune in Tune Up event in Stockton, they conducted outreach on some of the District's other incentive programs. She said they would continue to work with Valley CAN to increase outreach on the District's incentive programs. She also suggested holding an event to showcase the District's tractor, truck, and wood burning device replacement programs in Manteca. Mr. DeYoung said staff was interested in any outreach opportunities, especially in smaller, disadvantaged communities. Mr. Helme suggested adding information on Covid-19 vaccines to these events. Ms. Vielma and Ms. Martinez confirmed that is already occurring at these events.

Mr. Brazil said he has been contacted by stakeholders who are interested in replacing their diesel trucks with newer diesel equipment and funding was not available for new diesel trucks. Mr. DeYoung responded affirmatively, and said the issue was the

regulatory deadline for the statewide truck and bus regulations has now past so these projects do not qualify for funding.

7. UPDATE ON ATTAINMENT PLANS AND RULES – Jon Klassen, Director of Air Quality Science and Planning, provided an update on the District’s attainment plan and rule making efforts.

Mr. Leiba said it would be helpful to have a chart to show county by county where the Valley is in its attainment goals.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2022 – Mr. Lambert said at the August 26, 2021, meeting members discussed the need to elect an EJAG Chair for a 2-year term. He said since then, the term of the Vice Chair, Mr. Helme, had also expired, and invited members to nominate candidates for both positions.

Mr. Brazil nominated Ms. Martinez as Chair for a 2-year term. Mr. Helme seconded the motion.

Ms. Dean nominated Mr. Williams as Chair for a 2-year term. Mr. Leiba seconded the motion.

Mr. Helme clarified that the Vice Chair could serve consecutive terms. Mr. Lambert responded affirmatively. Ms. Martinez and Mr. Williams each provided members with a statement about their qualifications and experience.

Public Comment: None

Motion: Dean

Second: Leiba

Ayes: Williams, Dean, Lieba

Nays: Martinez, Gutile, Brazil, Helme, O’Brien

Abstain: Vielma

Motion to elect Derek Williams as Chair of EJAG for a 2-year term failed by a vote of 3-5, with one abstention.

Motion: Brazil

Second: Helme

Ayes: Martinez, Gutile, Brazil, Vielma, Helme,

Williams, Dean, O’Brien, Leiba

Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried to elect Nayamin Martinez as Chair of EJAG for a 2-year term.

Ms. Martinez nominated Mr. Helme as Vice Chair. Ms. Gutile seconded the nomination.

Mr. Williams nominated Ms. Gutile as Vice Chair. Ms. Gutile declined the nomination.

Public Comment – None

Motion: Martinez

Second: Gutile

Ayes: Martinez, Gutile, Brazil, Vielma, Helme,
Williams, Dean, O'Brien, Leiba

Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried to elect Thomas Helme as Vice Chair of EJAG for a 1-year term.

Mr. Helme thanked Chairman Freitas for his service as Chair for the past two years, and also thanked Mr. Williams for his many years of service on EJAG.

Ms. Martinez said she would look to Mr. Williams for coaching and advice in her new role as Chair and thanked him in advance for his guidance.

9. APPROVE FISCAL YEAR 2022-23 GRANTS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – Mr. Williams explained that the Grants Sub Committee met and developed recommendations for EJAG to consider forwarding to the Governing Board.

Public comment: None

Motion: Gutile

Second: Williams

Ayes: Martinez, Gutile, Brazil, Vielma, Helme,
Williams, Dean, O'Brien, Leiba

Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried to approve Fiscal Year 2022-23 EJAG Incentive Grant Program recommendations.

10. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022 – Mr. Lambert gave an overview of the Goals and Objectives approved by EJAG members in 2021. He said based on the extensive review and changes last year, the District has no recommended changes for this year.

Mr. Leiba suggested the first goal should be to measure the health effects, maybe over time, of pollution and the different measures that we undertake in our

communities as we think about the health cost benefits involved. He also suggested focusing on measures to abate the health risks of asthma in a somewhat systemic way.

Ms. Martinez agreed with Mr. Leiba and said public health is her background and passion. She suggested taking more time to perhaps add another goal or objective relating to health effects of pollution or combine with one of the existing goals and objectives.

Mr. Williams suggested adding a goal or objective to work with the District to address the issues of potential supply shortages and allowing those funds to be used for other purposes.

Ms. Martinez said there appeared to be interest in taking more time to work on updating the Goals and Objectives. She suggested forming an Ad Hoc Subcommittee to work on the updates. Mr. Lambert responded affirmatively.

Mr. Williams volunteered to serve on the Ad Hoc Subcommittee with Ms. Martinez as Chair. Mr. Helme also volunteered to serve, along with Mr. Brazil.

Ms. Martinez continued this item 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.

Mr. Leiba complimented District staff and the Stockton AB 617 community for developing an air monitoring plan with a purpose and in a way that health assessments can be conducted. He added it was very gratifying that the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) has been involved and it is core to what we should be doing, placing air monitors in a place where we think there can be critical health effects and then assessing the positive impact the different CERP measures.

Ms. Martinez thanked Ms. Olsen and said she has been working very hard with all of the AB 617 communities.

12. POTENTIAL FUTURE EJAG MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

- Environmental Justice 101 training for members

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS (2ND Opportunity) – None

14. EJAG MEMBER COMMENTS - None

15. VOLUNTEER TO PRESENT REPORT DURING CAC MEETING ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2022 (TENTATIVE AT 10 A.M.) – Mr. Williams volunteered to present the report if needed.
16. VOLUNTEER TO PRESENT REPORT DURING GOVERNING BOARD MEETING ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022 (TENTATIVE) AT 9 A.M. – Ms. Martinez volunteered to present the report if needed.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Next Meeting – The next EJAG meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 24, 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.