San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District
Environmental Justice Advisory Group

BYLAWS

I. AUTHORITY: The Environmental Justice Advisory Group (EJAG) was formed, in accordance with the District’s Environmental Justice Strategy approved August 2007, to assist the District with the implementation of the Environmental Justice Strategy. The EJAG shall serve as a forum to gather public input and enhance public participation. The EJAG shall not have any regulatory or administrative role in the District’s permitting, enforcement, planning or rule making activities. Nothing in these bylaws shall be interpreted as giving EJAG any authority other than those granted by the District Governing Board in the District’s Environmental Justice Strategy.

II. MEMBERSHIP, APPOINTMENT PROCEDURES, AND TERMS OF APPOINTMENT: EJAG membership, appointment procedures, and terms of appointment shall be as established in the District’s Environmental Justice Strategy.

III. TERMINATION OF EJAG MEMBERSHIP: EJAG members shall serve at the pleasure of the District’s Governing Board. EJAG membership may be terminated by action of the member or formal action of the District Governing Board. Any member of the EJAG may resign from the group at any time by notifying the Chair. The EJAG Chair may recommend removal of a member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the group, without excuse.

IV. MISSION AND SCOPE: The EJAG’s mission is to advise the District on how to integrate environmental justice principles into all programs, policies, and activities. EJAG members shall serve in an advisory role and provide advice, direction, and critique to the District concerning its continuing efforts to advance environmental justice. While EJAG members may assist the District in crafting effective public education and outreach strategies, they shall not be held responsible for direct engagement on public outreach activities on behalf of the District. The EJAG may provide recommendations on how the District can best accomplish the goals outlined in the District’s Environmental Justice Strategy and may assist in updating them as needed.

V. REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS: All communications, including reports and recommendations, to members of the District Governing Board shall be routed through the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) unless directed otherwise by the Governing Board. For administrative matters, the EJAG may provide reports or
advice directly to the Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO) upon request by the APCO. The CAC shall be copied on any communication between the District Governing Board, the EJAG and the APCO that are not routed through the CAC.

VI. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: For each calendar year, EJAG shall establish goals and objectives, and an action plan to achieve those goals and objectives. EJAG may revise its goals and objectives and the action plan throughout the year as necessary. EJAG goals and objectives shall strictly adhere to the District’s Environmental Justice Strategy. The Air Pollution Control Officer in consultation with the CAC shall have the final authority on approving or revising the EJAG’s goals and objectives and the action plan.

VII. EJAG MEETINGS AND AGENDA: EJAG meetings, activities, notices, and agendas are subject to the requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act. All EJAG meetings and EJAG sub-committee meeting shall be conducted in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order. All EJAG meetings, including all meetings of the standing sub-committees of the EJAG shall be open to the public. The District shall provide public notice of the availability of the EJAG meeting agenda and all associated reports and documents at least 72 hours prior to the public meetings. The District shall provide a copy of the agenda and all supporting documents to the EJAG members at least seven calendar days prior to the public meetings. The EJAG Chair shall have the primary responsibility to prepare a proposed agenda for each EJAG meeting with input from the EJAG members, CAC members, the District staff, and the members of the public. The Air Pollution Control Officer may revise the agenda in accordance with the District’s Environmental Justice Strategy, EJAG bylaws, the Brown Act, and other applicable requirements. Any disagreements with the Air Pollution Control Officer concerning the EJAG agenda may be brought to the attention of the CAC by the Chair of the EJAG for resolution. Actions by the CAC shall be binding on the Air Pollution Control Officer. EJAG agendas shall be posted in Spanish on the District website and made available in Spanish when needed.

VIII. EJAG ORGANIZATION: The EJAG Chair shall be selected by recorded majority vote of the EJAG and serve a term of two (2) years. The EJAG Vice-Chair shall be selected by recorded majority vote of the EJAG and serve a term of one (1) year. Should the EJAG be unable to elect a succeeding Chair or Vice-Chair prior to expiration of their term, the succeeding Chair or Vice-Chair shall be appointed by the Air Pollution Control Officer. The Chair, in consultation with the Air Pollution Control Officer, shall determine the date, time, and place of EJAG meetings, and ensure that EJAG members are properly notified. The Chair will also be responsible for appointing EJAG members to serve on sub-committees and workgroups. Additionally, the Chair shall conduct EJAG meetings under Robert’s Rules of Order.
IX. QUORUM AND VOTING: The presence of a simple majority of current membership shall constitute a quorum for transaction of business and no vote shall be taken without a quorum present. Actions by EJAG shall require a majority vote of the members present. These quorum and voting rules shall also apply to actions by EJAG’s standing sub-committees.

X. AMENDMENTS OF BYLAWS: These bylaws can be amended only by formal action by the District’s Governing Board.