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Seyed Sadredin
Executive Director
Air Pollution Control Officer

Northern Region Office
4800 Enterprise Way
Modesto, CA 95356-8718
(209) 557-6400 • FAX (209) 557-6475

Central Region Office
1990 East Gettysburg Avenue
Fresno, CA 93726-0244
(559) 230-6000 • FAX (559) 230-6061

Southern Region Office
34946 Flyover Court
Bakersfield, CA 93308-9725
(661) 392-5500 • FAX (661) 392-5585

www.valleyair.org

DATE: August 4, 2015

TO: SJVUAPCD Citizens Advisory Committee

FROM: Seyed Sadredin, Executive Director/APCO

RE: **REPORT ON DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY GROUP (EJAG) ACTIVITIES**

Attached are highlights from the Environmental Justice Advisory Group meeting of June 25, 2015.

Attachments:
Highlights from the EJAG meeting of June 25, 2015 (1 page)

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY GROUP (EJAG)
MEETING OF JUNE 25, 2015**

Appoint Chair (2-year term) and Vice-Chair (1-year term) – After member discussion, Esperanza Vielma (San Joaquin County At-large) was elected as Chair and Derek Williams (Tulare County At-large) as Vice-Chair.

EJAG Supports Valley Efforts to Secure Cap and Trade Funds – Tom Jordan, Senior Policy Advisor, provided detailed information on the comprehensive action plan approved by the Governing Board at the May Study Session for ensuring that the San Joaquin Valley receives its fair share of Cap and Trade funding. Mr. Jordan provided a summary of the action plan, which includes educating state policy makers about the Valley's tremendous needs, building a San Joaquin Valley Cap and Trade Coalition to advocate on behalf of the Valley, utilizing the District's expertise and infrastructure to administer Cap and Trade funded grant programs, and pursuing a block grant approach to establish dedicated Cap and Trade funding for the San Joaquin Valley. Mr. Jordan also provided a summary of potential funding opportunities at various state agencies and encouraged EJAG members to share the information with their constituencies.

Mr. Jordan additionally discussed the significant barriers experienced by Valley entities in applying for funding provided by the Strategic Growth Council for affordable housing and transportation projects, particularly with respect to the unavailability of tools for quantifying the greenhouse gas and other benefits of potential projects. EJAG member Cesar Campos discussed the difficulties that he has seen with this issue and suggested that enhanced tools be developed to assist Valley entities in preparing more competitive grant proposals.

EJAG members emphasized the importance of advocating for the Valley's fair share of funding, and several members expressed interest in participating in the San Joaquin Valley Cap and Trade Coalition. EJAG members unanimously supported the Board's action plan for securing the Valley's fair share of Cap and Trade funds and several members expressed interest in participating in the San Joaquin Valley Cap and Trade Coalition. Additionally, EJAG members unanimously supported that the District pursue the development of enhanced tools for quantifying the benefits of Valley projects.

District Grants Available for Bicycle Infrastructure – Mehri Barati, Director of Incentives and Administrative Services, provided a summary on the incentive grant programs available for bicycle infrastructure. Funding is currently available for a wide variety of bicycle infrastructure projects, including a new funding component for bicycle routes/boulevards that was recommended by EJAG. Ms. Barati thanked EJAG for their input and support, and in particular EJAG member Bob Smith for suggesting the new funding component.