

Action Summary Minutes

San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District

**SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING:**  
**REVIEW OF 2018-19 RECOMMENDED BUDGET**

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

**Thursday, May 10, 2018**  
**9:00 a.m.**

***Meeting held via teleconferencing with the Central Region Office (Fresno), the Northern Region Office (Modesto) and the Southern Region Office (Bakersfield).***

***This meeting was webcast.***

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER – The Chair, Supervisor Mendes, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.
2. ROLL CALL – was taken and a quorum was present.

*Present:*

David Ayers, Mayor	City of Hanford
Drew M. Bessinger, Councilmember	City of Clovis
John Capitman, Ph.D	Appointed by Governor
Bob Elliott, Supervisor**	San Joaquin County
Buddy Mendes, Supervisor, <b>Chair</b>	Fresno County
Craig Pedersen, Supervisor	Kings County
Dr. Alexander Sherriffs	Appointed by Governor
Chris Vierra, Mayor**	City of Ceres
Tom Wheeler, Supervisor	Madera County
J. Steven Worthley, Supervisor, <b>Vice Chair</b>	Tulare County

*Absent:*

David Couch, Supervisor	Kern County
Christina Fugazi, Councilmember	City of Stockton
Kristin Olsen, Supervisor	Stanislaus County
Lloyd Pareira, Supervisor	Merced County
Monte Reyes, Councilmember	City of Porterville

*\*\*attended in Northern Region Office*

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. PUBLIC HEARING FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT ON DISTRICT'S 2018-19 RECOMMENDED BUDGET – Seyed Sadredin, Executive Director/APCO, said the District's budget development process began several months prior to this public hearing. He said this year's budget will be the first for which Samir Sheikh, incoming Executive Director/APCO, will be responsible. He introduced Mr. Sheikh, who announced that the June 21, 2018 Board meeting would be Mr. Sadredin's last as Executive Director/APCO. He encouraged Board members to attend that meeting in Fresno if possible, as there will be a reception honoring Mr. Sadredin. He thanked Mr. Sadredin for his leadership, as always, in the District's extensive budget development process.

Mr. Sheikh explained that this was the first of two hearings for the budget adoption process under state law, with this hearing being strictly for Board and public review and comment of the draft proposed budget. He said at the Board's direction, the June 21<sup>st</sup> Governing Board meeting would be set for adoption of the 2018-19 Recommended Budget. He thanked members of the Governing Board Ad Hoc Budget Subcommittee, including, Chairman Mendes, Supervisor Pedersen, Councilmember Reyes, Supervisor Wheeler, Councilmember Fugazi, and Mayor Vierra.

As presented, the budget highlights included:

- Total operating budget down by 10%
- Full-year funding of new positions added last year with revenues provided by the state
- Significant increase in mandated workload absorbed through efficiency and streamlining
- No increase in total number of positions
- 7% salary savings through position control
- Strong public education and outreach
- Significant increase in funding for voluntary incentive-based clean air grants for Valley residents, businesses, and municipalities (\$350 million)
- Expeditious administration and effective distribution of emission reduction incentive funds in a wide range of applications
- \$300,000 for Valley-specific scientific studies and air quality modeling
- Continued assistance to local municipalities in meeting clean-air and climate change mandates
- Balanced budget, with adequate reserves and contingencies

Dr. Sherriffs thanked staff for the detailed presentation. He asked if there was a plan in place to move the District's vehicle fleet to a zero-emissions. Mr. Sheikh responded that all available technologies are considered when the District purchases vehicles. He said unfortunately, given the size of the District's jurisdiction, current zero-emissions vehicles do not have a wide enough range to suit the needs of field-based staff. He said that where it meets business needs, the District has migrated to hybrid vehicles. Dr. Sherriffs added that zero-emissions technology is moving rather quickly, and the District is in the best

position in the community to making this work. He suggested the Board could provide additional direction in this area.

Supervisor Wheeler and Supervisor Worthley commended staff for doing a great job on budget preparations.

Public Comment: None

Chairman Mendes set June 21, 2018 as adoption date for the 2018-19 Recommended Budget.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/APCO COMMENTS – Mr. Sadredin said he was very proud of staff and the excellent job they did on budget preparations. He said that notices were sent to every individual fee payer about today's hearing, and the fact that there was no opposition present was a tribute to the Board for their fiscal prudence and good governance. Mr. Sheikh thanked the Board for their guiding principles which established the budget process. He also thanked Mr. Sadredin, saying although he was silent for most of today's hearing, he was heavily involved in the budget preparation process all along the way and provided valuable guidance and mentorship to staff.
6. GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – Supervisor Pedersen said he attended a meeting recently with Southern California Gas and they informed those present that there is a move afoot in the California Legislature to outlaw natural gas. He suggested the Board should be proactive in informing the Legislature about air quality benefits that are possible through funding natural gas projects. He suggested District staff be informed and involved as necessary. Mr. Sheikh said this was a timely topic for the Board and staff to discuss and suggested adding it to the upcoming Governing Board Study Session agenda. Mr. Sadredin suggested the Board could communicate through Dr. Sherriffs on the Air Resources Board, as they will be considering excluding natural gas from expenditures of the Volkswagen settlement fund. He said although it may make sense from a long-term climate change perspective, reductions are needed sooner for the District's attainment plans.

Supervisor Worthley voiced agreement with the concerns voiced by Supervisor Pedersen and noted it is ironic that most of the state's current reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have been because of natural gas. He said he had a wonderful time attending Mr. Sadredin's retirement party the week before and saw several Board members and District staff who have retired over the past several years. He said it was great to see many staff members who were also present to honor Mr. Sadredin for his many years of service to the District.

Supervisor Elliott said this was a good common sense budget and he appreciated all of the work that went into preparing it. He commented on the incentives for locomotives and partnering with neighboring air districts. He highlighted a partnership project that took place for the Altamont Commuter

Express train system which carries a lot of commuters back and forth between the Valley and Bay Area on a daily basis. He said they received funding from the District as well as Bay Area AQMD to provide a couple of tier-4 locomotives for that service and they are very interested in obtaining more. He suggested it was a great opportunity for staff to partner in future endeavors such as these. Mr. Sheikh responded that District staff are already communicating with them to look for additional opportunities and partnerships. Supervisor Wheeler commented on a new Amtrak express route between the Valley and Sacramento, which will help cut down on vehicle commute traffic.

Supervisor Mendes said he had a great time at the event honoring Mr. Sadredin. He said the tributes paid to Mr. Sadredin were very fitting for his numerous achievements and accomplishments at the District.

## **ADJOURN**

*The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:54 a.m.*

*The next scheduled meeting of the Governing Board is: Thursday, June 21, 2018. 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 videoteleconference (VTC) with the Northern Region Office (Modesto) and the Southern Region Office (Bakersfield) participating via VTC.*