

Action Summary Minutes

San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District

**GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

Thursday, May 18, 2023

**Meeting was held via video teleconference (VTC): Central Region Office, Governing Board Room, 1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue, Fresno, the Southern Region Office, VTC Room, 34946 Flyover Court, Bakersfield, and teleconference in the Northern Region Office, VTC Room, 4800 Enterprise Way, Modesto. Members of the public were allowed to participate in-person at any of the referenced locations or remotely via Zoom webinar. The meeting was also webcast.**

- 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER – The Chair, Supervisor Vito Chiesa, called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m.
- 2. ROLL CALL – was taken and a quorum was present.

*Present:*

Vito Chiesa, Supervisor, <b>Chair</b>	Stanislaus County
Deborah Lewis, Councilmember, <b>Vice Chair</b>	City of Los Banos
David Couch, Supervisor	Kern County
Rosa Escutia-Braaton, Councilmember	City of Modesto
Robert Macaulay, Supervisor	Madera County
Buddy Mendes, Supervisor	Fresno County
Tania Pacheco-Werner PhD	Appointed by Governor
Lloyd Pareira, Supervisor	Merced County
Alvaro Preciado, Mayor	City of Avenal
Gilberto Reyna, Councilmember	City of Wasco
Robert Rickman, Supervisor	San Joaquin County
Rusty Robinson, Supervisor	Kings County
Alexander Sherriffs, M.D.	Appointed by Governor
Amy Shuklian, Supervisor	Tulare County

*Absent:*

Councilmember Bessinger

- 3. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR – ITEM NUMBERS (11-14)
  - 11. APPROVE ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY UNIFIED GOVERNING BOARD MEETING OF THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023
  - 12. RECEIVE AND FILE LIST OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS FOR 2023

13. RECEIVE AND FILE OPERATIONS STATISTICS SUMMARY FOR APRIL 2023
14. RECEIVE AND FILE BUDGET STATUS REPORTS AS OF APRIL 30, 2023

Public Comment: None

*Moved:* Mendes  
*Seconded:* Lewis  
*Ayes:* Couch, Escutia-Braaton, Lewis, Macaulay, Mendes, Pacheco-Werner, Pareira, Preciado, Reyna, Rickman, Robinson, Sherriffs, Shuklian, Chiesa  
*Nays:* None

***Motion carried to approve Consent Calendar (Items 11-14).***

4. PUBLIC COMMENT – The following individual provided public comment at this meeting:
  - Connie Young, Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL)
5. REPORT ON DISTRICT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES – Manuel Cunha, Citizens Advisory Committee Chair, reported on highlights from the meeting held on May 2, 2023.
6. ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE \$18,590,223 IN ADDITIONAL REVENUE FROM THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO FUND THE REPLACEMENT OF LOW-DUST NUT HARVESTERS AND WOOD BURNING DEVICES – Todd DeYoung, Director of Grants and Incentives, presented this item seeking the Board’s approval to accept and appropriate funds that the District has been awarded by the federal EPA to replace nut harvesting equipment with new low-dust equipment, and to replace open hearth fireplaces and old wood or pellet burning devices with a new, cleaner option such as gas or electric heating device.

Mr. Chiesa inquired about when the programs would be open. Mr. DeYoung answered that the programs would be open almost immediately for new applications after a few administrative tasks are completed.

Mr. Robinson inquired about the cost of the harvester and whether it is utilized more by small or larger farmers. Mr. DeYoung explained the cost range of the harvesters can vary between \$150,000 and \$300,000 depending on the specific equipment. Mr. DeYoung further explained that the program has been utilized by both small and large farmers.

Dr. Sherriffs expressed his enthusiasm for the low-dust nut harvester program as it helps to deploy new technology. Dr. Sherriffs requested clarification regarding the statistics given for PM2.5 emission reductions from the program. Mr. Sheikh explained harvest related activities result in both PM10 and PM2.5, with PM2.5 being a part of the total PM10 emissions. The emission reduction statistic presented is for the PM2.5 portion of the emission reductions.

Mr. Preciado asked for an explanation of the specifications of the low dust harvester, whether they are electric or diesel engines and what makes them more effective in reducing dust. Mr. DeYoung answered that the equipment types vary and utilize multiple technologies depending on the manufacturer, and that they are primarily powered by Tier 4 diesel engines, which are currently the cleanest available diesel engines.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner expressed her excitement for the implementation of this program and looks forward to the emission reductions and the positive public health impacts.

Mr. Couch asked if these new funds could be stacked with existing funds for the similar programs operated within the AB617 communities. Mr. Sheikh responded that this specific program will be available valley-wide and the funds could not be stacked with funds from the existing programs operated within the AB617 communities.

Public Comment: *The following individual(s) commented on this item:*

- Manuel Cunha, Nisei Farmers League (NFL)
- Janet Dietzkamei, Resident

Moved: Couch

Seconded: Mendes

Ayes: Couch, Escutia-Braaton, Lewis, Macaulay, Mendes, Pacheco-Werner, Pareira, Preciado, Reyna, Rickman, Robinson, Sherriffs, Shuklian, Chiesa

Nays: None

***Motion unanimously carried to (1) accept \$18,590,223 from the United States Environmental Protection Agency for the following projects: (a) \$10,000,000 to replace nut-harvesting equipment with low-dust nut harvesting equipment, and (b) \$8,590,223 to change out open-hearth fireplaces or non-certified wood burning devices with new electric heat pumps, gas devices, or certified wood-burning devices; and (2) approve the attached budget resolution to amend the 2022-23 District Budget to appropriate \$18,590,223 in additional revenue.***

7. ADOPT PROPOSED PM2.5 CONTINGENCY MEASURE STATE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN REVISION AND AMENDMENTS TO RULE 4901 (WOOD BURNING FIREPLACES AND WOOD BURNING HEATERS) – Jon Klassen, Director of Air Quality Science and Planning, and Emily Kneeland, Program Manager, presented this item seeking the Governing Board's adoption of the PM2.5 Contingency Measure State Implementation Plan Revision and amendments to District Rule 4901 (*Wood Burning Fireplaces and Wood Burning Heaters*).

Mr. Chiesa asked if EPA will approve the PM2.5 contingency package. Mr. Sheikh responded the plan revision was developed with significant engagement with CARB and EPA and is consistent with draft guidance. He said staff believe the package before the Board is fully approvable, but ultimately will have to wait for EPA's action on the final outcome.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner thanked the staff for all of the continued dialogue and work on this plan, she also requested more information on what CARB and EPA have proposed. Mr. Sheikh responded that CARB and EPA do not have any official proposed measures; however, based on the District's current understanding, the state is considering potential enhancements to smog requirements and federal EPA may consider locomotive emissions requirements.

Ms. Escutia-Braaton asked for clarification on the common sources of PM2.5 emissions. Mr. Sheikh responded that PM2.5 is generally either directly emitted through combustion or other sources, or formed in the atmosphere from complex reactions of various chemicals. He gave further clarification on how different types of PM2.5 pose a variety of health risks.

Dr. Sherriffs asked how many parcels would potentially be affected by the potential changes to the fugitive dust requirements of District Rule 8051 (*Open Areas*) and how would those affected be notified and educated on any changes to prepare accordingly. Mr. Sheikh responded that the District is currently working to estimate the inventory of parcels and better understand the potential impacts of changes to this rule. Mr. Sheikh also expressed that the reason for most of these activities is for fire prevention and we will be processing these factors as we go through the public process for the rule.

Public Comment: *The following individual(s) commented on this item:*

- Janet Dietzkamei, Resident
- Kevin Hamilton, Central California Asthma Collaborative

Moved: Mendes  
Seconded: Shuklian  
Ayes: Couch, Escutia-Braaton, Lewis, Macaulay, Mendes, Pacheco-Werner, Pareira, Preciado, Reyna, Rickman, Robinson, Sherriffs, Shuklian, Chiesa  
Nays: None

***Motion unanimously carried to (1) adopt the PM2.5 Contingency Measure State Implementation Plan Revision to address PM2.5 Standard requirements under the Clean Air Act; (2) adopt amendments to Rule 4901 (Wood Burning Fireplaces and Wood Burning Heaters); and (3) authorize the Chair to sign the resolution.***

8. VERBAL REPORT ON CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD ACTIVITIES – Dr. Pacheco-Werner shared an update on a recent meeting that she attended with Mr. Sheikh and Mr. Jordan that included representatives from the agricultural industry, several state agencies, including CARB, and the public utilities focused on the implementation and infrastructure challenges surrounding the Advanced Clean Fleets regulation.

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/APCO COMMENTS – Mr. Sheikh thanked Dr. Pacheco-Werner for taking the time to participate in the aforementioned meeting on infrastructure challenges as the state aims to transition to zero-emissions technologies.

Mr. Sheikh also shared a brief update on some District activities:

- Commercial landscaping program is being revamped and will now be called Zero Emissions Landscaping Equipment program
- Bike to work month had a large number of staff participating in support of emission reduction efforts
- Recent Fire Partner Coordinator’s meeting was held with local land management partners to discuss prescribed burns and how to work together as we go into prepare for summer wildfire season

10. GOVERNING BOARD COMMENTS – Ms. Escutia-Braaton thanked everyone for the warm welcome and expressed how impressed she is with the importance of the work and the sincerity of everyone working to achieve these goals.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner shared an event she attended focused on school bus electrification and thought it might be an idea to consider to for the use of newly approved funds.

Mr. Mendes shared that measure C transportation authority has allocated money to school districts for buses, but have heard from many rural communities that the routes are too long for the range electric buses currently offer.

Mr. Preciado commented he is concerned for the upcoming fire season due to

the heavy rains this year and the resulting increase in vegetation. He shared that he hopes for collaboration between farmers, businesses, and community members.

Mr. Robinson commended Mr. Sheikh and the entire staff for doing a great job with the balance it takes to make such great achievements.

11. **CLOSED SESSION** – After providing an opportunity for members of the public to comment on matters to be discussed, the Board recessed to closed session at 12:40 p.m.

Following closed session, Annette Ballatore, District Counsel, announced that a summary of any reportable actions taken in closed session will be provided to the Clerk of the Board, which will be available to the public upon request.

Public Comment: None

**ADJOURN** – Chairman Chiesa adjourned the meeting at 1:01 p.m.