

**GOVERNING BOARD**

**Craig Pedersen, Chair**  
Supervisor, Kings County

**Lloyd Pareira, Vice Chair**  
Supervisor, Merced County

**Drew M. Bessinger**  
Councilmember, City of Clovis

**Vito Chiesa**  
Supervisor, Stanislaus County

**David Couch**  
Supervisor, Kern County

**Christina Fugazi**  
Vice Mayor, City of Stockton

**Deborah Lewis**  
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Los Banos

**Buddy Mendes**  
Supervisor, Fresno County

**Tania Pacheco-Werner, PhD.**  
Appointed by Governor

**Alvaro Preciado**  
Mayor, City of Avenal

**Monte Reyes**  
Mayor, City of Porterville

**Robert Rickman**  
Supervisor, San Joaquin County

**Alexander C. Sherriffs, M.D.**  
Appointed by Governor

**Amy Shuklian**  
Supervisor, Tulare County

**Tom Wheeler**  
Supervisor, Madera County

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**Samir Sheikh**  
Executive Director  
Air Pollution Control Officer

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DATE: August 19, 2021

TO: SJVUAPCD Governing Board



FROM: Samir Sheikh, Executive Director/APCO  
Project Coordinator: Michelle L. Franco

RE: **ITEM NUMBER 18: APPROVE ACTION  
SUMMARY MINUTES FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN  
VALLEY UNIFIED AIR POLLUTION CONTROL  
DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEETING OF  
THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2021**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the attached Action Summary Minutes.

**DISCUSSION:**

The following Action Summary Minutes summarize the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District Governing Board Meeting of Thursday, June 17, 2021

*Attachment:*

*Action Summary Minutes, SJVUAPCD Governing Board Meeting of Thursday, June 17, 2021 (14 pages)*

## Action Summary Minutes

San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District

### **GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

Central Region Office, Governing Board Room  
1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue, Fresno, CA

**Thursday, June 17, 2021  
9:00 a.m.**

***Meeting held via Zoom Webinar and 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 MEETING TO ORDER – The Chair, Supervisor Craig Pedersen, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.
2. ROLL CALL – was taken and a quorum was present.

*Present:*

Drew M. Bessinger, Councilmember	City of Clovis
Vito Chiesa, Supervisor	Stanislaus County
David Couch, Supervisor	Kern County
Christina Fugazi, Councilmember	City of Stockton
Deborah Lewis, Mayor Pro Tem	City of Los Banos
Buddy Mendes, Supervisor	Fresno County
Tania Pacheco-Werner, Ph.D.	Appointed by Governor
Craig Pedersen, Supervisor, <b>Chair</b>	Kings County
Alvaro Preciado, Mayor**	City of Avenal
Monte Reyes, Mayor	City of Porterville
Robert Rickman, Supervisor*	San Joaquin County
Alexander Sherriffs, M.D.	Appointed by Governor
Amy Shuklian, Supervisor**	Tulare County
Tom Wheeler, Supervisor	Madera County

*Absent:*

Lloyd Pareira, Supervisor, <b>Vice Chair</b>	Merced County
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\*arrived 9:25 a.m.

\*\*arrived 10:42 a.m.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. CLOSED SESSION – Annette Ballatore, District Counsel, announced the Governing Board would hold a Closed Session pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act as follows:
- CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR – Chenecua Dixon; Pursuant to Government Code section 54956.6. Employee Organization: San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Employees Association
  - CONFERENCE WITH DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE – Samir Sheikh; regarding management and confidential employee compensation pursuant to Government Code section 54957.6

Public Comments: None

*The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 9:05 a.m.  
The Board reconvened in Open Session at 9:29 a.m.*

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR – Item Numbers (20 – 28): *These matters are routine in nature and are usually approved by a single vote. Prior to any action by the board, the public was given the opportunity to comment on any consent item.*
20. APPROVE ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY UNIFIED AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEETING OF THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2021
21. APPROVE ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY UNIFIED AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING: REVIEW OF 2021-22 RECOMMENDED BUDGET OF THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2021
22. RECEIVE AND FILE LIST OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS FOR 2021
23. RECEIVE AND FILE OPERATIONS STATISTICS SUMMARY FOR APRIL AND MAY 2021
24. RECEIVE AND FILE BUDGET STATUS REPORTS AS MAY 31, 2021
25. APPROVE MOU FOR THE GENERAL BARGAINING UNIT, APPROVE MOU FOR THE SUPERVISORY BARGAINING UNIT, AND APPROVE RELATED CHANGES TO THE PERSONNEL RULES SECTION OF THE DISTRICT'S ADMINISTRATIVE CODE
26. APPROVE CHANGES TO THE DISTRICT'S COMPENSATION PACKAGE FOR MANAGEMENT EMPLOYEES

27. ADOPT CERTIFICATION TO ADDRESS THE CLEAN AIR ACT'S CLEAN FUELS FOR BOILERS REQUIREMENTS FOR THE 2015 8-HOUR OZONE STANDARD

28. REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE DISTRICT'S ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY GROUP

Public Comment: None

Moved: Wheeler

Seconded: Mendes

Ayes: Bessinger, Chiesa, Couch, Fugazi, Lewis, Mendes, Pacheco-Werner, Reyes, Rickman, Sherriffs, Shuklian, Wheeler, Pedersen

Nays: None

***Motion unanimously carried to approve Consent Calendar (Items 20 - 28)***

6. PUBLIC COMMENT – *The following persons provided public comments at this meeting:*

- Janet Dietz-Kamei
- Connie Young, Citizens' Climate Lobby

7. ADOPT THE DISTRICT'S 2021-22 RECOMMENDED BUDGET – Samir Sheikh, Executive Director/APCO, said this was the second public hearing required by state law to adopt the District's 2021-22 Recommended Budget, which was prepared with guidance and oversight by the Board's Ad Hoc Budget Subcommittee. He said on May 20, 2021, the Board held a public hearing for the exclusive purpose of reviewing the Recommended Budget and providing the public with an opportunity to comment on the proposed budget. The Board established this meeting date to consider adoption of the Recommended Budget. Mr. Sheikh said based on feedback received from the Board, staff recommended adoption of the Recommended Budget. He also thanked the Governing Board Ad Hoc Budget Subcommittee members, including Chairman Pedersen, Supervisor Wheeler, Mayor Preciado, Supervisor Shuklian, and Mayor Pro Tem Lewis.

Chairman Pedersen thanked the Budget Subcommittee for doing a great job and commended staff for putting together a very thoughtful budget that addresses the needs of public health in our community.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner expressed her appreciation for the work that staff is doing, and said she was really looking forward to the increases in the public education budget. She said she sees it as developing the long term capacity for the region for economic and public health resilience to climate adaptation.

Public Comment: None

*Moved:* Mendes  
*Seconded:* Shuklian  
*Ayes:* Bessinger, Chiesa, Couch, Fugazi, Lewis, Mendes,  
Pacheco-Werner, Reyes, Rickman  
*Nays:* None

***Motion unanimously carried to approve and authorize the Board Chair to sign the resolution establishing the District's 2021-22 Budget.***

*This item was taken out of order*

9. APPROVE THE CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TUNE IN TUNE UP VEHICLE REPAIR PROGRAM – Brian Dodds, Program Manager, presented this item which asked the Board to authorize an agreement with Valley Clean Air Now in the amount of \$7,000,000 for the continued implementation of the District's Tune In Tune Up vehicle repair program the 2021-22 fiscal year.

Supervisor Wheeler asked what the state and federal government were doing to address the need for mobile source reductions. Mr. Sheikh responded that the Board has taken a number of policy positions over the years to continue to push for innovative and strong actions when it comes to addressing mobile source emissions. He said there are a number of mobile source measures that are in the works and staff would be working with Dr. Pacheco-Werner, who sits on the CARB Board. He reiterated that it was not just the state's responsibility but we need help at the federal level as well, and the Board has petitioned the federal EPA for more stringent federal standards.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner said that mobile source reductions can come from a range of strategies, from the regulations and standards being put into place by CARB on a variety of vehicle classes to severe measures put into place in other countries such as limiting private car mobility. She said we definitely do not want to get to that extreme and want to make sure that our reductions are aggressive while keeping in mind our limitations in the Valley due to the number of rural areas.

Supervisor Wheeler suggested that the District may need to tell the public to get ahold of Congress and ask them to make a universal truck rule. He also commented that the phone call numbers in 2021 were amazing and suggested more funding may be needed for this program.

Councilmember Bessinger said this program is probably one of the most important programs that the Board has developed. He said this program helps residents who are struggling financially to get their cars fixed so they can get to work. He said it is a good program as it removes or fixes highly polluting vehicles.

Chairman Pedersen added the District does a lot outreach, but there is no better outreach than the words of residents who have participated in a program that

was beneficial to their families.

Dr. Sherriffs said this was a fabulous program with incredible value to the community and it has been pointed out that Valley CAN has done a fabulous job of reaching out successfully to disadvantaged communities and being nimble with this Board's support in responding to Covid-19 and improving the process. He said this program has a terrific cost benefit ratio in terms of bang for the buck. He said he has some concerns in terms of long term funding and said we need to be supporting state and federal efforts to deal with large number of mobile source emissions. We need to be supporting cleaner fuels, cleaner cars, better mileage standards, and electrifying transportation. He pointed out that the last administration rolled back mileage and emission standards and said he was glad this administration is working to reverse that to improve mileage and emissions standards for our air quality and other needs. He asked where the direct funding comes from and said we need to be thinking proactively in order to sustain and expand this program.

Mr. Sheikh responded that the funding for this program has generally come from the motor vehicle fees that the District collects in the Valley. He said the \$7 million recommended was a strategically designed amount and said it looks like the District will be receiving some very significant funding under the new state budget for what is called the Clean Cars for All program. He added staff would return to the Board after the state budget is approved to accept the new funding and perhaps increase the allocation as needed.

Vice Mayor Fugazi said she did not mind being called the cheerleader of both programs and voiced agreement with Supervisor Wheeler's comments on the high number of phone calls that have dramatically increased participation in this program for all Valley residents. She added that she did not want to get rid of the weekend in-person events. She also agreed with Dr. Sherriffs' and Councilmember Bessinger's comments that for our disadvantaged communities this program helps residents not have to make the difficult choice between getting their cars repaired and paying their bills. She said the City of Stockton towed 1,500 cars off their streets, the majority of which were unregistered because their vehicles could not pass smog tests. She said she could not speak highly enough about this program and if additional funds were needed down the line she would be the first to say yes.

Mayor Reyes echoed the Board members' comments and said this program is more important than ever and compounded by what is happening with the automotive industry in the US, with vehicle prices going through the roof and availability way down. He said the more we can stretch vehicles that can comply with current standards for smog the better we can help the residents that need it.

Councilmember Bessinger suggested staff put together a two-sided informational handout about the program and he could help facilitate distribution by law enforcement agencies.

Vice Mayor Fugazi suggested increasing the number of shops that are certified to make the repairs to decrease the wait time for program participants. Mr. Dodds said the District has increased the number of smog shops participating in this program over the past year. He said if any shops are STAR-certified and would like to participate, the District wants to have them in the program.

Supervisor Rickman suggested the courts could be a resource to help notify residents about this program by enclosing information when they send out notices.

Public Comment: *The following persons commented on this item:*

- Manuel Cunha, Nisei Farmers League
- Tom Knox, Valley CAN
- Connie Young, Citizens Climate Lobby

Moved: Fugazi

Seconded: Bessinger

Ayes: Bessinger, Chiesa, Couch, Fugazi, Lewis, Mendes,  
Pacheco-Werner, Reyes, Rickman, Sherriffs, Shuklian,  
Wheeler, Pedersen

Nays: None

***Motion unanimously carried to (1) authorize the Board Chair, with Executive Director/APCO recommendation, to execute an agreement with Valley Clean Air Now for the implementation of the District's Tune In Tune Up vehicle repair program for the \$7,000,000 allocated for this program in the 2021-22 fiscal year; and (2) authorize the Executive Director/APCO to make administrative changes to the program as necessary to ensure successful program implantation.***

8. REPORT ON DISTRICT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES – Kevin Abernathy, CAC Chairman presented highlights from the CAC meeting held on June 1, 2021.

10. REVIEW AND PROVIDE COMMENT ON THE DRAFT “2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY” – Mr. Sheikh reviewed the draft 2020-21 Annual Report to the Community with Board members and requested any input they have to enhance the report.

Chairman Pedersen said the Annual Report to the Community is a great resource to community members with respect to the District and its mission.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner thanked staff for the great report full of valuable information. She suggested adding additional information about the public health impacts from PM2.5 and ozone in the introduction. Mr. Sheikh responded if there was consensus from the Board, staff could expand the discussion on the public health

benefits in that section.

Supervisor Shuklian said as a new Governing Board member, the report is a great resource for her, but it is also an easy read with valuable information clearly laid out for the public.

Dr. Sherriffs said this was a great report and provides a good balance of high-level overview and detail for people to get educated about what we do and the past year's successes and challenges. He said there is one big issue missing, and the Board will have the opportunity in the next year to consider the place of climate change in the District's work. He said the District is deeply engaged on many levels in the issues when looking at the use of state funds coming from climate investments and co-benefits. He added there is clearly a lot of funding at the state and federal level for agriculture in terms of carbon sequestration. He said he hoped that the Board could have more productive discussions on this issue in the coming year and it would be reflected in the report in future years.

*Mayor Preciado arrived at 10:42 a.m.*

Public Comment: *The following persons commented on this item:*

- Janet Dietz-Kamei, Fresno Resident
- Connie Young, Citizens Climate Lobby

11. VERBAL UPDATE ON THE 2021-22 STATE BUDGET – Tom Jordan, Senior Policy Advisor, provided Board members with an update on the current state budget process and potential impacts on District funding sources.

*Supervisor Couch left at 11:41 a.m.*

12. APPROVE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON AGRICULTURAL BURNING – Mr. Sheikh recognized the Board for their many years of working on the issue of agricultural open burning and trying to find ways to reduce the open burning in the Valley. He said the Board has been very engaged on this issue over the past year, and this item reflects the latest set of recommendations related to open burning and would establish the near-complete phase out of open agricultural burning over the next couple of years.

Mr. Sheikh introduced Jon Klassen, Director of Air Quality Planning and Science, and Jessica Coria, Program Manager, who presented this item which asked the Board to approve the *Supplemental Report and Recommendations on Agricultural Burning*, in response to the California Air Resources Board's February 2021 action on the District's adopted *2020 Staff Report and Recommendations on Agricultural Burning*.

Councilmember Bessinger thanked staff for the very informative report. He asked about the non-combustion, clean biomass energy concepts. Mr. Sheikh

responded that the types of projects that staff hears interest about include gasification and cellulosic ethanol. He added there are other alternatives such as soil incorporation and composting. He said there could be a lot of emission reductions potential if those projects are designed correctly.

Councilmember Bessinger suggested instead of having a long conversation at the upcoming summit about what could happen in the future with technology that may or may not occur, staff should conduct a discussion about reinvigorating the biomass energy industry for the sole purpose of disposing of agricultural material. He said it would provide a reasonable alternative to be able to dispose of the material and not burden the agricultural industry.

Supervisor Wheeler remarked on the diminishing number of biomass plants over the years. He said he believes the air curtain burners that are currently in operation in the Valley would be a viable alternative to burning, especially for vineyards. He asked if growers would be allowed to use them after the 2024 deadline. Mr. Sheikh responded the primary alternative right now would be chipping, grinding, and either spreading or incorporating into the soil, but added there will definitely be situations where the air curtain burner may play a role. He said the use of the burners for vineyard removals is untested but is a potential option.

Mr. Sheikh clarified there are five biomass plants that are still operating in the Valley and we do not know what the long term viability of those plans. He said if they continue to shut down, not only will we have the existing material to deal with in transitioning away from burning, but the fleet expansions for these alternatives becomes even more important and there is an urgency to developing these alternatives very aggressively.

Supervisor Wheeler said another positive aspect of the air curtain burners is that the material does not have to be hauled to a new location to be processed, which would save mobile source emissions.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner thanked staff for all of the amazing work they have done. She said she visited farmers impacted by the lack of permitted burn windows due to the wildfires last year, and it became apparent that the alternatives are very necessary and timely right now because the windows to burn will continue to dramatically decrease for open burning. She said she has been an ongoing advocate to make sure this accelerated timeline is actually feasible and will continue to be engaged in that as well. She also voiced appreciation for the environmental justice community for their ongoing engagement on this issue on behalf of residents who bear the health effects of burning.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner added that she appreciates the willingness of the farmers to engage our District and CARB on problem solving the alternatives and implementation as well. She also thanked Richard Corey, CARB's Executive Officer, who was charged by the CARB Board with working closely with the

District and all stakeholders on this issue and has done exactly what the Board charged him with. She said the funding request for demonstration projects was absolutely crucial, because we need to find what the real cost of implementing these alternatives. In regards to notification, she said she would really like to see that come to a resolution this summer. She said the information is already public and while she understands that we want to avoid the information being used for litigious purposes, all of the great farmers and groups that she has met are so committed to following these regulations, we should not be spending too much time protecting those small amounts of bad actors that may be out there. She asked for ongoing updates on this issue and perhaps a more comprehensive update in December so we can make sure we are on track and react to any new developments that may significantly affect the feasibility of the timeline. Regarding enforcement, she asked if there was a plan for increased funding for the enforcement team to do this work.

Mr. Sheikh thanked Dr. Pacheco-Werner for her ongoing attention to this issue not only on this Board but also the CARB Board. He said it has been very helpful to have a lot of energy placed by her to try and understand and help develop a workable transition plan. He also thanked Mr. Corey and his team who have been great to work with, understanding the Board's direction and coming up with recommendations that were consistent with that direction. He also thanked staff, stakeholders, and the environmental justice community, as they have all been engaged in this process. He said staff would absolutely report back to the Board on a regular basis regarding any developments. Regarding the question about more information provided to the public about what is being authorized to burn, he said staff is working on this and thinks we can make the information available during the timeframe mentioned by Dr. Pacheco-Werner. On the enforcement side, Mr. Sheikh responded that with the new budget that was approved, the Board allocated significant resources to not only the authorized burn inspections that are done, but also the proactive surveillance that is completed by the Inspection staff that is out in the field every day. He added the District may have to add some resources when staff returns to the Board to talk about the funding and transition as they will be necessary to spend the \$180 million that we are hearing about in the state budget.

Supervisor Rickman commented on a meeting he had recently with West Coast Biofuels regarding a system they are looking to build in San Joaquin County, and said it may be a viable alternative to open burning. He asked if there would be funding available for this project or a possible pilot program. Mr. Sheikh responded that staff would be following up with the potential project proponent to work with them to understand the requirements and what opportunities there may be for this project. He thanked Supervisor Rickman for the ongoing work on his part to keep looking for solutions to help address the transition.

Supervisor Rickman suggested looking at economic development funding from state job creation funds because if we are enticing these types of businesses to our counties, they are creating jobs. Mr. Sheikh responded that certainly would

be an opportunity for projects like those especially as funds align with state goals.

Dr. Sherriffs said that as we think about the upfront costs of incorporation we also need to consider the life cycle benefits. He suggested one of the research areas supported by the board should be the life cycle benefits of soil incorporation.

Chairman Pedersen asked if there was still room in the program for noxious weeds and diseased materials. Mr. Sheikh responded there would be limited exceptions moving forward, including diseased crop issues and said that has generally been a very small percentage of the total tonnage burned.

Public Comment – *The following persons commented on this item:*

- Elaine Trevino, Almond Alliance
- Cynthia Pinto-Cabrera, CVAQ
- Steven Jimenez, American Lung Association
- Shayda Azamian, Leadership Council for Justice and Accountability
- Roger Isom, Western Agricultural Processors Association
- Janet Dietz-Kamei, Fresno Resident
- Mark Rose, National Parks Conservation Association
- Gustavo Aguirre Jr., Central CA Environmental Justice Network
- Jesus Alonso, Clean Water Action
- Manuel Cunha, Nisei Farmers League

*Councilmember Bessinger left at 12:36 p.m.*

Dr. Sherriffs suggested the District provide access for residents to information on agricultural burns approved in the Valley.

*Moved:* Mendes  
*Seconded:* Wheeler  
*Ayes:* Chiesa, Fugazi, Lewis, Mendes, Pacheco-Werner,  
Preciado, Reyes, Rickman, Sherriffs, Shuklian,  
Wheeler, Pedersen  
*Nays:* None

***Motion unanimously carried to (1) authorize the Board Chair to sign the resolution approving the Supplemental Report and Recommendations on Agricultural Burning, and direct the Executive Director/APCO to submit the Report and associated supporting information to the California Air Resources Board and United States Environmental Protection Agency for inclusion in the State Implementation Plan as required under District Rule 4103 and California Health and Safety Code Sections 41855.5 and 41855.6; (2) authorize the Board Chair, with Executive Director/APCO recommendation, to execute agreements to fund early demonstration pilot projects for alternatives to agricultural burning, per proposed criteria, in an***

**amount up to \$500,000; and (3) direct the Executive Director/ACPO to expeditiously return to the Board for the appropriation of new state funds upon approval by the Legislature and Governor in the state's 2021-22 budget, and to develop recommendations for enhancements to the Alternatives to Agricultural Open Burning Incentive Program and associated staffing and resources to ensure effective implementation.**

*This item was taken out of order*

15. APPROVE CONTRACT FOR ADVERTISING AND MARKETING AGENCY REPRESENTATION FOR COMPREHENSIVE MULTILINGUAL PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH – Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer, presented this item which asked the Board to approve the contract between the District and Archer and Hound Advertising to implement comprehensive multilingual public education and outreach for key District programs and initiatives.

Public Comment – *The following persons commented on this item:*

- Janet Dietz-Kamei, Fresno Resident

Mayor Pro Tem Lewis asked about the balance of online media versus more traditional media. Ms. Holt responded that the District has been doing some limited digital advertising and slowing transitioning away from more traditional advertising to social media and other avenues. Mayor Pro Tem Lewis said it was important to consider there are customers in the Valley who are prolific on social media platforms and other generations who are not. Ms. Holt responded that while the District conducts innovative outreach campaigns utilizing social media formats, they still utilize traditional media sources as well.

*Moved:* Wheeler  
*Seconded:* Mendes  
*Ayes:* Chiesa, Fugazi, Lewis, Mendes, Pacheco-Werner, Preciado, Reyes, Rickman, Sherriffs, Shuklian, Wheeler, Pedersen  
*Nays:* None

***Motion unanimously carried to approve and authorize the Board Chair, with Executive Director/APCO recommendation, to execute the contract between the District and Archer and Hound Advertising to implement comprehensive multilingual public education and outreach for key District programs and initiatives.***

*This item was taken out of order*

16. AUTHORIZE USE OF SERVICE PROVIDERS AS NECESSARY TO SUPPORT AB 617 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – Jessica Olsen, Program Manager, presented this item which asked the Board to authorize the Board Chair, with Executive Director/APCO recommendation, to enter into agreements not to

exceed \$500,000 with expert service providers to support AB 617 community engagement.

Dr. Sherriffs said the Board's and staff's commitment to this process has been tremendous to see. He highlighted the importance of third-party facilitation of the steering committee meetings. He clarified that this funding would cover all four AB 617 communities. Ms. Olsen responded affirmatively.

Public Comment – None

*Moved:* Wheeler  
*Seconded:* Fugazi  
*Ayes:* Chiesa, Fugazi, Lewis, Mendes, Pacheco-Werner,  
Preciado, Reyes, Rickman, Sherriffs, Shuklian,  
Wheeler, Pedersen  
*Nays:* None

***Motion unanimously carried to authorize the Board Chair, with Executive Director/APCO recommendation, to enter into agreements not to exceed \$500,000 with expert service providers to support AB 617 community engagement.***

*The Governing Board took a brief recess at 1:13 p.m.  
The Governing Board reconvened at 1:36 p.m.*

*Supervisor Couch returned at 1:47 p.m.*

13. UPDATE ON 2021 WILDFIRE SEASON – Jon Klassen and Jaime Holt presented an update on the upcoming 2021 wildfire season, potential impacts on the Valley's air quality, and the District's wildfire outreach strategy to protect public health.

Dr. Sherriffs said this was really important to discuss what we can do to mitigate some of the public health issues of wildfires. As a doctor, he said he always likes to think about prevention, which includes controlled burns and the Board has had a lot of discussion about how to get behind and support those measures.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner said it has been great to see the notifications of new and emerging information on air quality from the District. She said last year the District created awesome videos with information on home air filters and said she would love to see them more disseminated this year because they are still very relevant. She also suggested teaching residents about the nuances of the different types of in-home air cleaning devices. She said it was fantastic to see staff working with Valley schools, and since the wildfire events are more widespread she wondered if there have been conversations with school districts and county offices of education to tap their resources.

Mr. Sheikh responded that Dr. Pacheco-Werner's ideas around air filters falls under the category of practical tips for residents to things they could be doing to protect themselves. He said there certainly was an opportunity to work with cities, counties, and other agencies to create clean air centers at schools or other facilities for residents who do not have filtration options during wildfire events.

Supervisor Wheeler commented on the importance of controlled burns and fuel breaks to help avoid drastic wildfire events.

Mayor Reyes said school athletic directors often act as the de facto health officer where athletics are concerned, and said last year during the Sequoia Fire there was still a lot of outdoor activity that should not have happened. He suggested working to educate the athletic directors and perhaps setting aside additional funding for increased filtration in schools to create a healthy environment for students.

Public Comment – *The following persons commented on this item:*

- Janet Dietz-Kamei, Fresno Resident

14. UPDATE ON EPA REVIEW STATUS FOR 2018 PM2.5 PLAN – Sheraz Gill, Deputy APCO, presented an update on the status of EPA's review of the District's *2018 Plan for the 1997, 2006, and 2012 PM2.5 Standards*.

Public Comment – *The following persons commented on this item:*

- Cynthia Pinto-Cabrera, CVAQ
- Janet Dietz-Kamei, Fresno Resident

17. VERBAL REPORT ON CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD ACTIVITIES – Dr. Pacheco-Werner provided an update on highlights from the CARB Board meetings held on April 22, 2021 and May 20, 2021.

18. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/APCO COMMENTS – Mr. Sheikh said staff is tentatively planning to hold the 2021 Governing Board Study Session on September 15 and 16, 2021. More details to follow.

19. GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – Supervisor Wheeler commented on the health impacts of wildfires in his community and suggested additional ways to get information out to residents.

Mayor Reyes commended the Tule River tribe in Tulare County as they worked with the USDA to secure funding for a wildland fire protection and prevention building that they broke ground on this morning.

Chairman Pedersen thanked staff for all of their hard work developing the extensive presentations for this meeting.

*Chairman Pedersen adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.*

**ADJOURN**

*NO MEETING IN JULY. The next scheduled meeting of the Governing Board is: Thursday, August 19, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting starts at 9:00 a.m., in the Central Region Office, Governing Board Room, 1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue, Fresno. The meeting will be held via Zoom audio and video teleconference (VTC).*