DATE: March 16, 2023

TO: SJVUAPCD Governing Board

FROM: Samir Sheikh, Executive Director/APCO

RE: ITEM NUMBER 6: REPORT ON DISTRICT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Attached are the highlights from the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting held on March 7, 2023.
REPORT ON DISTRICT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Attachment:

Highlights from the Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting held on March 7, 2023
(2 pages)
Executive Director/APCO Comments – Samir Sheikh, Executive Director/APCO, presented an update on implementation of the District’s agricultural open burning phase-out strategy, including the Ag Burn Alternatives Grant Program. In 2022, the reductions in agricultural open burning and use of alternatives reached record levels for the Valley since the institution of agricultural burning restrictions, highlighting the recent success of the ongoing phase-out strategy. These efforts have significantly reduced air pollution from various agricultural operations through applicant cost-shared grant programs, with enhanced incentive funding for smaller farming operations which face the greatest difficulties in the transition process. In February 2023, the Governing Board also approved enhancements aimed at increasing accessibility to the District’s programs by small farmers, including an increased grant amount of up to $400 per acre of additional funding for growers farming 100 acres or less in the Valley.

Update on Attainment Plans and Contingency Measure Requirements for PM2.5 Standards – Jon Klassen, Director of Air Quality Science and Planning, and Emily Kneeland, Program Manager, provided an update on the status and next steps regarding attainment plans in light of recent EPA actions. In addition, potential contingency measures strategies for PM2.5 were presented and discussed. The committee also discussed federal Clean Air Act challenges and opportunities and the need to advocate for timely action of federal emission sources and guidance from EPA regarding emerging implementation issues such as Title VI and contingency measures.

Air Quality Funding in Proposed State Budget – Samir Sheikh provided an update the Governor’s proposed budget including cuts to programs key to the Valley’s ongoing clean air efforts such as the Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions (FARMER) program. Mr. Sheikh also discussed the District’s advocacy efforts and extensive engagement with the state Legislature and Administration to ensure strong clean air resource allocation in the state budget. Consistent with CAC priorities and past advocacy efforts, the CAC took action to forward a letter to advocate on air quality priorities in the Budget including: FARMER funding restoration (increase from $0 to $160 million); Community Air Protection funding restoration (increase from $250 million to $300 million); and funding for additional sustainable agricultural opportunities (e.g., alternatives to open burning, offsetting costs associated with implementing practices to address drought/SGMA/air impacts, etc.)

Update on District New Source Review and Emission Reduction Credit Banking Rule Amendments – Brian Clements, Director of Permits Services, provided an update on the District’s efforts to amend District Rule 2201 (New and Modified Stationary Source Review) and Rule 2301 (Emission Reduction Credit Banking) to satisfy federal offset equivalency remedies contained within Rule 2201 and to enhance the rules to ensure that federal requirements can continue to be met in light of EPA’s July 2022 limited approval, limited disapproval of the District’s 2019 version of Rule 2201. The
District held a public workshop on February 15, 2023, and rule amendments are scheduled for consideration by the Governing Board in April of 2023.

**District Update on Implementation of Assembly Bill 617** – Jessica Olson, Director of Community Strategies and Resources, provided an update on the District’s ongoing activities related to AB 617 implementation. The District has continued to meet regularly with all four Community Steering Committees (CSCs) which are South Central Fresno, Shafter, Stockton, and Arvin/Lamont to work together to implement the many emissions and exposure reductions measures included in the Community Emissions Reduction Programs.

Last month at the District’s governing Board meeting, the Board approved a new Residential Air Filtration Program in the South Central Fresno, Shafter, and Stockton AB 617 communities to help ensure safe indoor air quality, especially to mitigate smoke impacts from wildfires.

**CARB Update on Implementation of Assembly Bill 617** – Brian Moore, CARB Office of Community Air Protection, provided an update on efforts underway by CARB to implement AB 617. In February 2023, CARB added the Bayview-Hunters Point/Southeast San Francisco community and the North End Phase 1 community (Westmorland, Brawley, and Calipatria) as AB 617 Year 5 Communities. CARB is also in the process of updating the Community Air Protection Statewide Strategy (Community Air Protection Blueprint), which must be done at least once every 5 years. The updated Strategy is scheduled to be considered at the May 2023 board meeting.