

Action Summary Minutes
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 5, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

The Citizens Advisory Committee 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, Ben Cantu, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. ROLL CALL – was taken and a quorum was present to hold the meeting.

County	Member Name	Interest Group	Location
Fresno	Manuel Cunha	IAIG (P)	Fresno
	Kacey Auston-Tibbetts	EIG (P)	Fresno
	Mary Fast	CIG (P)	Fresno
Kern	Les Clark	IAIG (P)	Bakersfield
	John Sanders	EIG (P)	Bakersfield
	Orchel Krier	CIG (P)	Bakersfield
Kings	Kelly Deming	EIG (P)	Fresno
	Laura Brown	IAIG (P)	Fresno
	Kalish Morrow	CIG (P)	Fresno
Madera	Ashley Nebeker	EIG (P)	Fresno
	Jeff Troost	CIG (P)	Fresno
Merced	Amy Lopes	IAIG (P)	Modesto
	Denise Holmes	EIG (P)	Modesto
San Joaquin	Ned Leiba	EIG (P)	Modesto
	Roger Hoffdahl	IAIG (P)	Modesto
	Ben Cantu	CIG (P)	Modesto
Stanislaus	Jami Aggers	EIG (P)	Modesto
	Richard O'Brien ¹	CIG (P)	Modesto
Tulare	Dennis Mederos	CIG (P)	Fresno

(P) = Primary, (A) = Alternate, IAIG = Industry/Ag Interest Group, EIG = Environmental Interest Group, CIG = City Interest Group

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

¹ Left meeting at 10:46 a.m.

4. APPROVE MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 5, 2023 – Mr. Cantu asked for member comments on the minutes from the December 2023 CAC meeting. Hearing no comments or changes, he declared the minutes approved.

Public Comment: none

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS – none
6. CHAIR COMMENTS – Mr. Cantu welcomed the committee members and staff, and thanked everyone for their attendance. Mr. Cunha welcomed new member, Denise Holmes of Merced County. Mr. Cantu thanked Mr. Cunha for his service as the Chair for the past two years.
7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/APCO COMMENTS – Samir Sheikh, Executive Director/APCO, welcomed the committee members and provided the CAC with an update on the following items:
 - The Governing Board accepted \$56,008,096 in funding from the Federal Highway Administration for the development of an electric vehicle charging network in the San Joaquin Valley.
 - The Governing Board approved the District's 2024 Legislative Platform that establishes the District's 2024 legislative priorities.
 - The Governing Board allocated an additional \$10,000,000 in program funding for the District's Ag Burn Alternatives Grant Program, along with several program enhancements.
 - Once again, the Government Financial Officers Association has awarded the District the "Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting," its highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, for the latest Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (Fiscal Year 2022-23).
 - The Governing Board took action to accept and appropriate \$59,400,000 in state funding for the Funding Agricultural Measures for Emission Reduction (FARMER) Program for the District's Tractor Replacement Program.
 - The District and CAL FIRE entered into the first of its kind Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide an "online one-stop shop" for obtaining hazard reduction burn permits in the Valley's foothill and mountain communities.
 - The Governing Board recently created the Clean Alternatives to Fireworks Pilot Incentive Program, which provides incentives to fund firework alternatives, such as drone or laser shows, in lieu of a portion or all of large-scale fireworks displays celebrating the 4th of July or New Year's Eve, or other celebratory public gatherings.
8. UPDATE ON ATTAINMENT PLANS AND RULES – Emily Kneeland, Program Manager in the District's Air Quality Science and Planning Department, provided an update on the District's planning and rule making efforts.

9. VERBAL REPORT FROM CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD (CARB) – Laura Carr, CARB representative, provided a brief update on recent and upcoming actions by CARB.

Mr. Cunha shared his concern with the CARB truck regulations and the amendments that have taken place.

Mr. Sanders echoed Mr. Cunha’s remarks.

Ms. Brown spoke about the need for CARB to have more outreach and communication with stakeholders.

10. RECOMMEND CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES TO THE DISTRICT’S ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY GROUP – Jessica Olsen, Director of Community Strategies and Resources, explained that the District’s Environmental Justice Advisory Group includes six members from the CAC to serve as primary and alternate from each interest group category. Ms. Olsen shared that the Industry/Ag Primary and Alternate representatives and the City Interest Group Alternate representative will expire and the CAC will need to recommend members for appointment to the primary and alternate positions.

Public Comment: None

Moved: Troost
Seconded: Deming
Ayes: Cunha, Clark, Brown, Lopes, Hoffdahl, Auston-Tibbetts, Sanders, Deming, Nebeker, Holmes, Leiba, Aggers, Fast, Krier, Morrow, Troost, Cantu, Mederos
Nays: None

Motion carried to recommend the appointment of the following members to represent the Citizen’s Advisory Committee on the District’s Environmental Justice Advisory Group: (1) Orchel Krier to City Interest Group Representative, Alternate; (2) Manuel Cunha to Industry/Agricultural Representative, Primary; and (3) Chris McGlothlin to Industry/Agricultural Representative, Alternate

11. AIR QUALITY FUNDING IN PROPOSED STATE BUDGET – Tom Jordan, Director of Policy and Government Affairs, presented an update on the state’s 2024-25 budget.

Mr. Cunha commended the District for keeping the CAC informed.

Public Comment: David Phippen

Moved: Cunha

Seconded: Cantu
Ayes: Cunha, Clark, Brown, Lopes, Hoffdahl, Auston-Tibbetts, Nebeker,
Holmes, Leiba, Aggers, Fast, Krier, Morrow, Troost, Cantu,
Mederos
Nays: Sanders, Deming

Motion carried to submit a letter in support of continued funding for air quality programs that are important to the San Joaquin Valley.

12. RECEIVE UPDATE ON DISTRICT'S ONGOING EFFORTS TO WORK WITH VALLEY AGRICULTURE ON TRANSITIONING TO ALTERNATIVES TO OPEN BURNING – Jon Klassen, Director of Air Quality Science & Planning, and Todd DeYoung, Director of Grants & Incentives, provided a report on the District's efforts to transition Valley growers away from open agricultural burning towards alternative strategies.

Mr. Cunha thanked the District for this update and the continued communication with the agriculture stakeholders.

Mr. Leiba shared his concerns about public health benefits and cost effectiveness of the program. Mr. Sheikh explained that the incentive program is one of the most cost-effective programs and additionally emphasized that the funding is utilized to assist with a successful implementation of the state mandate.

Public Comment: David Phippen

13. AB 617 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES – Stephanie Ng, Program Manager, provided an update on the District's ongoing activities related to AB 617 implementation. CARB has selected 4 communities in the Valley for focused clean air resources - South Central Fresno, Shafter, Stockton, and Arvin/Lamont. Each community has developed a community emissions reduction program and a community air monitoring plan. And each of these have a community steering committee made up of residents, business representatives, community-based organizations, local agencies, and other stakeholders who meet and work together to see the various adopted measures implemented in their community.

Brian Moore, from CARB's Office of Community Air Protection shared updates from CARB on Community Air Protection Program updates to its incentive guidelines, primarily aimed at incorporating new project plans. These updates aim to streamline the process by providing pre-designed project plans for commonly successful community-identified projects from the past five years.

Mr. Cunha asked about the timeline for the public commenting period, and if the website could be shared with the CAC members.

Mr. Clark inquired about the difference between the project plan and proposed rule. Mr. Moore responded that the project plan is focused on incentives and the proposed rule is a regulatory step.

14. OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS REPORTS – Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer, shared the following District updates:

- The conclusion of the Residential Woodsmoke Reduction at the end of February
- 2023 Annual Report is underway and will be available in the next few months
- District participation at the World Ag Expo
- Upcoming spring outreach events that include: Earth Day, Rideshare Week, Air Quality Awareness Week, and Bike to School Week

15. CAC MEMBER COMMENTS – Ms. Deming suggested some sort of tutorial offered for all of the new members to offer as a resource.

Ms. Lopes inquired about the best way to share out information as a CAC member.

Mr. Sheikh responded that the new member resource packet would be shared with all members. This resource packet includes the role of CAC and individual members, including to share information with constituents.

Mr. Clark expressed his appreciation for Mr. Cunha in his service as the Chair over the past two years.

16. VOLUNTEER TO PRESENT REPORT DURING GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
Mr. Cantu confirmed that he would present the CAC update at the next Governing Board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.