

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

**Thursday, February 23, 2012
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 4:35 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
Kings	Riley Jones, CAC-Industry/Ag (Primary)	Central
Fresno	*Sandra Celedón-Castro, At-large Rep	Central
Fresno	*Kevin Hamilton, CAC-Environmental (Primary)	Central

*Ms. Celedón -Castro arrived at 4:40 p.m. and Mr. Hamilton arrived at 5:00 p.m.

Staff present in Central Region Office (Fresno) – Todd DeYoung, Program Manager, Strategies and Incentives Department. Sheri Bohigian, Outreach and Communications Representative.

Staff present in Southern Region Office (Bakersfield) – Brenda Turner, Outreach and Communications Representative.

Staff present in Northern Region Office (Modesto) – Anthony Presto, Outreach and Communications Representative.

Members of the public present – None.

3. APPROVE MINUTES FOR JANUARY 26, 2012 – Ms. Bohigian noted a correction to the minutes of January's Grants Committee meeting. The day of February's meeting was corrected from Tuesday to Thursday, February 23,

2012. Mr. Dean motioned to approve the minutes of January 26, 2012. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS (FIRST OPPORTUNITY) – None.

*Ms. Celedón-Castro arrived at 4:40p.m.

5. CHAIR COMMENTS – Mr. Williams expressed his satisfaction with the committee for being able to get their list of recommendations to EJAG last month. He is pleased with how quickly the committee is moving in order to see results.

6. STAFF REPORT ON PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS – Todd DeYoung, presented the report. He stated that District staff is very supportive of the committee's recommendations. These recommendations are either new programs or enhancements to existing programs, and they provide strong potential for environmental justice impact.

- Mr. DeYoung said the District has been involved in several school bus programs over the years and has committed tens of millions of dollars in funding to replace and retrofit existing school buses. Unfortunately, school bus programs are no longer funded at the state level. Although they are not the most cost-effective programs, they have a huge impact on reducing toxic exposure to diesel contaminants and the District places great emphasis their importance. The health impact of school bus emissions greatly affects the children riding within those buses. In terms of an EJ benefit, one option would be to provide additional funding for school districts with a high percentage of free and reduced-cost lunch program participation. This percentage is a basis on which to measure lower-income school districts. Another option is to designate additional funding for buses that operate routes in identified EJ areas. Mr. Williams asked if there will be additional funding for school bus programs from the District's annual grants and incentives funds. Mr. DeYoung responded that the District is currently in the middle of the budget process, but District staff recommends putting a significant portion of incentive funds into such programs. However, these funds will not be confined to EJ areas. After further discussion, Ms. Celedón-Castro made a motion to recommend the allocation of \$3 million for school bus programs in EJ areas, as identified by the District EJ map.

Moved: Celedón-Castro
Seconded: Jones
Ayes: Celedón-Castro, Williams, Dean, Jones
Nays: None

Motion unanimously passed to recommend \$3 million be allocated for school bus programs in EJ areas; \$1 million for each region.

*Mr. Hamilton arrived at 5:00 p.m.

- Mr. DeYoung moved on to discuss the committee's recommendation regarding refuse collection vehicles. There is a high exposure to diesel particulate matter produced by these vehicles. The options are replacing these engines with new diesel engines or with new natural gas engines. The District is also looking into using additional funds from AB2552 for such a program. Mr. DeYoung explained that funding from Proposition 1B and Carl Moyer are not viable options for this program. There was a discussion regarding the Carl Moyer program and the associated fees from AB923. These funds had a stipulation that 50 percent go to EJ communities. Funding from AB2522 does not have this requirement. The District is looking into putting other funding into such programs. Mr. DeYoung also commented that, even without the requirement, the District usually exceeds that percentage. Mr. Williams commented that this program would be "more bang for the buck" than school bus programs. Mr. Dean commented he supports a recommendation that funds be used for such a program, but not out of the \$10 million already allotted to EJ. AB2522 requires \$10 million as the minimum amount that must be used towards EJ. The committee discussed the greater need for retrofitting/replacing privately-owned refuse collection vehicles that pick up in rural areas versus city vehicles that are generally better maintained. Mr. Jones made a motion to recommend asking the District for an additional \$3 million (from the remaining \$19 million of AB2552 funds) for the purpose of retrofitting and replacing privately-owned refuse collection trucks that pick up primarily in EJ communities, \$1 million for each region.

Moved: Jones
Seconded: Hamilton
Ayes: Celedón-Castro, Williams, Dean, Hamilton, Jones
Nays: None

Motion unanimously passed to recommend requesting an additional \$3 million for the purpose of retrofitting and replacing privately-owned refuse collection vehicles that pick up primarily in EJ areas; one million for each region.

- Mr. Williams asked committee members for any specific questions regarding the other recommendation items. Regarding item No. 8, Mr. Dean suggested working with the District's Outreach and Communications department to strengthen the impact in EJ communities. He suggested brainstorming with District staff in terms of outreach programs to secure additional funding and also looking for other opportunities within the District's budget to fund a pilot program. Mr. Williams took this opportunity to commend the District's Outreach and Communications Department for all of their great work. Mr. Hamilton commented on the great tonnage reduction potential through

salvage yard programs. Salvage yards tend to be located in EJ communities and there would be a direct impact on those areas. He commented that it would be helpful to have a map showing all of the salvage yards in the valley and how many pieces of equipment they all have. Mr. Williams requested that District staff look into those figures. Mr. Williams expressed his enthusiasm about the fourth item on the list, regarding light-duty passenger vehicles. He would like to see more money offered for vehicle repairs during Tune-In/Tune-Up events. Ms. Celedón-Castro mentioned that she would like to further explore item No. 6, regarding vegetative barriers, when they have more time. The committee agreed to add a further discussion of Mr. DeYoung's staff report to the agenda of next month's meeting. Mr. Williams suggested District staff bring in ideas on how EJ funds could be best used in regards to light-duty passenger vehicles. He would love to see some kind of proposal at the next meeting, if possible. Mr. Hamilton would like to get an idea of the "unmet need out there." He would like to see the numbers of unused certificates. Mr. DeYoung responded that the District has data on the number of what they call "stranded applications," vouchers that were issued and never redeemed. However, this data is District-wide, not just EJ areas. The committee also agreed to further discuss funding for lawn equipment at the next meeting. Mr. Williams mentioned the upcoming Lawn and Garden event scheduled for March 21, 2012.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS (SECOND OPPORTUNITY) – None.
8. MARCH EJAG GRANTS COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS – The committee agreed to further discuss the staff report in response to their recommendations. Mr. Hamilton asked if the committee should focus on where to allocate funds received from AB2522, or if they should consider funds from other sources as well. Mr. Williams responded that the Grants Committee can make recommendations to EJAG on how to allocate funds from additional sources. EJAG can then approve and formalize a recommendation to present to the District's Governing Board. Mr. Hamilton brought up how the issue of environmental justice can be used as an instrument to attract more grant funding. He mentioned there are several cycles of upcoming EPA grants for community work. He asked if District staff could inform the committee of any opportunities of that sort. Mr. Williams mentioned possible constraints on EJAG due to the nature of the bylaws. He invited District staff to present any opportunity where the committee could be of service. He suggested adding an agenda item for staff recommendations/input on opportunities for Grant Committee participation. Mr. Dean mentioned that the District receives funding from other sources and he would like to have a better understanding of the full picture. He asked if District staff could provide the committee with a report showing the total money available and give recommendations on where to use some of those funds.

9. SUGGESTIONS FROM MEMBERS AS TO ITEMS TO INCLUDE IN REPORT TO EJAG AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE MADE TO EJAG - None.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

NEXT MEETING – The next Grants Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 22, 2012, 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.