

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, February 16, 2023
9:00 a.m.**

Meeting held via teleconferencing with the Central Region Office (Fresno), the Northern Region Office (Modesto) and the Southern Region Office (Bakersfield). This meeting was webcast.

- 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER – The Chair, Supervisor Vito Chiesa, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.
- 2. ROLL CALL – was taken and a quorum was present.

Present:

Vito Chiesa, Supervisor, Chair	Stanislaus County
Deborah Lewis, Councilmember, Vice Chair	City of Los Banos
David Couch, Supervisor	Kern County
Robert Macaulay, Supervisor	Madera County
Lloyd Pareira, Supervisor	Merced County
Alvaro Preciado, Mayor	City of Avenal
Rusty Robinson, Supervisor	Kings County
Robert Rickman, Supervisor	San Joaquin County
Alexander Sherriffs, M.D.*	Appointed by Governor
Amy Shuklian, Supervisor	Tulare County

**arrived at 9:08*

Absent:

Councilmember Bessinger, Supervisor Mendes, Dr. Pacheco-Werner

- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR – Item Numbers (14- 18):
14. APPROVE ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY UNIFIED AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEETING OF JANUARY 19, 2023
 15. APPROVE REAPPOINTMENT OF HEARING BOARD MEMBERS
 16. RECEIVE AND FILE LIST OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS FOR 2023
 17. RECEIVE AND FILE OPERATIONS STATISTICS SUMMARY FOR JANUARY 2023
 18. RECEIVE AND FILE BUDGET STATUS REPORTS AS OF JANUARY 31, 2023

Public Comment: None

Moved: Shuklian

Seconded: Macaulay

Ayes: Couch, Lewis, Macaulay, Pareira, Preciado, Rickman, Sherriffs, Shuklian, Chiesa

Nays: None

Motion carried to approve Consent Calendar (Items 14-18).

5. PUBLIC COMMENT – *The following individual(s) provided public comments at this meeting:*
- Connie Young, Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL)
 - Janet Dietz-Kamei, Resident
 - Jazmarie LaTour, Little Manila Rising (LMR)
 - Nahui Gonzalez Millan, Central Valley Air Quality Coalition (CVAQ)
 - Manuel Cuhna, Nisei Farmers League
 - Luis Ramirez, Nisei Farmers League
6. REPORT ON CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES) – Manuel Cuhna, Citizens Advisory Committee Chair, reported on highlights from the meeting held on February 7, 2023.
7. APPROVE PROJECT PLAN AND REALLOCATE COMMUNITY AIR PROTECTION FUNDING FOR NEW RESIDENTIAL AIR FILTRATION PROGRAM WITHIN THE AB 617 COMMUNITIES OF SOUTH CENTRAL FRESNO, SHAFTER, AND STOCKTON – Jessica Olsen, District's Director of Community Strategies & Resources, presented a new program for deploying residential air filtration units in the AB 617 communities and proposed a plan to reallocate funds to support the new programs.

Supervisor Chiesa commended the District's ability to be flexible and willing to change based on fact based, measured results.

Dr. Sherriffs agreed with Supervisor Chiesa and also inquired about the devices longevity, cost and what the follow up for the plan will be. Ms. Olsen, along with Jeanine Tackett, a Supervising Specialist in the Grants Department, responded that the devices cost approximately \$200 with filters ranging in cost from \$15-30 and filters should be changed out between three and six months.

Dr. Sherriffs requested more information about the follow up with participants to check that they are using them correctly and if maintenance is not too difficult. Mr. Sheikh replied that we will have a lot of information about participants and many questions that will be necessary to check for household conditions, and health related questions that will be helpful with the implementation of programs moving forward.

Mr. Sheikh also spoke on the continued efforts of finding productive ways to engage with short haul and class one railways to deploy the latest technology along with looking at federal funds to pair with funds remaining in the CERP for locomotives.

Supervisor Robinson echoed his appreciation of the results oriented approach the District has taken with these reallocations.

Ms. Lewis inquired about the Clean Air Rooms pilot program, and if it will be available to all counties in the jurisdiction. Mr. Sheikh explained that the intention is to develop and return to the board with a valley wide program similar to the pilot program from last year. Mr. Sheikh also clarified that this item was directly focused on state funding that is only available for AB 617 communities.

Mr. Macaulay echoed Dr. Sherriffs comments as well as recommend if the District moves forward with a valley wide program to look for opportunities to work with county public health offices and Department of Social Services.

Public Comment: *The following individual(s) commented on this item:*

- Kevin Hamilton, Central California Asthma Collaborative
- Janet Dietz-Kamei, Resident
- Nayamin Martinez, Central California Environmental Justice Network
- Margo Praus, Resident
- Michele McManus, CSC
- Cynthia Pinto Cabrera, Central California Environmental Justice Network

Moved: Lewis

Seconded: Shuklian

Ayes: Chiesa, Lewis, Macaulay, Pareira, Preciado, Rickman, Robinson, Sherriffs, Shuklian

Nays: None

Motion unanimously approved to (1) Approve the Project Plan to establish a Residential Air Filtration Program for implementation within the AB617 communities of South Central Fresno, Shafter, and Stockton, consistent with District Board and CARB- approved Community Emissions Reduction Programs (CERPS) for these and future AB 617 communities, as applicable. (2) Reallocate \$1,000,000 in the South Central Fresno approved CERP from Locomotive Replacement Measure HD.1 to new Residential Air Filtration Program Measure. (3) Reallocate \$750,000 in the Shafter approved CERP from Locomotive Replacement Measure. (4) Authorize the Executive Director/APCO to make administrative changes to the program as necessary to ensure successful implementation of the programs.

8. RECEIVE UPDATE ON DISTRICT'S AGRICULTURAL OPEN BURNING PHASE-OUT STRATEGY – Jon Klassen, the District's Director of Air Quality Science and Planning, and Todd DeYoung, the District's Director of Grants and Incentives, presented this update on implementation of District's agricultural open burning phase-out strategy, including the Ag Burn Alternatives Grant Program.

Mr. Pareira requested clarification on the acreages, Mr. DeYoung explained that the calculations are based on the size of the total acreage that someone farms within the San Joaquin Valley.

Mr. Robinson commended the District in working to help the small farmers in the valley and he inquired about any assistance available to them in order to ease and guide the farmers through the application process. Mr. DeYoung assured him that the District had a great staff of Specialists who are available to assist with the process in many different ways.

Ms. Lewis asked if there was consideration for the smaller farmers with any reduced costs for the equipment use, if there is any collaboration with other farmers to offset the cost. Mr. DeYoung explained that there have been instances where farmers will schedule the removals at similar times to help offset the cost.

Dr. Sherriffs was appreciative of the presentation and inquired if there is a way to promote the cleanest equipment available. Mr. DeYoung responded that all of the equipment used right now is meeting the standards as the cleanest available technology. Mr. Sheikh concurred with Mr. DeYoung and explained that the program as adopted by the board, included the criteria to have the cleanest available technology.

Mr. Macaulay expressed appreciation to the staff for the presentation and incentives available for the small farmers. He also asked his fellow board members to continue to lobby for additional funds and he requested information on an estimated lifetime of the program. Mr. DeYoung replied that it is forecasted to be another twelve months if staying status quo, but by instituting the cap will provide several more months to the program to move closer to January 2025 deadline.

Mr. Preciado inquired about finding ways to make equipment available to small farmers who may not have funds to purchase. Mr. DeYoung explained that in general contractors are purchasing the equipment, and they are required to provide service to any valley wide grower who needs to utilize the service and that one of the provisions of this program is to ensure that the equipment is used as much as possible.

Mr. Robinson questioned if there is a cap or guidelines on what the contractors would charge growers for the services. Mr. DeYoung answered that there are fairly consistent prices being seen based on the market driven costs.

Mr. Rickman requested from Mr. Sheikh if he could draft a letter to be given to Assembly Members and Federal Senators to advocate for additional funds. Mr. Sheikh agreed and said with agreement from the board he could share such letter with focus on key priorities.

Public Comment: *The following individual(s) commented on this item:*

- Kevin Hamilton, Central California Asthma Collaborative
- Janet Dietz-Kamei, Resident
- Cynthia Pinto Cabrera, Central California Environmental Justice Network
- Manuel Cuhna, Nisei Farmers League
- Roger Isom, Western Ag Processors Association & California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations
- Jesse Roseman, Almond Board of California

Motion unanimously approved by Common Consent to approve the proposal to change the following (1) is to institute a cap of 500 acres of removal per entity per calendar year (2) to increase the incentive from \$100 per acre to \$400 per acre for small farmers.

9. RECEIVE UPDATE ON ATTAINMENT PLANNING EFFORTS TO ADDRESS FEDERAL STANDARDS – Emily Kneeland, Planning Department Program Manager, and Jon Klassen, the District’s Director of Air Quality Science and Planning presented an update on the status and next steps for District attainment planning efforts to address federal ambient air quality standards.

Mr. Chiesa requested clarification from Mr. Sheikh about the EPA about the plan that was submitted to EPA and was adopted, but then disapproved by EPA. Mr. Sheikh responded that the Plan for 2012 PM2.5 Standard was turned in early in hopes to move quickly to reduce air pollution and improve public health. Mr. Sheikh continued to explain that since it was submitted before it was due, when it was returned with some key issues to address we can still get it back to EPA and hopefully secure approval. Mr. Sheikh also addressed the development of the contingency submission for EPA in order to address the requirements, but we are waiting to see proposed guidance from EPA.

Dr. Sherriffs made the statement reminding that we are a public health agency and the metrics we are working with are the criteria pollutants and the need to work creatively and leveraging air quality benefits of the climate funds that are out there both in the State and Federally.

Mr. Robinson concurred with Dr. Sherriff's comments about putting pressure on Federal government on the mobile elements.

Mr. Sheikh stated the importance of understanding the science and to think about PM 2.5 and understanding the different contributions and sources around that. Mr. Sheikh added that he anticipates coming back to the board this year with more conversations about building on the science to design the most effective plans possible.

Public Comment: *The following individual(s) commented on this item:*

- Janet Dietz-Kamei, Resident
- Cynthia Pinto-Cabrera, Central Valley Air Quality Coalition
- Kevin Hamilton, Central California Asthma Collaborative
- Jed Holtzman, California RMI

10. APPOINT AD HOC BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE – Samir Sheikh, the District's APCO presented information regarding one of the key steps in the District's budget development process is establishing an Ad Hoc Subcommittee to review and provide feedback on the District's Recommended Budget prior to the Budget Hearing in May.

Chairman Chiesa appointed Supervisor Bessinger, Supervisor Robinson, Supervisor Rickman, Supervisor Macaulay, and Dr. Pacheco-Werner

11. VERBAL REPORT ON CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD (CARB) ACTIVITIES– Samir Sheikh shared the CARB report in Dr. Pacheco-Werner's absence.
12. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/APCO COMMENTS – Samir Sheikh expressed his appreciation to the Board Members. Mr. Sheikh reported to the board about his visit to the World Ag Expo and the District's booth at the expo. He highlighted opportunities to build relationships with the Ag community as well as communicate the grant opportunities that are available. Mr. Sheikh shared with the board that he will be working to visit various boards and councils to speak with local government agencies to share air quality updates and to keep open communication regarding our ongoing clean air missions as well as challenges. Mr. Sheikh also requested any input from the board with any other ideas or organizations the district could present to as a way to engage with residents. Mr. Sheikh expressed the ways the District will prioritize ongoing efforts in securing funds from the Inflation Reduction Act and the importance of bringing the funding to the valley for the issues we are facing here.

13. GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – Chairman Chiesa reminded the board to work with their respective boards in order to have Mr. Sheikh speak before them to give these very important updates. Ms. Lewis expressed her interest in having Mr. Sheikh present to her city council in Los Banos.

ADJOURN

Chair Chiesa adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.