

Action Summary Minutes
San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY GROUP (EJAG)
GRANTS COMMITTEE**

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

**Tuesday, September 27, 2011
4:30 p.m.**

The Environmental Justice Advisory Group Grants Committee 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 the Northern Region Office, VTC Room, 4800 Enterprise Way, Modesto

1. CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL – was taken and a quorum was present.

County	Member Name/Interest Group	Location
Kern	Marvin Dean, Business Owner	South
Tulare	Derek Williams, At-large Rep	Central
Fresno	Riley Jones, CAC-Industry/AG	Central

Staff present in Central Region Office (Fresno) – Todd DeYoung, Strategies & Incentives Program Manager; Maricela Velasquez, Senior Public Information Representative; Morgan Lambert, Director of Compliance.

Staff present in Southern Region Office (Bakersfield) – Leonard Scandura, Permit Services Manager.

Staff present in Northern Region Office (Modesto) – Rupi Gill, Permit Services Manager.

Members of the public present – Dennis Fox, Melissa Kelly-Ortega, Heather Gonzalez.

3. APPROVE MINUTES FOR AUGUST, 23, 2011 – Mr. Williams referred to page 3, second paragraph: “Mr. Williams said he didn’t expect to need approval from EJAG or CAC members, but thought he would merely report recommendations to EJAG and then those recommendations would be forwarded to Mr. Sadredin.” He said that was not exactly what was discussed, stating his comment was regarding the Grants Committee making recommendations that would be

presented to the EJAG committee and EJAG would either approve or disapprove those recommendations. He said the Grants Committee does not set policy, but makes recommendations to EJAG. Mr. Williams said the committee does not report to the CAC; however, the CAC does oversee EJAG. He approved the minutes with the stated correction.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS (FIRST OPPORTUNITY) – Mr. Fox said the committee could possibly consider reviewing an item if it is approved by the District, but he did not elaborate at this time on the issue he was referring to.
5. CHAIR COMMENTS – Mr. Williams said he had reviewed the minutes and notes regarding what the Grants Committee discussed last month and was confident the committee could start working on some items this evening, specifically items #7 and #8.
6. APCO/DEPUTY APCO COMMENTS – This item was not discussed, due to APCO representative not present.
7. PRESENTATION ON CURRENT INCENTIVE PROGRAMS –

a. Ideas the District might be considering as future incentive programs which would directly benefit EJ communities - Mr. DeYoung, Grants Program Manager provided information on current incentive programs, which included the following items:

- On-road heavy-duty trucks
- School buses (replacements and retrofits)
- Transit pass subsidies
- Fireplace replacements
- Gross polluters (light-duty passenger vehicles)
- Street sweepers
- Lawn mowers
- Bicycle sharing programs

Mr. Williams said the law states, “at least \$10 million,” which he understood to mean that is the minimum amount available, and that more funds for EJ communities could be requested. Mr. DeYoung said that would be a decision for the committee to make.

Concerning transit pass subsidies, Mr. DeYoung explained the District currently offers transit pass subsidies of up to 50 percent, which is made available through funds under the District’s REMOVE program.

Mr. DeYoung suggested part of the DMV funds could be used to enhance this program for EJ communities.

The committee discussed which programs would provide the biggest benefit in improving the air quality in EJ communities for the amount of money invested in those programs, “biggest bang for the buck.” Mr. DeYoung said that historically, emission reductions related to heavy-duty diesel engines have been the “biggest bang for your buck” type of reductions, whether they are tractors, trucks or agricultural irrigation pumps. He said some of the other projects also have benefits due to the community involvement aspect. Mr. DeYoung said the school bus replacements and retrofit program is also important, as emissions from school buses affect the health of children.

Mr. Williams asked if there was an item on the list to plant trees or build walls along busy roads or freeways that are located near schools. Mr. DeYoung said it is a matter the District could review to see if any studies have been done on the effectiveness of those types of mitigation with regard to particulate matter. Mr. Williams said he would like this item to be placed on the list to review.

- b. Ideas for utilization of a portion of the \$10 million to enhance or supplement existing diesel truck replacement/retrofit programs specifically in EJ communities or by qualified EJ community member-owned small companies** – Mr. DeYoung said the District has been very aggressive in funding the replacement of older, heavy-duty trucks through the Proposition 1B Goods Movement Emission Reduction Program. He explained the District is currently in the middle of a solicitation and has received approximately 3,500 applications for new trucks; however, the District only has enough funding to replace approximately 850 trucks. He said there is a huge need for truck replacements in the Valley. Mr. DeYoung said those programs have a required match and, typically, it works out to about 40 to 50 percent of the cost of a new vehicle. He said the committee could recommend that a portion of the funding go to offset some of that required match or eliminate it, in certain cases.

Mr. Williams recalled a discussion during an EJAG meeting where Ms. Holt, Chief Communications Officer, mentioned if funds were available, the District could acquire a van, which would be used for community

outreach and education. He asked if some of the funds could be used to acquire a vehicle. Mr. DeYoung said a certain percentage of the funding can be allocated to outreach efforts and he did not think the committee would be prohibited from recommending such an expenditure.

Mr. Dean said Mr. DeYoung's presentation showed some of the programs had a grass roots connection, in that they help to get EJ communities involved, and for this reason, he liked the transit pass subsidies incentive program.

Mr. Dean asked when the money would be available and if there was a deadline for it to be spent. Mr. DeYoung said it was his understanding that the \$12 DMV fee began appearing on registration renewals as of last month. He said it is anticipated the first allotment of these funds could be received the end of this year or early in 2012. Regarding the deadline to spend the funds, Mr. DeYoung said there are no specific deadlines prescribed by the legislation; however, the District has self-imposed a timeline. He said this was done in order to quickly utilize the funds for programs that will benefit EJ communities.

Mr. Williams asked if the funds would be placed in an interest-bearing account. Mr. DeYoung said he believed the District would put the funds in such an account.

Mr. Jones asked if the School Bus program replaces school buses or retrofits school buses. Mr. DeYoung said the program does both, explaining that the oldest buses get replaced first and other buses qualify for retrofit. Regarding replacement, he said the District can pay up to \$140,000 per bus and a new bus costs approximately \$160,000 - \$190,000. He said a retrofit costs approximately \$20,000. He explained that a retrofit provides a benefit in the reduction of particulate matter, but typically there are no reductions in NOx, and a replacement provides a significant reduction in both particulate matter and NOx.

Mr. Jones asked how much of the \$12 DMV increase will be contributed to the District. Mr. DeYoung said he believed it is \$29 million a year, roughly, and said the source of funding for the \$10 million is from that DMV increase. Mr. Jones said he recalled an

earlier discussion where it was stated the \$10 million is a one-time distribution.

Public comment: The following persons provided testimony on this matter:

- Mr. Fox said the Lions Club raised money to buy the American Lung Association a motor home; however, due to circumstances it was never donated. He said there may be a nexus that would allow the vehicle to be obtained for community outreach.
- Heather Gonzales said she agreed with the grass roots approach, because community involvement is important.

8. OVERALL PLAN FOR THE COMMITTEE –

- a. **\$10 million funding** – Mr. Dean suggested the committee research if there was a way to justify the need for more than the \$10 million.

Mr. Jones asked if the entire \$10 million must be used for EJ grants and projects. Mr. DeYoung stated it did.

Mr. Dean suggested a certain percentage of the \$10 million be used to: 1) solicit ideas from EJ communities on programs they would see as beneficial; and 2) act on those suggestions. This would provide a grass roots, community involvement aspect. Mr. Jones agreed with Mr. Dean's suggestion, as few incentive programs do little to make the community aware of EJAG and EJAG's goals or any activity that is going on in their own communities.

- b. **Input to District on other incentive funds, use thereof and how much can or should be allocated specifically for EJ communities' benefit** – this item was not discussed.

- c. **Frequency of meetings** – Mr. Williams suggested the committee continue to meet one hour before the scheduled EJAG meeting until further notice.

- d. **Goals and Objectives** – Due to time, Mr. Williams suggested this be delayed until the next meeting. Mr. Jones said the primary goal of this committee has already been established: determine the best way to utilize the \$10 million. Mr. Williams added the establishment of an education outreach community development aspect, as Mr. Dean had suggested.

Mr. Williams said that during the next meeting, the committee will focus on further discussions concerning the grant ideas and programs that were presented during this meeting.

e. Reporting to EJAG – this item was not discussed.

9. REDUCING COMMUNITY IMPACTS FROM TRUCK PARKING IN AVENAL – DW – Speaker, Rey Leon, was not available to attend this meeting; therefore, this item was not discussed. Mr. Williams said if Mr. Leon was available to attend next month's meeting, this item would be placed on the agenda.
10. ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH – Mr. Dean referred to a letter he handed out to members of the committee, dated Sept. 11, 2011, explaining the development of a Request for Proposal (RFP) process relating to soliciting assistance in outreach efforts from small EJAG community organizations.
11. SUGGESTIONS FROM MEMBERS AS TO ITEMS TO INCLUDE IN REPORT TO EJAG AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE MADE TO THE EJAG – this item was not discussed.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

NEXT MEETING – The next Grants Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2011, at 4:30 p.m. Meeting held via video teleconference (VTC), with the Central Region Office (Fresno), the Northern Region Office (Modesto) and the Southern Region Office (Bakersfield) participating.