

Action Summary Minutes

San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District

**GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

Thursday, January 15, 2026

**Meeting was held via video teleconference: 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, and 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 Amy Shuklian, called the meeting to order at 9:16 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

*Present:*

Amy Shuklian, Supervisor, <b>Chair</b>	Tulare County
Bobby Macaulay, Supervisor, <b>Vice Chair</b>	Madera County
Vito Chiesa, Supervisor	Stanislaus County
David Couch, Supervisor	Kern County
Rosa Escutia-Braaton, Councilmember <sup>1</sup>	City of Modesto
Deborah Lewis, Mayor Pro Tem <sup>2</sup>	City of Los Banos
Buddy Mendes, Supervisor	Fresno County
Tania Pacheco-Werner, PhD	Appointed by Governor
Gilberto Reyna, Mayor Pro Tem	City of Wasco
Robert Rickman, Supervisor	County of San Joaquin
Alexander Sherriffs, M.D.	Appointed by Governor
Elizabeth Wynn, Vice Mayor	City of Visalia

*Absent:*

Lloyd Pareira, Supervisor	Merced County
Rusty Robinson, Supervisor	Kings County
Jose Rodriguez, Councilmember	City of Madera

A quorum was present.

<sup>1</sup> Left at 10:19 a.m.

<sup>2</sup> Arrived at 9:19 a.m.

3. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR – ITEM NUMBERS (14-21)

14. APPROVE ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY UNIFIED AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEETING OF DECEMBER 18, 2025
15. RECEIVE AND FILE LIST OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS FOR 2026
16. RECEIVE AND FILE SUMMARY OF RULES AND PLANS
17. RECEIVE AND FILE OPERATIONS STATISTICS SUMMARY FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2025
18. RECEIVE AND FILE BUDGET STATUS REPORTS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2025
19. CONTRACT WITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/ APCO
20. CONTRACT WITH DISTRICT COUNSEL
21. RECEIVE AND FILE QUARTERLY UPDATE TO THE BEST AVAILABLE CONTROL TECHNOLOGY (BACT) CLEARINGHOUSE

Annette Ballatore, District Counsel, provided a brief summary of the recommended contracts included in consent items 19 and 20.

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

*Moved:* Sherriffs

*Seconded:* Mendes

*Ayes:* Chiesa, Couch, Escutia-Braaton, Lewis, Macaulay, Mendes, Pacheco-Werner, Reyna, Rickman, Sherriffs, Shuklian, Wynn

*Nays:* None

***Motion unanimously carried to approve Consent Calendar (Items 14-21).***

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following individual(s) provided public comment during this item:

- Connie Young, Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL)

5. S.T.A.R. RECOGNITION (Service, Teamwork, Attitude, Respect)

Adriana Myovich, Director of Human Resources, recognized the following staff

members for reaching a service milestone during the fourth quarter of 2025:

**Five Years of Service**

William Chen, Senior Programmer Analyst  
Alexis Contreras, Programmer Analyst

**Ten Years of Service**

Michael Corder, Senior Air Quality Specialist  
Martin Velasco, Senior Air Quality Instrument Technician

**Fifteen Years of Service**

Donny Hockett, Air Quality Inspector  
Lily Liu, Programmer Analyst  
Cecelia Rocha, Programmer Analyst

**Twenty Years of Service**

Noemi Calderon, Office Assistant  
Brian Clerico, Supervising Air Quality Engineer

**Twenty-five Years of Service**

Dustin Brown, Supervising Air Quality Engineer  
Colette Kincaid, Senior Air Quality Specialist  
Patia Siong, Supervising Air Quality Specialist

6. **RECEIVE AND FILE ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT AND SINGLE AUDIT REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

Mario Orosco, Director of Finance and Administrative Services, introduced Osvaldo Gutierrez of Price, Page & Company, who presented the results of the independent audit of the District's financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025.

The auditors issued an unmodified ("clean") opinion, concluding that the District's financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the District and the respective changes in financial position for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

This opinion reflects a positive audit outcome and confirms the integrity and accuracy of the District's financial reporting.

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

7. APPROVE THE DISTRICT'S 2026 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Mark Montelongo, Director of Policy and Government Affairs, presented the District's recommended 2026 Legislative Platform. He explained that the Platform provides policy guidance for the coming year and reflects the unique air quality, economic, and public health needs of the San Joaquin Valley. The Platform includes the following priorities:

1. (State/Federal) Funding for Clean Air Projects
2. (State/Federal) Engagement on New Initiatives to Maximize Opportunities for Reducing Air Pollution Emissions
3. (State) Support Greenhouse Gas Reduction Measures that Provide for Local Criteria and Toxic Air Emissions Benefits
4. (State) Supporting Impacted Communities
5. (State/Federal) Transformational Investment in Transportation Emission Reduction Programs
6. (Federal) Support Federal Investment in Low Carbon Transportation Programs in the Surface Transportation Reauthorization
7. (Federal) Work with Federal Government to Advance Streamlined and Efficient Implementation of Clean Air Act Mandates
8. (Federal) Working with Federal Government to Reduce Emissions from On-Road Heavy-Duty Trucks, Locomotives, and other Mobile Sources under Federal Jurisdiction
9. (State/Federal) District Policy Position on the Deployment of Near-Zero and Zero-Emission Technologies
10. (State/Federal) Infrastructure for Next Generation of Clean Vehicles and Equipment
11. (State) Small Agricultural Truck Fleet Assistance Program
12. (State/Federal) Support Efforts that Provide for Cost-Effective Alternatives to Open Burning of Agricultural Waste
13. (State/Federal) Support Efforts that Address Drought, Water, and Air Impacts
14. (State/Federal) Air Quality Research Funding
15. (State/Federal) Support Clean Air Technology Demonstration Efforts
16. (State/Federal) Support Underfired Charbroiler Technology Certification and Demonstration Efforts

17. (State) Support Local and State Efforts to Reduce the Availability and Use of Illegal Fireworks
18. (State/Federal) Support Adequate Resources and Policies to Reduce the Impact of Wildfires and their Attendant Public Health Impact

Lynn Jacquez of Husch Blackwell, the District's federal legislative advocate, provided an update on federal legislative efforts. Sylvia Solis Shaw of Shaw, Yoder, Antwih, Schmelzer, and Lange, the District's state legislative advocate, provided an update on state legislative developments.

Councilmember Escutia-Braaton asked whether the Governor's proposed \$177 million allocation for the Community Air Protection Program was in addition to the previously referenced \$250 million in continuous funding. Mr. Montelongo clarified that the \$177 million reflects the same revenue source, with annual amounts dependent on available cap-and-trade revenues. Mr. Sheikh further explained that the continuous appropriation is revenue-dependent and subject to adjustment based on auction proceeds and budget projections.

Councilmember Escutia-Braaton also requested examples of Community Air Protection Program funding. Mr. Sheikh noted that the program supports community engagement and a broad range of emission-reduction incentives, including equipment replacement grants, air purifiers, and other Board-approved initiatives, with allocations determined annually through the District's budgeting and incentive spending plan process.

Supervisor Mendes asked Ms. Jacquez to comment on increasing challenges in Congress. Ms. Jacquez described heightened partisanship, narrow House majorities, and reduced legislative productivity, but highlighted renewed bipartisan engagement in appropriations and emphasized the continued importance of strategic advocacy.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner inquired whether pursuing standalone legislation for specific projects could be viable in light of reduced grant funding. Ms. Jacquez responded that standalone bills are rarely successful; however, the District is developing targeted project lists for congressional appropriations and continues to pursue both formula and competitive grant opportunities, often in coordination with partners.

Dr. Sherriffs asked which Platform goals are most likely to gain traction. Ms. Jacquez cited agricultural emission reduction efforts, targeted airshed programs, continued air monitoring funding, and surface transportation initiatives focused on clean energy and infrastructure.

Supervisor Macaulay asked about the status of the BioMAT program. Mr. Sheikh explained that action on the program has been delayed, discussions with other air districts support continuation with possible enhancements, and staff will update the Board once the program's status is clarified.

Supervisor Rickman asked about potential unfunded mandates. Ms. Solis Shaw and Mr. Sheikh stated that no significant mandates are anticipated at this time, but staff will continue monitoring legislation for amendments that could impose local costs.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner asked which District priorities are most at risk if budget conditions worsen. Ms. Solis Shaw indicated that the FARMER program is particularly vulnerable due to its lack of continuous funding and dependence on General Fund or cap-and-invest revenues. Mr. Sheikh added that alternatives to burning and clean vehicle/equipment initiatives also warrant close monitoring, though the Legislature has historically sought to maintain funding for high-priority programs even in deficit years.

Supervisor Mendes asked about the role of local officials in state office and cap-and-trade. Ms. Solis Shaw emphasized the importance of communication with local officials to advance District priorities.

Supervisor Macaulay requested adding language to support local transit agencies serving national parks, such as Sequoia and Yosemite, to enhance their eligibility for federal funding. Mr. Sheikh agreed that the proposal aligns with Platform goals and confirmed staff would incorporate the addition.

Public Comment – The following individual(s) provided public comment on this item:

- Roger Isom, Western Ag Processors Association; CA Cotton Ginners and Growers Association
- Manuel Cunha, Nisei Farmers League (NFL)
- Thomas Menz, Resident
- Christine Zimmerman, Western States Petroleum

Moved: Macaulay

Seconded: Pacheco-Werner

Ayes: Chiesa, Couch, Lewis, Macaulay, Mendes, Pacheco-Werner, Reyna, Rickman, Sherriffs, Shuklian, Wynn

Nays: None

***Motion unanimously carried to approve the District's 2026 Legislative Platform, including the addition of support for local transit agencies serving national parks, such as Sequoia and Yosemite, to enhance their eligibility for federal funding.***

8. RECEIVE ACCEPT \$12,500,000 IN STATE VEHICLE REPLACEMENT FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DISTRICT'S DRIVE CLEAN IN THE SAN JOAQUIN PROGRAM

Brian Dodds, Program Manager, presented this item requesting Board approval to accept \$12.5 million in state vehicle replacement funding and to authorize

continued agreements with Valley Clean Air Now to administer the District's Drive Clean in the San Joaquin Vehicle Replacement Program.

Vice Mayor Wynn asked whether the allocation would be sufficient to cover existing queued applications. Mr. Dodds responded that the funding is expected to cover current applications, accounting for anticipated applicant dropouts. He noted that the District may consider accepting additional applications once remaining available funds are confirmed to avoid oversubscribing the program.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner congratulated staff on the program's success and asked whether additional public education materials could be provided regarding e-bike incentives. Mr. Dodds agreed and indicated that the District could coordinate with Valley CAN to enhance outreach and informational efforts. Mr. Sheikh acknowledged Dr. Pacheco-Werner's advocacy through CARB, noting her role in helping secure funding during a challenging state budget cycle.

Mayor Pro Tem Reyna asked about the anticipated number of vehicles funded and the associated emission reductions. Mr. Dodds stated that approximately 900–1,000 vehicles are expected to be replaced and emphasized the program's strong cost-effectiveness in reducing emissions. Mayor Pro Tem Reyna also requested continued prioritization of disadvantaged rural communities, including outreach efforts in Wasco for additional applications.

Dr. Sherriffs commended the program's success and suggested adding visible branding or decals to participating vehicles to increase public awareness of the clean air benefits. Mr. Sheikh indicated staff would explore additional promotional strategies to highlight the program and its air quality message.

Public Comment – The following individual(s) provided public comment on this item:

- Manuel Cunha, Nisei Farmers League (NFL)
- Thomas Menz, Resident

Moved: Sherriffs

Seconded: Wynn

Ayes: Chiesa, Couch, Lewis, Macaulay, Mendes, Pacheco-Werner, Reyna, Rickman, Sherriffs, Shuklian, Wynn

Nays: None

***Motion unanimously carried to (1) accept and appropriate up to \$1,400,000 in additional Enhanced Fleet Modernization Program funding from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for use in the District's Drive Clean in the San Joaquin Vehicle Replacement Program; (2) accept and appropriate up to \$11,100,000 in additional Clean Cars 4 All funding from CARB for use in the District's Drive Clean in the San Joaquin Vehicle Replacement Program. Funding; and (3) authorize the Board Chair, with Executive Director/APCO recommendation, to execute an agreement with Valley Clean Air Now for the***

***continued implementation of the District's Drive Clean in the San Joaquin Vehicle Replacement Program and authorize the Executive Director/APCO to make administrative changes to the program, in order to ensure successful implementation of program funding.***

9. APPOINT AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE FOR HEARING BOARD REAPPOINTMENTS

Annette Ballatore, District Counsel, informed the Governing Board that the terms of the medical members of the District's Hearing Boards will expire at the end of February 2026. Pursuant to statutory requirements, the Governing Board must consider whether to reappoint the current members or take other action.

Ms. Ballatore recommended that the Board appoint two Governing Board members from each region to serve on an Ad Hoc Subcommittee to review the qualifications, evaluate performance and attendance, and make recommendations to the full Board regarding reappointment of the Hearing Board medical members.

Chair Shuklian appointed Councilmember Escutia-Braaton, Mayor Pro-Tem Lewis, Supervisor Macaulay, Supervisor Mendes, Vice Mayor Wynn, and herself to serve on the Ad Hoc Subcommittee for the Hearing Board reappointments.

The Subcommittee will review the matter and return to the full Governing Board with recommendations for consideration prior to the expiration of the current terms.

10. VERBAL REPORT REGARDING STATUS OF VACANCIES AND RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION EFFORTS

Adriana Myovich, Director of Human Resources, provided a verbal report on the District's current vacancies and ongoing recruitment and retention efforts. The update was presented in accordance with the reporting requirements of Assembly Bill 2561.

11. VERBAL REPORT ON CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD ACTIVITIES

Dr. Pacheco-Werner provided an update on CARB-related activities and thanked the community and District staff for coordinating CARB's visit to the Valley, encouraged public input on the ongoing Cap and Invest process, and offered to meet with stakeholders to hear feedback.

12. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/APCO COMMENTS

Mr. Sheikh highlighted an upcoming Valley event showcase the successes of the FARMER program and other District incentive initiatives, while emphasizing the importance of continued state and federal investment to sustain air quality progress.

Mr. Sheikh also reported on historic air quality improvements achieved over the past year, including the second-highest number of “good” air quality days on record, a record-low of five unhealthy days, all ozone monitoring sites measuring below federal standards, and all PM monitoring sites meeting the 24-hour standard for the first time.

Mr. Sheikh also provided a reminder about current winter stagnation conditions and recent fog-related PM increases due to the Valley’s unique geography and meteorology, noting that mitigation strategies are helping reduce pollution peaks compared to previous years. He emphasized that continued collaboration with residents, businesses, and community partners remains critical to sustaining and building upon the Valley’s air quality improvements.

13. GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Dr. Sherriffs commended staff for the significant air quality progress achieved over the past year. He inquired about the number of exceptional event days and emphasized the importance of balancing short-term improvements with sustained, long-term public health strategies. Mr. Sheikh responded that there were some minor exceptional event impacts, but confirmed that the reported values reflect actual monitored measurements.

Supervisor Mendes thanked Mr. Sheikh for referencing recent fog conditions and explained that the dense tule fog experienced in the Valley was the result of early seasonal rains combined with atmospheric stability typical during the winter rainy season.

Supervisor Shuklian announced that the World Ag Expo will be held February 10–12 in Tulare.

**ADJOURN** – Chair Shuklian adjourned the meeting at 11:59 a.m.