

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, January 28, 2021
5:36 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, At Large ep	VTC
Fresno	Dary Rezvani, Ethnic, Small Business Owner	VTC
Fresno	Greg Gomez, CAC City Alternate	VTC
Fresno	Kevin Hamilton, CAC Environmental Primary	VTC
Kern	Jasmeet Bains, At Large Rep	VTC
Kern	Rechima Dean, Ethnic Small Business Owner*	VTC
Merced	Dennis Brazil, At Large Rep	VTC

**Ms. Dean joined the meeting at 6:35 p.m.*

3. APPROVE MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 22, 2020 – Mr. Freitas asked if there were any comments regarding the Minutes for October 22, 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, welcomed Dr. Jasmeet Bains to her new role as Kern County At-Large member on EJAG. In addition, he provided the following updates:

- On November 19, 2020, the Governing Board approved \$12.8 million in state and federal funding for the implementation of a new Low-Dust Nut Harvester Incentive Program. The program is designed to replace older, higher-polluting conventional nut harvesters with new, low-dust harvesters operating in the District. Eligible equipment must achieve at least a 40% reducing in particulate matter emissions as demonstrated by available peer-reviewed information or District approved methodology and includes pull-behind harvesters, self-propelled harvesters, shakers/sweeper replacement technology, and non-self-propelled equipment used in conjunction with a tier 3 tractor. Applications will be accepted on a first come, first served basis with funding available up to 50% of the cost of the eligible equipment up to a maximum of \$150,000 per unit. In addition, equipment operating in the South Central Fresno and Shafter AB617 communities may be eligible for additional funding through the Community Emission Reduction Programs (CERPs) for these areas.
- On December 17, 2020, the Governing Board extended the District's COVID-19 Economic Assistance Initiative through the end of 2021. In April 2020, the District Governing Board authorized temporary, but critical, emergency economic relief measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to support Valley residents and businesses during the current economic crisis. The actions contained in the District's COVID-19 Economic Assistance Initiative are intended to provide a measure of relief to the residents and businesses that the District regulates and to the community as a whole without sacrificing any environmental safeguards. The measures contained in the District's COVID-19 Economic Assistance Initiative were currently set to expire December 31, 2020. Given the current state of the pandemic with stay-at-home orders in place across the Valley, the Governing Board acted to extend the Economic Assistance Initiative through December 31, 2021.
- On January 21, 2021, the Governing Board approved the implementation of the District's new School Air Filtration Program consistent with the adopted CERPs for the Shafter and South Central Fresno AB 617 communities. This program aims to reduce exposure within schools by installing advanced air filtration systems. Consistent with the adopted CERPs, the board set aside \$1.5 million to fund the program in South Central Fresno and \$250,000 to fund the program in the community of Shafter. The program will fund standalone air filtration and purification systems, the replacement of air filters within existing HVAC systems, and HVAC impact assessments.

Mr. Freitas asked if there was a tracking system to determine if incentive funding is being spent for the intended purpose. Mr. Lambert responded the District has significant tracking and accountability measures that ensure the money is being programmed appropriately, as well ensuring emission reduction goals are met. Mr. Freitas asked if the 100 percent of the costs were funded under the District's incentive programs. Mr. Lambert responded that it depended on the program, but most District incentive programs require a cost-share by the applicant.

Mr. Helme asked if the District's Economic Assistance Initiative included expedited permits related to COVID-19 response efforts and if any new permits had been expedited. Mr. Lambert responded that the measure to expedite permits for COVID-19 response efforts sunset mid-way through 2020 and was not part of the Economic Assistance package.

7. APPOINT EJAG VICE-CHAIR FOR 1-YEAR TERM – Mr. Lambert announced it was time for a new appointment of Vice Chair for a 1-year term, and Chairman Freitas opened the floor for nominations.

Ms. Martinez nominated Mr. Helme. Ms. Hamilton seconded the nomination.

Public Comments: None

Ayes: Martinez, Baines, Freitas, Brazil, Vielma, Helme, Williams, Rezvani,
Gomez, Hamilton, Parcel
Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried to appoint Mr. Helme as Vice Chair of EJAG for a 1-year term.

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

Mr. Freitas asked about the District's role in the rule making process. Mr. Coria responded that the District works to establish the most stringent emission limits that are economically and technologically feasible when writing rules and regulations.

9. FY 2021-22 GRANTS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – Todd DeYoung, Director of Grants & Incentives, provided an update on the EJAG Grant Committee recommendations for the 2021-22 fiscal year. Mr. Williams reported that the Grants Committee met before this meeting and developed the FY 2021-22 Grants Committee Recommendations for consideration by the full EJAG membership. Grants Committee participants included Derek Williams, Esperanza Vielma, and Keith Freitas. He said the Grants Committee unanimously agreed to

recommend that EJAG members adopt the following recommendations for the 2021-22 Budget:

- School Buses
- On-Road Heavy Duty Vehicles
- Light Duty Passenger Vehicles
- Heavy Duty Engine Program
- Bicycle/Non-Combustion Motorized Vehicles
- Burn Cleaner Program

Public Comment – None

Moved: Brazil

Seconded: Freitas

Ayes: Martinez, Bains, Freitas, Brazil, Vielma, Helme, Williams, Dean, Rezvani, Hamilton, Parcel

Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried to adopt the Grants Committee recommendations for fiscal year 2021-22.

Mr. Gomez left the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

This item was taken out of order.

11. 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.

Mr. Helme suggested including the Mission from the District’s Environmental Justice Strategy to the Goals and Objective document. Mr. Williams suggested an alternative would be attaching the District’s Environmental Justice Strategy to the Goals and Objectives.

Given the time, Ms. Martinez recommended continuing this item to the next meeting. She commented that she agreed with Mr. Lambert’s suggestion regarding Goal/Objective #9 to focus on AB 617 programs. She suggested adding an objective that relates to education and outreach efforts.

Mr. Brazil recommended also tabling item 10 to the next meeting.

10. AB 617 UPDATE– this item was tabled in the interest of time.

11. POTENTIAL FUTURE EJAG MEETING AGENDA ITEMS
 - Review of Truck Programs
12. PUBLIC COMMENTS (2ND Opportunity) – None
13. EJAG MEMBER COMMENTS – None
14. VOLUNTEER TO PRESENT REPORT DURING CAC MEETING ON TUESDAY, February 2, 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, NOVEMBER 19, 2020 (TENTATIVE) AT 9 A.M. – None

Next Meeting – The next EJAG meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 25, 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.