

Action Summary Minutes
San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

March 1, 2022
10:00 a.m.

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

1. CALL TO ORDER – The Chair, Manuel Cunha, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.
2. ROLL CALL – was taken and was one member short in the Environmental Interest Group.

County	Member Name/Interest Group	Location
Fresno	Manuel Cunha / IAIG (P)	VTC
	Mary Fast CIG (P)	VTC
Kern	Les Clark / IAIG (P)	VTC
	Orchel Krier / CIG (P)	VTC
Kings	Laura Brown / IAIG (P)*	VTC
	Kelly Deming / EIG (P)*	VTC
Madera	Brittney Dyer / EIG (P)	VTC
Merced	Paul Ward / CIG (P)	VTC
San Joaquin	Roger Hoffdahl / IAIG (P)	VTC
	Ned Leiba / EIG (P)	VTC
Stanislaus	Chris Savage / IAIG (P)	VTC
Tulare	Dennis Mederos/CIG (P)	VTC
	Fernando Rios / IAIG (A)	VTC

**arrived 10:08 a.m.*

**arrived at 10:13 a.m.*

** (P) = Primary, (A) = Alternate, IAIG = Industry/Ag Interest Group, EIG = Environmental Interest Group, CIG = City Interest Group*

3. APPROVE MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 1, 2022 – Mr. Cunha tabled this item until a quorum was reached.
4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None
5. CHAIR COMMENTS – Mr. Cunha thanked staff for working with counties in the Valley to fill CAC member vacancies.

This item was revisited when a quorum was reached.

3. APPROVE MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 1, 2022 – Mr. Cunha asked members if they had any comments or corrections on the Minutes. Mr. Mederos commented that his name was misspelled on page 1. Mr. Cunha said the Minutes would be corrected before publishing. Hearing no other member comments, Mr. Cunha deemed the Minutes approved.

Public Comment - None

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/APCO COMMENTS – Samir Sheikh, Executive Director/APCO, provided the CAC members with an update on the following items:
 - The District Governing Board took action in February to accept \$36 million from the California Air Resources Board and California Energy Commission to fund two zero emission heavy-duty demonstration projects in the San Joaquin Valley. One project will deploy 50 zero-emission, battery electric Class 8 Volvo electric trucks and install supporting fast-charging infrastructure at large distribution center operated by Albertsons in Tracy, California. The second project will deploy 50 zero-emission battery electric Class 8 Tesla Semi trucks, install supporting fast-charging infrastructure and a battery energy storage solution at the Pepsi Beverages Company located within the AB 617 community of South-Central Fresno.
 - March 1st marked the end of the annual Residential Wood Smoke Reduction season. By all accounts, this was again a very effective year of implementation of the program and a full report will be provided to the CAC at a future meeting

Ms. Fast asked about the range of electric trucks and commented that she is aware some electric school buses remain parked due to limited range.

Mr. Leiba commented on the cost of the electric trucks and voiced hope that the District not only has the projections of what the emission reductions will be, but they will also be measured down the road. Mr. Sheikh clarified that the funding not only covers the cost of the trucks but will also be used for workforce development and other activities, including data tracking.

Mr. Krier commented that his farming business runs approximately 30 long haul trucks per day at close to 700 per miles round trip. He asked if there were any electric vehicles with a 700 mile range. Mr. Sheikh responded that technology was new and not yet applicable for longer ranges. He added it was significant that the District was able to bring \$36 million to the Valley for these business driven projects.

Mr. Cunha commented another positive aspect of this program will be vocational training, especially Class A drivers because there is currently a big shortage. Mr. Sheikh responded affirmatively and said there are schools already committed to partnering on providing that education to their students. Mr. Cunha asked for an update the progress on this program at a future CAC meeting.

Public Comment: None

7. UPDATES ON ATTAINMENT PLANS AND RULES – Jessi Fierro, Director of Air Quality Planning, provided an update on the District’s planning and rule development efforts.

Public Comment: None

8. VERBAL REPORT FROM CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD – Laura Carr, CARB representative, gave a brief update on recent and upcoming actions by CARB.

Public Comment: None

9. RECOMMEND MEMBERS TO APPOINT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY GROUP (EJAG) – Morgan Lambert, Deputy APCO, notified members of existing vacancies for CAC member positions on the Environmental Justice Advisory Group (EJAG), including Primary Industry/Agricultural representative and Alternate City representative.

Mr. Krier made a motion to recommend appointing Manuel Cunha (Primary) and Chris McGlothlin (Alternate) as the CAC Industry/Agriculture Interest Group representatives, and Orchel Krier as the CAC City Interest Group alternate representative. Mr. Mederos seconded the motion.

Moved: Krier

Second: Mederos

Ayes: Cunha, Brown, Hoffdahl, Savage, Rios, Deming, Dyer, Leiba,
Fast, Krier, Ward, Mederos

Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried to recommend the Governing Board appoint Mr. Cunha as Industry/Agriculture Primary representative, Chris McGlothlin as Industry/Agriculture Alternate representative, and Orchel Krier and City Alternate representative on EJAG.

10. UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ALTERNATIVES TO AGRICULTURAL OPEN BURNING INCENTIVE PROGRAM – Todd DeYoung, Director of Grants and Incentives, provided an update on the District’s Alternatives to Agricultural Open Burning Incentive Program. To support the Valley’s ongoing phase-out of agricultural open burning, in 2018 the District Governing Board authorized the creation of the Alternatives to Agricultural Burning Incentive Program. Since the launch in 2018, the District has seen a very strong demand for this program with more than \$25.3 million in local funding obligated to alternative practices. Since the program was re-launched in September 2021, the demand for the program has increased substantially. In fact, over the past five months, the District has obligated more than \$26.7 million in funding, which surpasses the total amount obligated in the three years prior (\$25.3 million). Since the September 2021 program re-launch, the District has executed an average of \$5.3 million in contracts per month and continues to see a significant increase in applications month by month. Overall, the program has resulted in the deployment of alternative practices at over 83,000 acres of orchard and vineyard removals, for nearly 2,300,000 tons of agricultural materials, resulting in significant emissions reductions.

Ms. Elizabeth asked how District inspections are keeping up with the demand. Mr. DeYoung responded District personnel inspects and documents before and after each event with photographs. He added there was additional documentation for materials taken offsite. Ms. Elizabeth commented that there might be a need for more aggressive outreach to small growers if they are not participating proportionately. Mr. DeYoung responded affirmatively and said the District would continue to be very aggressive in outreach toward the smaller agricultural grower.

Mr. Rios asked if composting for offsite reuse was eligible. Mr. DeYoung responded it was eligible for beneficial reuse and while there has not been a request so far, this is something the District would be able to consider.

Mr. Cunha commented the purpose of these funds were to help a combination of grower types, but the greatest concern was for the use of grapes because of the complex problem of steel wire in a vineyard, which has always been a challenge. He said this is especially challenging for small farmers who are having a difficult time surviving in this state because of regulatory and water challenges. He said the District has done a tremendous job on in outreach to small farmers in partnership with agriculture in the Valley.

11. UPDATE ON DISTRICT'S EMISSION REDUCTION CREDIT PROGRAM

Morgan Lambert, Deputy APCO, provided an update on the District's efforts to respond to the CARB review of the District's ERC and offset equivalency programs including recent actions to ensure federal offset requirements can continue to be met. The District is planning to amend District Rule 2201 (New and Modified Stationary Source Review) to enhance the ERC and offset equivalency programs with an initial public scoping meeting to occur in early 2nd quarter of 2022.

Mr. Savage expressed concern about the shortage of NOx and VOCs and said this will make it very difficult for existing facilities to not only grow, but also to replace equipment. He said he wanted to continue to reinforce the severity of what just happened, where we currently are and what the future holds. He asked that this update remain on the CAC agenda moving forward and that staff provide an update of what is left in the bank for NOx and VOCs specifically. He added that manufacturers at any level that require permitting are facing difficulties surviving in the state and are rapidly moving facilities toward leaving California.

Mr. Rios voiced support for Mr. Savage's comments. Ms. Deming concurred.

Public comment: None

12. AB 617 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES –

- a. Jessica Olsen, Director of Community Strategies and Resources, provided an update on the District's ongoing activities related to AB 617 implementation. The District has continued to meet regularly with all four Community Steering Committees (CSCs) virtually to design and implement the community-driven AB 617 process.

This month, the Arvin/Lamont Community Steering Committee is working to develop measures for the Community Emissions Reductions Program, which will come before the District's Governing Board in June. We recently had two CSC meetings to brainstorm CERP measure concepts and build upon the work done to collectively understand community sources of air pollution concern.

The South Central Fresno, Shafter, and Stockton committees have continued to meet monthly to work together to implement the many emissions and exposure reductions measures included in the community CERPs. Several CSCs have also met in subcommittees to help support high-priority CERP measure implementation. Some recent progress has been made in several communities for measures supporting truck rerouting, residential wood burning change out, and lawn and garden equipment replacement, for example.

In addition to CERP implementation, the community air monitoring plans have been underway for some time in three communities. In Fresno and Shafter, the community networks have been fully deployed and reporting real-time information about air quality in these neighborhoods. In Stockton, the District has successfully deployed a handful of real-time monitors in the community-identified locations, and there are now three real-time monitors reporting to the Stockton webpage. The District and the CSC are continuing to work with landowners to deploy the full network.

- b. Cassandra Lopina, Supervisor in the CARB Office of Community Air Protection, provided an update on efforts underway by CARB to implement AB 617. At the February 2022 hearing, CARB selected two Year 4 communities under the AB 617 program: East Oakland and the International Border Community near San Diego. CARB is also continuing to work on updates to the Community Air Protection Program Blueprint with board consideration anticipated in second quarter of 2022.

13. OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS REPORT – Heather Heinks, Outreach and Communications Manager, provided updates on recent outreach activities including wrapping up outreach for the winter season, participating in numerous outreach events in anticipation of Earth Day and a large campaign messaging the Alternatives to Agricultural Open Burning program in multilingual radio ads.

Mr. Sheikh expressed appreciation to Valley residents for their work during the residential wood burning season. He said residents are the key to reducing residential wood burning to benefit public health.

14. CAC MEMBER COMMENTS – None

15. VOLUNTEER TO PRESENT REPORT DURING GOVERNING BOARD MEETING – Mr. Cunha volunteered to present during the Governing Board meeting on March 17, 2022.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Next Meeting –The next CAC meeting is scheduled on April 5, 2022. The meeting will be held via video teleconference (VTC).