

Action Summary Minutes

San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Thursday, April 16, 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 9:00 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present:

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

Absent:

Gilberto Reyna, Mayor Pro Tem	City of Wasco
Rusty Robinson, Supervisor	Kings County

¹ Left at 11:16
² Arrived at 9:04
³ Arrived at 9:17
⁴ Left at 11:42
⁵ Arrived at 9:02

A quorum was present.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR – ITEM NUMBERS (15-23)
 15. APPROVE ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY UNIFIED AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEETING OF MARCH 19, 2026
 16. RECEIVE AND FILE LIST OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS FOR 2026
 17. RECEIVE AND FILE SUMMARY OF RULES AND PLANS
 18. RECEIVE AND FILE OPERATIONS STATISTICS SUMMARY FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2026
 19. RECEIVE AND FILE BUDGET STATUS REPORTS AS OF MARCH 31, 2026
 20. RECEIVE AND FILE QUARTERLY UPDATE TO THE BEST AVAILABLE CONTROL TECHNOLOGY (BACT) CLEARINGHOUSE
 21. APPROVE CONTRACT WITH ENTHALPY ANALYTICAL, LLC, TO PROVIDE LABORATORY ANALYSIS OF CARBONYL COMPOUNDS AND NON-METHANE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS FOR A TOTAL OF \$167,028
 22. APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH TROPOSPHERIC MEASUREMENT SYSTEMS INC. NOT TO EXCEED \$230,000 FOR REPLACEMENT OF BAKERSFIELD-MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AIR MONITORING SHELTER
 23. APPROVE AND AUTHORIZE CHAIR TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD FOR CONTINUED ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT OF STATE REFRIGERANT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The following individual provided public comment during this item:

- Thomas Menz, Resident

Moved: Macaulay
Seconded: Mendes
Ayes: Chiesa, Couch, Escutia-Braaton, Lewis, Macaulay, Mendes, Pareira, Rickman, Rodriguez, Sherriffs, Shuklian, Wynn
Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried to approve Consent Calendar (Items 15-23).

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following individuals provided public comment during this item:

- Connie Young, Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL)
- Thomas Menz, Resident

6. S.T.A.R. RECOGNITION – YEARS OF SERVICE MILESTONES

Adriana Myovich, Director of Human Resources, recognized the following staff members for reaching a service milestone during the first quarter of 2026:

Five Years of Service

Patrick Chimienti, Air Quality Specialist
Sean Smith, Air Quality Instrument Specialist
Stephanie Ng, Director of Community Strategies & Resources
Ryan Villane, Senior Air Quality Specialist

Ten Years of Service

Artemiza Velasco, Staff Technician
Cassandra Melching, Air Quality Education Representative

Fifteen Years of Service

Robert Gilles, Program Manager
Deu Moua, Air Quality Specialist
Jason Lawler, Director of Compliance

Twenty Years of Service

Sajjad Ahmad, Senior Air Quality Engineer
Glenn Ramming, Supervising Air Quality Inspector

Twenty-five Years of Service

Sheraz Gill, Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer
Aaron Tarango, Program Manager

7. REPORT ON CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Manuel Cunha, Citizens Advisory Committee member, reported on highlights from the meeting held on April 7, 2026.

8. REVIEW AND PROVIDE COMMENT ON THE 2025 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Executive Director/APCO Samir Sheikh and Chief Communications Officer Jaime Holt presented the draft 2025 Annual Report to the Community and requested Board feedback prior to finalization.

Board members expressed strong support for the report, commending its clarity, accessibility, and effective use of visuals.

Supervisor Macaulay and Councilmember Rodriguez suggested leveraging the report as an educational tool in schools to support youth engagement and foster future clean air leaders. Mr. Sheikh agreed and noted opportunities to further integrate the report into existing school outreach efforts, including the Healthy Air Living Schools program, and suggested a future study session to explore expanded student engagement.

Dr. Sherriffs recommended strengthening the report's discussion of the current health impacts of climate change and more clearly connecting those impacts to the District's greenhouse gas reduction efforts. Mr. Sheikh acknowledged the importance of enhancing these linkages.

Mayor Pro Tem Lewis inquired about heavy-duty truck activity along Highways 99 and Interstate 5. Mr. Sheikh responded that Interstate 5 likely carries slightly higher volumes of heavy-duty truck traffic, though both corridors experience substantial Class 7 and Class 8 truck activity.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner emphasized the importance of collaboration and commended the report's explanation of attainment progress and ongoing challenges. She encouraged broader use of the report as an outreach and legislative education tool and recommended strengthening connections between District investments, programs, emissions reductions, and air quality outcomes. She also highlighted the effectiveness of the mobile source and air monitoring content and suggested improving clarity and cross-referencing of key graphics.

Supervisor Pareira thanked staff for the report and highlighted the air quality progress information presented on page 9 as particularly effective in communicating improvements to the public.

The following individuals provided public comment during this item:

- Thomas Menz, Resident
- Connie Young, CCL
- Christian Bisher, Central California Environmental Justice Network

9. ADOPT PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RULE 4101 (VISIBLE EMISSIONS)

Jason Lawler, Director of Compliance, presented this item regarding proposed amendments to Rule 4101 (Visible Emissions).

Councilmember Rodriguez requested clarification on opacity certification, including how traditional “smoke school” field observations compare to the use of virtual reality training. Mr. Lawler explained that the virtual reality certification utilizes video recordings of actual smoke plumes, allowing participants to evaluate consistent conditions in a controlled setting without the need for field deployment.

Dr. Sherriffs commended staff for the thoroughness of the work and the District’s ability to maintain regulatory rigor while incorporating flexibility.

Mayor Pro Tem Lewis praised the District’s use of modern technology to reduce travel time and conserve resources.

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

- Manuel Cunha, Nisei Farmers League (NFL)
- Christian Bisher, CCEJN

Moved: Macaulay
Seconded: Rodriguez
Ayes: Chiesa, Couch, Escutia-Braaton, Lewis, Macaulay, Mendes,
Pacheco-Werner, Pereira, Rickman, Rodriguez, Sherriffs, Shuklian,
Wynn
Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried to:

- 1) Adopt proposed amendments to Rule 4101 (Visible Emissions).***
- 2) Authorize the Chair to sign the attached Resolution.***

10. RECEIVE UPDATE ON AGRICULTURAL OPEN BURNING PHASE-OUT STRATEGY AND APPROVE EMERGENCY MEASURES TO EXTEND AG BURN ALTERNATIVES GRANT PROGRAM THROUGH REMAINDER OF 2025-26 FISCAL YEAR

Todd DeYoung, Director of Grants and Incentives, and Jon Klassen, Director of Air Quality Science, presented an update on implementation of the District’s agricultural open burning phase-out strategy, including the Ag Burn Alternatives Grant Program, and requested Board approval of emergency measures to extend program funding through the remainder of FY 2025–26. Executive Director/APCO Samir Sheikh concluded the presentation by commending staff for effectively presenting a complex item and noted that the June Governing Board meeting will

be critical for evaluating budget conditions, incentive levels, and potential program adjustments.

Supervisor Macaulay inquired about year-over-year variations in program activity and whether changes were funding-driven. Mr. Sheikh explained that variations are primarily due to shifts in project types, including increased vineyard removals and fewer orchard removals, which affect volume and costs rather than overall funding availability. Supervisor Macaulay also asked about long-term funding demand and the implications of reduced support. Mr. Sheikh responded that demand is expected to remain steady or increase, with continued uncertainty beyond one to two years, and emphasized the importance of sustained funding to support the agricultural transition.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner emphasized the urgency of securing continued funding, highlighting prior commitments, the extent of work already completed, and the program's public health benefits.

Supervisor Chiesa underscored the importance of continued funding to maintain program success and cautioned that reduced support could significantly impact implementation. He also asked about restrictions on air curtain burners. Mr. Sheikh explained that such equipment is regulated and must meet applicable emissions and opacity requirements, and that certain materials and removal activities remain eligible for incentive funding.

Councilmember Rodriguez asked how compliance is verified for funded projects. Mr. DeYoung explained that staff conduct pre- and post-project site visits, review documentation, and verify proper material handling prior to issuing and closing out incentives. Councilmember Rodriguez emphasized the importance of transparency and accountability, noted the program's air quality benefits, and suggested exploring expanded reuse or export of biomass. Mr. Sheikh agreed and noted that the District is actively supporting and evaluating emerging markets and alternative uses.

Dr. Sherriffs expressed support for the phase-out based on public health impacts, particularly PM2.5, and asked about limited exceptions. Mr. Sheikh explained that exceptions are narrow and generally limited to incidental or diseased material that cannot be feasibly managed through alternatives.

Supervisor Mendes noted that ongoing crop cycles will continue to drive removals and likely increase demand and asked about the frequency of burn days to address public perception. Mr. Klassen explained that agricultural burning is limited to short seasonal windows, primarily in the spring and fall, due to winter restrictions and unfavorable summer dispersion conditions.

Mayor Pro Tem Lewis asked whether other air districts are partnering to support continued or increased state funding. Mr. Sheikh noted that while other districts are supportive and interested in similar approaches, the San Joaquin Valley is leading

efforts due to its unique regulatory role. He emphasized the importance of broader statewide and local support for the District's annual \$75 million funding request.

Supervisor Shuklian asked whether draft letters and supporting materials could be provided to assist local outreach efforts. Mr. Sheikh confirmed that the District will provide sample letters and supporting materials, including correspondence from the Citizen Advisory Committee.

Supervisor Pareira thanked staff for maintaining higher incentive levels for smaller farms and raised concerns about potential increases in abandoned orchards. He suggested coordination with public health and agricultural agencies to address associated risks, including rodent populations.

Supervisor Macaulay emphasized the urgency of addressing funding needs and encouraged Board members to share forthcoming support letters with their respective councils as soon as possible.

Dr. Sherriffs asked whether future state funding could replenish previously redirected local funds. Mr. Sheikh responded that while new funding would support future program needs and relieve pressure on local resources, retroactive replenishment would depend on specific funding provisions.

The following individuals provided public comment during this item:

- Manuel Cunha, Nisei Farmers League (NFL)
- Christian Bisher, CCEJN

Moved: Pacheco-Werner

Seconded: Wynn

Ayes: Chiesa, Escutia-Braaton, Lewis, Macaulay, Mendes, Pacheco-Werner, Pareira, Rickman, Rodriguez, Sherriffs, Shuklian, Wynn

Nay: None

Motion unanimously carried to:

- 1. Receive update on implementation of District's agricultural open burning phase-out strategy, including the Ag Burn Alternatives Grant Program.***
- 2. Approve the following emergency measures for the Ag Burn Alternatives Grant Program to ensure the program remains funded and available to growers through the remainder of the 2025-26 Fiscal Year (June 30, 2026):***
 - a. Adjust incentive amounts to extend the reach of the program and create more consistent applicant cost share levels across the***

various crop types, while preserving higher incentive levels for small growers.

b. Allocate up to \$4,000,000 in available community incentive funds received by the District into the 2025-26 Non-Operating Budget for the continued implementation of the Ag Burn Alternatives Grant Program. Approve Attached Budget Resolution.

c. Reallocate up to \$4,000,000 in existing District incentive funding from the Fireplace and Woodstove Replacement Program to the Ag Burn Alternatives Program.

3. Authorize the Executive Director/APCO to make administrative changes to the program as necessary to ensure successful implementation of program funding.

11. VERBAL REPORT ON CLEAN AIR ACT IMPLEMENTATION

Tim Franquist, Director of Air Quality Planning, presented this item providing an update on the status of the District's attainment planning efforts and upcoming actions to meet federal ambient air quality standards. Executive Director/APCO Samir Sheikh concluded the presentation by thanking the Board for its continued engagement and support and emphasized the complexity and evolving nature of Clean Air Act requirements, as well as the importance of ongoing coordination with CARB and EPA.

Dr. Sherriffs emphasized the importance of addressing mobile source emissions and asked about opportunities to strengthen coordinated advocacy efforts. Mr. Sheikh responded that engagement is ongoing at the state and federal levels, including planned federal outreach, and noted that resolving State Implementation Plan challenges will require sustained collaboration among CARB, EPA, and local partners.

The following individual provided public comment during this item:

- Christian Bisher, CCEJN

12. VERBAL REPORT ON CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD ACTIVITIES

Dr. Pacheco-Werner provided an update on California Air Resources Board activities, emphasizing the need for continued Valley engagement in mobile source strategy and CARB processes. She noted upcoming workshops and regulatory updates, and stressed the importance of staying involved given the region's air quality and funding needs.

13. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/APCO COMMENTS

Mr. Sheikh provided an update on a Board-directed initiative to enhance public communication through the development of county-by-county air quality fact sheets. He explained that these one-page summaries are intended to complement the Annual Report to the Community by presenting key air quality trends over time in a clear and accessible format for each county, as well as Valley-wide.

Mr. Sheikh noted that the fact sheets will be made available online and shared with the Board and the public. He emphasized that staff will continue to refine the materials and welcome Board feedback as this outreach tool evolves.

14. GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Lewis thanked the Board for supporting the Tune In and Tune Up program and noted the upcoming May event in Los Banos. She highlighted the program's benefits for smog assistance and potential vehicle replacement.

ADJOURN – Chair Shuklian adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.