

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, April 25, 2019**  
**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 Chair, Derek Williams, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL – was taken and a quorum was not present

<u>County</u>	<u>Member Name/Interest Group</u>	<u>Location</u>
Tulare	Derek Williams, At-Large Rep	Central
Merced	Jack Lemen, CAC City Primary *	Central
Kings	Keith Freitas, At Large Rep	Central
Kern	Rechima Dean, Ethnic, Small Business	South
Fresno	Nayamin Martinez, At Large Rep	Central
Kern	Robert Smith, At Large Rep	South

*\*Left at 7:07pm*

3. APPROVE MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 28, 2019 - This item was tabled as there was not a quorum present.
4. PUBLIC COMMENT– None
5. CHAIR COMMENTS – Mr. William welcomed Mr. Freitas and Ms. Dean as the newest members on the EJAG.
6. APCO/DEPUTY APCO COMMENTS – Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer, gave members updates on the following:
  - In April 2019, the District’s Governing Board approved additional funding for the on-field alternatives to open burning of agricultural materials and low dust nut harvester pilot incentive programs.

- District's 2018-2019 Annual Report to the Community will be available by the end of the month. Hard copies are available in each office and upon request. An electronic version is available on the website.
- The District has participated in numerous of Earth Day events and will be participating in several upcoming Bike to Work events.
- The District is seeking quotations for organizations to assist with the facilitation and support of inclusive, multi-stakeholder Steering Committees under AB 617.
- AB 1234 requires appointed members of Brown Act covered bodies to attend a two-hour Ethics Training course, every 2 years. The District will hold the two-hour video course at the next EJAG meeting on June 27, 2019.

7. UPDATES ON ATTAINMENT PLANS AND RULES – Chay Thao, Program, Strategies and Incentives provided an update on the District's attainment plan and rule making efforts.

Public Comment – None

8. UPDATE ON DISTRICT FUNDED TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENT PROJECTS– Todd DeYoung, Program Manager provided an update on the following:

- The District's Technology Advancement program is generally funded through the Cap and Trade funds. In May 2015, District's Governing Board approved a comprehensive action plan for securing Valley's fair share of Cap and Trade funds. The action plan places significant effort on building Valley coalition to advocate for Valley's needs. Some of the key elements in implementing the action plan are to utilize the District's current incentive program expertise and infrastructure to administer Cap and Trade funded grant programs in the Valley.
- Since the approval of the Action plan, 8 projects have been selected by CARB totaling nearly \$67 million.
- The District also partnered with several agencies on projects that benefit the Valley, along with 3 projects selected by CARB totaling nearly \$41 million.
- USPS Advanced- Drive Transport and Delivery Vehicle Demonstration Project: the District partnered with the United States Postal Service (USPS) to build and deploy zero-emission electric step-vans and charging infrastructure across two USPS hubs in Stockton and Fresno. The step-vans will form the basis of the USPS Advance Vehicle

Cluster from which USPS can continue to explore the electrification of its massive fleet of vehicles.

- Frito-Lay Zero and Near Zero Emission Project: the District partnered with Frito-Lay to implement project in Modesto, California as a bold and transformative effort that will yield a world-renowned showcase for economically and environmentally sustainable manufacturing, warehousing, and distribution. This project aims to completely replace the use of all diesel-powered freight equipment within one of Frito-Lay's largest food production, warehouse, and regional distribution facilities.
- Flexible Solution for Freight Facilities - San Joaquin Valley Zero and Near-Zero Emission Enabling Freight Project: the District collaborated with Frito-Lay to implement project in Modesto, California as a bold and transformative effort that will yield a world-renowned showcase for economically and environmentally sustainable manufacturing, warehousing, and distribution. This project aims to completely replace the use of all diesel-powered freight equipment within one of Frito-Lay's largest food production, warehouse and regional distribution facilities

Ms. Dean asked if staff knew of any battery-operated vehicles being used in other countries. Mr. DeYoung responded that these battery-operated vehicles are being demonstrated in other parts of country except for line haul locomotives.

Ms. Martinez asked how these projects were initiated and if they collaborated with project partners. Mr. DeYoung explained that some project partners have reached out to the District for help with a particular project.

9. END OF SEASON WOOD BURNING REPORT– Robert Gilles, Air Quality Analysis and Research Supervisor and Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer provided an update on the following:

- 2018-2019 Winter Season Overview: This past winter season saw continued improvement in air quality, due to the District's ongoing PM2.5 control strategy, including the comprehensive residential wood burning emission reduction program. This season saw the lowest number of days where 24-hour concentrations were in the AQI category that is considered unhealthy for sensitive groups. The Valley also experienced the second greatest number of days in the "Good" AQI category across all 8 District counties and the third lowest 24-hour average concentrations across all counties, despite the significant wildfire impacts we experiences in November.

- **Public Health Impacts of Wood Burning:** The District's wood burning emissions reduction strategy is an important component of the District's overall Health Risk Reduction Strategy, because a number of scientific studies link prolonged inhalation of wood smoke to a variety of adverse health effects, including lung disease, pulmonary arterial hypertension and pulmonary heart disease. Residential wood burning emissions are among largest source of direct PM2.5 emissions during winter months and since a majority of the burning occurs at night, when temperature inversions can limit dispersion and trap pollution at the surface, population exposure to these adverse health effects is magnified.
- **Significant Air Quality Improvements due to District's Comprehensive Wood Burning Control Strategy:** the District's wood burning emissions reduction strategy is also a very important component of the District's PM2.5 control strategy not only because of the public health impacts, but because this is the District's most cost-effective public health measure.
- **Impacts of Wildfire Smoke on Valley Air Quality:** The Camp Fire, was the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California history, burning (153,336 acres) in Butte County from November 8-25, 2018. It sent significant smoke into the Valley and throughout California and caused the highest 24-hour average PM2.5 concentration ever recorded in the Valley. The Alder (4,653 acres) and Mountaineer (1,270 acres) Fires in Tulare County, Hill Fire (4,531 acres) in Santa Rosa County, and Woolsey Fire (96,949 acres) in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties also impacted public health in November.
- **Burn Cleaner Incentive Funding Participation:** The District's Burn Cleaner program is critical part of District's wood burning emissions reduction strategy. During 2018-2019 to date, over \$2.2 million have been awarded and nearly 70% of funding provided for natural gas devices. Since 2009, the District has issued over 16,600 vouchers, allocated funding of over \$24.2 million to date, and low income resident accounts for 17% of vouchers, totaling over \$7.6 million.
- **Comprehensive District Outreach:** the District continues with do outreach such as using Board Members as ambassadors to community, through multi-lingual billboards, print ads, radio ads, and TV spots throughout the Valley; outreach to Environmental Justice communities; and with the Healthy Air Living Schools, and Healthy Air Living Kids programs.

- Enhancements to Wood Burning Emissions Reduction Strategy: the District's 2018 PM2.5 Plan includes commitments to enhance District's residential wood burning strategy by lowering curtailment levels and increase incentives in targeted hot-spot areas which are Madera County, Fresno County, and Kern County, maintaining current curtailment and incentive levels in rest of Valley, robust outreach and education effort in support of new strategy, prohibition of wood-burning devices in new construction, incorporate visible emissions limitations, new requirements for significant remodels requiring the removal of open-hearth fireplaces, enhanced enforcement strategies to build on existing efforts, ensure continued high compliance rate Valleywide under new strategy, and have air quality forecasting enhancements to support new strategy through new meteorological and air quality tools as feasible.

Mr. Frietas asked why there were restrictions being placed on residents' wood burning activities when wildfires have the most major impacts. Ms. Holt explained that residential wood burning causes daily health impacts when an individual uses their fireplace. She added that wildfires are a huge impact but usually for a limited amount of time while residential wood burning occurs daily throughout the winter.

Mr. Williams asked about the incorporation of the wildfire variable in the District's PM2.5 Plan. He said he believes the District should be encouraging and supporting of state and federal programs to get the forest undergrowth controlled. Ms. Holt responded that the District is working with land management agencies on addressing wildfire risks throughout the Valley.

Mr. William suggested the District to look into an exemption for wood burning devices in remodeling projects for historical homes.

10. AB 617 UPDATE– Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer provided an update on the Steering Committees' progress in Shafter and South Central Fresno. She said the Shafter Steering Committee has identified that one of their major concerns is effects from the use of pesticides. The District has met with the Department of Pesticides regulators to see if they could provide additional support to residents. The South Central Steering Committee has been expanded and includes more of Southwest Fresno.
11. UPCOMING EJAG MEETING AGENDA ITEMS – Ms. Martinez requested for updates on the Healthy Living School program.
12. PUBLIC COMMENTS (2<sup>nd</sup> Opportunity) – None
13. EJAG MEMBER COMMENTS– None

14. VOLUNTEER TO PRESENT REPORT DURING CAC MEETING ON TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2019 (TENTATIVE) AT 10 A.M. – Mr. Williams volunteered.
15. VOLUNTEER TO PRESENT REPORT DURING GOVERNING BOARD MEETING ON JUNE 20, 2019 (TENTATIVE) AT 9 A.M. – Mr. Williams volunteered.

*Next Meeting – The next EJAG meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 27, 2019, 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.*