

Action Summary Minutes
San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Central Region Office, Governing Board Room
1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue, Fresno, CA

August 3, 2021
10:00 a.m.

Meeting held via video teleconferencing with the Central Region Office (Fresno). This meeting was also webcast. Given the international COVID-19 pandemic, and consistent with the California Department of Public Health's recommendations and Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20, no physical location was provided for public attendance.

1. CALL TO ORDER – The Vice Chair, Kelly Deming, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. She announced the District was responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by holding this meeting in a manner consistent with Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-33-20 and California Department of Public Health's recommendations for social distancing.
2. ROLL CALL – was taken and a quorum was present to hold the meeting and one member short from the City Interest Group to take action.

<u>County</u>	<u>Member Name/Interest Group</u>	<u>Location</u>
Fresno	Manuel Cunha / IAIG (P)	VTC
	Kevin Hamilton/ EIG (P)	VTC
Kern	Les Clark / IAIG (P)	VTC
Kings	Laura Brown / IAIG (P)	VTC
	Kelly Deming / EIG (P)	VTC
	Dennis Tristao / CIG (P)	VTC
Madera	Don Horal / IAIG (P)	VTC
	Brittany Dyer / EIG (P)	VTC
San Joaquin	Roger Hoffdahl / IAIG (P)	VTC
	Ned Leiba / EIG (P)	VTC
Stanislaus	Richard O'Brien / CIG (P)	VTC
	Thomas Helme / EIG (A)	VTC

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

3. APPROVE MINUTES FOR MAY 4, 2021 AND JUNE 1, 2021 – This item was tabled due to lack of a quorum from the City Interest Group.
4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

5. CHAIR COMMENTS – None

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/APCO COMMENTS – Samir Sheikh, Executive Director/APCO, provided the CAC members with a recap of the significant items from the June 2021 Governing Board meeting as well as a preview of the August 2021 meeting.

At the June 2021 meeting, the Governing Board took action to:

- Reauthorize the District's Tune In Tune Up vehicle repair program and allocate \$7 million to the program
- Approve the *Supplemental Report and Recommendations on Agricultural Burning* in response to CARB's action on the District's *2020 Staff Report and Recommendations on Agricultural Burning*. The supplemental report establishes a schedule for the near-complete phase-out of the remaining agricultural open burning in the Valley by January 1, 2025. CARB subsequently concurred with the findings of the report and the implementation schedule.

At the August 2021 meeting, the Governing Board will consider:

- A new incentive grant program for urban greening and vegetative barriers. If approved, this new program, which is included as a measure in several AB 617 Community Emission Reduction Programs, will reduce air pollutant exposure and improve the quality of life for residents in Valley communities.
- Accepting \$5.4 million from the competitive federal EPA Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) program for the replacement of heavy-duty trucks and agricultural equipment and tractors.
- Accepting \$180 million in new state funds for an enhanced Alternatives to Agricultural Open Burning Incentive program to support transition away from agricultural open burning over the next few years.

Public Comment: None

7. UPDATES ON ATTAINMENT PLANS AND RULES – Jessica Coria, Program Manager, provided an update on the District's planning and rule development efforts.

Public Comment: None

8. VERBAL REPORT FROM CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD – Laura Carr, CARB representative, gave a brief update on the actions taken by CARB at their meeting held on July 22, 2021.

Public Comment: None

9. UPDATE ON 2021 WILDFIRE SEASON – Jon Klassen, Director of Air Quality Science and Planning, and Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer, provided an update to CAC members on the following:

- Ongoing Wildfire Challenges and Public Health Impacts
- Drought Conditions Worsening in California
- Coordination with Land Managers
- State Resources for Healthy Forests
- Public Outreach during Wildfire Events

Mr. Cunha thanked staff for the informative presentation and said the District has been doing a tremendous raising awareness of the dangers of wildfire smoke. He said N95 masks were now required to be available by Cal-OSHA for outdoor workers, and said there are still supply issues. He thanked the District's Outreach team and said the handouts provided by the District in both Spanish and English have also been very helpful to get the information out to residents.

Mr. Hamilton complimented the District's Outreach team for their work regarding wildfire education.

Public Comment: None

10. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO DISTRICT RULE 4702 (INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINES) – Jessica Coria, Program Manager in the District's Air Quality Science and Planning Department, provided the CAC members with an overview of the proposed amendments to District Rule 4702 that satisfy commitments in the 2018 PM2.5 Plan. The Governing Board will consider the proposed amendments at the August 2021 Governing Board meeting.

Mr. Cunha said he appreciated the District's incentive programs that over the years have helped replace thousands of agricultural engines to reduce emissions across the Valley. He said they would like to convert to more electric motors but the electric rates are out of control. Since there was no quorum present at the meeting, he asked if CAC members could support these amendments by consensus, to show the Board that staff recommendations were valued and that the public workshops were conducted in a timely manner.

Mr. Sheikh responded the purpose of this item was to ensure that CAC members are informed and have the opportunity to provide feedback on proposed District actions. He confirmed that there was not a quorum in attendance to take action at this meeting, but said that the CAC members in attendance were providing valuable feedback.

Ms. Deming said she would like CAC members to review the socioeconomic analysis conducted for the rule. She suggested that members could draft a letter to the Board to express support.

Mr. Hamilton commented on the rising electric rates and asked staff to research the reasons why the California Public Utilities Commission seems to raise their rates in response to more electric pumps and engines being used in the Valley. He said many farmers are changing back from electric pumps because they cannot afford the rates, which is inhibiting the District from meeting attainment goals and negatively impacting climate change.

Mr. Sheikh responded this is a long-standing issue and there were a lot of reasons why this was becoming a less attractive alternative to farmers. He said it certainly does not help when there is no electricity available at times. He said he agreed with Mr. Hamilton's suggestion and asked if other CAC members were interested in the District possibly pursuing this by adopting policy positions or similar actions that support reducing these rates.

Ms. Elizabeth asked if staff had any estimate of what costs would be associated with removing the emission fee compliance option, and the amount of those fees that the District receives by county. She also asked if there were some particular counties that may not be taking advantage of the incentives and perhaps needed more outreach to their agricultural operations. Regarding electric motors, she said she appreciated the notion of collaborating with other state agencies to get the Energy Commission involved and suggested looking in to alternative solar and batteries that may provide alternative energy to those motors.

Mr. Leiba complimented the cost-effectiveness of the NOx reductions and asked staff to send the economic information to members. He added that we are all seeing the skyrocketing costs of electricity and he was not sure there was a good reason for that. He said he just returned from Arizona where the Palo Verde Energy Exchange is the same price that it was 20 to 40 years ago at 2 cents per kilowatt. He said he hoped to see some serious communication to the CPUC to at least note the Valley's concern about the high utility rates.

Mr. Cunha noted the standby charge has been paid by agriculture continually just to have the power there for the irrigation. He said the rates have continually gone up and the AG-ICE did a great job of keeping the rates low, but as soon as it ended the rates for farmers were raised.

Ms. Zimmerman commented that if the District plans to engage with the CPUC and work in an organized manner on these rate issues, the Western States Petroleum Association would support that and want to be a part of it.

Public Comment: None

11. AB 617 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES –

- a. Jessica Olson, Director of Community Strategies and Resources, provided an update on the District's ongoing activities related to AB 617 implementation. The District has continued to regularly meet with all four Community Steering Committees (CSCs) using online engagement platforms to design and implement the community-driven AB 617 process.

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) adopted the Stockton Community Emissions Reduction Program (CERP) during a special hearing on Thursday, July 29th. With CARB approval now in place, the District will continue to work with the Stockton CSC to implement the emissions and exposure reductions measures outlined in the CERP, which includes working together to designate subcommittees to work on measure details.

The newest community of Arvin/Lamont in southern Kern County has been meeting regularly as a CSC since May. Recent work has been focused on finalizing the project boundary and CSC charter. The committee has also begun the discussion around sources of air quality concern, which will inform the air monitoring and emissions reductions discussions moving forward.

The South Central Fresno and Shafter committees have continued to meet monthly in addition to subcommittee meetings, which are scheduled as needed. CARB recently approved the program plan for the vegetative barriers and urban greening measures in both the Shafter and South Central Fresno communities. CARB continues to work with the District on several other pending incentive program plans for both communities, and community air monitoring in both communities has been underway.

The District is currently undergoing a process to hire a new facilitation team for all four communities. A Request for Quotation (RFQ) closed in July and the District has since been working with community members to help identify next steps in the selection process.

- b. Vernon Hughes, CARB Office of Community Air Protection, provided an update on efforts underway by CARB to implement AB 617. Moving forward, CARB will be partnering with the districts on CERP implementation, working on updates to the AB 617 Blueprint based on lessons learned to date, compiling and sharing resources on strategies, and continuing the development of tools to support the program (AQ View Data Portal, Emissions Inventory, and Technology Clearinghouse).

In September 2021, CARB will be considering the CERP for the Eastern Coachella Valley community, and in October 2021 the CERP for the Portside Environmental Justice Neighborhoods in San Diego.

Public Comment: None

13. OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS REPORT – Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer, provided an update on District outreach activities, including the current wildfire situation, smoke impacts to the Valley, and back to school activities by letting schools know about the resources that the District has available to them on air quality and health impacts. Lastly, she said the District’s Annual Report to the Community has been finalized and is currently being printed in both English and Spanish.

Public Comment: None

14. CAC MEMBER COMMENTS – None
15. VOLUNTEER TO PRESENT REPORT DURING GOVERNING BOARD MEETING – Ms. Deming said Mr. Abernathy would be available to present the report to the Governing Board at their August 19, 2021 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

Next Meeting –The next CAC meeting is scheduled on September 7, 2021. The meeting will be held via video teleconference (VTC).