

Action Summary Minutes
San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY GROUP (EJAG)

Thursday, April 27, 2023

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. Members of the public were allowed to participate in-person at any of the referenced locations or remotely via Zoom webinar. The CAC Meeting was also webcast.

1. CALL TO ORDER – The Chair, Nayamin Martinez, called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL – Roll was taken and a quorum was confirmed.

Present:

Nayamin Martinez, Chair	Fresno County At Large Representative
Laura Gutile	Madera County At Large Representative
Dennis Brazil	Merced County At Large Representative
Esperanza Vielma	San Joaquin County At Large Representative
Thomas Helme ¹	Stanislaus County At Large Representative
Ned Leiba	CAC Environmental Group (Primary)
Richard O'Brien	CAC City Interest Group (Primary)

3. APPROVE MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 2023– Ms. Martinez asked if there were any comments regarding the minutes for February 23, 2023. Hearing none, Ms. Martinez deemed the minutes approved.

Public Comment: None

5. CHAIR COMMENTS – Ms. Martinez welcomed everyone, and thanked them for their participation. Ms. Martinez welcomed Jessica Olsen as she begins her new role in leading the EJAG meetings. Ms. Martinez thanked Mr. Lambert for all of his time working with the EJAG meetings.
6. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR FOR 1- YEAR TERM – Ms. Martinez announced the need to vote for a new appointment of a Vice Chair for a one year term and opened the floor for nominations. Ms. Martinez nominated Mr. Tom Helme as the Vice Chair, who has served in that capacity in previous years. Mr. Helme accepted the nomination. No other nominations were made.

¹ Arrived at 5:39

Public Comments: None

Ayes: Martinez, Gutile, Brazil, Vielma, Helme, O'Brien, Leiba

Nays: None

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

7. UPDATE ON ATTAINMENT PLANS AND RULES – Emily Kneeland, Program Manager in the District's Air Quality Science and Planning Department, provided an update on the District's attainment plan and rule making efforts.

Ms. Vielma inquired about crude oil production Rule 4401 and 4402 if funding sources from dismantling of off shore oil rigs will have any impact on funding. Ms. Kneeland answered that she has not heard of any impacts that will have on the District's funding or rule development.

Ms. Martinez asked about rule exemptions for small crude oil producers. Ms. Kneeland replied that there are no current changes to the exemption with the current draft rules that were published.

Ms. Martinez requested that future public workshops be held later for those who cannot participate due to work hours. Ms. Kneeland thanked Ms. Martinez for that comment and expressed that it is being taken into consideration and the last workshop was held later to try and accommodate more members of the public.

Public Comment: None

8. GUEST PRESENTATION BY STUDENTS FROM THE CENTER FOR ADVANCED RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY (CART) – Ms. Martinez welcomed a guest presentation by students of CART. The students, Charlie Keithley, Jack Singer, Katie Wynkoop, Yesenia Mendoza, Rheanna Abrera and Santiago Ocegueda presented their projects on Air Pollution Education and Monitoring.

Mr. Helme commended the groups on their excellent work and asked what are the next steps for their monitoring. The students shared that the next steps in their project is to share the presentations with parents and teachers at CART, and the future of the project will be opened up to future students of the Environmental Science Lab to continue collecting data.

Ms. Vielma echoed the comments of Mr. Helme, thanked the students for their presentations, and encouraged them to continue in these efforts.

Ms. Gutile expressed her appreciation to the students for their great work in such a large undertaking. Ms. Gutile asked if there would be any collaboration between the two groups to compare data based on the different locations and the height placement of their monitors. The students responded that with the differences it would be difficult to determine differences based on the locations and placement.

Ms. Olsen shared her gratitude to the students and to Ms. Martinez for bringing this group to share their projects. She commended the students for all of their efforts on these projects.

9. UPDATE ON VALLEYWIDE CLEAN AIR ROOMS PROGRAM– Jessica Olsen, Director of Community Strategies and Resources for the District, shared that in April 2023, the Governing Board approved the new Valley-wide Clean Air Rooms program to provide residential air filtration units to residents in Disadvantaged Communities throughout the San Joaquin Valley with up to \$1,000,000 in funding for this program.

Mr. Leiba commended this program for the reduction of exposure to people who have health risks and it is cost effective. Mr. Leiba also encouraged the District to utilize more cost effective programs like this.

Ms. Vielma inquired if during the pilot, were the HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program) and medical baseline programs offered through public utility companies. Ms. Vielma commented that coupling this program with others would be more impactful for the most vulnerable residents. Ms. Olsen thanked Ms. Vielma for the recommendation on partnering the outreach along with HEAP and the medical baseline programs. Ms. Olsen also shared the need to inform residents about the need to properly weatherize their homes to maximize the air filtration benefits and informing them of the statewide programs for weatherization work for low-income homes.

Mr. Helme asked about offering extra support in areas of the valley that are already hot spots, in which wildfire smoke will make it much worse. Ms. Olsen answered that the wildfire impacts are unpredictable, and so there may be other air quality metrics needed moving forward.

Ms. Gutile commended the District for putting more funding into these air filtration units and also asked about the size of the units and if they are very loud. Ms. Martinez answered that the units are not loud and that the intensity can be increased and it sounds more like white noise, and the size was not an issue and should not be an inconvenience to a smaller home.

Ms. Martinez asked about how the new program will ensure that the people who were waitlisted during the pilot program will be prioritized and also asked how the District was avoiding duplication from the previous recipients. Ms. Olsen

explained that the waitlisted applicants would be a priority and have all of the information from residents who inquired about a filter even after the waitlist had closed.

Public Comment: None

10. UPDATE ON ZERO AND NEAR ZERO-EMISSION PEPSI CO FREIGHT FACILITY PROJECT – Brian Dodds, Program Manager in the District’s Grants and Incentives Department provided an update on the demonstration project in Modesto in which Frito Lay partnered with SJVAPCD in order to implement environmentally sustainable manufacturing warehousing and distribution site.

Mr. Leiba asked what the expected emission reductions are and what the cost per ton is. Mr. Dodds explained that in over ten years there are expected emission reductions of 60 tons on PM10 and NOx and about 155,000 metric tons of greenhouse gasses with an approximate cost of \$170,000 per ton.

Mr. Helme expressed his appreciation for the project in Stanislaus County that has many Environmental Justice Communities nearby. Mr. Helme inquired about the Volvo natural gas trucks and how those were being used. Mr. Dodds responded that the natural gas trucks are being used for heavier materials and longer ranges.

Public Comment: None

11. DISTRICT COMMENTS – Jessica Olsen, Director of Community Strategies & Resources, provided an update on recent activities at the District’s Governing Board Meeting on April 20, 2023:

- Dennis Brazil was reappointed for EJAG, and Mayor Richard O’Brien was recommended for reappointment as the EJAG primary City Interest Group representative
- The Special City Selection Committee met and appointed two new Governing Board members; Councilmember Rosa Escutia- Braaton from Modesto and Councilmember Gilberto Reyna from Wasco
- Woodsmoke reduction report was shared for this season
- This year had a record set for number of good air quality days

Ms. Olsen shared AB617 updates including; Community Air Grants funding to community groups across the state and man in the Valley. Ms. Olsen also shared the District’s commitment to supporting smaller communities who may have not been selected for the 617 program, along with community engagement in these areas. She shared recent approvals for projects including a sidewalk installation in Lamont and Arvin area.

Ms. Gutile shared her gratitude to Ms. Olsen for the great work.

Mr. Helme inquired about the reports and violations for wood burning; with there being more violations than complaints, is there a crew that out to look for violations? Ms. Olsen explained that the District had compliance staff conduct surveillance during curtailment episodes, which can also lead to finding violations.

Ms. Martinez commented on the community concerns regarding illegal trash burning, and if it is possible to have more inspectors assigned to areas that are identified as chronic issues.

Ms. Vielma asked about the heat pumps being offered as a fireplace replacement, and Ms. Olsen explained that the heat pump incentives are only offered for residents with a fireplace that will be disabled.

Public Comment – None

12. POTENTIAL FUTURE EJAG MEETING AGENDA ITEMS –

Ms. Gutile requested frequent updates on the Frito-Lay project

Ms. Vielma requested updates on the vehicle trade in program

Mr. Helme requested a comprehensive overview on how the District plans on addressing the wildfire issues and if there is any partnership with other agencies

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS (2ND Opportunity) – None

14. EJAG MEMBER COMMENTS – None

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.