A Tulare city councilman is the new chairman of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

Skip Barwick was approved for the job in December through a vote by him and his 14 fellow air district board members. The group also voted to make Merced County Supervisor Hub Walsh vice chairman for 2013.

The board is comprised of a supervisor from each of the eight Valley counties, elected representatives from five Valley cities and two non-elected members appointed by the governor.

The chairman's job is rotated among the board members. Outgoing chairman William O'Brien, a Stanislaus County supervisor, delivered the state-of-the-district report during Thursday's board meeting in Fresno, and then Barwick took over as chairman.