

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, October 22, 2020
5:30 p.m.

Meeting held via video teleconferencing with the Central Region Office (Fresno). This meeting was also webcast. Given the international COVID-19 pandemic, and consistent with the California Department of Public Health's recommendations and Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20, no physical location was provided for public attendance.

1. CALL TO ORDER – The Chair, Keith Freitas, called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL – was taken and a quorum was present

<u>County</u>	<u>Member Name/Interest Group</u>	<u>Location</u>
Tulare	Derek Williams, At Large Rep	VTC
Kings	Keith Freitas, At Large Rep	VTC
Stanislaus	Thomas Helme, At Large Rep	VTC
San Joaquin	Esperanza Vielma, At Large Rep*	VTC
Fresno	Tim Parcel, CAC Industry/Ag Primary	VTC
Fresno	Nayamin Martinez	VTC
Madera	Laura Gutile	VTC
Kern	Rechima Dean, Ethic Small Business Owner	VTC

**Ms. Vielma joined the meeting at 7:37 p.m.*

3. APPROVE MINUTES FOR AUGUST 27, 2020 – Mr. Freitas asked if there were any comments regarding the Minutes for August 27, 2020. Hearing none, he deemed the Minutes as approved.

Public Comment: None
4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None
5. CHAIR COMMENTS – None
6. APCO/DEPUTY APCO COMMENTS – Morgan Lambert, Deputy APCO, provided updates on the following:

- At their meeting held on September 17, 2020, the Governing Board formally accepted and appropriated the \$33.3 million Targeted Airshed Grant Program award from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He said that \$20 million was for the replacement of older diesel agricultural tractors. The District estimates that between 500 – 550 tractors will be replaced which would result in a reduction of about 3,000 tons of NOx and 300 – 400 tons of PM. Additionally, another \$10.3 million was awarded towards the Low Dust Nut Harvester program. The District estimates this will fund 170 new units and reduce close to 500 tons of PM2.5 emissions. He continued that these were the largest awards the District has received under the Targeted Airshed Grant Program and were ranked one and two in the nation.
- At their meeting held on September 17, 2020, the Governing Board accepted \$2.3 million in Proposition 1B funding for truck, locomotive or transportation refrigeration unit replacements.
- At their meeting held on October 15, 2020, the Governing Board approved an emergency economic assistance measure to authorize the Executive Director/APCO to temporarily waive asbestos fees, as required by District Rule 3150 – Asbestos Removal Fees, for building and structures destroyed or damaged by wildfires during local, state, and federal declared wildfire emergencies.

Mr. Freitas asked if home insurance companies would be providing assistance for the asbestos removal issues. Mr. Lambert responded that through state and federal funding they are trying to coordinate cleanup efforts and he believed there was assistance available.

7. APPOINT EJAG VICE CHAIR FOR 1 YEAR TERM – Mr. Williams announced it was time for a new appointment of Vice Chair and opened the floor for nominations.

Ms. Martinez nominated Mr. Helme to serve as Vice Chair of EJAG for 1-year term. Ms. Vielma seconded the nomination.

Mr. Williams nominated Ms. Dean to serve as Vice Chair for 1-year term. Mr. Freitas seconded the nomination.

Public Comments: None

Matinez – Helme
Vielma – Helme
Helme – Helme
Parcel – Helme
Freitas – Dean
Gutile – Dean

Williams – Dean

Dean – Dean

Neither candidate received sufficient votes to be appointed Vice Chair.

Mr. Freitas continued the item until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Mr. Williams left the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

8. UPDATE ON ATTAINMENT PLANS AND RULES – Jessica Coria, Program Manager, provided an update on the District’s attainment plan and rule making efforts.
9. UPDATE ON WILDFIRE AIR QUALITY AND RESPONSE – Jon Klassen, Director of Air Science and Planning, and Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer, provided an update on the 2020 wildfire season and District outreach efforts.

Ms. Martinez asked how information from the temporary monitors is distributed. Mr. Klassen responded that the data for the temporary monitors can be viewed through the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service Air Fire website. He added that the link is available on the District’s wildfire website.

Mr. Helme asked if the temporary monitors belonged to the District and if they were available through a collaboration between CAL Fire and the District. Mr. Klassen responded that it was a collaboration between the District and the California Air Resources Board (CARB). Mr. Lambert added that the temporary monitors are owned by CARB, and District is under contract to store the monitors for distribution to air districts through the state.

Mr. Freitas asked what role the District is exploring to battle the continuous fires. Mr. Lambert responded that the District has long recognized the challenges that catastrophic wildfires present for the health of Valley residents. The District has advocated at the state and federal level for the need to understand the causes of these wildfires as well as developing strategies to reduce the frequency and severity of future fires. He added that the District has been working with CARB, EPA and with land management agencies throughout the state. The District continues to advocate for increased funding for the land management agencies to help in their efforts.

Mr. Freitas asked if staff can provide a schematic that includes bad air quality days due to the impacts of wildfires and if there would be any good air quality days in that assessment that would allow the District to meet standards. Mr. Klassen responded that during the period of wildfires, there is very poor air quality across much of the Valley. He continued that the poor air quality is mostly during a midsummer to fall time period, and there are other times of the year when we have good air quality throughout the region. He added that the District

has completed an analysis that looks at day-to-day air quality data, including data impacted by wildfires, as well as data without these impacts that show a side by side comparison.

Ms. Martinez commented that although the wildfires have impacted the region's air quality, the bad air quality is not entirely due to the wildfire impacts. She continued that the District has not reached attainment for federal standards for over a decade. Mr. Lambert commented that the District recognizes the challenges that wildfires present because of the extraordinary circumstances that they provide. He said the region has ongoing challenges with both ozone and particulate matter, and the District has ongoing planning efforts to address those issues.

Ms. Martinez congratulated the District for their ongoing efforts to provide outreach materials and social media to the Spanish speaking community. She added that she would like to see the District collaborate with farm workers to communicate where they can go to check the daily air quality index.

Mr. Freitas asked if there were any clean air shelters available. Ms. Holt answered that the District has a list of locations where residents can go that align with cooling centers. The COVID-19 pandemic has made that a challenge since some of the locations that would be listed are not open. She continued that the District has been encouraging Valley residents to stay in their own homes when air quality is bad, as well as encouraging them to make a DIY air filter should they not have access to an air purifier, air conditioning or air filters on their HVAC unit.

Mr. Helme commented on the importance of outreach to let residents know that the masks they use to protect themselves from COVID-19 will not protect them from wildfire smoke. Ms. Holt said the District is looking into doing outreach and promotions to help the public differentiate the effectiveness of a masks used to protect you from the virus and masks that protect your from bad air quality.

Ms. Vielma commented on the importance of outreach to the farm worker community. She suggested the District collaborate with the state or counties to help residents learn where to obtain a free mask that will protect them from wildfire smoke.

10. AB 617 UPDATE– Ryan Hayashi, Deputy APCO, provided an update on the District's ongoing activities related to AB 617 implementation. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the District has been working with the Community Steering Committees to re-envision the process and community engagement in light of stay-at-home orders and social distancing requirements. The Community Steering Committees are continuing to have meetings utilizing online meeting tools. The South Central Fresno and Shafter communities are continuing to work on implementing the Community Emission Reduction Programs (CERPs)

approved earlier this year. The Stockton community is working to develop a Community Air Monitoring Plan and CERP for consideration by the District and CARB later this year. At the August meeting, the District Governing Board approved the issuance of meeting stipends for resident members of the Community Steering Committees.

At the September meeting, the District's Governing Board approved the Year-3 community recommendations which included a primary recommendation for the Arvin/Lamont area in south Kern County for both community air monitoring and an Emission Reduction Program. The second nomination was for the community of La Vina, which is located in south Madera County.

Mr. Hayashi reported that on September 24, 2020, the CARB Board received an update on Community Emission Reduction Programs from Imperial County, Bay Area AQMD, and the District's two communities. This was an informational item and included no Board action.

The Annual Report drafts for South Central and Shafter community steering committees have been posted to each of the community specific AB 617 webpages and were presented to CSC members for comment. The final reports will be taken to the District's Board in November.

Mr. Hayashi also reported that the District has submitted five project plans to CARB for the use of Community Air Protection incentive funds to implement measures contained in the South Central and Shafter CERPs. These projects must be approved by CARB prior to using these funds. The projects submitted to date are as follows:

- Truck re-route study in Fresno (first project to receive approval in the state)
- Commercial lawn and garden
- Residential lawn and garden
- Alternatives to agricultural burning
- Low-dust nut harvester

Ms. Martinez asked what consideration was given to recommend La Vina as a secondary community. Mr. Hayashi responded that some of the factors the District looked at when prioritizing communities are support from the community and previous recommendations. La Vina has been supportive and has received previous recommendations for inclusion in the AB 617 program.

Public Comment – None

11. OVERVIEW OF THE DISTRICT'S 2020-21 INCENTIVE PROGRAM SPENDING PLAN – this item was tabled in the interest of time.

12. POTENTIAL FUTURE EJAG MEETING AGENDA ITEMS – None
13. PUBLIC COMMENTS (2ND Opportunity) – None
14. EJAG MEMBER COMMENTS – None
15. VOLUNTEER TO PRESENT REPORT DURING CAC MEETING ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2020 (TENTATIVE AT 10 A.M.) – None
16. VOLUNTEER TO PRESENT REPORT DURING GOVERNING BOARD MEETING ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020 (TENTATIVE) AT 9 A.M. – None

Next Meeting – The next EJAG meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 28, 2021 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.