

Action Summary Minutes  
San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY GROUP (EJAG)**

Thursday, February 23, 2023

*The Environmental Justice Advisory Group 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, Nayamin Martinez, called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL – Roll was taken and a quorum was confirmed.

Present:

Nayamin Martinez, <b>Chair</b>	Fresno County At Large Representative
Keith Freitas	Kings County At Large Representative
Laura Gutile	Madera County At Large Representative
Derek Williams	Tulare County At Large Representative
Orchel Krier	CAC City Interest Group (Alternate)
Ned Leiba <sup>1</sup>	CAC Environmental Group (Primary)

*Items 4-6 and Item 8 were taken out of order.*

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None
5. CHAIR COMMENTS – Ms. Martinez welcomed everyone, and thanked them for their participation. Ms. Martinez also reminded members to share information about the current EJAG vacancies .
6. APCO/DEPUTY APCO COMMENTS – Morgan Lambert, Deputy APCO, announced that the District is accepting applications for current vacant Ethnic, Small Business Owner member and the Kern County At Large member. The application filing deadline have been extended to March 21, 2023.
8. UPDATE ON ATTAINMENT PLANS AND RULES – Emily Kneeland, Program Manager in the District’s Air Quality Science and Planning Department, provided an update on the District’s attainment plan and rule making efforts.

Ms. Martinez asked when the contingency plan would be presented to the Governing Board. Ms. Martinez also asked if there would be public workshops held and suggested the workshops be held in the evening. Ms. Kneeland

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<sup>1</sup> Arrived at 5:48 p.m.

responded that the contingency package and associated rules are currently scheduled to be considered by the Board in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2023. Ms. Kneeland confirmed that public workshops will be held as part of the rule development process and stated she appreciated the feedback about scheduling in the evening.

3. APPROVE MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 2022 & JANUARY 2023– Ms. Martinez asked if there were any comments regarding the minutes for October 27, 2022 and January 27, 2023. Hearing none, Ms. Martinez deemed the minutes approved.

Public Comment: None

7. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR FOR 1- YEAR TERM – Mr. Williams recommended tabling this item for the next meeting due to low attendance. Hearing no opposition by any members, the Chair tabled this item for the next meeting.

9. DISCUSS AND APPROVE EJAG INCENTIVE SPENDING PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2023-24 BUDGET– Mr. Williams explained that the Grants Subcommittee met and developed recommendations for EJAG to consider forwarding to the Governing Board.

Public Comment: None

*Motion:* Williams

*Second:* Freitas

*Ayes:* Martinez, Freitas, Gutile, Williams, Krier, Leiba

*Nays:* None

***Motion unanimously carried to approve the Fiscal Year 2023-24 EJAG Incentive Spending Plan Recommendations.***

10. ANNUAL REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2023 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES – Mr. Lambert provided an overview of the Final Goals and Objectives approved by the District for 2022. He said based on the extensive review and changes last year, the District has no recommended changes for this year

Mr. Freitas had concern with only including Spanish translation under Goal/Objective 3, and suggested making it more inclusive by striking Spanish and only saying translation as a more broad term. Mr. Williams and Ms. Martinez concurred.

Public Comment – None

*Motion:* Gutile

*Second:* Freitas

Ayes: Martinez, Freitas, Gutile, Williams, Krier, Leiba  
Nays: None

***Motion unanimously carried to approve the EJAG Recommended Goals and Objectives for 2023 with the change of striking the word “Spanish” under Goal/Objective 3, and to submit the Recommended Goals and Objectives to the Executive Director/APCO for consideration.***

11. AB 617 UPDATE – Jessica Olsen, Director of Community Strategies & Resources, provided an update on recent activities in the District’s AB 617 communities.

Mr. Freitas inquired about how devices for the air filtration program were chosen. Ms. Olsen responded that the criteria included choosing CARB certified devices that ensured ozone was not generated and that they included HEPA filters.

Mr. Williams stated that he believes the program should be based on health based needs of residents throughout the Valley rather than limited to those within selected AB617 communities. Ms. Olsen explained that the program presented today is specific to the CARB selected AB617 communities and funds can only be used within those selected communities.

Ms. Martinez commented that she is an advocate of the AB617 program, but also sees the need in other communities, and she asked if the funding could be used in other communities where there is a need, such as Visalia or Madera. Ms. Olsen clarified that Community Protection funds could not be used outside of the identified AB617 communities.

Mr. Leiba said this program is very low cost and has very focused and tangible health benefits and believes it is a very good program that should be expanded. Mr. Freitas concurred.

Public Comment – None

12. UPDATE ON AGRICULTURAL BURNING PHASE-OUT STRATEGY AND ALTERNATIVE GRANT PROGRAM – Robert Gilles, Program Manager in the Air Quality Science and Planning Department, and Todd DeYoung, Director of Grants and Incentives, presented an update on the District’s implementation of the Agricultural Open Burning Phase-out Strategy.

Mr. Freitas voiced concern he has heard from growers who may see private industry price gouging. Additionally, Mr. Freitas inquired about advocacy for funding at the state level. Mr. Sheikh responded that the advocacy going on now is happening with a lot of partnership with various agricultural stakeholders and associations. Mr. Sheikh explained that with the Inflation Reduction Act, and new funding that is becoming available for climate related funding of sustainable

agriculture and we are looking at opportunities for regional proposals for alternative burning along with others.

Mr. Leiba asked about the recycling component of this phase out program Mr. Sheikh reported that although commercial viable pathways to sell the byproducts have not yet materialized, he was pleased to report that the soil incorporation has worked more effectively than originally anticipated.

Mr. Williams asked if the increase in open burning seen beginning in 2014 were due to the drought. Mr. Sheikh responded part of the reason for the increase was the onset of the drought. Additionally, there was a significant reduction in available biomass plants.

Ms. Martinez commented that she would like to see the Air District and other regulatory agencies come together to work creatively to help the farmers.

Public Comment - None

13. POTENTIAL FUTURE EJAG MEETING AGENDA ITEMS –

Ms. Martinez said the election of the EJAG vice chair would need to on the April agenda.

Ms. Martinez also said that she would like to add an item at the April meeting to bring in students from the Center for Advanced Research and Technology to provide a presentation on their air-monitoring project.

Mr. Freitas requested a future item like to discuss expanding participation in advocacy efforts surrounding state and federal funding for alternatives to agricultural open burning.

14. PUBLIC COMMENTS (2<sup>ND</sup> Opportunity) – None

15. EJAG MEMBER COMMENTS – None

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.