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DATE: February 2, 2016
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 meetings of October 22, 2015 and December 3, 2015.

Seyed Sadredin
Executive Director
Air Pollution Control Officer

Attachment A: Highlights from the EJAG meeting of October 22, 2015 (5 pages)
Attachment B: Highlights from the EJAG meeting of December 3, 2015 (3 page)

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San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District
Meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee
February 2, 2016

REPORT ON DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY GROUP (EJAG)
ACTIVITIES

Attachment A:

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE EJAG MEETING OF OCTOBER 22, 2015
(5 PAGES)

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY GROUP (EJAG)
MEETING OF OCTOBER 22, 2015**

Recap of Transboundary Ozone Pollution Conference – Kevin Hamilton and Marvin Dean, EJAG members provided an overview of the successful Transboundary Ozone Pollution Conference that brought together leading scientists in this field from all over the country. They both stated that the scientific conference was hugely beneficial, and they appreciated that the conference was focused on tropospheric ozone effects specifically on the San Joaquin Valley air basin. They were also appreciative that the District helped increase community and student participation in the conference through scholarships that waived the entrance charges, and expressed hope that the District continues to hold these types of conferences, focusing on the unique Valley challenges.

Check Before You Burn & Burn Cleaner Overview – Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer and Todd DeYoung, Grants Program Manager provided the overview. Ms. Holt explained that it is vital that all residents understand air quality issues in the Valley, as air pollution affects us all, and everyone’s cooperation is necessary to reach the tough standards established by the federal EPA and the Valley’s clean-air goals.

The District’s *Check Before You Burn* residential wood-burning regulation (Rule 4901), the most stringent in the nation, minimizes the build-up of dangerous fine particulates (PM2.5) and improves air quality during the winter months. Wood smoke is a serious wintertime health threat that increases the risk of lung disease, respiratory illness, heart attacks and stroke. Residential wood burning can contribute up to two-thirds of total winter-time PM2.5 emissions, and reducing emissions from wood smoke is crucial.

Ms. Holt described Check Before You Burn, which begins Nov. 1 and runs through February, reduces fine particulates through three possible daily curtailment levels. “No Restrictions, Burning Discouraged” means that air quality is good and anyone can use their wood burning device. “No Burning Unless Registered” means that only individuals with a clean burning wood insert or stove, who have registered that device with the Valley Air District, are allowed to burn. Finally, “No Burning For All” means that air quality is very poor and use of ALL residential wood burning devices is prohibited.



No Burning curtailment: No one can burn at their residence.



No Burning Unless Registered curtailment: Residents must register their emission-compliant wood-burning device with the District by visiting www.valleyair.org/CBYBregistration in order to use their device during this declaration.



No Restrictions, Burning Discouraged: If burning is absolutely necessary, residents should use manufactured logs, dry/seasoned wood, pellets or a clean-burning device.

She also described the registration process and mentioned that the District was investigating potential partnerships to assist low-income residents with registration.

Mr. DeYoung thanked the EJAG for their involvement and efforts to strengthen the Burn Cleaner grant program and enhance participation in the program by the Valley's disadvantaged communities. He described the program survey and evaluation which was conducted this past summer with both Valley residents who participated in the grant program and Burn Cleaner retailers, and how the research indicated that the current funding levels were appropriate. He explained how Valley residents wanting to switch out older wood-burning devices for clean devices can take advantage of the grant program which provides \$1,000 for certified wood, pellet inserts, freestanding stoves or natural gas inserts or \$2,500 for eligible low-income applicants for all devices. An additional \$500 is available to all applicants for the installation costs on a natural gas device. As a high priority for EJAG, the District will be working closely with EJAG to further evaluate opportunities for increasing participation by low income Valley residents. For more information on this program, visit www.valleyair.org/burncleaner.

2016 EJAG Goals, Objectives, and Action Plan – The EJAG members discussed and unanimously approved their proposed draft goals and objectives for 2016 for submission to the Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer for consideration, revision or addition, and approval, including:

Goal/Objective 1: Work collaboratively to maintain a strong working relationship with the CAC.

Goal/Objective 2: Work with the District to ensure specific public documents created by the District are culturally sensitive and reflect EJ principles.

Goal/Objective 3: Increase public participation in the efforts of EJAG.

Goal/Objective 4: Work with the District to secure grants for public education or emission reduction projects in EJ communities in San Joaquin Valley.

Goal/Objective 5: Work with the District to enhance the effectiveness of emission reduction incentive programs in EJ communities in San Joaquin Valley.

Goal/Objective 6: The Environmental Justice Advisory Group will continue to be informed and updated regarding: AB32; Cap-and-Trade; SB 375 target; and other air quality legislation and regulation as appropriate and ensure that Environmental Justice communities' concerns are taken into account.

Goal/Objective 7: The Environmental Justice Advisory Group will continue to encourage consistency and improve attendance at EJAG meetings.

Goal/Objective 8: The Environmental Justice Advisory Group will continue to be informed and updated regarding the Health-Risk Reduction Strategy.

Next EJAG meeting – 5:30 p.m., Thursday, December 3, 2015.

Further information may be obtained at:

http://www.valleyair.org/Programs/EnvironmentalJustice/Environmental_Justice_idx.htm

San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District
Meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee
February 2, 2016

REPORT ON DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY GROUP (EJAG)
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Attachment A:

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE EJAG MEETING OF DECEMBER 3, 2015
(3 PAGES)

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY GROUP (EJAG)
MEETING OF DECEMBER 3, 2015**

Charge Up! Grant Program – Todd DeYoung, Grants Program Manager provided the EJAG with an overview of this new program aimed at increasing the electric vehicle infrastructure in the Valley. Under the direction of the Governing Board, staff developed several grant strategies to reduce emissions from passenger vehicles, increase public access for vehicle charging stations and strengthen the EV charging network throughout the Valley. This program, which opened about four months ago, provides funding for public agencies and businesses in the Valley to install electric vehicle (EV) chargers for public access. The funding amount for a Level 2 Single Port pays up to \$5,000 per unit and a Level 2 Dual Port pays up to \$6,000 per unit with a funding cap of \$50,000 annually per applicant. All sites must be accessible to the public for a minimum of 30 hours per week. Since the inception of the program, 114 charging stations have been installed – that’s \$1.3 million in funding and several applications are in the queue. If an applicant would like to install a Level 3/DC fast charger they are encouraged to contact the District to review the eligibility. The funding amounts can be applied towards the cost of the unit, eligible installation charges and necessary signage. Since grant programs, such as the District EFMP Plus Up program, are making EV more affordable to low income individuals, the District is engaging EJAG for suggestions on potential locations to install EV infrastructure in low income communities.

Diesel Truck Voucher Program – Todd DeYoung, Grants Program Manager provided an update on the District’s success and extremely important truck voucher program. To assist trucker with additional upcoming ARB regulations prior to their implementation, the District currently offers a couple of incentive programs – Truck Voucher program and Prop 1B. Both of these are open and both require their fleets to be in compliance with the state Truck & Bus regulation. The Truck Voucher program, which is fully supported by the EJAG, focus has been on small businesses. This program is only open to small businesses in the Valley. These are locally generated funds to the tune of \$8 to \$10 million per year and pays up to 35% of the cost of a truck with a 2010 standard engine with a max of \$50,000. The Prop 1B program also fully supported by the EJAG, currently in the 5th and final stage of the program and approved for truck projects (\$29.5 million) and locomotive projects (\$19.5 million). The majority of the funding is for zero or near zero emission advanced technology. The outreach for Prop 1B was very different during this phase. It was more targeted even working closely with the California Air Resources Board. The EJAG has played an important role in giving feedback to the District over the last several years as tough ARB trucking regulations, costing Valley business millions of dollars, have gone into effect.

Potential Goods Movement Freight Technology Advocacy Related to Cap and Trade Funding – Tom Jordan, Senior Policy Advisor provided an overview of the collaborative work being done with a wide variety of Valley stakeholders (including EJAG) to bring Cap and Trade funding to the Valley for goods movement. In speaking with the California Air Resources Board goods movement issues in the Valley have been overlooked with focus being on ports and large cities.

With over 80% of the Valley's emissions coming from mobile sources, the EJAG recognizes that heavy duty trucks are the largest single source of NOx emissions in the San Joaquin Valley and attaining the health-based ozone and particulate standards will require significant additional reductions in truck emissions through the development and implementation of advanced truck technology. Additionally, reducing emissions from heavy duty trucks will provide significant health benefits for disadvantaged communities in the San Joaquin Valley and throughout the state, particularly given that many of these communities are located near major freight corridors.

Although there have been significant advances in battery and fuel cell electric vehicle technologies, pursuing the advancement and deployment of clean natural gas heavy-duty vehicles and other more readily available and suitable near-zero emission technologies will help the Valley address our significant air quality challenges while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This can be accomplished in a faster manner than solely relying on electrification technology due to current range limitations. In addition to continuing to develop advanced electric vehicle technologies, the EJAG unanimously supported allocating Cap and Trade revenues for funding the replacement of diesel trucks with advanced near-zero emission technologies including clean natural gas trucks, expansion of fleets with new alternative fuel or other near-zero emission vehicles, and installation of natural gas fueling infrastructure, and requested that a letter be sent from EJAG to the State Air Resources Board expressing this position.

Next EJAG meeting – 5:30 p.m., Thursday, February 25, 2016.

Further information may be obtained at:

http://www.valleyair.org/Programs/EnvironmentalJustice/Environmental_Justice_idx.htm