

Action Summary Minutes  
San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY GROUP (EJAG)**

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

**Tuesday, January 26, 2012**  
**5:30 p.m.**

*The Environmental Justice Advisory Group 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 5:32 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL – was taken and a quorum was present.

County	Member Name/Interest Group	Location
Fresno	Sandra Celedón-Castro, At-large Rep.	Central
Merced	Melissa Kelly-Ortega, At-large Rep.	Central
Stanislaus	Pamela Neronha, At-large Rep.	North
Tulare	Derek Williams, At-large Rep.	Central
Kern	Marvin Dean, Business Owner	South
Fresno	Sarah Sharpe, CAC-Environmental (Alternate)	Central
Kings	Riley Jones, CAC-Industry/Ag (Primary)	Central

Staff present in Central Region Office (Fresno) – Seyed Sadredin, APCO; Rick McVaigh, Deputy APCO; Errol Villegas, Program Manager of Strategies and Incentives; Dave Warner, Director of Permit Services; Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer; 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 – Dennis Fox, Vicki Sykes and Vicki Aawziyah Bevellie Harris, Heather Gonzales.

3. APPROVE MINUTES OF TUESDAY, December 13, 2011 -

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

***Motion unanimously passed to approve the minutes of Tuesday, DECEMBER 13, 2011.***

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Vicki Sykes and Vicki Aawziyah, from A. Philip Randolph Corp., part of the Clean Air and Healthy Living Community, introduced themselves and said they would be attending EJAG meetings in the future.

Dennis Fox referred to a letter he had sent to EJAG, regarding smoke management.

5. CHAIR COMMENTS – Ms. Kelly-Ortega thanked everyone in attendance and said switching to Thursday night has resulted in a number of EJAG members being able to attend this evening. She said Mr. Terhune's trip to Panama has been postponed and he, therefore, will attend the February EJAG meeting. Ms. Kelly-Ortega asked staff to email EJAG members the Green Procurement policy.

6. APCO/DEPUTY APCO COMMENTS – Mr. McVaigh thanked everyone for being present this evening and agreed with Ms. Kelly-Ortega that switching to Thursday evenings has resulted in more EJAG members being able to attend. He then introduced Mr. Dave Warner, Director of Permit Services, who provided follow-up information concerning the discussion from last month's EJAG meeting regarding public notice outreach in EJ communities.

Mr. Warner said he was excited to hear some of the ideas that were discussed during last month's meeting of how the District could notify residents in EJ communities of upcoming District public meetings. He said one of the items discussed was the impracticality of notifying all the residents in individual communities of the 6,000 or more permitting activities that the District handles each year. He also added posting notices in the following commonly visited areas in these communities were interesting ideas:

- Libraries
- Where PG&E bills are paid
- Where local water bills are paid
- Post offices

- Community centers
- Local markets

Mr. Warner said the District is going to look for opportunities in those types of community gathering centers to post English and Spanish notices for future District public meetings. Mr. Warner said the District does plan to follow up on suggestions provided by EJAG and asked EJAG members to continue to provide ideas on outreach.

Mr. Dean said grassroots community EJ organizations could work with the District to assist with getting the word out to EJ community members. He said this topic would be further discussed during item #9 of this agenda.

Ms. Sharpe said she just learned this morning that the Spanish television news stations do not provide the same detailed air quality forecasts as English speaking channels. She suggested EJAG look into finding a sponsor for the Spanish news so that more funds be available for a more detailed forecast on air quality.

7. RULES UNDER DEVELOPMENT – Mr. Errol Villegas, Program Manager of Strategies and Incentives, provided a brief overview of the “Summary of Rules and Plans” information.

Regarding the 2012 PM2.5 Plan, Mr. Williams asked if reducing emissions impacts can be integrated into the plan (i.e. creating tree barriers to reduce the impact of particulates from highways and roadways). Mr. Villegas said the focus of the plan is to create a path for the attainment of the standards. He added the District has been authorized by the Governing Board to implement a Risk-Based strategy that goes beyond the federal requirements of the Mass-Based strategy, so the District does want to incorporate those impacts. Therefore, the District is interested in recommendations EJAG would have concerning the PM2.5 Plan.

Ms. Sharpe asked for an update on the timeline. Mr. Villegas said the first public workshop will probably be in April and the APCO, Mr. Sadredin, has planned additional community workshops. The APCO said he has asked District staff to hold two special meetings to include EJ groups. One meeting would be scheduled at the beginning of the process to obtain input and ideas, and another would be scheduled a couple of months later in order to provide updates on suggestions made during the first meeting and to receive additional feedback. Mr. Sadredin said that hopefully EJAG can be part of these meetings and provide suggestions as to what time the meetings should occur. He added this next PM2.5 Plan will not include typical rules or items done in the past, but will be comprised of cutting-edge strategies never tried before. He added EJAG could be a resource to the District in both facilitating and the community engagement process.

Mr. Dean asked for an update on Rule 2301 (Emission Reduction Credit Banking). Mr. Warner said the District is now accepting applications. He said the next steps of that process are to analyze the applications, release a preliminary decision on whether the District can issue any credits and receive public comments. If it is decided the credits can be issued, the District would then issue those credits. Mr. Warner said the application is available on the District website and he or anyone in the Permitting Department could provide assistance in completing the application.

Ms. Celedón-Castro suggested that information postcards advising of upcoming workshops be less wordy. Mr. Villegas said the District would be interested in receiving suggestions on streamlining the information provided on the workshop notices. Ms. Kelly-Ortega asked Ms. Celedón-Castro to edit a postcard and bring it to the next EJAG meeting for review.

Regarding the PM2.5 Plan, Mr. Villegas requested this item be placed on a future EJAG agenda in order for the District to provide a more thorough presentation. Mr. Williams suggested scheduling a special meeting comprised of EJAG and CAC for this presentation. Ms. Kelly-Ortega suggested a collaboration meeting sometime in March for the presentation.

8. CAC/EJAG COLLABORATION UPDATE – Ms. Kelly-Ortega said the meeting will be on Feb. 21 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and dinner would be provided. She encouraged everyone to attend the meeting at the Fresno District office; however, members can attend at one of the other District offices, as the VTC rooms will be available. She said a formal RSVP would be sent out with a link to the research packet that Mr. Jonathan London, Director of the Center for Regional Change at UC Davis, will be referring to during the presentation. She said the presentation will last approximately 45 minutes and will be followed by a question and answer session. Ms. Holt said Mr. London's presentation to the Governing Board in January was well received by the Boardmembers. Ms. Sharpe attended the January Board meeting and requested Mr. London's presentation to EJAG and CAC to provide more historical information and details about EJ. Ms. Kelly-Ortega encouraged public attendance at the collaboration meeting.

Public Comments: None.

9. GRANTS COMMITTEE UPDATE – Mr. Williams emphasized the Grants Committee work is an ongoing process and said ideas can be brought to the committee at any time. He then presented the following list of recommendations for EJAG to considering forwarding to District staff for review to see if they qualify for AB 2522 funding or to receive funds through other District programs:

- School buses

- Tune In & Tune Up program
- Garbage/refuse trucks
- Subsidize and continue to participate with the semi-truck/tractor program (either retrofit or replace)
- Leaf blowers and weed wackers (replacement with cleaner air machinery or electric equipment)
- Tree barriers (for particulate matter)
- Salvage yards
- Outreach program

Mr. Williams said representatives from two garbage/refuse companies attended the Grants Committee meeting this evening, one from Bakersfield and the other from Cutler, to request assistance through a program that would provide funds to assist in replacing diesel refuse trucks with new natural gas vehicles.

Mr. McVaigh said District staff could evaluate items approved by EJAG, then staff could provide an update at a future EJAG meeting, and EJAG could then vote on the recommendations to forward to the APCO.

Concerning lawn equipment, Ms. Sharpe said a big benefit could be acquired by replacing equipment used by school districts or government institutions, as these agencies use this type of equipment frequently.

Ms. Neronha suggested EJAG review the EJ maps to determine what communities would benefit from any of the items on the list. She added effective outreach in those communities is needed to assist with the process.

After discussion, it was decided by EJAG to add the following item to the list:

- Electrifying truck stop stations

Mr. Dean motioned to accept the list of 9 recommendations for District staff to evaluate and provide feedback at the February EJAG meeting.

Ms. Kelly-Ortega confirmed Mr. Dean's motion and requested District staff conduct a cost analysis of each recommendation, reference the impact on EJ areas, provide potential options of how a program might be run, and provide a list to EJAG of other possible funding sources.

Moved:	Dean
Seconded:	Sharpe
Ayes:	Celedón-Castro, Kelly-Ortega, Neronha, Williams, Dean, Sharpe, Jones
Nays:	None

***Motion unanimously passed to accept the 9 recommendations and forward to District staff for review.***

10. FINALIZE CHECK BEFORE YOU BURN BROCHURE – After a brief discussion motion was made to accept the new brochure as is. Ms. Kelly-Ortega commented this was the fourth District brochure reviewed and edited by EJAG.

Moved: Jones  
Seconded: Dean and Kelly-Ortega (not clear who seconded 2:08)  
Ayes: Celedón-Castro, Kelly-Ortega, Neronha, Williams, Dean, Sharpe, Jones  
Nays: None

***Motion unanimously passed to approve the Check Before You Burn brochure.***

11. VIEW THE WINNING FOR REEL VIDEO SUBMISSION – Due to time, this item was skipped.
12. CREATION OF CHECKLISTS FOR COMMITTEES – Because this item has been discussed at two previous meetings, Ms. Kelly-Ortega asked for a motion to accept the checklist.

Moved: Jones  
Seconded: Williams  
Ayes: Celedón-Castro, Kelly-Ortega, Neronha, Williams, Dean, Sharpe, Jones  
Nays: None

***Motion unanimously passed to accept the checklist for committees.***

13. ONE-PAGE EJAG MILESTONES – Ms. Kelly-Ortega requested this item be postponed. Mr. Williams suggested adding that EJAG voted to accept and pass on to District staff the list of recommendations presented by the Grants Committee. Ms. Kelly-Ortega requested EJAG members submit additional suggestions to her via email.
14. DISCUSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS – Ms. Kelly-Ortega said EJAG supports events which are specific to air issues and EJ issues can now be posted on the District's online calendar. The following is the formal process for an item to be considered to be placed on the District calendar:
- EJAG members will submit request to the EJAG chair
  - EJAG chair will forward to OC staff
  - OC staff will forward to Mr. McVaigh and the APCO

Ms. Kelly-Ortega said Dr. London's presentation on Feb. 21 is an item that can be requested to be placed on the calendar. Ms. Sharpe suggested that when the dates for the PM2.5 are finalized, those can also be requested to be placed on the calendar. Ms. Kelly-Ortega suggested Ms. Sharpe's EJ task force meetings be placed on the calendar along with Mr. Dean's annual public contractors' conference.

Ms. Kelly-Ortega asked for a motion for District generated and/or EJ community events to be submitted to the EJAG chair through EJAG members, then the EJAG chair can forward to District staff, and staff will review for possible placement on the District calendar.

Moved: Dean  
Seconded: Celedón-Castro  
Ayes: Celedón-Castro, Kelly-Ortega, Neronha, Williams, Dean, Sharpe, Jones  
Nays: None

***Motion unanimously passed to accept the procedures for submitting requests for District generated and/or EJ community events to be placed on the District calendar.***

15. COMMUNITY FEEDBACK TOOLS – Referring to last month's discussion regarding this item, Ms. Kelly-Ortega suggested Ms. Teresa DeAnda, Californians for Pesticide Reform, give a presentation about the Ivaonline.org monitoring system at a future EJAG meeting. Ms. Sharpe said she thought March would be a good time for that presentation. She said currently the program does not have the funds to operate in Kern and Tulare and perhaps this is a program EJAG could request the District assist with funding to get the program up and running in Fresno and other counties. Ms. Holt asked for the costs associated for Tulare and Kern counties. Ms. Sharpe said bids are still being reviewed.

Ms. Kelly-Ortega reviewed the items discussed during last month's meeting, which were: questionnaires, pull-off tab on EJAG brochures, and iPads. She added that Mr. Williams suggested EJAG participate in 4 community events for this year.

Concerning community events, Mr. Dean said EJAG could work with grassroots community organizations and the District Outreach staff in order to go into EJ communities and get buy-in from those communities and to inform them about EJAG. Ms. Kelly-Ortega reiterated the suggestion made by Ms. Mares-Alatorre during last month's meeting, which was EJAG attend various migrant health fairs.

Ms. Kelly-Ortega asked if it was EJAG's goal to develop a tool and then go into EJ communities or go into the communities first and then figure out what tools are needed. Ms. Sharpe said there are numerous health fairs EJAG can attend throughout the Valley. Ms. Holt said there is a big fair that will be held at the Manchester Center and suggested someone from EJAG join the District Outreach and attend.

Mr. Williams said EJAG could also do more than just 4 events and tag onto other community events and meetings. He said he belongs to the Lions Club and EJAG could do a short presentation during one of their meetings. Ms. Neronha reiterated what Mr. Dean had mentioned earlier that EJAG could partner with grassroots organizations in EJ communities. Mr. Dean added EJAG could let EJ community members know EJAG is a resource for them and that community members are invited to bring their concerns and suggestions on how the \$10 million should be spent. He said there will be a Clean Air and Healthy Living Community Fair in Bakersfield coming up that EJAG members could attend.

Ms. Sharpe said her job is to teach people what EJ is about and she knows of a number of events where EJAG could make a short presentation.

Ms. Kelly-Ortega said this item would be tabled for next month's meeting for further discussion.

16. BRAINSTORM HOW TO FILL EJAG VACANCIES – Ms. Kelly-Ortega said three applications have been received from the southern region from the following individuals: Mr. Dennis Fox (Kern), Mr. Bob Smith (Kern), and Ms. Maricela Mares-Alatorre (Kings). She said Mr. Smith might meet the requirements to fill the ethnic small-business seat. She added applications are still needed for the Madera seat. Ms. Kelly-Ortega said applications need to be submitted prior to the CAC meeting.

Mr. Dean said a member of the public present, Ms. Vicki Sykes, may be interested in submitting an application for one of the open seats. Ms. Sykes said she has been a member of the community for 20 years and she provided her email address to that a link to the application could be emailed to her.

Ms. Holt said applications should be received within the next 2 weeks and interviews will probably be scheduled in 3 to 4 weeks, and then the item placed on the CAC agenda in March.

17. EJAG MAPS (IF ANY UPDATES) – Ms. Kelly-Ortega said there were no updates for this item at this time.
18. FEBRUARY EJAG MEETING AGENDA ITEMS – The following items will be placed on the February agenda:



- District possibly providing information on the PM2.5 Plan
- December 2012 EJAG meeting date discussion
- Community feedback tools
- Grants Committee update
- One-page EJAG Milestone
- Industrial trucks in Mira Loma Village, in Riverside County (Ms. Neronha)
- 2012 Air Quality conference

Ms. Kelly-Ortega also suggested Ms. Teresa DeAnda give a presentation on Ivanonline.

19. PUBLIC COMMENTS (2<sup>ND</sup> OPPORTUNITY) – Ms. Heather Gonzales said contacting community leaders would save EJAG a lot of time and provide the opportunity to hear the concerns of the community. She also suggested EJAG attending soccer matches.

Ms. Bevellie Harris, program manager for A. Phillip Randolph, said they will have a Clean Air and Healthy Air Living Community Fair Feb. 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Veterans Hall. Ms. Turner said Ms. Harris had a flier that she would forward.

Regarding public outreach, Mr. Fox suggested the District contact churches.

20. EJAG MEMBER COMMENTS – Ms. Dean asked Ms. Gonzales to attend future EJAG meetings to talk more on effective outreach in EJ communities.
21. EJAG MEMBER SUGGESTIONS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE PRESENTATION OF THE EJAG REPORT DURING CAC MEETING ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2012, AT 10 A.M. – None.
22. VOLUNTEER TO PRESENT REPORT DURING CAC MEETING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2012 AT 10 A.M. – Ms. Sharpe volunteered.

## **ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

*NEXT MEETING – The next EJAG meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 23, 2012, at 5:30 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.*