

Action Summary Minutes
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 2, 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
Kern	Les Clark	IAIG (P)	Bakersfield
	Orchel Krier	CIG (P)	Bakersfield
Kings	Kelly Deming	IAIG (P)	Fresno
	Kalish Morrow	CIG (P)	Fresno
Madera	Jeff Troost	CIG (P)	Fresno
Merced	Amy Lopes	IAIG (P)	Modesto
	Denise Holmes	EIG (P)	Modesto
San Joaquin	Jose Delgadillo	CIG (P)	Modesto
	Roger Hoffdahl	IAIG (P)	Modesto
	Ned Leiba	EIG (P)	Modesto
Stanislaus	Ben Cantu	CIG (P)	Modesto
	Chris Savage	IAIG (P)	Modesto
	Jami Aggers	EIG (P)	Modesto
Tulare	Richard O'Brien	CIG (P)	Modesto
	Fernando Rios	IAIG (P)	Bakersfield
	Dennis Mederos	CIG (P)	Fresno

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

4. APPROVE MINUTES FOR March 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.
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 up to \$2,000,000 in funding through the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) Program to support the Valleywide Clean Air Rooms program to provide residential air filtration devices to low-income and disadvantaged community households throughout the San Joaquin Valley.
 - The Governing Board approved up to an additional \$600,000 in funding for the District’s Clean Alternatives to Fireworks Pilot Incentive Program to help offset the cost of integrating drone light shows, or other approved alternatives, in large-scale public displays.
 - The Governing Board adopted amendments to District Rule 4905 (Natural Gas-Fired, Fan-Type Central Furnaces). The rule applies to natural gas-fired central furnaces at the point of sale. Considering technological challenges, the rule was amended to allow for the continued sale of furnaces into the small manufactured home marketplace for an additional two years, ensuring the availability of furnaces to Valley residents and to provide for regulatory consistency with other regions of the state.

Mr. O'Brien inquired about information on where to purchase air purifiers to share with individuals who are ineligible for the free air purifiers. Mr. Sheikh shared that the District’s home page offers information on where to purchase CARB certified air purifiers.

Mr. Troost asked if there was a significant impact to air quality from fireworks that justified the need for alternatives. Mr. Sheikh explained that fireworks emit PM2.5 and other harmful substances that significantly affect air quality around July 4th and can linger for several days depending on weather conditions.

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 regarding Advanced Clean Fleets regulation. Specifically, Mr. Cunha shared his concern that the ports will not have enough trucks to move containers.

Mr. O'Brien echoed Mr. Cunha's concerns about port issues that will come up due to these regulations.

10. DISTRICT'S ANNUAL AIR TOXICS REPORT – Seth Lane, Program Manager, presented the District's Annual Air Toxics Report for 2023.

Mr. Krier inquired about the goal. Mr. Sheikh explained the report provides updates on local, state, and federal efforts and the progress made in reducing air toxic contaminants. Additionally, Mr. Sheikh informed the Committee the report is shared with local health officers to keep the community informed of the progress being made.

11. RECEIVE UPDATE ON ATTAINMENT PLANNING EFFORTS TO ADDRESS FEDERAL STANDARDS – Emily Kneeland, Program Manager presented an update on the District's attainment planning efforts to address federal standards.

Mr. Savage asked about the status of the Clean Air Act (CAA) Section 185 ozone non-attainment fees imposed on major sources. Mr. Sheikh responded the current Section 185 fees are associated with the 1-hour ozone standard. A maintenance plan was submitted to EPA, and upon their review and action on that plan, we anticipate the elimination of this obligation for the 1-hour ozone standard.

Mr. Cunha inquired about the restrictions to agricultural burning. Mr. Sheikh acknowledged the effort of Valley Agriculture to significantly reduce burning and emissions are called for in recent PM2.5 plans.

Ms. Deming asked what was EPA's justification for lowering the federal PM2.5 standard. Ms. Kneeland explained that EPA is required to periodically review the standards and consider the advice of a scientific advisory committee that reviews the latest health science.

12. RECEIVE UPDATE ON THE DISTRICTS ZERO EMISSION LANDSCAPE EQUIPMENT PROGRAM – Brian Dodds, Program Manager, provided an update on the District's efforts to reduce emissions from commercial landscape equipment through incentive programs aimed at replacing gas powered equipment with zero emission electric alternatives.

Mr. Krier shared the concern that he has seen state employees using gas powered equipment to maintain public areas.

Mr. Cunha shared his concerns for the business owners who work in an environment that is not able to use the electric or battery-operated equipment, such as working in remote locations like forestry workers. Mr. Sheikh clarified that the update provided is for the District's voluntary incentive programs that aid business owners to comply with the state mandates.

Public Comment: None

Moved: Cunha
Seconded: Deming
Ayes: Cunha, Clark, Lopes, Hoffdahl, Savage, Rios, Deming, Holmes, Leiba, Aggers, Krier, Morrow, Troost, Delgadillo, Cantu, O'Brien, Mederos
Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried send letter signed by the CAC Chair to the CARB Executive Director inviting CARB staff to attend the next CAC meeting to engage with the Committee on the Advanced Clean Fleets and Small Off-road Engine regulations.

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 gave an update on the proposed Community Air Protection Incentives Guidelines, including the revised guidelines and updates on a public workshop held on March 19th. CARB also provided an update that they are working with a third-party evaluator to perform a comprehensive review and evaluation of the AB 617 Program and will bring the CAC updates as they become available.

14. OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS REPORTS – Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer, shared the following District updates:
 - Earth Day, Air Quality Awareness Week, and Bike to Work Week are all upcoming with over 30 events scheduled throughout the Valley
 - Efforts are ongoing to engage with the community, including giving presentations at schools and collaborating with Healthy Living school partners. Preparation for

the end of the school year involves ensuring schools have necessary resources for future initiatives, particularly as wildfire season approaches.

15. CAC MEMBER COMMENTS – Mr. Krier commented that he has seen businesses in Kern and Stanislaus counties closing based on mandates being imposed by the state.

Mr. Mederos shared his frustration with increased emissions being caused by detours and work being done by Caltrans on Highway 41.

Mr. O'Brien would like to see CARB work with port authorities to prioritize vehicles to make sure the containers are able to move.

Mr. Delgadillo shared the annual report and the HAL kids' calendar with the Merced County Board of Supervisors and will be sharing calendars with the Superintendent of schools.

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 12:13 p.m.