

Action Summary Minutes

San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District

SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING: **REVIEW OF 2020-21 RECOMMENDED BUDGET**

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

Thursday, May 21, 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 9:00 a.m. Chairman Pedersen announced the District was responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by holding this meeting in a manner consistent with Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-33-20 and California Department of Public Health's recommendations for social distancing. He quickly summarized that the meeting was being held via video teleconference and webcast with no physical location for public attendance. However, he said members of the public who wished to address the Governing Board would be provided the opportunity to do so during the appropriate commenting periods.
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
Lloyd Pareira, 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
Chris Vierra, Mayor	City of Ceres

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. PUBLIC HEARING FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT ON DISTRICT'S 2020-21 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 2020-21 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 18, 2020, meeting to present the Recommended Budget for adoption.

Mr. Sheikh also thanked Chairman Pedersen, Supervisor Pareira, Supervisor Wheeler, Councilmember Preciado, and Mayor Bessinger who served on the Ad Hoc Budget Subcommittee. The Subcommittee met and provided guidance and direction that shaped this Recommended Budget.

As presented, the budget highlights included:

- Total operating budget down, reflects impacts of COVID-19
 - Stationary source revenues down 12% due to COVID-19 (\$2.8 million)
 - Services and Supplies down 4% (\$313,659)
 - Fixed Assets down 34% (\$1,968,540)
 - 8% salary savings through position control
 - Additional savings through position changes
 - Reflects final year of labor agreement
 - 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 (\$437 million in funding)
- Balanced budget, with adequate reserves and contingencies

Supervisor Crocker asked for an update on the Central Region office expansion and where that appears in the Recommended Budget. Mr. Sheikh responded the District is still in the escrow process for the land for the parking lot expansion. The property owner is working to resolve bank-related issues associated subdividing the property so the District can complete the purchase of the 2-acre parcel. The next major step would be for staff to return to the Board with a proposal for completing property improvements. Following that step, the next would be to consider any enhancements to the existing Central Region office. In the short term, he said staff would continue working through the parking issues while the land issues were settled and escrow was finalized. He added this recommended budget did not include costs associated with developing a parking lot on the new property.

Supervisor Crocker voiced appreciation for staff's fiscally prudent approach. However, he said there is a lot of value in completing that project. He said he wanted to make sure that everyone recognized that there may be some benefit to completing remodeling now that there is less capacity in the office.

Regarding the air quality research studies included in the Recommended Budget, Supervisor Crocker asked if these would be a combination of in-house personnel conducting the studies as well as outsourcing with local universities. Mr. Sheikh responded affirmatively and said the funding included in this recommended budget would be used to procure additional work, but that is coupled with very significant internal staffing that would support that work.

Regarding the parking lot expansion, Mr. Sheikh said at the Board's direction, staff could take a look at different options for addressing the funding in the budget. Chairman Pedersen said with the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic and the new norm of telecommuting, it is difficult to predict the District's needs at this point. Dr. Sherriffs agreed with Chairman Pedersen's comment and said it is a different world currently and it is not exactly clear what our needs will be moving forward. He said it was a good idea to look at it again, but certainly not go all in. He added it is hard to predict the needs in the future, but noted the District has had a lot of success with telecommuting at this point and said he suspects in the future, much of that will continue.

Public Comment: None

5. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURN

Chairman Pedersen adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m.