

Action Summary Minutes
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 4, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

The Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting was held via video teleconference (VTC): 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, 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 CAC Meeting was also webcast.

1. CALL TO ORDER – The Chair, Manuel Cunha, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.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
	Kacey Auston-Tibbetts	EIG (P)	Fresno
Kern	Les Clark	IAIG (P)	Bakersfield
	John Sanders	EIG (P)	Bakersfield
	Orchel Krier	CIG (P)	Bakersfield
Kings	Kelly Deming	EIG (P)	Fresno
	Patricia Matthews	CIG (A)	Fresno
San Joaquin	Ned Leiba	EIG (P)	Modesto
Stanislaus	Chris Savage	IAIG (P)	Modesto
	Jami Aggers	EIG (P)	Modesto
	Richard O'Brien	CIG (P)	Modesto
Tulare	Derek Williams ¹	IAIG (P)	Fresno
	Dennis Mederos	CIG (P)	Fresno
	Fernando Rios ²	IAIG (A)	Bakersfield

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

3. APPROVE MINUTES FOR MARCH 7, 2023 – Mr. Cunha asked for member comments on the minutes from the previous CAC meeting. Hearing no comments or changes, he declared the minutes approved.

Public Comment: none

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – none

¹ Left meeting at 10:54 a.m.

² Arrived at 10:54 a.m.

5. CHAIR COMMENTS – Mr. Cunha welcomed the committee members and staff, and thanked everyone for their attendance.
6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/APCO COMMENTS – Samir Sheikh, Executive Director/APCO, welcomed the committee members and thanked them for their action at the last meeting on the advocacy around state funding for air quality programs. The District forwarded the letter signed by CAC members to advocate on air quality priorities in the Budget including: FARMER funding restoration, Community Air Protection funding restoration, and funding for additional sustainable agricultural opportunities. Mr. Sheikh advised the committee that in April, the Governing Board will be considering a new Valleywide residential air filtration program to allow residents to create “clean air rooms” within their homes to ensure a dedicated space with safe indoor air quality during smoke events. Mr. Sheikh also shared that March 1st marked the end of the annual Residential Wood Smoke Reduction season and by all accounts this was again a very effective year of implementation of the program and a full report will be provided to the CAC at a future meeting.

Mr. Mederos asked if there will be a time when residential fireplaces will be eliminated by regulations. Mr. Sheikh responded that there has been a reduction in wood burning in the Valley over time due to regulations, changing practices in new development projects, and changing behaviors and opinions towards wood burning. Mr. Sheikh said that additional information will be provided as part of the report on the 2022-23 Winter Residential Woodsmoke Reduction Strategy at the next meeting.

Mr. Cunha thanked staff for working on getting the advocacy letter out to legislators and said it is already creating positive discussions around the FARMER funding.

Public Comment: none

7. UPDATE ON ATTAINMENT PLANS AND RULES – Patrick Houlihan, Supervising Air Quality Specialist, provided an update on the District’s planning and rule making efforts. Specifically, Mr. Houlihan shared information on the upcoming public workshop for the District’s Leak Detection and Repair suite of rules that will be held April 17, 2023. Mr. Houlihan also shared information on the upcoming public workshop for the Contingency Measure SIP plan revision scheduled for April 14, 2023.
8. VERBAL REPORT FROM CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD (CARB) – Laura Carr, CARB representative, gave a brief update on recent and upcoming actions by CARB.

Mr. Clark requested to see a copy of the charter for the state’s Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (EJAC), and information about the appointed members of EJAC. Ms. Carr answered that she would gather the information provide it to the members.

9. APPOINT CITY GROUP REPRESENTATIVE(S) TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY GROUP (EJAG) – Morgan Lambert, Deputy APCO, reported that Mayor O'Brien's term as the primary CAC city representative on the District's Environmental Justice Advisory Group was set to expire. Mr. Lambert recommended CAC take action to either recommend the Governing Board reappoint Mr. O'Brien to a new term or recommend a new member to be appointed.

Public Comment: none

Moved: Mederos

Seconded: Leiba

Ayes: Cunha, Clark, Savage, Williams, Auston-Tibbetts, Sanders, Deming, Leiba, Aggers, Krier, Matthews, O'Brien, Mederos

Nays: None

Motion unanimously passed to recommend that the Governing Board reappoint Mayor Richard O'Brien (Primary) as the CAC City Interest Group primary representative on the Environmental Justice Advisory Group.

10. DISTRICT'S ANNUAL AIR TOXICS REPORT FOR 2022 – Seth Lane, Program Manager, presented the District's Annual Air Toxics Report for the Year 2022.

Mr. Savage thanked Mr. Lane for the report and asked if he feels the changes made have allowed for better decision making and if there are any other changes or future adjustments being considered. Mr. Lane responded that the District is implementing the newest state regulations and guidelines and that the District has been preparing for the past several years. Mr. Savage requested an update towards the end of this year or beginning of next on any significant changes in reporting or risk assessment guidelines.

Mr. Clark asked for clarification on the state's Criteria Pollutant and Toxics Emissions Reporting regulation. Mr. Lane explained that it was adopted several years ago by the state and the District has been implementing the initial phases of the regulation for several years now. Mr. Sheikh also responded to Mr. Clark adding that the District has been actively engaging with stakeholders over the past several years to ensure that they are aware of the requirements and aid in compliance.

Mr. Sanders inquired about the differences between air toxics and criteria pollutants addressed by National Ambient Air Quality Standards, and expressed that many of the pollutants are from motor vehicles and are out of the hands of those in their area. Mr. Sheikh explained that there are different regulatory contexts for both criteria pollutants and criteria pollutants at both the state and federal level that outline the manner in which these different pollutants must be addressed.

11. UPDATE ON INFLATION REDUCTION ACT AND BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES – Brian Dodds, Program Manager, provided an overview of funding opportunities currently available including funding to support local GHG reduction strategies under the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program, funding to support charging and fueling infrastructure under the Department of Transportation Community and Corridor Grants Programs, and funding to support disadvantaged communities under the EPA Environmental Justice Grant Programs.

Mr. Savage commended the presentation, and expressed concerns about the need to prioritize funding in a manner that makes best sense to the District and the need to coordinate valleywide and statewide. Mr. Sheikh replied that the District is working with various stakeholders to help prioritize funds in a manner to help non-attainment areas like ours achieve goals within related climate goals.

12. AB 617 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES – Jessica Olsen, 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 meet regularly with all four Community Steering Committees (CSCs) which are South Central Fresno, Shafter, Stockton, and Arvin/Lamont to work together to implement the many emissions and exposure reductions measures included in the Community Emissions Reduction Programs. Last month at the District's governing Board meeting, the Board approved a new Residential Air Filtration Program in the South Central Fresno, Shafter, and Stockton AB 617 communities to help ensure safe indoor air quality, especially to mitigate smoke impacts from wildfires.

Femi Olaluwoye, CARB Office of Community Air Protection, provided an update on efforts underway by CARB to implement AB 617. CARB is in the process of updating the Community Air Protection Statewide Strategy (Community Air Protection Blueprint), which must be done at least once every 5 years. The updated Strategy is scheduled to be considered at the October 2023 board meeting.

13. OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS REPORT – Heather Heinks, Program Manager, gave an update on the March 17th press event at the Fresno Farm Bureau.

Mr. Cunha thanked Heather and the entire District team for a wonderful event.

14. CAC MEMBER COMMENTS-

Mr. Mederos and Ms. Deming both commented on the effects of the flooding in their communities.

15. VOLUNTEER TO PRESENT REPORT DURING GOVERNING BOARD MEETING-

Mr. Cunha volunteered to present at the April Governing Board Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:21 p.m.