

Reappoint Large City and Small City Representatives to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Governing Board

March 31, 2026

Air District Governing Board

- Pursuant to California Health & Safety Code Sec. 40600(c), the Valley Air District is governed by a 15 member board
 - 13 elected officials and 2 public members appointed by Governor
- Elected Officials
 - 8 County Supervisors
 - Selected by respective Boards of Supervisors
 - No pre-specified terms
 - 5 City Councilmembers
 - Appointed by Special City Selection Committee (60 Cities)
 - 3-year terms
 - Members are eligible to be appointed to more than one term
- Governor Appointees
 - One physician and one individual with medical or scientific expertise in health effects of air pollution
 - 4-year terms

Current City Representation on Governing Board

- Three small city representatives
 - Mayor Pro Tem Deborah Lewis, City of Los Banos (Northern Region)
 - Serving second 3-year term (ends Feb 2027)
 - Councilmember Jose Rodriguez, City of Madera (Central Region)
 - Serving first 3-year term (ends Jun 2028)
 - Mayor Pro Tem Gilberto Reyna, City of Wasco (Southern Region)
 - Completing first 3-year term April 2026
- Two large city representatives
 - Councilmember Rosa Escutia-Braaton, City of Modesto (Northern Region)
 - Completing first 3-year term April 2026
 - Vice Mayor Liz Wynn, City of Visalia (Southern Region)
 - Serving first 3-year term (ends Feb 2027)

San Joaquin Valley Special City Selection Committee

- “The special city selection committee is hereby created to appoint city council members to the district board.” (H&SC 40600.5)
- One member from each Valley city, 60 total members
- Majority of total membership constitutes quorum for holding meetings and taking action (31 members)
- Committee meetings are subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act
- The District’s air pollution control officer shall act as the special city selection committee’s permanent secretary

General Requirements for City Appointments

- The process must conform to all statutory provisions
 - Two members from cities with a population of 100,000 or more, with each member selected from different regions of the District
 - Three members from cities with a population of less than 100,000, with one member from each the three regions of the District
 - There shall be no more than one city representative from each county within the District
- City populations determined based upon the State Department of Finance population estimates at the time appointment is being made
 - 6 cities qualify as Large Cities (Stockton, Modesto, Fresno, Clovis, Visalia, Bakersfield)

Reappointment Process & Nominations

- Special City Selection Committee procedures express a preference for reappointment to a second term, when feasible, to maintain continuity and institutional knowledge
- Central Valley Division of the League of California Cities submitted a nomination recommending:
 - Councilmember Rosa Escutia-Braaton (City of Modesto) for reappointment as a Large City Representative
- South San Joaquin Valley Division submitted a nomination recommending:
 - Mayor Pro Tem Gilberto Reyna (City of Wasco) for reappointment as a Small City Representative
- Both individuals serving their first 3-year terms expiring April 20, 2026

Basis for Action and Next Steps

- Basis for Reappointment:
 - Maintains continuity in city representation
 - Preserves institutional knowledge and effective participation
 - Consistent with Committee procedures favoring reappointment
- Nominations forwarded for Committee consideration and action
- Committee Authority:
 - Final appointment authority rests with the Special City Selection Committee
 - If a nominee is not reappointed:
 - The applicable League Division(s) will work with District to advance new nomination(s) under established procedures
 - Additional meeting(s) will be scheduled as needed for consideration of nomination(s)

Recommended Committee Action

- Approve reappointment of the following individuals to second three-year terms on the Governing Board:
 - **Councilmember Rosa Escutia-Braaton**
City of Modesto (Large City Representative)
 - **Mayor Pro Tem Gilberto Reyna**
City of Wasco (Small City Representative)
- Effective Date: Upon expiration of current terms (April 20, 2026)
- Action Required: Majority vote of Special City Selection Committee (31 affirmative votes)