

Action Summary Minutes

San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District

SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING: REVIEW OF 2021-22 RECOMMENDED BUDGET

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

Thursday, May 20, 2021
9:00 a.m.

Meeting held via Zoom Webinar and 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, there was limited public attendance allowed upon request.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER – The Chair, Supervisor Craig Pedersen, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.
2. ROLL CALL – was taken and a quorum was present.

Present:

Drew M. Bessinger, Councilmember	City of Clovis
Vito Chiesa, Supervisor	Stanislaus County
David Couch, Supervisor	Kern County
Christina Fugazi, Councilmember	City of Stockton
Deborah Lewis, Mayor Pro Tem	City of Los Banos
Buddy Mendes, Supervisor	Fresno County
Tania Pacheco-Werner, Ph.D.	Appointed by Governor
Lloyd Pereira, Supervisor, Vice Chair	Merced County
Craig Pedersen, Supervisor, Chair	Kings County
Alvaro Preciado, Mayor	City of Avenal
Monte Reyes, Mayor	City of Porterville
Robert Rickman, Supervisor	San Joaquin County
Alexander Sherriffs, M.D.	Appointed by Governor
Amy Shuklian, Supervisor	Tulare County
Tom Wheeler, Supervisor	Madera County

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

This item was taken out of order

5. PUBLIC COMMENT- *The following persons provided comment on this item*

- Connie Young, Citizens Climate Lobby
- Clare Statham, Fresno Resident
- Janet Dietz-Kamei, Fresno Resident

6. PUBLIC HEARING FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT ON DISTRICT'S 2021-22 RECOMMENDED BUDGET – Samir Sheikh, Executive Director/APCO, said this was the first of two public hearings required by the California Health and Safety Code on the District's 2021-22 Recommended Budget. The purpose of this May Hearing is solely to present and receive public feedback on the Recommended Budget, and there can be no formal action by the Governing Board at this Hearing. He said staff would return to the Board at the June 17, 2021, meeting to present the Recommended Budget for adoption.

Mr. Sheikh also thanked Chairman Pedersen, Supervisor Wheeler, Mayor Preciado, Supervisor Shuklian, and Mayor Pro Tem Deborah Lewis for serving on the Board's Ad Hoc Budget Subcommittee and providing guidance to staff in their preparation of the budget.

As presented, the budget highlights included:

- Total operating budget up 2%
 - Full-year funding of recent position enhancements funded by state revenues
 - 7% salary savings through position control
- No permit fee increases
- Significant workload absorbed through efficiency and program flexibility
- Strong public education and outreach
- Expeditious administration and use of emission reduction incentive funds in wide range of applications (\$519 million in funding)
- Balanced budget, with adequate reserves and contingencies

Mr. Sheikh also informed the Board that the District was in negotiations with the Employees' Association for a new labor agreement as the current agreement is set to expire June 30, 2021. Mr. Sheikh said he expects that an agreement would be brought to the Board for their consideration at the June 2021 meeting. Furthermore, the cost of the agreement would be reflected in the Budget brought to the Board for adoption at the June 2021 meeting.

Supervisor Couch left briefly at 10:03 a.m.

Dr. Sherriffs said it was very clear that the staff and leadership at the District showed a lot of creativity when developing the budget. He said there was clearly a "can do" attitude and willingness to take on the big challenges that he wanted to acknowledge, recognize, and thank everyone for their work on this especially

in the challenging times we find ourselves in now. He said it was mentioned in terms of purchasing automobiles that we are always looking for the cleanest available to replace what we currently have and that he agreed that is absolutely what we should be doing. He recommended the District's goal should be to convert all vehicles to zero emissions and suggested tracking emissions from the District's fleet at some level to help guide staff.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner left at 10:54 a.m.

Supervisor Couch returned at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Sheikh reaffirmed the District's goal to pursue zero emission vehicles where feasible. He noted there is a wide suite of zero emission vehicles that are becoming available and their mileage ranges are also improving. He added that enforcement vehicles is where the range issue is most challenging for the District but said there are still opportunities opening up in that area and staff are working on transitioning. He said the District is also encouraging others in the Valley to transition to zero emission vehicles and was empowered to do so through the Board's actions on the Public Benefits Grants program that they continue to support in the annual budgeting process. He said this program provides a great tool for working with other agencies, including law enforcement and thanked Councilmember Bessinger for being very active in getting the word out in the law enforcement sector.

Public Comment: *The following persons provided comments on this item:*

- Janet Dietz-Kamei, Fresno Resident
- Connie Young, Citizens Climate Lobby
- Shayda Azamian, Leadership Council for Justice and Accountability

Councilmember Fugazi voiced appreciation for all of the work that always goes into developing and drafting the budget and the care that staff shows in recognizing the needs of Valley communities. She said she would love to help develop a high school curriculum to educate students on climate change and global warming and to help develop the future workforce for the District. She also voiced support for increased education and outreach to Valley residents.

Supervisor Pereira thanked staff and said he really appreciated the time, energy, effort, and detail in which staff put into the budget. He said it was a huge budget with a lot of moving parts and he commended staff for doing an awesome job and being a good steward of the money that goes through our hands.

Mayor Preciado commended staff and the District for implementing and using the budget very wisely to move forward in reducing emissions in the San Joaquin Valley. He also thanked the community members who took time to provide comments on the recommended budget.

Supervisor Mendes commented on technology and the pandemic, saying this situation really stress tested every agency and showed that the District's Information Technology Services (ITS) team was really great. He also thanked staff for doing an awesome job putting together the recommended budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Lewis voiced appreciation for staff and all of the work that they have done on this budget and the care they have taken to ensure that the monies are received and expended in the proper manner and fulfilling the all mandated duties. She said she would be contacting staff to discuss ways to increase participation in the District's incentives programs within her jurisdiction. She said she has also been talking to her Chief of Police about transitioning to zero and near-zero emission vehicles.

Supervisor Wheeler thanked staff for their hard work on the Recommended Budget and said they do an amazing job.

Chairman Pedersen said there would be no action required at this meeting on the Recommended Budget and set June 17, 2021, as the proposed adoption date.

Dr. Sherriffs said he wanted to highlight the District's model response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and how they have protected public and staff safety and in many ways increased the level of public service to Valley residents. He said as we make progress towards resuming in person meetings, it is important to reflect because the pandemic is not over. He said California has made great progress on lowering transmission and death rates, getting kids back to school and rebounding employment. But, he said that progress could easily be reversed if you look at what is happening in the world right now today, with thousands dying every day in India and Taiwan. He said he wanted to thank staff again for the excellent job they have done working at a distance and said we have definitely learned some ways to do things better.

ADJOURN

Chairman Pedersen adjourned the meeting at 11:42 p.m.