

Action Summary Minutes
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 3, 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 10:01a.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	CIG (P)	Fresno
Kern	Les Clark	IAIG (P)	Bakersfield
	Orchel Krier	CIG (P)	Bakersfield
Kings	Laura Brown	IAIG (P)	Fresno
	Kelly Deming	EIG (P)	Fresno
	Patricia Matthews	CIG (P)	Fresno
Madera	Laura Gutile	IAIG (A)	Fresno
	Nick DeHart	EIG(A)	Fresno
San Joaquin	Ben Cantu	CIG (P)	Modesto
Stanislaus	Chris Savage ¹	IAIG (P)	Modesto
	Maryn Pitt ²	IAIG (A)	Modesto
	Jami Aggers	EIG (P)	Modesto
	Chris Fisher	CIG (P)	Modesto
Tulare	Fernando Rios	IAIG (P)	Bakersfield
	Dennis Mederos	CIG (P)	Fresno

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

¹ Left at 11:06 a.m.

² Arrived at 11:06 a.m.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. APPROVE MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 2, 2025

Ms. Matthews asked for member comments on the minutes from the December 2, 2025 CAC meeting. With no comments, the Chair declared the Minutes approved.

Public Comment: none

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

6. CHAIR COMMENTS

Ms. Matthews welcomed the committee members.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/APCO COMMENTS

Samir Sheikh, Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer, provided an update on recent board actions and air quality progress. His highlights included recognition of the 2026 Kids Calendar winners and Employees of the Year, with special statewide recognition for Supervising Air Quality Inspector David Born, who received the 2025 Rodney Swartzendruber Outstanding Inspector Award. Mr. Sheikh also shared that the District received the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting and completed a clean independent audit with no findings. Mr. Sheikh also gave an update on air quality data for 2025 showing record progress across multiple measures.

Mr. Krier asked about recent PM fluctuations and air quality changes. Mr. Sheikh explained that winter meteorology, including stagnation, inversion layers, and tule fog, traps pollutants near the ground. He also noted that chemical reactions in the air can form additional PM_{2.5}, making wintertime air quality particularly challenging in the San Joaquin Valley.

Mr. Cunha commended the Air District's progress on PM and PM_{2.5} since 1990, noting that events like fog are beyond our control. He also offered help in securing county appointments to ensure a full slate for effective community outreach.

Mr. Mederos suggested that the District could get a head start on upcoming vacancies to streamline the process. Mr. Sheikh explained that the District already maintains frequent communication with county clerks and has refined the process over time. While

counties operate differently and delays can occur, the approach is proactive, and extra support from members is always appreciated.

8. RECOGNITION OF LES CLARK FOR 35 YEARS OF SERVICE ON THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Sheikh and the CAC members recognized Mr. Clark for over 35 years of service to the CAC, contributing to air quality progress and effective pollution reduction strategies.

Ms. Matthews thanked Mr. Clark for his long-standing service, wisdom and knowledge he has shared.

Mr. Cunha thanked Mr. Clark for all the integral contributions he has made to the Citizens Advisory Committee.

Mr. Krier shared his appreciation of Mr. Clark's positive impact on the CAC.

Mr. Clark reflected on his 35 years of service on the committee, noting it has instilled a strong sense of responsibility and commitment to improvement.

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

- Kevin Abernathy, Milk Producers Council; Dairy Cares
- Christine Zimmerman, Western States Petroleum Association (WSPA)

This item was taken out of order

11. RECEIVE UPDATE ON RECENT FUNDING ALLOCATIONS TO SUPPORT THE DISTRICT'S DRIVE CLEAN IN THE SAN JOAQUIN VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

Brian Dodds, Program Manager, provided an update on the Drive Clean in the San Joaquin Vehicle Replacement Program. The Drive Clean in the San Joaquin program provides financial incentives (up to \$12,000) to help Valley residents, especially low-income and disadvantaged communities, replace high-polluting vehicles with cleaner models.

Mr. Cunha praised the staff for their respectful and professional work with Valley Can and hopes the program continues to be funded to benefit the Valley.

Ms. Matthews noted that programs helping disadvantaged communities save money and switch to cleaner vehicles could be affected by a potential mileage tax or battery replacement issues, which might put participants at a disadvantage.

This item was taken out of order

12. DISCUSS STATE FUNDING ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Mark Montelongo, Director of Policy and Government Affairs, provided an update on the District's funding advocacy efforts. The governor's proposed 2026–27 budget projects a \$2.9 billion deficit, however, it does include \$177 million for Community Air Protection, but no funding for the Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions (FARMER) program to upgrade agricultural equipment to cleaner technology, alternatives to agricultural burning, or Clean Cars for All.

There was a consensus by the CAC members to submit a letter to the legislature advocating for the funds outlined above.

Ms. Brown emphasized using strong language in the letter to push Valley legislators, noting it's a critical time to advocate for funding improvements and action at the state level.

Ms. Gutile noted the importance of agriculture's contributions, and echoed the suggestion of using strong letters to help secure necessary funding.

Mr. Cunha thanked the team for their work advocating in Sacramento, supported sending a strong letter, and emphasized continuing efforts to secure funding for agricultural and rural programs.

Ms. Pitt asked if CAC members would receive a copy of the letter. Mr. Sheikh confirmed they would and provided a summary of its content, highlighting air quality challenges, the CAC's role, and the three key funding priorities in a strong, urgent manner.

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

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

Mr. Clark shared his concern regarding potential punitive and regulatory impacts on industry. Ms. Ott acknowledged the concern and stated that while the item is outside her scope of work, staff would look into providing additional materials or information on regulatory impacts and coordinate with appropriate staff, noting the topic's importance.

Mr. Cunha raised concerns about the cost and rationale of the proposed Tier 5 engine standards given the planned 2037 zero-emission mandate, and requested additional information for air districts. He also expressed frustration over limited incentive funding, high zero-emission vehicle costs, and reduced support for agricultural and rural programs.

Ms. Matthews reminded CAC members to submit their comments directly on the CARB agenda to ensure their input is formally received and considered.

Ms. Pitt requested a more informative presentation on CARB's greenhouse gas emission reporting, including guidance, tips, and potential impacts on manufacturing.

Ms. Deming requested additional information be sent to CAC members on the greenhouse gas emissions reporting since the deadline for public commenting is March 9th. Mr. Hixson responded that staff can compile and share the information to the clerk in the next couple of weeks to be forwarded on to the CAC.

10. UPDATE ON ATTAINMENT PLANS AND RULES

Tim Franquist, Director of Air Quality Planning reported that EPA finalized its determination that the Valley attained the 1997 annual PM_{2.5} standard by the 2024 deadline, clearing the way to complete a 20-year maintenance plan. For the 2012 annual PM_{2.5} standard, the Valley is awaiting EPA action on a five-year extension request (to 2030); without it, the District would be required to develop a new Plan (189 or 5% Plan), which would require a stringent and challenging 5% annual emissions reductions requirement until attainment is reached. Lastly, the District is proposing to amend Rule 4905 to extend the compliance deadline for low-NO_x natural gas furnaces in mobile homes. A public workshop was held with no adverse comments received.

13. AB 617 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

Stephanie Ng, Director of Community Strategies and Resources, provided an update on ongoing work with the four CARB-selected AB 617 community steering committees (Fresno, Shafter, Stockton, and Arvin-Lamont). Recent highlights include completion of the first of three paving projects in Arvin to improve walkability and reduce vehicle miles traveled, and an upcoming locomotive project in Stockton in partnership with the Port of Stockton aimed at reducing diesel PM and NO_x. CARB staff was unable to attend the meeting to provide updates and they will be shared via email.

14. OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS REPORTS

Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer, provided an update on the 2026 Kids Calendars, which are now available throughout the Valley at schools, libraries, and city halls, and the winners were recognized at the December Governing Board meeting. Staff will also be at World Ag Expo (Feb. 10–12) in Tulare at Pavilion B, Booth 2515, with outreach, grant, and compliance teams available to answer questions and connect with attendees.

15. CAC MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Krier shared concern that new policies, including potential mileage taxes, could strain residents and businesses.

Ms. Matthews echoed Mr. Krier's comment and encouraged the state to explore alternative ways to generate revenue without adding financial burden to residents and taxpayers.

16. VOLUNTEER TO PRESENT REPORT DURING GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:09 p.m.