

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, October 15, 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 9:01 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
Tania Pacheco-Werner, Ph.D.	Appointed by Governor
Lloyd Pereira, Supervisor, Vice Chair*	Merced County
Craig Pedersen, Supervisor, Chair	Kings County
Alvaro Preciado, Councilmember	City of Avenal
Monte Reyes, Councilmember	City of Porterville
Dr. Alexander Sherriffs	Appointed by Governor
Chris Vierra, Mayor	City of Ceres
Tom Wheeler, Supervisor	Madera County

**Arrived at 10:26 a.m.*

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR – Item Numbers (19 – 25): *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.*

19. APPROVE ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY UNIFIED AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING: REVIEW OF 2020-21 RECOMMENDED BUDGET OF THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020
20. RECEIVE AND FILE LIST OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS FOR 2020
21. RECEIVE AND FILE OPERATIONS STATISTICS SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2020
22. RECEIVE AND FILE BUDGET STATUS REPORTS AS SEPTEMBER 30, 2020
23. RECEIVE AND FILE QUARTERLY UPDATE TO THE BEST AVAILABLE CONTROL TECHNOLOGY (BACT) CLEARINGHOUSE
24. AMEND 2020-21 NON-OPERATING BUDGET TO ADJUST ESTIMATED AMOUNTS TO ACTUAL AMOUNTS AS OF JUNE 30, 2020
25. APPROVE THE ASSIGNMENT OF A PORTION OF THE VOLUNTARY EMISSION REDUCTION AGREEMENT FROM MG3 PARTNERS, LLC TO WESTERN PACIFIC HOUSING, INC.

Public Comment: None

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

Motion unanimously carried to approve Consent Calendar Item Numbers 19 – 25

5. PUBLIC COMMENT – *The following persons commented on this item:*
 - Connie Young, Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL)
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 October 6, 2020.

7. S.T.A.R. RECOGNITION (Service, Teamwork, Attitude, Respect) – Chenecua Dixon, Director of Personnel, formally recognized employees who reached a service milestones during third quarter of 2020.

Five Years of Service

Alex Oregon, Air Quality Inspector

Ten Years of Service

Mehri Barati, Director of Administrative Services
Ashley Burrow, Air Quality Specialist

Fifteen Years of Service

Ross Badertscher, Air Quality Specialist
David Garner, Senior Air Quality Specialist
Georgia Stewart, Air Quality Specialist

Twenty Years of Service

Dustin Brown, Senior Air Quality Engineer
Brian Clements, Program Manager
Daniel Klevann, Senior Air Quality Engineer
Jatinder Gill, Accountant
Jason Heerling, Senior Network Systems Security Analyst

Twenty-Five Years of Service

Robert Vinson, Senior Air Quality Inspector

8. UPDATE ON THE 2020 WILDFIRE SEASON AND DISTRICT OUTREACH EFFORTS – John Klassen, Director of Air Quality Science and Planning, and Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer, gave an update on the 2020 wildfire season and District outreach efforts.

Samir Sheikh, Executive Director/APCO thanked Board members for supporting staff as they keep evolving and continuously improving the District's outreach approach in response to the various impacts this year from wildfires and COVID-19. He acknowledged that there has been a lot for Valley residents to deal with and said staff have been striving to respond to questions and provide as much information as possible. He said obviously some people do need to work outdoors and said there were numerous efforts taking place in the Valley to provide personal protective equipment. He also thanked Dr. Pacheco-Werner for her input on the infographic shared at the meeting and said staff will continue working to enhance outreach as they hear of new opportunities to help the public react to these various episodes that we are experiencing now.

Supervisor Wheeler commented on the magnitude of the fires and how that demonstrated the mismanagement of our forests for the past 30 years.

Dr. Sherriffs said he recently traveled to eastern Nevada and was horrified by the air quality. He added the smoke was not just from California but also fires burning on every conceivable land in every state in the West. He said the potential and real health impacts were staggering. He voiced appreciation for staff looking at a variety of approaches because things are so fragmented. He said it was also a reminder that the public appreciates the information, and they really appreciate a consistent message. He added it was important to focus on one or two places that are giving consistent information because the public is terribly concerned with good reason, making sense of a variety of messages and the nuances that are necessary because there is a lot of science out there that is developing and will get better. He also said the infographics are a really important way to communicate.

Dr. Sherriffs also commented on the confusing messaging regarding using masks to protect against COVID-19, but that they do not protect against wildfire smoke. He suggested the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and AB 617 Community Steering Committees could be good sources to help fine tune the messaging. He thanked staff for their flexibility and nimbleness and said it was a work in progress that we can continue to improve because there is nothing out there that says next year's fire season will not be as bad.

Mr. Sheikh thanked Dr. Sherriffs for his comments and said as a standing item, staff frequently talk to CAC members about outreach efforts. In addition, reviewing outreach materials is one of the primary goals of the District's Environmental Justice Advisory Group. He said a lot of the outreach approach that the District currently utilizes is based on the input that staff have received from CAC and EJAG. He added the District has standing discussions with some of the community health-based organizations about these same issues.

He added the point that Dr. Sherriffs raised on face mask was a very important one, and said there are a couple of dimensions to that message. One is to not think that the face masks that residents are using are going to protect them from the wildfire smoke. But in no way is the District trying to encourage residents to not follow the health related recommendations that are related to the COVID-19. He said staff would continue talk to the health officials to fine tune the messaging.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner thanked staff for their work and offered her assistance wherever needed. She said the discussions about masks was extremely valuable and suggested staff collaborate with health officials on the messaging. She added that all of the groups that meet within the District can really serve as a sounding board and feedback opportunity for all of these communications.

Supervisor Elliott commented on the high number of arson arrests during this wildfire season and suggested residents keep an eye out for this illegal activity.

Public Comment – *The following persons commented on this item:*

- Cynthia Pinto-Cabrera, Central Valley Air Quality Coalition (CVAQ)
- Connie Young, CCL
- Janet Dietz-Kamei
- Thomas Menz

9. CONSIDER ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE MEASURE TO SUPPORT WILDFIRE RECOVERY EFFORTS – Mr. Sheikh introduced Jacob Whitson, the District's new Director of Compliance, who provided a report on the District's coordinated efforts to support wildfire cleanup, including potentially Regulated Asbestos Containing Materials (RACM), which the District has been federally delegated the responsibility for enforcing. In addition, Mr. Whitson reviewed staff recommendations that the Board approve an emergency economic assistance measure to authorize the Executive Director/APCO to temporarily waive asbestos fees, as required by District Rule 3150 – Asbestos Removal Fees, for building and structures destroyed or damaged by wildfires during local, state, and federal declared wildfire emergencies.

Mr. Sheikh added this recommendation stemmed from conversations that he had early on with local agencies and officials, working together to do the best job we could and responding to the impacts of the fires by helping with recovery efforts.

Dr. Sherriffs thanked staff for looking ahead and for the collaboration with other agencies that will be helpful in the future. He said the dollar amount was not large but was potentially significant on an individual basis. He asked if these provisions were limited to 2020. Mr. Sheikh responded that the provisions would be in effect for the impacts that came out of the 2020 wildfires under the declared emergencies.

Dr. Sherriffs asked how long the 24-hour notification period requirement would last. Mr. Sheikh responded the District has discretion over the use of that waiver under federal law and said it was mainly intended for the initial rush of the recovery effort. He said if the Board members agreed, when the initial rush has passed, the District would return to the conventional 10-day notification period.

Mayor Bessinger congratulated staff for being forward-looking on this issue. He said people have really suffered through these wildfires. He asked if a structure completely burned down, would it still be subject to the asbestos requirements. Mr. Sheikh responded if there was complete destruction of a structure there would be no notification requirement for demolition or renovation. He said staff are working out those details with responders with regard to the level of remains that would activate the notification requirements.

Supervisor Wheeler said this was a great program and commented on the two major fires in the last three years in Madera County and how they were able to assist homeowners with cleaning and rebuilding efforts. He said programs like these are so important for residents who have lost their homes.

Supervisor Crocker said he appreciated staff bringing this item to the Board and always looking for different ways we can help our constituency in the District. He also voiced appreciation for staff being very forward thinking as how we can better assist businesses that interacted with us. He said this was another great step to help residents out during this devastation. He asked if this measure primarily applied to commercial properties.

Mr. Sheikh said this program will assist organized recovery efforts involving a large amount of residential structures, as opposed to individuals recovering their own homes. He said those who participate individually will be subject to various requirements depending on who completes the recovery and how it is handled. Supervisor Crocker said the more consistent that the District can be with the rules, the more helpful it will be with individual situations, recognizing that neighbors talk to neighbors and we are helping out residents during their own personal disaster.

Noting potential health concerns, Supervisor Crocker asked if the District had any governance over ashing requirements for residents sifting through the destruction and looking for any belongings that may have survived the fire. Mr. Whitson said residents are directed to contact their county health departments. Supervisor Crocker said Tulare County is providing residents who are searching through their burned properties with masks, and protective equipment including coveralls.

Vice Mayor Reyes thanked the District for using the word streamlining and making the effort, because streamlining is definitely a visible and noticeable posture that we take, especially in response to emergencies. He said this measure indicates that we are cognizant of what is happening and looking out for our neighbors.

Supervisor Mendes thanked staff for their quick response and efforts towards this measure.

Supervisor Pareira left the meeting briefly at 10:19 a.m.

Public Comment: None

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

Motion unanimously carried to approve economic assistance measure to support wildfire recovery efforts

10. AUTHORIZE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/APCO TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS NECESSARY TO CONDUCT A TRUCK REROUTING STUDY IN SOUTH-CENTRAL FRESNO AB 617 COMMUNITY – Todd DeYoung, Director of Grants and Incentives, presented staff recommendations to authorize the Executive Director/APCO, with Governing Board Chair signature, to enter into funding agreement(s) not to exceed \$500,000 with the City of Fresno to support their implementation of a truck rerouting study within the South Central Fresno AB 617 community in accordance with the Board-adopted South Central Fresno Community Emission Reduction Program.

Supervisor Pereira returned at 10:34 a.m.

Supervisor Mendes clarified that the routes were located in both city and county jurisdictions. Mr. Sheikh responded affirmatively and said it was important to recognize that while the routes are predominantly in the city, there are going to be some potential ramifications for the unincorporated areas, such as Malaga. He said from the District's perspective, the county has to be at the table for the study to make sure their input is carefully factored into the study. In addition, he said the Council of Governments (COG) is also a key partner as well. Mr. Sheikh added that Fresno County and Fresno COG representatives also serve on the South-Central Fresno AB 617 Community Steering Committee.

Supervisor Mendes clarified the funding for this study was coming from the state. Mr. Sheikh responded affirmatively and said on the leveraging side the Community Steering Committee has requested that the City put funding into the project as well. He said any additional funds received from the city, county or others would help leverage funding.

Mayor Bessinger clarified that this study would include vehicles after they leave the freeway to make local deliveries. Mr. Sheikh responded affirmatively and said this study would apply primarily to the traffic that occurs within the community. He said this is something that happens on a regular basis with planning for future growth.

Mayor Bessinger said the City of Clovis conducted a similar study when they built some major shopping centers and prohibited delivery trucks from certain arterial roads. He added it was a good idea to keep these vehicles out of neighborhoods.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner commented that this was a great study and asked staff to let her know how she can help in terms of raising awareness. She added that she has done a lot of work with her colleagues at the Central Valley Health Policy Institute on particulate matter in neighborhoods and places where homes were located right next to industrial areas. She said in the past, roads were never really created to support both communities living there and business activity. She said this study will hopefully be a good example of how to move forward and do similar methods in other areas, particularly the AB 617 communities.

Dr. Sherriffs noted this item points out one of the great challenges of AB 617, and he commended the Board and staff for rising to that challenge because it uncovers community concerns where the District has been given some responsibility but has no real authority. He applauded District staff for looking for ways to see if they can bring partners together to make progress on this issue. He noted this is a very important health issue, because in many ways diesel is the worst of all those mobile source emissions in terms of health effects. He thanked staff for their creativity and persistent stance on a tough issue.

Councilmember Fugazi echoed Dr. Pacheco-Werner's and Dr. Sherriffs' comments and said they are looking at a similar situation in Stockton. She said there are hundreds of trucks going through their port every day and there is a residential neighborhood that surrounds the area. She said while they have created part of a highway system to bring them in, they still have to go through the neighborhoods to get out, so it is very important. She added having the partnership with the county, COG and the city working together on this issue and the potential funding to help match where we are deficient is so important. She thanked staff and the South-Central Fresno Community Steering Committee for laying the groundwork for future communities. She acknowledged that the goods need to get where they need to be but said this study would be valuable in identifying how we can think about this in a better way in order to reduce the impact of those diesel trucks that are flowing through our neighborhoods. She said she was in full support of this study.

Chairman Pedersen thanked staff for their research into this issue. He said this was clearly a good quality project but it highlights the balance of the demands of AB 617 and the District's goals and objectives. Mr. Sheikh responded this was a very important and ongoing issue with how we navigate our way through the AB 617 process. He said it was a different approach in terms of looking at community issues and getting community involvement. At the end of the day, he said it is still being driven by reducing emissions and exposure in the community. He said the District is trying to coordinate that effort, but obviously is not the only agency who by any means is responsible or involved in achieving some of those outcomes. He said the District really works hard to educate the community on what is happening in their community, including the emission sources and how much are coming from stationary versus mobile sources. He said generally mobile sources are the bulk of what a community is experiencing in terms of air pollution and toxics impact. He added staff go through a lot of work to really

understand concerns, prioritize the issues to achieve which is a balance of cost effective projects that reduce emissions along with projects like these that are all about looking how to reduce exposure.

Chairman Pedersen added when you look at how successful the District has been with its grants program, it comes with a lot of scrutiny from other regions and it was important to make sure that we balance the funding mechanisms that we draw from and make sure that it is a worthy program especially going into the future looking at the financial challenges we face as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vice Mayor Reyes said efforts rely on studies like this to affect changes and reduce emissions and exposure within communities.

Public Comment – *The following persons commented on this item:*

- Janet Dietz-Kamei

Moved: Mendes

Seconded: Sherriffs

Ayes: Bessinger, Couch, Crocker, Elliott, Fugazi, Mendes, Olsen, Pacheco-Werner, Pareira, Preciado, Reyes, Sherriffs, Vierra, Wheeler, Pedersen

Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried to authorize Executive Director/APCO to enter into agreements necessary to conduct a truck rerouting study in South Central Fresno AB 617 Community

11. ADOPT PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RULE 4905 (NATURAL GAS-FIRED, FAN-TYPE CENTRAL FURNACES) – Jessica Coria, Program Manager, presented staff recommendations to adopt proposed amendments to Rule 4905 (Natural Gas-Fired, Fan-Type Central Furnaces).

Supervisor Olsen asked if there were aspects of the amendments that the manufacturers did not necessarily support. Mr. Sheikh said there were very limited comments outside of support for the project. There are one or two manufacturers that have produced compliant units in specific categories, the amendments are needed to ensure that sufficient units are available as needed by residents and businesses. He added staff addressed the vast majority of the questions and concerns with the rule that was published.

Dr. Sherriffs thanked staff for their work on these amendments. He said he was curious what proportion of new installations are non-weatherized versus weatherized and what the inventory of weatherized units is that will eventually be replaced by units with a pretty dramatic reduction in NOx emissions and how long that would take. He also asked what would incentivize residents to install

these units. Mr. Sheikh responded that the majority of units subject to the reductions in the rule were covered by the categorical compliance deadlines that have now past and rule requirements are fully in place. On a total emissions basis, he said this was a very small component of an already very small source category. As far as the incentive for having compliant units, there are two incentives. One is a deadline that manufacturers will not be able to sell their units after the 12-month deadline. The second incentive is that it extends the compliance timeframe, but in the meantime the manufacturers have to pay a per unit penalty for any units that are sold that are not in compliance which would put them at a competitive disadvantage. He added the 6-month sell through period is consistent with what the District has done for all of its phase outs to account for issues near the compliance deadline.

Supervisor Elliott said it was a good idea to extend the compliance period if the technology is just not completely developed and asked if that referred to 6 months added on the end of that 12-month extension or the sell through. Mr. Sheikh responded affirmatively and said it would be 12 months and then a 6-month sell through period for any units that still need to be sold.

Mayor Bessinger asked if the compliant and non-compliant units were competitively priced. Mr. Sheikh responded in general, these units have gone up in price which also is a result of the cost of materials and probably due to technology advancement as well.

Vice Mayor Reyes commented that because of the timelines that were illustrated there should be enough time for residents who need to change out their units and perhaps if the cost difference isn't as high and the technology is better, it may encourage all of the parties to go ahead and move to better technology.

Public Comments: *The following persons provided comments on this item:*

- Jeff Small, U.S. Air Conditioning Distributors
- David Winningham, Lennox International
- Colby Morrow, So Cal Gas
- Ryan Kalmbach, Johnstone's Supply
- Allison Skidd, Rheem Manufacturing
- Charles Trammell, Trane Technologies
- David Stevens, Johnson Controls

Moved: Wheeler

Seconded: Bessinger

Ayes: Bessinger, Couch, Crocker, Elliott, Fugazi, Mendes, Olsen,
Pacheco-Werner, Pereira, Preciado, Reyes, Sherriffs

Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried to adopt proposed amendments to Rule 4905 (Natural Gas-Fired, Fan-Type Central Furnaces)

12. RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING 2018 PLAN FOR THE 1997, 2006, AND 2012 PM2.5 STANDARDS – Mr. Klassen provided Board members with an update on the District’s progress in implementing the *2018 Plan for the 1997, 2006, and 2012 PM2.5 Standards*.

Public Comment – *The following persons provided comments on this item:*

- Cynthia Pinto-Cabrera, CVAQ
- Janet Dietz-Kamei
- Thomas Menz

13. UPDATE ON RECENT GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDERS PERTAINING TO AIR QUALITY – Tom Jordan, Senior Policy Advisor, provided an update on recent Executive Orders issued by Governor Newsom, directing additional state actions and goals to address climate change, including that 100 percent of in-state sales of new passenger cars and trucks will be zero-emission by 2035, that 100 percent of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles in the State be zero-emission by 2045 for all operations where feasible and by 2035 for drayage trucks, and that the state transition to 100 percent zero-emission off-road vehicles and equipment by 2035 where feasible. The Executive Orders direct the California Air Resources Board to begin developing rules to achieve these goals to the extent consistent with state and federal law, and consistent with technological feasibility and cost-effectiveness. Additionally, under Executive Order N-79-20, state agencies are directed to develop a number of plans and strategies, including a Zero-Emission Vehicle Market Development Strategy by January 31, 2021, to support the deployment of zero-emission vehicles, and a Just Transition Roadmap by July 15, 2021, to support a transition away from fossil fuels. In addition to Executive Order N-79-20, on October 7, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-80-20, providing additional direction to state agencies to address biodiversity and conservation issues.

Mr. Sheikh added that one of the things that we have seen statewide is that disadvantaged communities are often the first to be left behind. He said in the context of EV deployment and charging infrastructure, you saw that issue for disadvantaged communities. He said what often happens is the costs and the deployment strategies are conducted in a manner where coastal areas seem to get priority and then the lower income and inland communities are often left behind. He said staff do not have any recommended positions at this point, but staff would be tracking these developments very closely and will keep the Board updated as specific issues start coming up. He added there was a lot of work still needed to be done by state agencies as this moves forward.

Supervisor Olsen voiced appreciation for Mr. Sheikh’s comments about being mindful of disadvantaged communities and said often they are left behind when completely nonsensical statements are made by leaders to gain political favor or points. She added she does see this as an opportunity for the District to lead given that it has a fantastic history of being able to bring people together from

different perspectives, such as business, social justice, and environmental justice communities, to work toward solutions. She said she believes this order is powerless unless it is followed up with legislation. Regardless, she said this is a critical opportunity for the District to play a role here in recommending solutions by pointing to successes we have had here in the Valley. She said an incentive-based approach, as we have often deployed within our District, can help move that along more quickly, but a mandated approach only hurts individuals, families, and businesses.

Supervisor Olsen asked if there are requirements for charging infrastructure in new buildings, particularly public agency buildings. Mr. Sheikh said the District does not have a requirement for charging infrastructure on new building projects; however, under the District's Indirect Source Review Rule, the District provides credit for projects that include charging infrastructure. Installing this infrastructure would help meet the requirements of the rule. He also said the District operates the Charge Up program which has been successful in assisting to build up charging infrastructure in the Valley. Lastly, he added the District has been working with lower income communities to promote electric vehicles through the Tune In Tune Up vehicle replacement program.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner mentioned that she was part of a stakeholder call for the executive orders and she commented on the fact that the Valley is really central to making this work. A critical component will be bringing the actual manufacturing jobs and to make that infrastructure happen here in Valley. She said she was told they are looking at ways to do this, perhaps through a similar model as the transformative climate community program. She said we should all keep pushing to bring these jobs and manufacturing opportunities here to the Valley. She added that her local park has two charging stations and she felt like that is such a model to see how we envision entire communities transforming to be supportive of zero emission vehicles and transportation.

Councilmember Fugazi said she wholeheartedly agreed with Supervisor Olsen's comments in terms of charging stations and the need to include charging infrastructure for new building projects, especially those surrounded by disadvantaged communities. She commented on a Southern California Edison program that is installing 30,000 charging stations in disadvantaged communities and noted this is needed in South Stockton, which has highly disadvantaged, older homes with older electrical panels. She said many of these residents with electric vehicles have to travel many miles to get their vehicles charged. In regards to the Executive Order, she said the bottom line for her is that she can support it but it needs to have the funding behind it. She said you cannot throw that out there and not provide funding to communities in order to actually embrace and follow through with this because it will not be attainable.

Dr. Sherriffs said these were wonderful comments by the Board members and thanked staff for the presentation and clarification about the meaning and implications of the Executive Orders. He said the District could develop guidance

in a whole variety of areas to help promote these orders, to help cities and counties with this infrastructure issue as they think about zoning or building codes. He said it was important to note the cost difference between building this infrastructure in the beginning, versus trying to retrofit later on. He said it was great that the District was taking a leadership role based on Mr. Sheikh's comments about including charging infrastructure in some of these new projects.

Supervisor Crocker emphasized that we continue to be very engaged in this area, recognizing that we have gotten the short end of the stick quite of few times in the Valley, especially in our rural disadvantaged communities. He said as we have heard from other Board members, we recognize that we need additional resources to help us out. He noted there have been vehicles stuck in the fire complexes for several weeks and there is no charging infrastructure out there. He encouraged staff to look at some type of exemptions as they are discussing this because it is just not feasible to have all electric vehicles in certain situations. He said it was important to recognize that we have a diverse community, with diverse needs, and we should be able to have some type of flexibility.

Councilmember Reyes voiced appreciation for Board comments and said it was clear that we are beginning a paradigm shift. He said there is a lot of guidance and education that needs to happen, but also time is the thing that will help answer some of these questions. He said it is kind of a chicken and egg scenario when some of the grants to get these vehicles are somewhat dependent on the infrastructure. He said the District is staying engaged and has been nothing but supportive to the City of Porterville. He said Porterville has expanded to a demand service using electric vehicles and also joined a regional transit agency to help proliferate the idea and if not, just proliferate the economy of transit. He said we need to keep the foot on the pedal and keep going, and encourage people to make that change especially when they have the opportunity to do so.

Supervisor Elliott asked about the purpose of executive orders addressing biodiversity. Mr. Jordan responded that it deals with conservation of working lands and public lands. He said there were two sides in that Executive Order. One deals with biodiversity, which is not a direct air quality issue. But the other piece of conserving those lands deals with carbon sequestration. Supervisor Elliott said he certainly supports the efforts to improve our forest management and all of the advantages in terms of cleaning up the environment and preventing some of these terrible wildfires.

Chairman Pedersen commented on the latter of the Executive Orders and said we had one of the greatest agriculture conservation acts anywhere, the Williamson Act. He said it is important to remind folks that there were great programs in this state and there are millions of acres of agricultural lands in the state that provide carbon sequestration. Instead, the priority is to push potable water out into the ocean and millions of acres are going dry. He said this is a reminder of good policy gone bad because we are talking about trying to be green, yet we are turning the Valley brown. He added there are effects to every

act this state takes.

Dr. Sherriffs commented this might be an opportune time for the District to consider putting forward a plan to electrify, where feasible and practical, our own fleet. He said it is clear we have staff who embrace electric vehicles and have the charging infrastructure installed at our offices. Mr. Sheikh responded that staff have identified opportunities within the District fleet where electric vehicles make sense and have transitioned those vehicles.

Supervisor Olsen echoed Dr. Sherriffs comments and said she wholeheartedly agreed with moving further to convert fleet vehicles to electric and suggested providing a report that we can take around the state and show the District's best practices.

Councilmember Fugazi left at 12:20 p.m.
Mayor Vierra left at 12:30 p.m.

14. APPOINT AD HOC GOVERNING BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE FOR NOMINATE CANDIDATES FOR THE 2021 GOVERNING BOARD CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR
Mr. Sheikh said consistent with the Governing Board Officer Selection Policies, the purpose of this item was to appoint an Ad Hoc Governing Board Officer Nomination Subcommittee to nominate candidates for the 2021 Governing Board Chair and Vice Chair, and to communicate to the Subcommittee the Board's priorities that should be considered in evaluating nominees.

The Chair appointed Supervisor Pareira, Supervisor Couch, Mayor Bessinger, Vice Mayor Reyes, Dr. Sherriffs and himself to the Ad Hoc Governing Board Officer Nomination Subcommittee.
15. VERBAL REPORT ON CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD (CARB) ACTIVITIES – Dr. Sherriffs provided highlights of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) meetings of September 10th and 24th, 2020.
16. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/APCO COMMENTS – Mr. Sheikh recommended that the Board hold a meeting on the tentative November 19, 2020 meeting date. He asked Board members to notify him of any concerns or questions. In addition, he mentioned that staff are gearing up for the annual Check Before You Burn season and Burn Cleaner program outreach which begins on November 1st.
17. GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – None

18. **CLOSED SESSION** - Annette Ballatore, District Counsel, announced that the Board would adjourn to Closed Session to discuss the item below followed by adjournment.

- Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d), conference with legal counsel to consider one potential case:
Medical Advocates for Healthy Air v. USEPA, 9th Cir. Case No. 20-72780, filed September 17, 2020, pending litigation.

Public Comment: None

Chairman Pedersen adjourned the meeting to Closed Session at 12:35 p.m.

Ms. Ballatore announced the Board met in Closed Session to consider the matter of **Medical Advocates for Healthy Air v. USEPA**, and based upon a motion by Supervisor Mendes and a second by Mayor Bessinger, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the District to move to intervene in that action.

ADJOURN

Chairman Pedersen adjourned from Closed Session at 12:51 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Governing Board is: Thursday, November 19, 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.