

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

**Thursday, August 25, 2016**  
**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 teleconference in the Northern  
Region Office, VTC Room, 4800 Enterprise Way, Modesto*

1. Call to Order – The Vice Chair, Derek Williams, called the meeting to order at 5:42 p.m.
2. Roll Call – was taken and a quorum was present

<u>County</u>	<u>Member Name/Interest Group</u>	<u>Location</u>
Fresno	Gennean Bolen Ed.D., At-Large Rep	Central
Fresno	LeRoy Candler, Ethnic, Small Business Owner	Central
Kern	Robert Smith, At-Large Rep	South
Kern	Marvin Dean, Ethnic-Small Business Owner	South
Kings	Dustin Ference, CAC-Industry Ag (Primary)	Central
Merced	Jack Lemen, CAC-City (Primary)	Central
Stanislaus	Thomas Helme, At-Large Rep	North
Tulare	Derek Williams, At-Large Rep	Central

Mr. Lemen arrived at 5:57 p.m.

Staff Present in Central Region Office (Fresno) – Samir Sheikh, Deputy APCO; Tom Jordan, Senior Policy Advisor; Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer; Chay Thao, Strategy & Incentives Program Manager; Shawn Ferreria, Air Quality Assistant; Cassandra Melching, Air Quality Education Representative; Sheraz Gill, Director of Strategy & Incentives; Jon Klassen, Strategy & Incentives Program Manager; Mehri Barati, Director of Administrative Services

Staff Present in the Northern Region Office (Modesto) – Anthony Presto, Air Quality Education Rep II

Staff Present in the Southern Region Office (Bakersfield) – Leonard Scandura, Permits Services Manager

Members of the public present – None.

3. Approve Minutes of June 23, 2016 – The Vice Chair asked if there were any comments regarding the Minutes for June 23, 2016.

Dr. Bolen clarified she has an Ed.D. not a Ph.D.

Moved: Ference  
Seconded: Dean  
Ayes: Bolen, Smith, Helme, Williams, Dean, Candler, Ference  
Nays: None

**EJAG Minutes of June 23, 2016 were approved with discussed modifications.**

4. Public Comments – None
5. Chair Comments – The Vice Chair had no comments.
6. APCO/Deputy APCO Comments – Samir Sheikh, Deputy APCO, provided updates from the August 2016 Governing Board meeting. The Board approved an emission reduction agreement with Kern County to fully mitigate the air quality impacts that would result from any expansion of oil and gas production in Kern County. The Board accepted \$900,000 in new revenue from EPA for the Truck Voucher Program and also approved modifications to the guidelines to expand eligibility while continuing to focus outreach efforts on small fleets. Mr. Sheikh recognized EJAG for playing an important role in securing the grant. The Board also approved \$1.1 million in District funding towards performing a comprehensive dust mitigation strategy at the Bakersfield municipal airport in partnership with the city of Bakersfield. Mr. Sheikh reported the next Governing Board meeting is on September 15, 2016.

Mr. Smith said he knew of recycling facilities that can provide wood chips for the dust mitigation at the Bakersfield airport. Mr. Sheikh requested information on those facilities.

Mr. Dean requested clarification on the modifications to the Truck Voucher Program guidelines. Mr. Sheikh asked for feedback and suggestions will be requested from EJAG on how to promote the Truck Voucher Program (TVP). A few of the modifications to the program included opening the eligibility to include 2007 and 2008 trucks and classes 4 and 5. The District is committed to continuing outreach to smaller businesses.

Mr. Helme asked if mitigation is within the southern regional area or throughout the Valley. Mr. Sheikh clarified mitigation efforts will be focused within Kern County. Mr. Helme requested information to distribute regarding TVP. Interested parties can contact District staff for program details.

7. Updates on Attainment Plans and Rules – Chay Thao, Strategies and Incentive Program Manager, provided the presentation for this item, including details regarding upcoming attainment plans and regulatory actions.

Mr. Ference asked if the Governing Board approved the 2016 Ozone plan for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone standard. Mr. Thao responded affirmatively.

Mr. Helme requested clarification of the role NO<sub>x</sub> plays in PM<sub>2.5</sub>. Mr. Thao explained NO<sub>x</sub> is the main precursor for PM<sub>2.5</sub> and 85% of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions in the Valley comes from mobile sources under state and federal jurisdiction.

Mr. Dean requested the status of a discussion with EPA regarding emissions due to trucks traveling through the Valley and the impacts if the Valley loses local control. Mr. Sheikh explained the District will continue to do everything possible at the local level for sources that are within the District's jurisdiction. There's no real way to meet the stringent federal mandates under the Clean Air Act without significant reduction in mobile source emissions and actually implementing transformational changes. The District will continue its efforts to leave no stone unturned in identifying additional emissions reduction opportunities and highlighting the Valley's needs with respect to attaining the federal standards, including advocating for the significant additional resources needed to deploy transformative measures with respect to mobile sources through an incentive-based strategy.

8. Discuss New Initiative to Secure Additional State and National Funding to Support Future Incentive-Based State Implementation Plans – Tom Jordan, Senior Policy Advisor, provided the report for this item. Despite achieving significant emissions reductions through decades of implementing the most stringent stationary and mobile regulatory control program in the nation, NO<sub>x</sub> emissions (primary precursor for both ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub>) in the San Joaquin Valley must be reduced by an additional 90% in order to attain the latest federal ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards that now encroach on natural background levels. Mobile sources now account for approximately 85% of the Valley's NO<sub>x</sub> emissions and fall under federal and state control. The District has little regulatory authority over mobile source emissions. The District's primary tool for reducing mobile source emissions is through incentive-based programs. A significant increase in incentive funds will be necessary to achieve the emissions reductions necessary to attain stringent federal standards. Similar to a recent plan introduced by the South Coast Air Quality Management District, the Valley may also need a billion dollars per year for the next ten to fifteen years to fund emission reductions in the mobile source sector. Towards that end, the Board adopted a strategy to bring significant state and federal resources to the region to reduce mobile source emissions

Mr. Dean requested a timeline on the initiative and how EJAG can assist. Mr. Jordan explained the Governing Board adopted the strategy August 18, 2016 and

staff will begin identifying pathways and intends to adopt a platform that includes elements for funding. Comments are always welcome.

Mr. Helme commented he spoke to a group from the Imperial Valley who is discussing air pollution with the Mexican Government. Mr. Helme commented trash incinerators cause NOx and there may be technology to assist with reducing emissions. Mr. Jordan thanked Mr. Helme for the information and explained the importance of federal standards so trucks coming from other countries or other states would have the same standards and trucks within California.

Mr. Lemen asked what the impact will be on the District due to non-attainment. Mr. Jordan explained there are a variety of impacts including the Valley's health impact. Sanctions will begin requiring new or expanding businesses to offset any new emissions on a ratio of 2:1. Those credits are difficult to obtain and are very expensive. The next sanctions that will occur are highway sanctions and billions of dollars in federal funding would be at risk. Mr. Lemen commented the federal government won't do anything about the mobile sources emission, yet if we don't reach attainment they can penalize us. Mr. Lemen said it doesn't seem quite right and asked if anyone has ever considered discussing this with someone in Washington. Mr. Jordan said this has been a focus of the District's educational efforts with federal legislators and policymakers as we continue to advocate with respect to the Valley's air quality challenges and needs.

9. Cap and Trade Funding Update – Tom Jordan, Senior Policy Advisor, provided the update on this item and explained that the District has been successful bringing cap and trade funding to the Valley and will continue to work with Valley stakeholders to ensure the Valley receives its fair share of the funds.

Mr. Williams asked if the Valley could lose money based on the ranking of the CalEnviroScreen due to legislation. Mr. Jordan responded affirmatively and said legislation would consider areas of the Valley that may not have had been considered before. Mr. Williams asked if there will be a revision of CalEnviroScreen. Mr. Jordan responded the state Office of Environmental Health and Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) responsible for developing CalEnviroScreen who will be holding workshops to discuss potential updates to CalEnviroScreen.

Mr. Dean recommended continuing to advocate for Cap and Trade Funding for the Valley. Mr. Jordan explained District staff continues to advocate for the Valley's fair share of funding and appreciates EJAG's continued support in this area. Mr. Dean requested the status of funding to agencies to track where funding is going. Mr. Jordan said there is a link on the District webpage for a list of entities that have received Cap and Trade funding.

10. Update on the 2016 Wildfire Season's Impact on Valley Air Quality – Shawn Ferreria, Senior Air Quality Specialist, provided the update for the item and explained the severity of the recent wildfire season.

Mr. Helme asked how an exceptional event is considered. Mr. Sheikh explained the process of requesting an event to be identified as exceptional is very extensive and detailed under the Clean Air Act and federal regulations. Mr. Helme asked if there is a concern that these wild fires are becoming the norm and not an exceptional event. Mr. Sheikh explained that under the Clean Air Act regions have the ability to not be penalized due to pollution caused by issues that are outside the control of the region. There is an effort to work with land management organization to reduce the buildup of materials in the forest to reduce the severity of the wild fires.

Mr. Williams suggested using EJAG to support District proposals during public comments or workshops of land management agencies.

Mr. Helme asked if there was a geographical region to focus on. Mr. Sheikh explained there are challenges throughout the state and there are high hazard counties that have a severe amount of dead trees, with the bulk of these zones adjacent to the San Joaquin Valley. Mr. Williams commented it's mostly the central and southern counties that have seen the highest incidences of dead trees. Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer, commented there is more information on the District webpage regarding wild fires. She also explained that while ash falling within the Valley from wildfires is too big for District air quality monitors to register, it is a visual warning to stay indoors.

11. Upcoming EJAG Meeting Agenda Items –
  - Cap and Trade Funding Update
  - Off Road, Heavy Duty and Truck Voucher Program Incentive Program Overview
  - Drive Clean Incentive Program outreach to Environmental Justice communities
12. Public Comments (Second Opportunity) – None.
13. EJAG Member Comments – Mr. Smith requested a status on the pilot program for the purchasing of bicycles being integrated into the Tune In Tune Up Program. Mr. Sheikh said staff will contact Mr. Smith to obtain information.
14. Volunteer to Present Report During CAC Meeting on Tuesday, September 6, 2016 (Tentative) at 10 a.m. – Mr. Williams reported the CAC meeting has been cancelled.
15. Volunteer to Present Report During Governing Board Meeting on Thursday, September 15, 2016 (Tentative) at 9 a.m. – Mr. Williams volunteered if necessary.

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

*SJVUPACD Environmental Justice Advisory Group  
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Next Meeting –The next EJAG meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 27, 2016, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be held via video teleconference (VTC), with the Central Region Office (Fresno), the Northern Region Office (Modesto) and the Southern Region Office (Bakersfield) participating.