

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 22, 2021**  
**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 5:33 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	Nayamin Martinez, At Large Rep	VTC
Fresno	Dary Rezvani, Ethnic, Small Business Owner	VTC
Stanislaus	Richard O'Brien, CAC City Primary	VTC
Fresno	Kevin Hamilton, CAC Environmental Primary*	VTC
San Joaquin	Ned Leiba, CAC Environmental Alternate	VTC
Kern	Jasmeet Bains, At Large Rep	VTC
Kern	Rechima Dean, Ethnic Small Business Owner	VTC
Merced	Dennis Brazil, At Large Rep	VTC
Madera	Laura Gutile, At Large Rep	VTC

*\*Mr. Hamilton joined the meeting at 5:40 p.m.*

3. APPROVE MINUTES FOR MARCH 25, 2021 – Mr. Freitas asked if there were any comments regarding the Minutes for March 25, 2021. Hearing none, he deemed the Minutes as approved.

Public Comment: None

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – *the following persons commented on this item:*
  - Mary Elizabeth, Stockton resident

5. CHAIR COMMENTS – None

6. APCO/DEPUTY APCO COMMENTS – Morgan Lambert, Deputy APCO, provided updates on the following:

- At their Governing Board meeting in April 2021, the Governing Board took action to both appoint and reappoint members of the Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) that also serve on the EJAG. Mr. Lambert welcomed new members to the EAJG and congratulated those who were reappointed.
- In April 2021, the Governing Board accepted \$1,511,320 from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Carl Moyer Program State Reserve Project Funding Solicitation to fund eligible zero-emission infrastructure projects throughout the San Joaquin Valley.
- In February 2021, the Governing Board approved a contribution of up to \$37,500 in funding, leveraged with \$212,500 in public and private match funding from the South Coast Air Quality Management District, Sacramento Air Quality Management District, Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, to conduct a study on the feasibility of developing new transportation infrastructure to shift shipping containers from trucks to rail via an inland port system. The study will be complete by the fall of 2021 and will help to further determine the feasibility of an inland port concept.
- In February 2021, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) adopted their staff's recommendations on the District's 2020 Report and Recommendations on Agricultural Burning. The CARB action included full short-term concurrence with the District's report through August 31, 2021, longer term concurrence with many of the District's recommendations through 2025, and additional criteria for longer term concurrence beyond August 2021 including a timeline for the near complete phase-out of agricultural open burning by January 1, 2025. CARB highlighted and affirmed the critical role that the state plays in securing needed incentive funding to support the transition and in addressing barriers to new bioenergy solutions. . The District is in the process of evaluating CARB's action and will continue to engage with CARB and stakeholders to assess and implement the recommendations.
- In April 2021, the Governing Board approved an increase in the funding allocation to the District's Alternative to Agricultural Burning Incentive Program up to an additional \$3,000,000 to ensure sufficient program funding for the remainder of the 2020-21 fiscal year. Consistent with the previous board action back in December 2021, 30 percent of these funds were programmed specifically for smaller agricultural operations, which as

part of this program are defined as those that are less than five hundred acres in size. This program supports local growers that pursue alternatives to open burning as a means to dispose of agricultural materials.

Mr. Freitas asked which alternatives were being used for the Alternatives to Open Burning Program. Mr. Lambert responded that the funding has exclusively been used for whole orchard recycling. The program can also potentially fund land application of mulch at a lower incentive level.

Mr. Brazil asked if wildfire burns were included in the phase out and if funding was included in the Alternative to Agricultural Open Burning Program. Mr. Lambert responded that only agricultural burning is subject to the phase-out and is eligible for funding.

Mr. Helme asked what the process would be for deciding where the charging stations under the Carl Moyer Program State Reserve Project Funding Solicitation would be located, and if the decision making would be done through a public process. Todd DeYoung, Director of Grants and Incentives, responded that the \$1.5 million funding is for large scale charging infrastructure or hydrogen fueling infrastructure so the District is hoping to fund a couple of projects with this money. He added that the District does have funding specifically designated for the AB 617 communities to fund similar type infrastructure within those communities.

Ms. Vielma asked if the incentive funding from the Alternative to Open Burning Program goes directly to the growers. Mr. Lambert responded affirmatively.

Ms. Gutile asked if there would be an incentive for a larger operation in the future. Mr. Lambert responded that there was currently no cap on total farmed acreage. He added a percentage of the funding is programmed and targeted for lower acreage growers to allow availability for smaller growers.

Mr. Williams commented that Carl Moyer traditionally has been used for upgrading heavy-duty vehicles. He said he felt that District should keep that funding going to small truck owners which are predominantly in the communities that never got the money to get their trucks replaced. He said that a million plus dollars could help 10 or 12 of those smaller owners. Mr. DeYoung said with this particular funding source, CARB designated this funding for infrastructure.

Mr. Hamilton commented that PG&E has \$236.3 million in funding available in their infrastructure project. He asked if the District was working with PG&E to get some of those funds. Mr. DeYoung responded that the District has been in conversation with both PG&E and Southern California Edison working to see how the District can leverage their funding with some existing programs.

7. UPDATE ON ATTAINMENT PLANS AND RULES – Jessica Coria, Program Manager, provided an update on the District’s attainment plan and rule making efforts.

Public Comment – *the following persons commented on this item:*

- Mary Elizabeth, Stockton Resident

8. ANNUAL REVIEW OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES – Mr. Lambert stated that the EJAG bylaws require that each year the group establish a set of goals and objectives, and an action plan to guide the work of the group over the year. Pursuant to the bylaws, the District’s Executive Director has the final authority on approving the goals, objectives, and action plan. Mr. Lambert reviewed the prior year’s Goals and Objectives, offered some potential changes to consider, and solicited comments from members on potential changes for 2021.

Suggestions for updates were made by numerous EJAG members. At the end of the discussion, Mr. Lambert summarized the following proposed changes to the EJAG’s Goals and Objectives:

- In the first paragraph to remove “in consultation with the Citizens Advisory Committee”.
- Work the District’s Environmental Justice Strategy Mission into the preamble section on page 8, section A.
- Goal/Objective #2 – change the timeline section to an annual review of Outreach materials.
- Goal/Objective #4 reframe the second action item to read “help secure grants for clean air projects and environmental justice communities”.
- Goal/Objective #5 – combine two action items into one action item.
- Goal/Objective #6 – include language regarding the desire to have rotating membership to the fourth action.
- Goal/Objective #7 – remove the specific references to AB 32, Cap and Trade, SB 375 and other air quality legislation or regulation and replace with climate and air quality legislation. Similar changes in the actions items that are specific to AB 32 and SB 375 and have similar language with climate and air quality. Remove present comments to CAC for approval from the objective. Remove specific reference to adaptive management.
- Goal/Objective #9 – refocus the objective to the AB 617 program. First action item would be to receive updates from the District related to AB

617. Change second action item to “assist the District in creating and continuing outreach in AB 617 communities”. Add a new third item to be “work to assist the District in securing the necessary incentive funding to support AB 617 efforts to communities”.

- New Goal/Objective to have EJAG play a role in revisiting the District’s Environmental Justice Strategy and playing a role in providing environmental justice training.

Public Comment – *the following persons commented on this item:*

- Mary Elizabeth, Stockton Resident

Moved: Brazil

Seconded: Hamilton

Ayes: Martinez, Baines, Freitas, Gutile, Brazil, Vielma,  
Helme, Williams, Dean, Rezvani, O’Brien, Hamilton

Nays: None

**Motion unanimously carried to approve the EJAG Goals, Objectives, and Action Plan recommendations for 2021**

*Mr. Leiba left the meeting at 6:45 p.m.*

9. NEW SCHOOL AIR FILTRATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM– Mr. DeYoung provided an update on the Districts New School Air Filtration Incentive Program. He reported the Board approved the implementation of the District’s new School Air Filtration Program for AB 617 communities, which was developed in consultation with Community Steering Committees in both South Central Fresno and Shafter AB 617 communities. These communities both prioritized this measure in their respective Community Emission Reduction Programs (CERPs) to reduce children’s exposure to harmful pollution in the classroom. Reducing airborne particles (such as PM2.5) is important because particulate matter negatively impacts human health, especially for sensitive populations such as children. Older HVAC systems used in some schools only remove a small fraction of particles in the air that are smaller than 0.3 microns in diameter. More efficient HVAC air filters and standalone air cleaners are important for creating healthier air in school classrooms. This program will pay for more efficient replacement air filters in schools as well as standalone air filtration systems.

Ms. Martinez asked what the criteria is for deciding which school district received the funding. Mr. DeYoung answered that the funding amounts were designed based on the number of classrooms and the number of schools within the communities. The funding was designed to be sufficient to replace filters in all of the schools and all of the classrooms in each of the communities.

Ms. Martinez asked if the District was actively reaching out to school districts to let them know of the available funding. Mr. DeYoung answered that the District was working closely with all of the school districts in the AB 617 communities.

Mr. Helme asked if there was plans to expand the program to allow other non-AB 617 communities to participate. Mr. DeYoung responded that at this time the program was only available to AB 617 communities.

10. AB 617 UPDATE – Jessica Olsen, Program Manager, 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 recommendations. The Community Steering Committees are continuing to have meetings utilizing online meeting tools.

Ms. Olsen reported that CARB officially selected the Valley’s fourth community for AB 617, the community of Arvin/Lamont for both the Community Emissions Reduction Program development and the Community Air Monitoring Plan Development. She said staff held a virtual kickoff meeting to begin the process and solicit feedback and interest in participating in the Community Steering Committee. She also reported they will be holding their first Community Steering Committee meeting on April 28, 2021 to discuss the boundaries for the community.

On March 18, 2021, the District Governing Board adopted the CERP for the Stockton community. The CERP was developed through an extensive process involving the Community Steering Committee, CARB, and other community stakeholders. The CERP received unanimous support from the Community Steering Committee. The approved CERP has been submitted to CARB for their consideration in the coming months.

Public Comment – *the following persons commented on this item:*

- Mary Elizabeth, Stockton Resident

11. POTENTIAL FUTURE EJAG MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

- Final 2021 Goals and Objectives
- Review on impacts of wildfires
- Wood burning season update

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 4, 2021 (TENTATIVE AT 10 A.M.) – Mr. Helme volunteered to present the report if needed.
  
15. VOLUNTEER TO PRESENT REPORT DURING GOVERNING BOARD MEETING ON THURSDAY, May 20, 2021 (TENTATIVE) AT 9 A.M. – Mr. Helme volunteered to present the report if needed.

*Next Meeting – The next EJAG meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 24, 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.*