

Action Summary Minutes

San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Thursday, March 19, 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 9:07 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present:

Amy Shuklian, Supervisor, Chair	Tulare County
David Couch, Supervisor	Kern County
Rosa Escutia-Braaton, Councilmember	City of Modesto
Deborah Lewis, Mayor Pro Tem ¹	City of Los Banos
Buddy Mendes, Supervisor ²	Fresno County
Tania Pacheco-Werner, PhD ³	Appointed by Governor
Gilberto Reyna, Mayor Pro Tem ⁴	City of Wasco
Robert Rickman, Supervisor	San Joaquin County
Rusty Robinson, Supervisor	Kings County
Jose Rodriguez, Councilmember ⁵	City of Madera
Alexander Sherriffs, M.D.	Appointed by Governor
Liz Wynn, Vice Mayor	City of Visalia

Absent:

Vito Chiesa, Supervisor	Stanislaus County
Bobby Macaulay, Supervisor	Madera County
Lloyd Pareira, Supervisor	Merced County

¹ Arrived at 9:21 a.m.

² Left at 11:01 a.m.

³ Left at 10:58 a.m.

⁴ Arrived at 9:12 a.m.

⁵ Arrived at 9:22 a.m.

A quorum was present.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR – ITEM NUMBERS (13-17)

13. APPROVE ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY UNIFIED AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEETING OF FEBRUARY 19, 2026

14. RECEIVE AND FILE LIST OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS FOR 2026

15. RECEIVE AND FILE SUMMARY OF RULES AND PLANS

16. RECEIVE AND FILE OPERATIONS STATISTICS SUMMARY FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2026

17. RECEIVE AND FILE BUDGET STATUS REPORTS AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2026

The following individual provided public comment during this item:

- Thomas Menz, Resident

Moved: Robinson

Seconded: Mendes

Ayes: Couch, Escutia-Braaton, Mendes, Pacheco-Werner, Reyna, Rickman, Robinson, Sherriffs, Shuklian, Wynn

Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried to approve Consent Calendar (Items 13-17).

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

- Connie Young, Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL)
- Manuel Cunha, Nisei Farmers League (NFL)
- Thomas Menz, Resident

6. REPORT ON CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Manuel Cunha, Citizens Advisory Committee member, reported on highlights from the meeting held on March 3, 2026.

7. ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE UP TO \$1,000,000 IN FUNDING FROM THE TULARE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS TO SUPPORT DISTRICT INCENTIVE PROGRAMS WITHIN TULARE COUNTY

Todd DeYoung, Director of Grants and Incentives, presented this item requesting the Board to accept and appropriate up to \$1,000,000 in funding from Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) to support the District's voluntary incentive programs within Tulare County.

Mr. Sheikh closed the presentation by expressing appreciation to TCAG Executive Director Ted Smalley and TCAG for their partnership.

Supervisor Shuklian thanked staff and highlighted the success of Measure R in funding projects, expressing appreciation for the partnership.

Dr. Sherriffs expressed support for the collaboration and asked about minimum funding levels and reporting. Mr. Sheikh explained that the funds would be tracked through the budget process, with regular updates provided to the board, and that the partnership would be closely monitored as a pilot effort.

Councilmember Rodriguez commended the Tune In Tune Up program's approach, highlighted its success at the Madera District Fair, and noted that it could serve as a model for other regions to support transportation and air quality goals while complementing existing initiatives.

The following individual provided public comment during this item:

- Thomas Menz, Resident

Moved: Sherriffs

Seconded: Mendes

Ayes: Couch, Escutia-Braaton, Lewis, Mendes, Pacheco-Werner, Reyna, Rickman, Robinson, Rodriguez, Sherriffs, Shuklian, Wynn

Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried to:

1) Accept and appropriate up to \$1,000,000 in funding from the Tulare County Association of Governments to support the following District incentive programs within Tulare County:

a) Tune In Tune Up Vehicle Repair Program

b) Drive Clean in the San Joaquin Vehicle Replacement Program

c) Charge Up! Electric Vehicle Charger Incentive Program

2) Authorize the Board Chair, with Executive Director/APCO recommendation, to execute an agreement with the Tulare County

Association of Governments and any subcontractors for implementation of the above-referenced District incentive programs, and authorize the Executive Director/APCO to make administrative changes as necessary to ensure successful implementation of the program funding.

3) Approve the attached Budget Resolution amending the 2025–26 District Budget to appropriate up to \$1,000,000 in new funding from the Tulare County Association of Governments, including \$945,000 in project funds and up to \$55,000 in administrative funds.

8. DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS ON RESIDENTIAL WOODSMOKE REDUCTION STRATEGY AND REPORT ON 2025-2026 WINTER SEASON AIR QUALITY

Robert Gilles, Program Manager, 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.

Councilmember Escutia-Braaton commended staff on the program's success and broad community participation, and inquired about impacts on PM2.5 reductions. Mr. Sheikh explained that replacement of wood-burning devices with cleaner alternatives is resulting in quantifiable emissions reductions and, combined with public education efforts, is contributing to improved air quality.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner commented on the program's effectiveness and emphasized the importance of contingency measures that provide federally recognized, quantifiable emissions reductions. She acknowledged the program's role in addressing both annual and 24-hour air quality standards and encouraged continued public education and support for heat pump adoption where feasible.

Supervisor Robinson asked about the cost, current usage, and vendor availability for heat pumps. Mr. Sheikh responded that participation remains relatively small but is growing, costs vary depending on home conditions, and most HVAC contractors now offer heat pumps, although affordability remains a barrier for some residents.

Vice Mayor Wynn praised staff, vendors, and outreach efforts, and shared a personal example demonstrating the program's effectiveness.

Mayor Pro Tem Lewis asked about eligibility for the heat pump incentive program, including considerations for off-grid residents using cleaner-burning stoves. Mr. Sheikh explained that incentive levels vary by county and income level. She also commented on the impact of agricultural burning in neighboring counties on local air quality and expressed appreciation for the program's benefits to residents and pets.

Dr. Sherriffs highlighted the program's success in reducing PM2.5 and emphasized the importance of addressing emissions from fireplaces and other combustion sources for public health.

Supervisor Mendes asked about heat pump systems and their compatibility with air conditioning. Mr. Sheikh clarified that heat pumps are typically integrated systems capable of both heating and cooling.

Councilmember Shuklian shared her positive experience transitioning to a cleaner heating system, noting improved convenience and safety, and expressed support for the incentive programs as effective tools to encourage further adoption.

Mayor Pro Tem Lewis also shared her experience converting to a cleaner heating system, noting improved safety and convenience, and stated that she now primarily relies on it instead of her furnace.

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

- Thomas Menz, Resident
- Christian Bisher, Resident

This item was taken out of order

10. VERBAL REPORT ON CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD ACTIVITIES

Dr. Pacheco-Werner provided an update on California Air Resources Board activities, highlighting renewed in-person engagement with District staff and the community, ongoing collaboration on Central Valley air quality issues, and upcoming work related to updated zero-emission regulations, mobile source rules, and the Cap-and-Invest program. She encouraged community members to engage with her on these initiatives.

9. ADOPT PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RULE 4905 (NATURAL GAS-FIRED, FAN-TYPE CENTRAL FURNACES)

Tim Franquist, Director of Air Quality Planning, presented this item regarding proposed amendments to Rule 4905 for natural gas-fired furnaces.

Dr. Sherriffs expressed concern regarding the proposed 2030 compliance date for manufactured home furnaces, noting it may slow technological advancement. Mr. Sheikh explained that the proposed timeline aligns with recent amendments to South Coast Air Quality Management District's furnace rule, reflects current technological limitations, allows time for future advancements, and applies to a relatively small portion of units.

Councilmember Rodriguez also raised concern that extending the compliance timeline to 2030 may slow progress, despite the relatively small contribution. Mr. Sheikh clarified that the provision affects approximately 1 percent of units sold annually, estimated at 200 to 300 units, that the associated emissions impact is limited, and that current technology constraints make earlier compliance challenging.

Supervisor Robinson expressed support for the 2030 compliance timeline, noting that the extended timeframe supports coordination with industry, provides regulatory certainty, and allows for a gradual and equitable transition.

Dr. Sherriffs asked about typical NOx emission levels for standard and manufactured home furnaces since 2005. Mr. Sheikh explained that certified residential furnaces have achieved significant emissions reductions over time, while manufactured home units, remain higher emitting but have also shown some improvement.

The following individual provided public comment during this item:

- Thomas Menz, Resident

Moved: Robinson

Seconded: Lewis

Ayes: Couch, Escutia-Braaton, Lewis, Reyna, Rickman, Robinson, Rodriguez, Sherriffs, Shuklian, Wynn

Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried to:

1) Adopt proposed amendments to Rule 4905 (Natural Gas-Fired, Fan-Type Central Furnaces).

2) Authorize the Chair to sign the attached Resolution.

11. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/APCO COMMENTS

Mr. Sheikh highlighted the recent FARMER event and recognized Board Members, CARB staff, and agricultural partners for their contributions. He noted continued efforts to advocate for Valley clean air initiatives with the Legislature and Governor and acknowledged Board Member advocacy in Sacramento through the Regional Policy Council. He also announced that due to scheduling conflicts the May Board meeting has been rescheduled to May 14 to improve participation.

12. GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Supervisor Robinson commended the FARMER event and highlighted Mayor Pro Tem Lewis's participation in the tractor-crushing activity.

Supervisor Shuklian thanked all participants involved in the FARMER event.

Mayor Pro Tem Lewis shared that the tractor-crushing event was successful and emphasized the strong demand from farmers for new equipment.

ADJOURN – Chair Shuklian adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.