

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 28, 2013  
4:15 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 4:15 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL – was taken and a quorum was present.

<b>County</b>	<b>Member Name/Interest Group</b>	<b>Location</b>
Tulare	Derek Williams, At-large Rep	Central
Kern	Marvin Dean, Business Owner	South
Kern	Robert Smith, At-large Rep.	South

Staff present in Central Region Office (Fresno) – Todd DeYoung, Strategies and Incentives Manager; Samir Sheikh, Strategies and Incentives Director; Maricela Velasquez, Senior Air Quality Education Representative.

Staff present in Southern Region Office (Bakersfield) – Emily Gonzalez-Demont, Office Services Manager.

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

Members of the public present – Melissa Kelly-Ortega, EJAG member, Central.

3. APPROVE MINUTES FOR MARCH 22, APRIL 16, AND AUGUST 23, 2012 –

Moved:	Dean
Seconded:	Smith
Ayes:	Williams, Dean, Smith
Nays:	None

***Motion passed to approve the minutes of March 22, April 16 and August 23, 2012.***

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS (FIRST OPPORTUNITY) – None.
5. CHAIR COMMENTS –Mr. Williams suggested having alternates in case another committee member is unable to attend a meeting. Everyone agreed that was a good idea. Mr. Williams welcomed Mr. Smith to the committee.
6. UPDATE BY STAFF ON IMPLEMENTATION OF AB2522 FUNDS USE RECOMMENDATION BY EJAG – Mr. DeYoung welcomed Mr. Smith to the committee and gave some background information on the recommendations made last year. He then gave an update on the use of AB2522 funds.
  - **School Buses** – The recommendation was to allot \$3 million for school bus replacement in EJ areas. This program was on hold due to school transportation funding being in jeopardy. Now that this funding is secure, District staff is working on a request for proposal to solicit new projects. The program should start up in the next few months.
  - **Refuse–Collection Vehicles** – The recommendation was to allot \$3 million for the replacement of privately-owned refuse-collection vehicles, based and operating in EJ areas. The District is working with stakeholders and privately owned companies to develop the program. They are considering a program that would provide the difference in cost between a new diesel vehicle and a new compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicle. This amounts to roughly \$60,000 per vehicle. Mr. DeYoung said staff is finalizing the details and looking to take this program to the Governing Board in the next couple of months.

Mr. Williams commented that a diesel truck can be converted into CNG for around \$4,000 or \$5,000. Mr. DeYoung said, due to advances in technology, this option is not as beneficial as buying a new truck. It would still be a fairly inefficient, higher-polluting engine. Mr. Sheikh added that older CNG vehicles emit about the same amount of NOx as older diesel vehicles. CNG actually emits slightly more. Retrofitting old diesel trucks would give some particulate benefit, but would not result in any reduction in NOx.
  - **On-Road Heavy-Duty Vehicles** – The recommendation was to allot \$3 million for replacing on-road trucks for small fleets or single-owner/operators. In response to this recommendation, the District developed a truck voucher program (TVP) targeted at small businesses. This program offers up to \$50,000 towards the purchase of a new truck. Out of the \$8 million spent this year, over \$6 million has gone to small

businesses that operate in EJ areas. Due to the high level of interest, the District has allocated an additional \$3 million to this program.

- **Light-Duty Passenger Vehicles** – The recommendation was to allot \$4 million for Tune-in/Tune-up events. The committee also recommended increasing the maximum voucher amount from \$500 to \$1,000. Staff discussed and evaluated cost-effectiveness and ultimately decided to keep the voucher maximum at \$500. Increasing the voucher amount by even a few hundred dollars would significantly reduce the cost-effectiveness of the program, and the majority of emissions-related repairs can be completed for \$500. Mr. DeYoung gave an update on the program itself, which has been highly successful. There were 12 or 13 events held in 2012 with about 2,900 vouchers issued. Two events have been held so far in 2013. They are averaging one every three weeks.

Mr. Dean asked if the District tracks how many vouchers are redeemed. Mr. DeYoung said the District's contractor, Valley Clean Air Now (CAN), is doing a great job on follow-up, contacting people and reminding them to use their vouchers, or asking why they didn't use their vouchers. Mr. Dean said he is interested in that information if Mr. DeYoung could include it in a future report.

Mr. Smith asked about the overhead cost per voucher. Mr. DeYoung did not know the amount per voucher, but he provided information about event costs which include rentals, generators and staffing. Valley CAN has streamlined the operation and reduced costs. They also do a great job with leveraging their money to bring in other services in which the community might be interested, such as providing flu shots. Mr. DeYoung added there is food available and radio stations broadcasting, and it really becomes a community-wide event.

Ms. Kelly-Ortega shared information about a Tune-in/Tune-up event recently held in Merced. She said close to 490 vehicles were serviced and about 60 percent of those received repair vouchers. Mr. DeYoung said that at the first few events, they only processed about 300 to 350 vehicles in a day. Now, nearly 600 are processed at some events.

7. INPUT/SUGGESTIONS FOR 2013 BUDGET - Mr. Williams said agenda items #7 and #8 would be combined into one discussion.
8. SPENDING ON EJ RELATED ITEMS IN EJ AREAS – Mr. DeYoung told the committee that District staff is looking for recommendations for the upcoming fiscal year. Unlike last year, there is not a specific source of funds or amount of money to be allocated. Staff is looking for more general recommendations based on the committee's priorities.

Mr. Williams said the committee made funding recommendations for four programs last year, and those recommendations were well-received by the District. He suggested making recommendations for those programs again and looking into additional programs. Everyone approved of this suggestion.

Mr. Dean wanted a general idea of funding sources and a dollar amount they should be considering. Mr. DeYoung said the District's spending plan is typically about \$100 million per year. These funds come from a variety of different sources, several of which have specific purposes. Mr. DeYoung said staff is interested in EJAG's priorities for funding. They can match those programs with available funding sources.

Mr. Dean asked if staff could provide a list of all programs benefitting EJ areas, and/or have potential to benefit EJ areas. Mr. Williams suggested making that an item on the March agenda and asked Mr. DeYoung if that would work for him. Mr. DeYoung cannot attend the March meeting, but Mr. Sheikh can attend and provide the requested information.

The committee discussed funding for bicycle infrastructure. Mr. Smith said cars in lower-income areas are generally older and higher-polluting. If you can cut down vehicle miles traveled in those areas, you can make a great impact on air pollution. Mr. Smith commented that bicycling is economical, good for the air and good for health. He recommends that the District should have a program with a larger incentive that could help create a whole network within a community. He said it is the completeness of a network in an area that leads to a reduction in vehicle miles traveled. Mr. Smith said he would like to meet with District staff. Mr. DeYoung said that can be arranged. Mr. DeYoung added that ideas like this, enhancements to the bicycle program with an EJ component, are exactly the kind of recommendations the District is looking for.

Mr. Williams commented he thinks money should also be spent on education and outreach. He would like to see an educational campaign that shows bicycling is for everyone and a positive thing. Mr. Smith agreed and added part of the problem is that our infrastructure is made for automobiles, so people on bikes are sometimes perceived as second-rate citizens. He said we need to change the infrastructure to show that cyclists are not second-rate, they have a road space and they are part of the community.

Ms. Kelly-Ortega asked if the District could potentially provide funding to help with the infrastructure of a city or regional bike plan. Mr. DeYoung responded yes, the District loves being involved in projects that are part of larger plans.

Mr. Williams said he would also like to see a program that would provide new bikes in exchange for people crushing their old, high-polluting vehicles. Mr. Dean said he supports funding for bicycle infrastructure and would also like to see an

incentive to assist in purchasing bicycles. *Mr. Smith also noted* he believes it's critical that grants be established to fund bicycles and bicycle infrastructure.

Mr. Williams asked about a component working with the state or with the counties to construct roundabouts. Mr. DeYoung said the District does not usually get involved with transportation projects because there is other funding available for those projects, but staff can look into the idea.

Mr. DeYoung said the District's budget subcommittee meets in April and the budget initially goes to the Governing Board in May. Therefore, staff needs the Grants Committee's final recommendations in March. Mr. Williams asked the committee if they could start the March meeting at an earlier time. They agreed to meet at 3:30, provided the room is available. The committee will make final recommendations on the same four programs they chose last year, and additional recommendations based on the information provided and discussed at the meeting. The recommendations will be presented at the EJAG meeting for approval. Mr. DeYoung can then take the approved recommendations to the District budget meeting in April.

Ms. Kelly-Ortega asked everyone to do their homework before the March meeting. Mr. DeYoung will send out a list of current grant programs for review. These programs are also listed on the District's website. Mr. Williams stressed the importance of having quorum at the next meeting. If any member cannot attend, he would like Ms. Kelly-Ortega to be an alternate.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS (SECOND OPPORTUNITY) – None
10. NEXT EJAG GRANTS COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS
  - Discussion of Current Grant Programs - Samir Sheikh
  - Final Funding Recommendations
11. SUGGESTIONS FROM MEMBERS AS TO ITEMS TO INCLUDE IN REPORT TO EJAG AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE MADE TO EJAG
  - Mr. Williams will report on the discussion and the timeframe for final recommendations.

## **ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

*NEXT MEETING – The next Grants Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 28, 2013, at 3:30 p.m. Meeting held via video teleconference*

*SJVUAPCD Environmental Justice Advisory Group Grants Committee*  
**ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES**  
*February 28, 2013*

*(VTC), with the Central Region Office (Fresno), the Northern Region Office (Modesto) and the Southern Region Office (Bakersfield) participating.*