

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, October 25, 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	North
Fresno	Riley Jones, CAC-Industry/AG	Central

Staff present in Central Region Office (Fresno) – Samir Sheikh, Director of Strategies & Incentives Department; Maricela Velasquez, Senior Public Information Representative.

Staff present in Southern Region Office (Bakersfield) – Brenda Turner, Public Information Representative.

Staff present in Northern Region Office (Modesto) – Anthony Presto, Public Information Representative.

Members of the public present – Melissa Kelly-Ortega, Cynthia Sterling.

3. APPROVE MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 27, 2011 – Mr. Dean motioned to approve the minutes of Sept. 27, 2011 and Mr. Jones seconded. Chair, Mr. Williams, approved the minutes.
4. PUBLIC COMMENTS (FIRST OPPORTUNITY) – None.

5. CHAIR COMMENTS – In order to move into item #6 and continue last month's discussion, there were no comments by the Chair.
6. CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION FROM SEPTEMBER-OVERALL PLAN FOR THE COMMITTEE –

- a. **\$10 Million Funding** – Mr. Williams reviewed discussions that occurred last month during the Grant Committee meeting. He suggested the committee consider recommending (to EJAG) funds to be allocated to programs that would provide the biggest benefit in air quality in EJ communities, such as on-road heavy-duty trucks and school buses.

Mr. Dean suggested that, since it is possible additional funding will not be available in the future, the committee set aside a percentage of the \$10 million for programs that would specifically benefit EJ communities. This would allow community outreach to be conducted in order to solicit ideas from EJ community members on how the money could be used to benefit EJ communities. He suggested an RFP (Request for Proposal) could be utilized for this purpose. Mr. Williams added the programs would have to be directly related to air quality issues in the EJ areas.

Mr. Williams explained that recommendations made by the grants committee would be presented to EJAG for final recommendation(s), and then approval will be ultimately up to the APCO and/or possibly the CAC.

Mr. Williams suggested the grants committee work on developing a proposal application process, which would include:

- Application for businesses
- Application for Grant Committee members and EJAG members
- Application for community members

Mr. Jones said he was strong proponent of funds being allocated for the school bus program, in order to improve the transportation system that students use every day. He said he has read studies that show the air quality is worse inside school buses than outside.

Mr. Williams agreed and, concerning schoolchildren, he added that schools in EJ areas that are near freeways need barriers (concrete or trees) to reduce the impact of particulate emissions and exhaust fumes.

Regarding Mr. Dean's suggestion to use RFPs, Mr. Williams said perhaps the process could simply involve an application process that the committee could design. Also, the committee could develop a process to receive and review the applications.

Mr. Dean recommended District staff's input on items discussed and asked if District staff would be willing to work with the committee to formulate a process. Mr. Sheikh, Director of Strategies and Incentives, said he wanted the committee process to go through the steps in its independent form without the District providing too much feedback at this time, as it is important that the committee and EJAG ultimately formulate independent recommendations. He said the Grants Committee and EJAG's role concerning the funds is that of an advisory function, and what the District is essentially looking for is a comprehensive list of ideas of how to utilize the \$10 million in ways that maximize the benefits to EJ Communities. Mr. Sheikh also said suggestions do not have to be limited to the \$10 million, as the District has a broad range of incentive programs the committee can have input on, and that is something he has requested from EJAG since EJAG's early development. He said once ideas are submitted, the District will then go through the process of reviewing them, vetting them through all the appropriate staff, and then coming back to the committee with responses. Regarding holding back some of the funds until public outreach is conducted, Mr. Sheikh said one of the drawbacks is that it delays emission reductions while a process is being developed. He encouraged the committee to identify the issue(s) associated to community outreach and then develop recommendations to address the issue(s).

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

- Ms. Sterling suggested the committee look into the possibility of the availability of matching federal funds in regard to emission services or repairs to school buses.

- Ms. Kelly-Ortega said there is an agenda item on this evening's EJAG meeting to discuss community outreach and to develop tools to assist with outreach.

Concerning community outreach, Mr. Williams recommended placing an item on next month's Grants Committee agenda as an action item: discuss a mobile education unit that could be used by the District to conduct community outreach and education. He requested staff present a proposal at that time. Mr. Jones agreed with this recommendation and compared the mobile education unit to the police department's D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) vehicle, which has a tremendous impact with kids. The District could use a highly recognizable vehicle to go into EJ communities and provide outreach and educational material.

Regarding request by Mr. Dean concerning the Grants Committee receiving District staff's input during this process, Mr. Sheikh strongly encouraged the committee to provide ideas in the form of recommendations and present those to EJAG. EJAG can then discuss and approve or disapprove recommendations, and the approved recommendations can then be conveyed by EJAG to the APCO.

- b. Input to District on other incentive funds, use thereof and how much can or should be allocated specifically for EJ communities benefit** – Item not discussed.
- c. Frequency of meetings** – Item not discussed.
- d. Goals and objectives** – Item not discussed.
- e. Reporting to EJAG** - Item not discussed.

7. ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH – item discussed within item #6a.

8. DECEMBER EJAG GRANT COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS – The following items focusing on the \$10 million will be on next month's agenda :
 - Presentation from District staff on the mobile education vehicle
 - Application process
 - Public outreach

9. SUGGESTIONS FROM MEMBERS AS TO ITEMS TO INCLUDE IN REPORT TO EJAG AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE MADE TO THE EJAG – Item not discussed.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

NEXT MEETING – The next Grants Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 13, 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.