

Action Summary Minutes

San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

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

Thursday, August 20, 2020
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, no physical location was provided for public attendance.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER – The Chair, Supervisor Pedersen, called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.
2. ROLL CALL – was taken and a quorum was present.

Present:

Drew M. Bessinger, Mayor	City of Clovis
David Couch, Supervisor	Kern County
Kuyler Crocker, Supervisor	Tulare County
Bob Elliott, Supervisor	San Joaquin County
Christina Fugazi, Councilmember	City of Stockton
Buddy Mendes, Supervisor	Fresno County
Kristin Olsen, Supervisor*	Stanislaus County
Tania Pacheco-Werner, Ph.D.	Appointed by Governor
Lloyd Pereira, Supervisor, Vice Chair	Merced County
Craig Pedersen, Supervisor, Chair	Kings County
Alvaro Preciado, Councilmember	City of Avenal
Monte Reyes, Councilmember	City of Porterville
Dr. Alexander Sherriffs	Appointed by Governor
Tom Wheeler, Supervisor	Madera County

Absent:

Chris Vierra, Mayor	City of Ceres
---------------------	---------------

**Arrived at 9:09 a.m.*

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Chairman Pedersen observed a moment of silence for the pilot who was killed fighting a wildfire in the Coalinga area in recent days.

4. WELCOME NEW GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER, TANIA PACHECO-WERNER, Ph.D. – Chairman Pedersen welcomed Dr. Pacheco-Werner to the District’s Governing Board and said the Board was looking forward to working with her.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner said she was happy for the opportunity to serve our great Valley. She said she definitely appreciates everything that the Valley has to offer and said she went away for school and came back because she truly felt like this is not only one of the best places to raise a family, but definitely a place where there is no shortage of challenges that we can use our skills, compassion and our everything to solve. She said she looks forward to working with the other Board members and staff, and serving Valley residents.

Public Comment: *The following persons commented on this item:*

- Cynthia Pinto-Cabrera, Central Valley Air Quality Coalition

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR – Item Numbers (17 – 25): *These matters are routine in nature and are usually approved by a single vote. Prior to any action by the board, the public was given the opportunity to comment on any consent item.*

17. APPROVE ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY UNIFIED AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING: REVIEW OF 2020-21 RECOMMENDED BUDGET OF THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2020

18. RECEIVE AND FILE LIST OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS FOR 2020

19. RECEIVE AND FILE OPERATIONS STATISTICS SUMMARY FOR JUNE AND JULY 2020

20. RECEIVE AND FILE BUDGET STATUS REPORTS AS JULY 31, 2020

21. UPGRADES TO DISTRICT’S INTERACTIVE VOICE RESPONSE (IVR) SYSTEM AND SMOKE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (SMS)

22. AUTHORIZE CHAIR TO SIGN NO-COST EXTENSION OF AGREEMENT WITH AIR RESOURCES BOARD FOR CONTINUED DISTRICT ENFORCEMENT FO STATE REFRIGERANT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

23. APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH CJ LAKE, LLC FOR FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$93,708

24. AUTHORIZE THE DISTRICT TO TRANSITION TO ALTERNATE PAYROLL SERVICES
25. RECEIVE AND FILE DRAFT 2020 ANNUAL DEMONSTRATION REPORT FOR DISTRICT RULE 9610 (SIP-CREDIBILITY OF EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS GENERATED THROUGH INCENTIVE PROGRAMS)

Public Comment: None

Moved: Wheeler
Seconded: Mendes
Ayes: Bessinger, Couch, Crocker, Elliott, Fugazi, Mendes, Pacheco-Werner, Pareira, Preciado, Reyes, Sherriffs, Wheeler, Pedersen
Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried to approve Consent Calendar Item Numbers 17 – 25

Supervisor Olsen joined the meeting at 9:09 a.m.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT – *The following persons commented on this item:*
 - Connie Young, Citizens Climate Lobby
 - Janet Dietz-Kamei, Fresno Resident
7. REPORT ON DISTRICT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES – Kevin Abernathy, CAC Chair, provided the Board with an update on the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting held on August 4, 2020.
8. S.T.A.R. RECOGNITION (Service, Teamwork, Attitude, Respect) – Chenecua Dixon, Personnel Director, formally recognized District staff who reached a service milestone during the first and second quarters of 2020.

Five Years of Service

Jose Gonzales, Accounting Technician
Esmerelda Martinez, Office Assistant
Kirsten Taylor, Air Quality Specialist
Andrea Vasquez, Accounting Assistant
Jacob Whitson, Program Manager
Crystal Yunker, Senior Air Quality Specialist

Ten Years of Service

Kimberly Crews, Air Quality Assistant

Carrie Tuell-Todd, Senior Air Quality Specialist
Fifteen Years of Service

Jessica Fierro, Assistant Counsel
Theresa Haywood, Senior Office Assistant
Jagmeet Kahlon, Air Quality Engineer
Jerry Sandhu, Supervising Air Quality Engineer

Twenty Years of Service

Thomas Martinez, General Services Foreman
Lisa Middleton, Supervising Air Quality Inspector
Samir Sheikh, Executive Director/APCO

Twenty-Five Years of Service

Robert Garabedian, Air Quality Inspector

* * * * *

Chairman Pedersen thanked staff for their service and great work. Supervisor Mendes said the District might be one of the happiest places in government.

9. **AUTHORIZE AGREEMENTS WITH VALLEY CLEAN AIR NOW FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF DRIVE CLEAN IN THE SAN JOAQUIN VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM** – Todd DeYoung, Director of Grants and Incentives, presented the item which recommended the Board authorize agreements with Valley Clean Air Now for the implementation of \$7,140,000 in new grant funding for the District's Drive Clean in the San Joaquin Vehicle Replacement Program. The agreements provide for up to \$840,000 in program administration costs for Valley Clean Air Now to implement the program.

Councilmember Fugazi left the meeting briefly at 9:19 a.m.

Supervisor Wheeler asked if any monies are received for scrapping the older vehicles. Mr. DeYoung responded that the District does not receive any funding back from the vehicle scrapping. He added there is typically a couple hundred dollars in scrap value, which goes to the scrapping company.

Mayor Bessinger commented that this program is important as it prioritizes the Valley's disadvantaged communities. This is especially important now given the challenges facing disadvantaged communities. He said getting residents into better cars, that are less polluting, and providing economic assistance so they can get to work is a big deal and added this was a great program.

Supervisor Olsen thanked staff for figuring out how to do this program virtually. She said it is such a fantastic program. She gave kudos to staff for making this

happen during the challenging times of COVID-19, and added it is a great program that she hopes will continue until it is no longer needed.

Mr. Sheikh read a comment from Councilmember Fugazi, who had to leave the meeting briefly due to school conflicts. She said she was a huge supporter of the Tune In Tune Up program and also a big fan of the Drive Clean in the San Joaquin program. She said it has literally changed the way that many people view and understand hybrid and electric vehicles. The authorized dealership in Stockton is a longstanding business that serves predominantly Spanish-speaking families. The number one selling vehicles used to be trucks and SUVs. Now 75 percent of their lot is hybrid and electric cars. Not only are they selling cars to people who live in Stockton, they actually have people coming from the Bay Area to buy these cars from them because they have such an amazing selection. The goal of getting older, gross polluting vehicles off of our roads and putting people in newer, reliable, low maintenance, high MPG vehicles that are better not only for our environment but for them and their families, is happening in a big way here in Stockton and beyond. Councilmember Fugazi said she was in support of this agenda item.

Dr. Sherriffs said this was a fantastic program for reasons enumerated. He added this was one of the programs he could brag about in his recent hearing with the Senate Rules Committee. He said this program really highlights the Board's commitment to look for effective ways to get the state's climate investments back into our disadvantaged communities.

Public Comment – *The following persons commented on this item:*

- Janet Dietz-Kamei, Fresno Resident

Moved: Wheeler

Seconded: Mendes

Ayes: Bessinger, Couch, Crocker, Elliott, Mendes, Olsen, Pacheco-Werner, Pareira, Preciado, Reyes, Sherriffs, Wheeler, Pedersen

Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried to authorize agreements with Valley Clean Air Now for implementation of Drive Clean in the San Joaquin vehicle replacement program

10. AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF AIR MONITORING ASSETS AND NEW RESIDENT STIPEND PROGRAM IN SUPPORT OF AB 617 PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION – Ryan Hayashi, Deputy APCO, presented this item which asked the Board to authorize the a contract with Ambilabs, LLC, to develop and deliver air monitoring assets for the District to conduct community air monitoring activities in the selected Assembly Bill 617 community of Stockton for a total not to exceed \$628,030. Furthermore, Mr. Hayashi recommended the Board

authorize the Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer to implement a stipend program for volunteer resident members of AB 617 Community Steering Committees, subject to the availability of state AB 617 funding and approved allocations in the District's Budget on an annual basis.

Supervisor Wheeler confirmed the funding would come from AB 617 funds and not the District's General Fund. Mr. Sheikh responded affirmatively.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner congratulated staff for going virtual so quickly with their meetings. She said that was essential for so many operations right now and that it is a feat, having done it herself. She asked if there was anything about the monitoring that was backordered or that would further delay the timeline in terms of air monitoring equipment. Mr. Sheikh responded no and said that once communities are selected under the program, an active discussion takes place with the community about where areas of concern might be located, which would be good locations to place the monitors. He said it takes some time to flesh that process out and if this recommendation was approved by the Board, staff would begin acquiring assets so they would be ready in time to deploy with the commencement of community air monitoring plan targeted under AB 617 for the beginning of 2021.

Mr. Sheikh noted there is currently air quality monitoring occurring within the Stockton community, but the goal as part of AB 617 is to deploy more expansive community air monitoring. Dr. Pacheco-Werner responded that her concern is always for the community to have realistic expectations if there are any delays, because we know that supply chains are broken now with the pandemic. Regarding the stipends, she said the proposed amount is comparable to what she has seen with community advisory boards. She added that when stipends are provided it allows for people that are not regularly paid to be in the room and to feel the responsibility of needing to participate in the meetings. She said she has seen stipends benefit participation and making sure there is ongoing commitment because this is long term commitment for residents that the District is asking for.

Mayor Bessinger said adding stipends for the resident members was a good thing. He suggested adding a report back to the Board in February 2021 to determine if there was enough funding set aside and if there are any other changes needed.

Dr. Sherriffs said the District's commitment to AB 617 and making it work has been exemplary. He said it was an area he was pleased to be able to speak so strongly and favorably about in educating the Senate Rules Committee about the District's progress on this program and the engagement that the District has had. He said he was struck by the initial slides on this presentation and what an understatement about the effort of staff to work in new ways to build new collaborations and relationships. He said a stipend can make a big difference in people's ability to engage and be involved. He closed by saying he was very

supportive of staff recommendations.

Supervisor Crocker said the comments were good as far as the stipends were concerned. He suggested if the Board would be evaluating the stipends in six months, they should also evaluate Board stipends. He said for the Board of Supervisors it is not really an issue because many of them have full-time salaries, but thinking about some of the city members on our Board, they are doing their work part-time and still have regular jobs they are working. He suggested this evaluate also be part of the discussion.

Councilmember Reyes recognized staff and commended them on keeping the momentum going during this pandemic, especially in the use of technology and being able to model for other air districts.

Public Comment – *The following persons commented on this item:*

- Janet Dietz-Kamei, Fresno Resident
- Connie Young, CCL

Mr. Sheikh voiced support for Mayor Bessinger’s recommendation to add a motion for staff to report back to the Board on this program. Regarding Supervisor Crocker’s suggestion, he said if Chairman Pedersen was in agreement, he could take a look at options and report back to the Board at a future date.

Chairman Pedersen said any discussion on Board stipends should be separate as they are not part of AB 617 funding. Mr. Sheikh said that through general Board direction he could develop some options separate from the action before the Board at this meeting.

Supervisor Pareira made a motion to approve staff recommendations with the addition that staff report back to the Board in approximately six months, giving staff some leniency on when it would be appropriate.

Moved: Pareira
Seconded: Wheeler
Ayes: Bessinger, Couch, Crocker, Elliott, Mendes, Olsen,
Pacheco-Werner, Pareira, Preciado, Reyes, Sherriffs,
Wheeler, Pedersen
Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried to authorize purchase of air monitoring assets and new resident stipend program in support of AB 617 program implementation

11. RECEIVE UPDATE ON DISTRICT’S COMMERCIAL UNDERFIRED CHARBROILING STRATEGY – Jon Klassen, Director of Air Quality Analysis and

Planning, gave an update to Board members on progress in implementing the District's commercial charbroiling emissions control strategy.

Mr. Sheikh said regarding the continued engagement with Valley restaurants, staff has been pulling together a focus group of Valley restaurants that they can engage more directly on looking at technology opportunities, understanding their challenges, and really just brainstorming on where we may want to go. He asked Board members to share any restaurant contacts that would be helpful to staff in establishing that ongoing focus group. He added staff have had some of that experience through the Technology Partnership program and said it has been great to work with restaurants. He said they are the ones who have been illuminating the issues for staff in terms of the real challenges and other considerations.

Mayor Bessinger said as a matter of transparency, he has a son in the restaurant business, but he is not financially involved in his business. He commented that one of the things he admires about the District is that we always try to do a win-win. For example when developing a rule, the District tries to come up with an incentive that will help both parties work through it. He said the District is also good at telling people when there is a lose-lose situation, as this one is. He said the technology is not there yet. He added the unfortunate thing with COVID-19 is that if we put any more burdens on our restaurants, very few of us are going to have a place to eat other than home very soon. He said he appreciated the fact that the District doesn't overburden people.

Supervisor Wheeler noted that The Habit Burger in Stockton has been pretty successful in their demonstration. Mr. Sheikh said they are located near a set of medical offices and were getting a lot of complaints about the smoke. He said they proactively partnered with the District in trying to come with a solution. He acknowledged there were early issues that have been worked out, and from what he understood, The Habit Burger has now been looking at this for other locations. Supervisor Wheeler suggested to continue to provide funding for that project as it is the only one in the Valley and we can learn a lot from them if we keep helping them. He also commented on the number of people that are currently unable to work in the restaurant industry due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner thanked staff for the report. She asked if the maintenance costs referred to in the report were for a particular technology. Mr. Klassen responded the costs were for a mechanical filtration system at a high throughput restaurant.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner said it would be really interesting for her to see the range because obviously this is the shocker sticker price. She added that in the neighborhoods we have said we cannot reach the federal PM2.5 standard without significant reductions in emissions from these under-fired charbroilers, we really need a better understanding of the range of technology options available today. Dr. Pacheco-Werner asked if the ongoing public engagement

would include residents of the neighborhoods that are impacted.

Mr. Sheikh responded that was a great suggestion and one that staff can attempt to incorporate into the public engagement on this issue. He said Councilmember Fugazi had previously shared concerns that she has seen in her communities related to outdoor grills that are used at markets. Dr. Pacheco-Werner said this is the perfect time to study and learn more, as implementing something today would not have the impact that the District wants to have on its communities. She added it was important to continue to study it and see how we can really provide these businesses with the best plans and practices and hopefully maybe even encourage new technology to support this as well.

Councilmember Reyes observed that because of COVID-19, it is difficult to contemplate these types of controls are this time. He acknowledged that controls are difficult in general, and added that he believes that the electrostatic control seemed like it has the most promise out of the three, as it supports a job in the maintenance of that equipment.

Dr. Sherriffs said it is so great that the District embraces challenges because this is an example of something that is a little hard for us to wrap our heads around. He said it is very complicated and also reminds us of something that this District is very good at, recognizing that not one size fits all. He added that all restaurants operate differently, and we all understand what a challenge the restaurant businesses is. He said the reason it is so important for staff to engage in this is because the PM2.5 problem is so important, and thanked Mr. Sheikh for reminding the Board about some of the issues for direct versus indirect PM2.5.

Dr. Sherriffs highlighted that direct PM2.5 from charbroilers is the most dangerous to our health as the direct PM2.5 from combustion carries the greatest health burdens. He said from a health standpoint, it is especially important to continue to be engaged and looking at this, and the focus on the hotspots and trying to sort through the economic issues is very smart. He added, the other important reason that we wanted to engage on charbroiling is although it is expensive, it is also expensive not to control it from a health standpoint. Furthermore, although it's expensive, it is actually relatively inexpensive compared to NOx controls. He said it is a difficult challenge to find the balance, but he was confident that through engagement staff will find solutions.

Councilmember Preciado voiced support for staff to continue to work with restaurant owners and develop a focus group to work together on a plan that will benefit all communities in the Central Valley.

Supervisor Mendes said the District needs to do a lot more monitoring and continue to study the available information while working with the restaurant industry that is in a precarious situation due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Supervisor Elliott said he supported the idea of continuing to look at this. He said

one of the reasons we have had such little desire by restaurants to participate is because of the long term increases in costs associated with the technologies. He noted many restaurants have fairly low margins to begin with and there are statistics that show how few new restaurants that come into being are still in existence a year from the time they start. He said while it is important that the District enacts rules and regulations to improve the health and air quality, we also have a responsibility to ensure that we do not create an economic environment that actually reduces the ability of our local businesses to continue to thrive and employ people because all of those things contribute to the well-being of the people of the Valley.

Chairman Pedersen said it is also important to recognize, as a County Supervisor, food insecurity is a huge issue right now. He added there is some good news in this as well. Telecommuting seems to be a thing of the future and the actions of those of us that telecommute lead to reductions in emissions. And so it's possible that the reductions that we need might come from other areas just out of this function of COVID-19 and the new the new world we live in.

Public Comment: *The following persons commented on this item:*

- Lorraine Salazar, California Restaurant Association
- Connie Young, Citizens Climate lobby
- Janet Dietz-Kamei, Fresno Resident
- Cynthia Pinto-Cabrera, CVAQ

Supervisor Olsen said she appreciated the staff presentations on this item and also the approach that recognizes the challenges and financial hardships that restaurants are facing right now. During normal times, the average restaurant makes five cents on the dollar and many have expressed concerns about this proposal since we first started talking about it. However, she said she also understands that we have very few options left when it comes to meeting federal achievement standards. She suggested staff work with Ms. Salazar and ask her to join the task force on this issue. She voiced appreciation for Ms. Salazar calling in with us today, not only on behalf of her restaurants, but the industry as a whole.

Councilmember Fugazi said her comments were similar to what Supervisor Olsen stated in the fact that we do know that there are businesses that are definitely suffering during COVID-19 and putting more regulations on places such as restaurants will be an added burden. However, with the attainment challenges, she said it was important because we want our businesses to be successful and she was sure they want to be good neighbors as well. She said she was happy that we have an installation here in Stockton with The Habit that has been able to do the upgrade in order to lessen their impacts to the surrounding community.

In closing, Mr. Sheikh voiced appreciation for the great Board member thoughts,

advice and direction, as the point of the item was to do some brainstorming on this issue. He extended his gratitude to the public members that provided comments, and said he would take Ms. Salazar up on her offer to work closely with the District and others in the Valley who might be interested in working with staff on this issue. He added this would be a critical step in designing something that will work in the Valley, actually creating this program in partnership with the restaurant industry as opposed to just imposing something that doesn't make sense.

He said there has also been a lot of discussion around new restaurants and whether there are opportunities in working with our cities and counties to maybe provide some incentives up front as new restaurants are being planned. Lastly, he said staff will keep the Board updated as they keep working on this measure.

12. REVIEW AND APPROVE NEW EMISSION REDUCTION CREDIT PROGRAM PUBLIC ADVISORY WORKGROUP – Morgan Lambert, Deputy APCO, gave the presentation on this item which asked the Board to review and approve the District's proposed framework for the Public Advisory Workgroup that will assist in developing solutions to enhance the District's Emission Reduction Credit (ERC) program.

Supervisor Wheeler asked if the workgroup members will receive a stipend. Mr. Sheikh responded that was not proposed by staff. Dr. Pacheco-Werner said she liked these processes that include the industry and community members because it helps clear up a lot of the misinformation or lack of understanding and also helps eliminate a lot of headaches down the road.

Chairman Pedersen acknowledged this was a challenging subject, not only here but at CARB, and also thanked Dr. Sherriffs for his input at the state level into how the Valley is unique and how the Board arrives at its decisions and the diversity of our area.

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

- Cynthia Pinto-Cabrera, CVAQ

Mr. Sheikh highlighted this workgroup was moving in an expedited fashion ahead of the report due to the federal EPA in a couple of months. He said the workgroup meetings would be open to the public and would be a great places to learn about the program and to offer any thoughts or insights into the process. He said this was very complex program and the District's Permits team, led by Mr. Lambert, are already working on these issues. He said it was not only a short-term issue with the upcoming report but there are longer term implications where the work group will also be helpful helping staff navigate their way through some of those issues. He added that the makeup of the work group was well balanced and there was no majority from any particular sector. Lastly, he clarified this was not a voting body and there would be no authority provided to the group,

similar to other District technical workgroups.

Dr. Sherriffs commented that representing the District on the CARB Board, he was very aware of what is at the heart of the issue, looking for local decisions and being able to commend the Board and the District for developing an open and balanced process to work on this very powerful issue. He added although these meeting will be open to the public, he suggested adding a member of the District's Environmental Justice Advisory Group (EJAG).

Supervisor Crocker said the work that was done by staff leading up to this item was a very balanced approach, very well thought out ,and has a lot of different folks involved. He said he would be happy to make a motion to support staff recommendations on this item.

Supervisor Elliott commented that the makeup of the proposed advisory workgroup has a very equal distribution of stakeholders that are going to be interested in and need to be represented in this group. He said the composition of the proposed workgroup was very appropriate and he commended staff on an excellent effort to incorporate an equal distribution and equal representation of stakeholder interests.

Moved: Crocker
Seconded: Wheeler
Ayes: Bessinger, Couch, Crocker, Elliott, Fugazi, Mendes, Olsen, Pacheco-Werner, Pareira, Preciado, Reyes, Sherriffs, Wheeler, Pedersen
Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried to approve new Emission Reduction Credit Program Public Advisory Workgroup

12. VERBAL REPORT ON CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD ACTIVITIES – Dr. Sherriffs reported on California Air Resources Board meeting held on June 25 & 26, 2020, and July 23, 2020, along with a list of upcoming matters before CARB.
13. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/APCO COMMENTS – Mr. Sheikh highlighted that the Senate Rules Committee unanimously voted to confirm Dr. Sherriffs' reappointment to the District's Governing Board. He said there was one final formality left but said he wanted to congratulate him on his reappointment. He added there were a number of positive comments raised during his hearing by a wide variety of stakeholders that were there to testify in support of his reappointment.

In respect to COVID-19, Mr. Sheikh noted that the District continues to take a proactive approach in responding to the pandemic in terms of how we operate and looking for opportunities to keep serving the public, even during these

difficult times. He said the economic impacts are something that staff continue to look very closely at, because there are a number of regulatory efforts that are going on, one of which we had a robust conversation during this meeting. He said staff is very closely watching these issues and really trying to take advantage of whatever information they can get to design our programs in light of what is going on. As far as emissions, he said there is a question that has come up pretty often during COVID-19 regarding vehicle traffic and any reductions seen there. He said the Valley did see a bounce back in vehicle traffic that dipped significantly initially. He noted it is still 10 to 20% less, depending on where you are in the Valley, compared to last year.

Mr. Sheikh also highlighted two orders issued by Governor Newsom to increase power production and reduce load on the system to try and avoid rolling blackouts. He said some of the issues identified within these orders related to the use of generators and power plants. He said he wanted to make sure the Board was aware these orders were in place, and staff has placed information on the District's website to let stakeholders know that the orders are in place. He said staff is trying to assess the situation as much as possible and addressing these power issues during these extreme heat episodes. He noted the orders expired on the day of the meeting and he did not know if they would be extended.

Lastly, Mr. Sheikh reported on the wildfire situation and the dozens of large fires burning throughout the state, including some in the Valley, that were impacting the Valley's air quality. He said District staff are conducting a lot of outreach, including bilingual health cautionary statements, and also responding to public concerns. He noted there is a lot of media interest and the District is making its Outreach team available to get the message out and using social media to let people know that there could be major public health impacts from breathing that wood smoke.

14. GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – Councilmember Reyes congratulated Supervisor Crocker on his chairmanship of the newly formed Tulare County Regional Transit Agency.
15. CLOSED SESSION - Annette Ballatore, District Counsel, announced that the Board would adjourn to Closed Session to discuss the item below followed by adjournment.
 - CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – Existing litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1), Comite Progreso de Lamont, et. al. v. SJVUAPCD, Fresno Co. Sup. Ct. Case No. 20CECG01008.

Public Comment: None

ADJOURN

Chairman Pedersen adjourned the meeting at 11:51 a.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Governing Board is: Thursday, September 17, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting starts at 9:00 a.m., in the Central Region Office, Governing Board Room, 1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue, Fresno. The meeting will be held via video teleconference (VTC) with the Northern Region Office (Modesto) and the Southern Region Office (Bakersfield) participating.