

Action Summary Minutes
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 5, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

The Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting was held via video teleconference (VTC): with the Central Region Office (Fresno), the Northern Region Office (4800 Enterprise Way, Modesto, CA 95356), and the Southern Region Office (34946 Flyover Court, Bakersfield, CA 93308). Members of the public were allowed to participate in-person at any of the referenced locations or remotely via Zoom webinar. The CAC Meeting was also webcast.

1. CALL TO ORDER – The Chair, Patricia Matthews, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.
2. ROLL CALL – was taken and a quorum was present to hold the meeting.

County	Member Name	Interest Group	Location
Fresno	Manuel Cunha	IAIG (P)	Fresno
	Mary Fast ¹	CIG (P)	Fresno
Kern	Christine Zimmerman	IAIG (P)	Bakersfield
	John Sanders ²	EIG (P)	Bakersfield
Kings	Laura Brown ³	IAIG (P)	Fresno
	Brayden Sanchez	EIG (A)	Fresno
	Patricia Matthews	CIG (P)	Fresno
Madera	Laura Gutile	IAIG (P)	Fresno
Merced	Denise Holmes	EIG (P)	Modesto
San Joaquin	Ned Leiba	EIG (P)	Modesto
	Ben Cantu	CIG (P)	Modesto
Stanislaus	Chris Savage ⁴	IAIG (A)	Modesto
	Jami Aggers	EIG (P)	Modesto
Tulare	Dennis Mederos	CIG (P)	Fresno

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

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. APPROVE MINUTES FOR APRIL 7, 2026

Ms. Matthews asked for member comments on the minutes from the April 7, 2026 Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting. With no comments, the Chair declared

¹ Left at 11:00 a.m.

² Arrived at 10:10 a.m.

³ Arrived at 10:21 a.m.

⁴ Arrived at 10:07 a.m.

the Minutes approved.

Public Comment: No individuals provided comments during the time allotted for public comments on this item.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No individuals provided comments during the time allotted for public comments on this item.

6. CHAIR COMMENTS

Ms. Matthews thanked the committee members for their attendance.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/APCO COMMENTS

Deputy APCO, Sheraz Gill provided the CAC with updates on the District's upcoming annual report, highlighting District programs and accomplishments will be published in the coming weeks and made available for public distribution. He also announced a special Governing Board public hearing on May 14, 2026, to review the recommended FY 2026–2027 budget. Lastly, Mr. Gill spoke about ongoing legislative advocacy efforts to secure incentive funding for San Joaquin Valley air quality programs in anticipation of the Governor's May budget revision.

Mr. Cunha commended the District's annual report and suggested distributing copies to key state and federal agencies, legislators, and officials to highlight the District's accomplishments and air quality efforts. Mr. Gill thanked Mr. Cunha for the suggestions.

8. VERBAL UPDATE ON DAIRY AND LIVESTOCK METHANE INFORMATIONAL SOLICITATION

Emily Read, CARB Representative, provided an update on SB 1383 implementation efforts related to methane reductions in the dairy and livestock sector, including ongoing incentive programs, stakeholder engagement, and development of a regulatory plan. She also announced a public information solicitation seeking feedback on methane emissions data and reduction strategies, with comments accepted through May 29, 2026.

Mr. Leiba asked whether CARB's efforts were focused solely on greenhouse gas emissions rather than criteria pollutants. Ms. Anthy Alexiades, CARB Manager of Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Policy Section, confirmed the efforts are focused on methane reduction strategies, while noting that many of the incentivized programs also provide co-pollutant benefits.

Mr. Cantu questioned how methane from cows could realistically be reduced. Ms. Alexiades responded that current efforts focus on capturing manure methane through digesters and exploring emerging reduction strategies, with the solicitation intended to gather additional ideas for further research and program development.

Mr. Mederos highlighted the long-standing use of dairy digesters in Kings and Tulare Counties, noting significant investment across dairies. Ms. Alexiades confirmed CARB's support through incentive programs that have driven adoption of these systems to convert manure methane into clean fuel. She noted that SB 1383 goal of a 40% methane reduction by 2030.

Mr. Cunha raised concerns about the high cost and maintenance of dairy digesters and funding support for farmers. Ms. Alexiades reiterated CARB's focus on methane reduction through incentive programs and ongoing evaluation of effective strategies.

Ms. Gutile asked what penalties would apply if the 2030 methane reduction target is not met. Ms. Alexiades responded that there are no penalties, explaining that CARB's approach relies on voluntary and incentive-based strategies, and that the current process is focused on evaluating additional actions needed to achieve the target as the deadline approaches.

Ms. Holmes requested clarification on the 2013 baseline emissions and how reductions toward the methane target are calculated, including whether changes in livestock numbers are reflected. Ms. Alexiades stated the 2013 baseline is approximately 22 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent and confirmed that emissions calculations do account for changes in livestock population. She offered to follow up with additional information on the calculation methodology and current progress toward the reduction target.

Ms. Holmes asked whether cattle diet and feed research is included in emissions calculations. Ms. Alexiades explained emissions are calculated on a per-animal basis and vary by management practices, but noted data gaps in tracking ongoing methane reduction practices. She added that CARB is seeking input to improve data and accounting methods through the current solicitation.

Mr. Cantu asked whether CARB's projections suggest a future point where dairy operations would effectively phase out due to regulations and targets. Ms. Alexiades responded that there are no mandatory emissions reduction requirements for dairies and emphasized that CARB relies on voluntary, incentive-based programs to support methane reduction and develop enabling infrastructure and markets.

No individuals provided comments during the time allotted for public comments on this item.

9. VERBAL REPORT FROM CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD (CARB)

Shelah Ott, CARB Representative provided a verbal update on CARB's recent and upcoming actions.

Mr. Cunha requested clearer reporting on incentive dollar amounts and raised concerns about accessibility of outreach to landscape maintenance workers. Ms. Ott responded that staff will work to include funding details in updates and improve outreach language, format, and scheduling.

Ms. Brown commended CARB staff for their responsiveness and effectiveness during CTC workshops but noted the online system remains clunky and needs improvement. Ms. Ott thanked her for the feedback and said she would pass along the comments and support efforts to improve the system.

Ms. Matthews raised concerns that the San Joaquin Valley faces pollution impacts not fully caused by local sources and asked whether other air districts are addressing similar issues. Mark Hixon, CARB Manager of Central Valley Air Quality Planning, responded that planning does account for pollution from outside the District, but acknowledged disparities in air quality challenges and regulatory stringency, noting that the Valley faces more severe conditions than some other regions.

10. UPDATE ON ATTAINMENT PLANS AND RULES

Tim Franquist, Director of Air Quality Planning, updated the CAC on current air quality planning and rule development efforts.

Mr. Leiba asked about the status of the 9 micrograms per cubic meter standard. Mr. Franquist responded that EPA litigation has placed the standard in abeyance for nonattainment planning, though it still applies for permitting, and final EPA designations are still pending.

11. RESIDENTIAL WOODSMOKE REDUCTION STRATEGY AND REPORT ON 2025-2026 WINTER SEASON AIR QUALITY

Jon Klassen, Director of Air Quality Science and Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer presented the District's report on implementation of the residential woodsmoke reduction strategy for the 2025–2026 winter season.

Mr. Cunha asked whether air quality fluctuations were driven by fires or weather. Mr. Klassen explained it varies by season, including wildfire impacts and winter inversions, and noted overall improvement with the most recent winter showing no unhealthy PM2.5 days.

Mr. Mederos asked about the consistency between gas incentives and long-term electrification goals. Ms. Holt responded that the District is focused on immediate, fuel-agnostic emission reductions (such as wood-to-gas) while also beginning to incorporate electric options over time.

Ms. Brown asked about proactive monitoring. Ms. Holt explained it involves targeted surveillance in areas with past violations or likely wood-burning devices, conducted on no-burn days when thresholds are in effect.

Mr. Leiba requested clarification on cost-effectiveness data and questioned the use of PM2.5 monitoring to show localized exposure. Ms. Holt said staff would follow up on cost information and explained that the District uses fixed, higher-grade monitors but does not use handheld devices or monitor inside homes.

Mr. Cunha commended the District's report, outreach efforts, and emission reduction results, and encouraged continued use of targeted "hot spot" strategies to achieve further reductions.

Ms. Matthews shared her concerns about affordability and the higher cost of electric heat pumps, noting the need for better cross-sector coordination to improve feasibility and thanked staff for the presentation.

12. AB 617 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

Stephanie Ng, Director of Community Strategies and Resources, provided an update on AB 617 Community Air Protection Program activities. Michelle Byars, Air Pollution Specialist for CARB's Office of Community Air Protection, provided updates on upcoming AB 617 activities, including a June 25 CARB Board meeting to consider approval of the consultation group charter, a July 2 statewide AB 617 program update, and a July 22 consultation group meeting to discuss the multi-year work plan and related priorities.

13. OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS REPORTS

Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer, provided updates on recent outreach events and wildfire preparedness efforts, including coordination with land managers on prescribed burning to reduce wildfire risk and smoke impacts. She also highlighted ongoing residential and commercial incentive programs promoting zero-emission landscaping equipment, as well as continued public outreach on these programs. In addition, Ms. Holt announced the upcoming release of the annual report and new one-page, county-specific summaries designed to better communicate air quality progress.

Ms. Zimmerman commended staff for the new one-page air quality summaries, noting they will be useful for advocacy efforts in Kern County, Sacramento, and Washington, D.C., and helpful in communicating shared goals with industry partners.

14. CAC MEMBER COMMENTS – None

15. VOLUNTEER TO PRESENT REPORT DURING GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Mr. Cunha volunteered to present the CAC report at the May Governing Board Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.