

Action Summary Minutes
San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY GROUP (EJAG)

Thursday, January 25, 2024

The Environmental Justice Advisory Group meeting was held via video teleconference (VTC): Central Region Office, Governing Board Room, 1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue, Fresno, the Southern Region Office, VTC Room, 34946 Flyover Court, Bakersfield and teleconference in the Northern Region Office, VTC Room, 4800 Enterprise Way, Modesto. Members of the public were allowed to participate in-person at any of the referenced locations or remotely via Zoom webinar. The CAC Meeting was also webcast.

1. CALL TO ORDER – The Chair, Nayamin Martinez, called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL – Roll was taken and a quorum was confirmed.

Present:

Nayamin Martinez, Chair	Fresno County At Large Representative
Laura Gutile	Madera County At Large Representative
Derek Williams	Tulare County At Large Representative
Keith Freitas	Kings County At Large Representative
Esperanza Vielma	San Joaquin County At Large Representative
Thomas Helme	Stanislaus County At Large Representative
Manuel Cunha	CAC Industry/Ag Interest Group (Primary)
John Sanders	CAC Environmental Interest Group (Alternate)

3. APPROVE MINUTES FROM JUNE 22 AND AUGUST 24, 2023– Hearing no comments or changes from the members, the chair deemed the June and October 2023 minutes.

Public Comment: None

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS– The following individual commented on under this item:
 - Pat Barrett, South Stockton Resident

5. CHAIR COMMENTS –Ms. Martinez thanked the members for their attendance and shared her appreciation for outreach by the District with the TV ads featuring Governing Board Members.

6. ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM – Jessica Olsen, Director of Community Strategy and Resources explained that the current chair, Ms. Martinez has reached the end of her two-year term. Additionally, Ms. Olsen shared that since the Vice Chair, Mr. Helme, was elected in April, his term is

through April 2024. Mr. Williams nominated Laura Gutile, with a second from Mr. Freitas. Ms. Gutile accepted the nomination. Mr. Helme nominated Ms. Martinez, to which she declined and shared her support for Ms. Gutile.

Public Comment: None

Moved: Williams
Seconded: Freitas
Ayes: Martinez, Freitas, Gutile, Vielma, Helme, Williams, Sanders, Cunha
Nays: None

Motion approved to elect Laura Gutile to a two-year term as chair.

7. APPOINT AD HOC GRANTS COMMITTEE – Jessica Olsen said that the EJAG Grants Committee is scheduled to meet in February 2024 to develop recommended incentive spending plan priorities for EJAG to consider and forward to the District Governing Board as the 2024-25 Budget is developed.

Chair Gutile appointed the following members to the committee: Esperanza Vielma, Keith Freitas, and John Sanders (alternate to Ned Leiba), Nayamin Martinez, and Laura Gutile.

8. UPDATE ON ATTAINMENT PLANS AND RULES – Emily Kneeland, Program Manager for the District’s Air Quality Science and Planning Department, provided an update on the District’s attainment plan and rule making efforts.

Ms. Martinez asked about Rule 4402 and if there were exemptions applied to small producers. Ms. Kneeland responded that in the development of the rule, there was extensive public outreach and found that there were only two producers who reported being small producers.

Ms. Vielma inquired about the upcoming PM2.5 workshop, and if it would be in person or virtually. Ms. Kneeland confirmed the meeting would be available for public participation in person and virtually.

Additionally, Ms. Martinez asked if Spanish interpretation would be available for in person and virtual participation. Ms. Kneeland responded that the Spanish interpretation services would be available simultaneously online and in person.

9. ANNUAL REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2024 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES – Jessica Olsen explained that each year, the EJAG, in accordance with the bylaws, will present a recommendation for a set of goals and objectives to steer the work of this body. Ultimately, these goals and objectives are submitted to

the APCO for final approval. Ms. Olsen shared that with the changes made last year, there are not any recommended changes for the current goals and objectives at this time.

Public Comment: None

Moved: Freitas

Seconded: Martinez

Ayes: Martinez, Freitas, Gutile, Vielma, Helme, Williams, Sanders,
Cunha

Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried to approve the EJAG Recommended Goals and Objectives for 2024, and to submit the Recommendation for Goals and Objectives to the Executive Director/APCO for consideration.

10. AB617 UPDATE – Jessica Olsen, Director of Community Strategy and Resources, provided the following updates in the AB 617 program and District's broader community engagement efforts:

- Completed annual progress reports with community input, shared with the board and CARB as per AB 617 blueprint requirements
- District continues to engage in community outreach, including partnerships with schools, direct incentives, and air filtration initiatives
- Upcoming in-person events planned for continued engagement in AB 617 communities
- District was awarded a \$1M EPA grant to fund air purifiers and community engagement across the Valley's underserved communities
- District is proposing to host a Valley-wide Community Engagement Summit

Ms. Gutile asked if there would be other community-based organizations invited to participate in the proposed community engagement summit and also if there would be languages in addition to Spanish available for translation services for CSC meetings. Ms. Olsen shared that the target audience would be community-based organizations, residents, and other stakeholders across the Valley. Ms. Olsen also shared that the translation services for CSC meetings have been available in other languages, but the District has found that at this time English, Spanish, and American Sign Language are the languages necessary to conduct the CSC meetings.

Ms. Martinez asked if efforts from the District's grant award from EPA would be better focused in outlying areas outside 617 communities, especially beyond

Fresno. Ms. Olsen shared that the organizations involved collectively cover the whole Valley.

Mr. Freitas inquired about the proportion of the EPA grant was for income and disadvantaged households and whether a specific percentage can be assigned to this demographic group within the funding allocation. Ms. Olsen gave the clarification that for this grant, a requirement for successful application was dedicating a minimum of 20% of the grant to support community-based organizations, with approximately \$790,000 for the Clean Air Room program purifiers all to disadvantaged and low-income households. All \$1M is to support this demographic.

Mr. Cunha shared his hopes that outlying areas that are not in AB 617 communities can also be helped with receiving air purifiers. Ms. Olsen clarified that the funding is available exclusively for the communities that are not in AB 617 communities already receiving funds for this program.

Ms. Gutile inquired if the people who were on the waitlist and did not receive air purifiers last time would be the first to receive them this time around. Ms. Olsen confirmed that those on the waitlist would be the first contacted.

Mr. Helme echoed Mr. Cunha's thoughts on providing purifiers to all who need them, and also asked if the summit would be available to have a virtual option to make it available to a wider audience. Ms. Olsen responded that the summit would be held in Fresno and the topic of a virtual option has not been discussed, but could potentially be an option.

Ms. Vielma inquired about the grant timeline, and also about the fireplace changeout and if residents would have to pay up front and wait for reimbursement. Ms. Olsen mentioned that they're aiming to have the air purifier grants ready to go by May, just before the potential wildfire season. Additionally, Ms. Olsen shared that, for the fireplace changeout program, low-income households qualify for extra funding, that money up front is not required.

11. DISTRICT COMMENTS – Jessica Olsen shared the following District updates:

- EJAG membership update, currently three vacancies and we have received an application for a candidate who qualifies to be a part of EJAG and the District will be working with the Chair to conduct the required vetting process. We are still working to fill the other positions
- District Governing Board held its annual Study Session on November 29-30th in Modesto
 - Board approved Alternatives to Fireworks Pilot Grant Program to reduce the amount of pollution caused from firework use
- District was awarded \$56 million grant for truck charging stations along I-5 in Kern and Merced Counties

- State budget's preliminary numbers indicate a tight budget year and the District will be working with Valley stakeholders to fight for Valley's share of funding needed to support clean air measures
- CARB is working on updating Community Air Protection Incentive Guidelines which has the potential for allowing funds to be used Valley-wide in low-income and underserved communities

Mr. Williams shared his concerns about the infrastructure required to supply power to electric vehicle charging stations.

Mr. Freitas inquired about the logistics of setting up charging station for trucks.

Ms. Olsen explained that it would be similar to a full-service truck stop.

12. POTENTIAL FUTURE EJAG MEETING AGENDA ITEMS– Ms. Gutile asked for future presentations on the charging station grant. Ms. Martinez asked for future items to have an update on other funding streams that might be impacted by the State budget. Mr. Cunha requested information on potentially working to support rural communities. Ms. Vielma also requested a future presentation on the charging station project.
13. PUBLIC COMMENTS (2nd Opportunity) – The following individual commented on under this item:
 - Pat Barrett, South Stockton Resident
14. EJAG MEMBER COMMENTS – Mr. Cunha thanked the new Chair Gutile for leading the meeting today and thanked Ms. Martinez for her service as the previous chair. Mr. Helme thanked the member of the public for coming tonight to share.

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.