

## Action Summary Minutes

San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District

### **GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

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

**Thursday, May 21, 2020**  
**9:00 a.m.**

***Meeting held via Zoom Webinar and video teleconferencing with the Central Region Office (Fresno). This meeting was also webcast. Given the international COVID-19 pandemic, and consistent with the California Department of Public Health's recommendations and Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20, no physical location was provided for public attendance.***

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER – The Chair, Supervisor Pedersen, called the meeting to order at 10:52 a.m.
2. ROLL CALL – was taken and a quorum was present.

*Present:*

Drew M. Bessinger, Mayor	City of Clovis
David Couch, Supervisor	Kern County
Kuyler Crocker, Supervisor	Tulare County
Bob Elliott, Supervisor	San Joaquin County
Christina Fugazi, Councilmember	City of Stockton
Buddy Mendes, Supervisor	Fresno County
Kristin Olsen, Supervisor	Stanislaus County
Lloyd Pareira, Supervisor, <b>Vice Chair</b>	Merced County
Craig Pedersen, Supervisor, <b>Chair</b>	Kings County
Alvaro Preciado, Councilmember	City of Avenal
Monte Reyes, Councilmember	City of Porterville
Dr. Alexander Sherriffs	Appointed by Governor
Tom Wheeler, Supervisor	Madera County
Chris Vierra, Mayor	City of Ceres

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
  4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR – Item Numbers (12 – 15): *These matters are routine in nature and are usually approved by a single vote. Prior to any action by the board, the public was given the opportunity to comment on any consent item.*
12. APPROVE ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN

VALLEY UNIFIED AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEETING OF THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2020

13. RECEIVE AND FILE LIST OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS FOR 2020
14. RECEIVE AND FILE OPERATIONS STATISTICS SUMMARY FOR APRIL 2020
15. RECEIVE AND FILE BUDGET STATUS REPORTS AS APRIL 30, 2020

Public Comment: None

*Moved:* Mendes  
*Seconded:* Bessinger  
*Ayes:* Bessinger, Couch, Crocker, Elliott, Fugazi, Mendes, Olsen, Pareira, Preciado, Reyes, Sherriffs, Vierra, Wheeler, Pedersen  
*Nays:* None

***Motion unanimously carried to approve Consent Calendar Item Numbers 12 - 15***

5. PUBLIC COMMENT – None
6. REPORT ON DISTRICT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES – Kevin Abernathy, CAC Chair, provided the Board with an update on the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting held on May 5, 2020.
7. AB 617 CARB GRANT RESOLUTION – Samir Sheikh, Executive Director/APCO, recommended the Board approve a resolution to accept \$12.7 million in Community Air Protection Program (CAPP) grant funding from the California Air Resources Board to support the District’s implementation of state mandates under AB 617. The resolution would also authorize the Executive Director/APCO, to enter into agreement(s) for this and future year CAPP funds and make administrative changes as necessary.

With the addition of the Stockton Community, Mr. Sheikh said there are now three AB 617 communities in the Valley where District staff is working aggressively with the community steering committees and other community stakeholders to bring resources and attention to those communities to actually improve those communities and improve quality of life.

*Mayor Vierra left at 11:02 a.m.*

Public Comment – None

Moved: Mendes  
Seconded: Fugazi  
Ayes: Bessinger, Couch, Crocker, Elliott, Fugazi, Mendes, Olsen,  
Pareira, Preciado, Reyes, Sherriffs, Wheeler, Pedersen  
Nays: None

***Motion unanimously carried to approve AB 617 CARB Grant Resolution***

8. VERBAL REPORT ON STATE AND FEDERAL BUDGET LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS – Tom Jordan, Senior Policy Advisor, provided an update on budget-related legislative efforts at the state and federal level.

Supervisor Crocker said air quality funding through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund should be classified as a continuous appropriation, similar to High Speed Rail. Mr. Jordan responded there were arguments made at the time that air quality funding should be continuously appropriated, and they were not successful. He said the District could continue to make the case, but he was not sure that opportunity would arise again this year. He added one potential positive that could come out of this situation is with so many people being cut out of funding, it is almost a reset on the whole fund to discuss it again. Supervisor Crocker reiterated that air quality should be at the top of the list. Mr. Sheikh commented the District brings up the continuous appropriation matter every year, and he said the question of High Speed Rail has come up a lot over the past four or five weeks.

Chairman Pedersen said in respect to AB 617 there was always the concern that without sufficient state funding, the District would be forced to shift funds and attention from other vital District programs. Mr. Sheikh responded that the District has been able to date to get state resources to implement the mandates under AB 617. He added that if the state does not provide the necessary resources in future years, there would be a major impact to the District's ability to continue implementing the program. Chairman Pedersen clarified that even though AB 617 exists as a law, if there is no funding available the protocol that was developed through the process is not mandated to be implemented until such time as there's funding. Mr. Sheikh responded the mandates are contained in state law and are not conditioned on the availability of state funding. The Board's direction has been that we will not be able to implement the program without sufficient state funding.

9. VERBAL REPORT ON CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD ACTIVITIES – Dr. Sherriffs reported on California Air Resources Board meeting held on April 23, 2020 along with a list of upcoming matters before CARB.
10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/APCO COMMENTS – Mr. Sheikh reported that Councilmember Fugazi, Councilmember Reyes and Mayor Vierra were recently were reappointed by the San Joaquin Valley Special City Selection Committee on April 29, 2020, to a second 3-year term on the Board. He congratulated them

and thanked them for continuing to serve on our Board.

Secondly, he said there is a lot of information out about COVID-19 and its impacts with respect to vehicle trips and air quality. There has been quite a bit of press and conversation about air quality improvements throughout the world. He told the Board that staff is taking a close look at that issue from a Valley perspective as well. He added staff plans to provide the Board with more information about what we've been seeing these last couple of months. He said there certainly have been some indicators that due to pretty significant reductions in vehicle trips air pollution has certainly gone down. It was really difficult to look at this earlier on when the pandemic first hit as we were actually coming out of the cleanest winter on record, going into the cleanest part of the season here in the Valley. He noted that as we get more data, there may be useful information coming out that staff can put to use moving forward.

11. GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – Mayor Bessinger thanked staff for their great budget presentation. He asked if there has been any movement on the vacant Governor Appointee seat on the Governing Board. Mr. Sheikh responded there has been no movement on that seat. Mayor Bessinger said he assumed the District would open its Board meetings to the public when the shelter in place order was lifted. Mr. Sheikh responded affirmatively and said staff was exploring opening Board meetings to the public beginning with the June meeting, carefully under whatever social distancing requirements are in place at that time. He said he would communicate with the Board on this matter. Mayor Bessinger added the City of Clovis has opened their meetings to the public because they felt it was important for residents to have direct access to the City Council.

Councilmember Fugazi thanked the District for being so creative and continuing to do the work with the current situation revolving around COVID-19. She said it was an opportunity for us to learn new ways in order to do the important work that is done by the District. She also wanted to thank staff for their work, especially on the budget.

She added she had a lot of questions as to the funding that we would be receiving and knowing that we have had reductions as high as 97 percent above the target, shows the importance of the work the District is doing. She also commented on the Tune in Tune Up program, she had a lot of people in here area express concern over the ability to continue the program during the pandemic. But since the program has now gone online, she said her constituents have been able to access the five hundred dollar vouchers, even among the COVID-19 restrictions in place, which they've been very excited about. Lastly, she thanked everyone for allowing her to continue being a member of this Board.

Dr. Sherriffs thanked staff for the budget report. He also thanked everybody again for all the work that they have done to help keep our communities safe in the midst of this pandemic. He added he certainly missed being together, as

there is no substitute for being in the same room, and the comments about public access are spot on. He added there also was a flip side to that. And he said personally, if we had an old fashioned meeting in June, he did not know if he would physically want to be there. He said he did not know what the world was going to look like in June yet, and he did not know if he would feel safe from a health standpoint to attend an in person meeting, even social distancing measures in place. He added in some ways the virtual meetings have limited public access, but in other ways it has helped open public access. He said it was important to think about the new world. He said he does not think it should be business as usual.

Mr. Sheikh clarified to the extent that the orders allow, the biggest change in June would be allowing public access to the meeting again, consistent with all the Orders that are that are in place at that time. There are flexibilities under the Executive Orders that Dr. Sherriffs just mentioned and said his recommendation would be to still maintain those to the extent that either a public member or a Board member want to participate remotely, we would still maintain those options. He added there would be no recommendation at this point, and said he would work directly with the Chair to look at those logistics for the coming meeting.

Chairman Pedersen commented the great thing about this process is that we can accommodate the public sentiment to open everything to the public, and others who have concerns about their health in the future. He said the District will find a way to accommodate everyone. He added he did agree with Mayor Bessinger that getting back to normality starts with doing normal things and still monitoring and being respectful of the current scenario in which we find ourselves.

Supervisor Mendes commented that there are many choices and said he was confident that the District could accommodate all. He mentioned that economic depression is very clairvoyant and to have clean air because of that would cause a depression and would be way worse. He commented that the Board has great expectations of the staff at the District and they have never disappointed and never will.

Councilmember Reyes thanked staff for the budget presentation, as well as the ability to hold these meetings and continue conducting business. He said he looked forward to continuing to serve on the Board and pledged to make more trips to the Southern Region office, to assist with social distancing.

Supervisor Pariera gave a shout out to staff for doing such a great job with the budget. In regards to reopening the Board meetings to the public, he said the majority of the Valley was reopening this week and he would rather wait a couple of weeks to decide what to do for the June meeting.

## **ADJOURN**

*Chairman Pedersen adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m.*

*The next scheduled meeting of the Governing Board is: Thursday, June 18, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. 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 video teleconference (VTC) with the Northern Region Office (Modesto) and the Southern Region Office (Bakersfield) participating via VTC.*