



GOVERNING BOARD

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Supervisor, Tulare County

Bobby Macaulay, Vice Chair
Supervisor, Madera County

Vito Chiesa
Supervisor, Stanislaus County

David Couch
Supervisor, Kern County

Rosa Escutia-Braaton
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Buddy Mendes
Supervisor, Fresno County

Tania Pacheco-Werner, PhD.
Appointed by Governor

Lloyd Pareira
Supervisor, Merced County

Gilberto Reyna
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Wasco

Robert Rickman
Supervisor, San Joaquin County

Rusty Robinson
Supervisor, Kings County

Jose Rodriguez
Councilmember, City of Madera

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

Liz Wynn
Vice Mayor, City of Visalia

Samir Sheikh
Executive Director
Air Pollution Control Officer

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34946 Flyover Court
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(661) 392-5500 • FAX (661) 392-5585

DATE: October 15, 2026

TO: SJVUAPCD Governing Board



FROM: Samir Sheikh, Executive Director/APCO
Project Coordinator: Katrina Rojas

RE: **ITEM NUMBER 14: APPROVE ACTION
SUMMARY MINUTES FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN
VALLEY UNIFIED AIR POLLUTION CONTROL
DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEETING OF
SEPTEMBER 10, 2026**

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Action Summary Minutes for the Governing Board Meeting held September 10, 2026.

DISCUSSION:

The attached Action Summary Minutes summarize the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District Governing Board Meeting of September 10, 2026.

Attachment:

Action Summary Minutes, SJVUAPCD Governing Board Meeting of September 10, 2026 (7 pages)

San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District
Meeting of the Governing Board
October 15, 2026

**APPROVE ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN
VALLEY UNIFIED AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT GOVERNING
BOARD MEETING OF THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2026**

Attachment:

**ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES SJVUAPCD GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2026**
(7 pages)

Action Summary Minutes

San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Meeting was held via video teleconference: 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, and 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 meeting was also webcast.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The Vice Chair, Supervisor Macaulay, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present:

Bobby Macaulay, Supervisor, **Vice Chair**
Vito Chiesa, Supervisor
David Couch, Supervisor¹
Rosa Escutia-Braaton, Councilmember
Buddy Mendes, Supervisor
Tania Pacheco-Werner, PhD²
Lloyd Pareira, Supervisor
Gilberto Reyna, Mayor Pro Tem³
Robert Rickman, Supervisor⁴
Rusty Robinson, Supervisor
Jose Rodriguez, Councilmember
Alexander Sherriffs, M.D.
Liz Wynn, Vice Mayor⁵

Madera County
Stanislaus County
Kern County
City of Modesto
Fresno County
Appointed by Governor
Merced County
City of Wasco
San Joaquin County
Kings County
City of Madera
Appointed by Governor
City of Visalia

Absent:

Deborah Lewis, Mayor Pro Tem
Amy Shuklian, Supervisor

City of Los Banos
Tulare County

¹ Arrived at 9:10 a.m., left at 10:06 a.m.

² Arrived at 9:05 a.m.

³ Arrived at 9:15 a.m.

⁴ Arrived at 9:23 a.m.

⁵ Left at 10:00 a.m.

A quorum was present.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR – ITEM NUMBERS (15-21)

15. APPROVE ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY UNIFIED AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEETINGS OF AUGUST 20, 2026
16. RECEIVE AND FILE LIST OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS FOR 2026
17. RECEIVE AND FILE OPERATIONS STATISTICS SUMMARY FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2026
18. RECEIVE AND FILE SUMMARY OF RULES AND PLANS
19. RECEIVE AND FILE BUDGET STATUS REPORTS AS OF AUGUST 31, 2026
20. APPOINT HEARING BOARD MEMBERS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
21. AUTHORIZE AGREEMENT WITH VALLEY CLEAN AIR NOW FOR RESIDENTIAL LAWN MOWER EXCHANGE EVENT ADMINISTRATION FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 617 COMMUNITIES

No individuals provided comments during the time allotted for public comments on this item.

Moved: Mendes

Seconded: Robinson

Ayes: Chiesa, Escutia-Braaton, Macaulay, Mendes, Pareira, Robinson, Rodriguez, Sherriffs, Wynn

Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried to approve Consent Calendar (Items 15-21).

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No individuals provided comments during the time allotted for public comments on this item.

6. REPORT ON CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Manuel Cunha, Citizens Advisory Committee member, reported on highlights from the meeting held on September 1, 2026.

7. ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE \$37,500 IN FUNDING FROM THE CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT PROGRAM FOR ALTERNATIVES TO AGRICULTURAL OPEN BURNING

Todd DeYoung, Director of Grants and Incentives, presented the proposed acceptance of \$37,500 California Air Resources Board Supplemental Environmental Program funding for the Alternatives to Agricultural Open Burning Grant Program.

Supervisor Mendes expressed concern about the funding amount, noting that it was significantly less than the \$75 million requested.

The following individual(s) provided public comment during this item:

- Manuel Cunha, Nisei Farmers League (NFL)

Moved: Wynn

Seconded: Rodriguez

Ayes: Chiesa, Couch, Escutia-Braaton, Macaulay, Mendes, Pacheco-Werner, Pareira, Reyna, Robinson, Rodriguez, Sherriffs, Wynn

Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried to:

- 1) Accept and appropriate \$37,500 from the California Air Resources Board Supplemental Environmental Project Program to fund alternatives to agricultural open burning.***
- 2) Authorize the Board Chair, with Executive Director/APCO recommendation, to enter into any agreements with CARB and other entities as necessary to accept and administer this funding.***
- 3) Approve the attached Budget Resolution to amend the 2026-27 District Budget to appropriate \$37,500 in new revenue.***

8. REPORT ON 2026-27 STATE BUDGET

Mark Montelongo, Director of Policy and Government Affairs, provided an update on state budget advocacy efforts and outcomes related to the Board's legislative priorities.

Samir Sheikh, Executive Director/APCO, recognized the Board for its continued advocacy efforts. Mr. Sheikh emphasized that significant funding needs remain. He highlighted the importance of strengthening advocacy efforts and preparing for next year's state budget and legislative priorities.

Supervisor Macaulay expressed his appreciation for the continued diligence in

advocating for the District's needs.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner acknowledged the advocacy efforts and encouraged broader outreach to highlight the public health benefits of agricultural incentives and to engage additional stakeholders in the coalition.

Supervisor Robinson noted the District's significant progress in reducing emissions and encouraged continued outreach to the incoming Governor and state staff to highlight the Valley's successes and ongoing funding needs.

Councilmember Escutia-Braaton commended staff for their advocacy efforts and encouraged Board members to support the District's funding priorities through ongoing communication with policymakers.

Supervisor Macaulay further highlighted the broader community benefits of the District's programs, including improving public health and helping reduce costs related to healthcare, transportation, and food.

In closing, Mr. Sheikh thanked the Board for its continued support and input and noted that staff would incorporate the ideas discussed into the District's advocacy strategy for the coming year, with a focus on strengthening statewide support for Valley air quality priorities.

9. AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 2026 GOVERNING BOARD STUDY SESSION FOR EDUCATIONAL AND STRATEGIC PLANNING PURPOSES

Mr. Sheikh reviewed the proposed agenda for the Governing Board Study Session scheduled for November 4-5, 2026, in Bass Lake, California.

Supervisor Mendes commended staff's planning for the meeting and emphasized the importance of allowing greater flexibility in meeting schedules and allotting sufficient time for discussion.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner expressed appreciation for the well-considered agenda and suggested balancing the heavier topics to allow for meaningful discussion. She also recommended including potential impacts of extreme heat and El Niño on ozone and PM2.5 in the Board's discussions.

Supervisor Macaulay expressed support for the youth outreach component of the Study Session and emphasized the importance of educating young people about the benefits of reducing emissions. He also asked whether artificial intelligence would be included in the information systems and technology discussion. Mr. Sheikh responded that the presentation could include an update and discussion on AI, including the District's evolving approach to its use and appropriate safeguards.

Supervisor Macaulay further highlighted labor considerations and suggested focusing on woody biomass utilization as an alternative to agricultural burning,

including the potential for a renewed biomass program and clearer terminology.

The following individual(s) provided public comment during this item:

- Manuel Cunha, Nisei Farmers League (NFL)

10. RECEIVE UPDATE ON RESIDENTIAL WOODSMOKE REDUCTION STRATEGY AND APPROVE ENHANCEMENTS TO FIREPLACE AND WOODSTOVE CHANGEOUT INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Jon Klassen, Director of Air Quality Science, Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer, and Brian Dodds, Program Manager, provided an update on the District's residential woodsmoke reduction strategy and proposed enhancements to the Fireplace and Woodstove Changeout Program for the 2026-27 winter season.

Dr. Sherriffs asked what the denominator was for the reported curtailment days. Mr. Sheikh clarified that the four-month winter season consists of 120 possible days.

Supervisor Robinson suggested connecting the outreach with the District's existing calendar project. He emphasized balancing air quality goals with business needs through education, collaboration, and incentives rather than penalties. Ms. Holt confirmed that staff are working on expanding outreach to schools and youth and will provide a more detailed plan at the upcoming Governing Board Study Session.

Dr. Sherriffs asked whether wood- or pellet-burning devices may be installed as replacement heating devices in areas with access to natural gas. Mr. Dodds confirmed that such replacements are not allowed where natural gas is available, while certified wood- or pellet-burning devices remain an option, at a lower incentive amount, for areas without access to piped natural gas.

Dr. Sherriffs asked about outreach to doctors' offices. Ms. Holt explained that the District has collaborated with physicians and physician groups and previously featured a local doctor in outreach promoting the program as a public health issue. Dr. Sherriffs suggested distributing program brochures to primary care, pulmonary, and allergy practices and offered to write an article for potential publication by the Fresno-Madera Medical Society and possibly in Kern County to help increase awareness.

Supervisor Macaulay thanked staff for addressing incentive levels and acknowledged that residents in mountain communities may value having the option to use wood- or pellet-burning devices. He also thanked Dr. Sherriffs for offering to provide information to the medical community.

Councilmember Rodriguez asked whether increased incentives could accelerate PM2.5 reductions and suggested outreach through local real estate associations. Mr. Sheikh said staff could further evaluate incentive levels at the November strategic implementation discussion and pursue additional collaboration with real

estate associations to expand outreach.

No individuals provided comments during the time allotted for public comments on this item.

Moved: Mendes

Seconded: Pacheco-Werner

Ayes: Chiesa, Escutia-Braaton, Macaulay, Mendes, Pacheco-Werner,
Pareira, Reyna, Rickman, Robinson, Rodriguez, Sherriffs

Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried to:

- 1) Receive update on implementation of District's comprehensive residential woodsmoke reduction strategy.***
- 2) Approve proposed enhancements to the Fireplace and Woodstove Changeout Program to coincide with Board-approved actions under Rule 4901 scheduled for implementation in the upcoming 2026-27 winter season.***
- 3) Authorize the Executive Director/APCO to make administrative changes to the program as necessary to ensure successful implementation of program funding.***

11. APPOINT AD HOC GOVERNING BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE TO NOMINATE CANDIDATES FOR THE 2027 GOVERNING BOARD CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Consistent with Board adopted policy, Mr. Sheikh recommended the appointment of an Ad Hoc Governing Board Nomination Subcommittee to nominate candidates for the 2027 Governing Board Chair and Vice Chair.

Vice Chair Macaulay appointed Dr. Pacheco-Werner, Supervisor Robinson, Supervisor Chiesa, Councilmember Escutia-Braaton, Mayor Pro Tem Reyna and Supervisor Shuklian to the Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

No individuals provided comments during the time allotted for public comments on this item.

12. VERBAL REPORT ON CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD ACTIVITIES

Dr. Pacheco-Werner shared that the listening sessions for the California Air Resources Board's SB 905 carbon capture, use, and sequestration rulemaking have concluded and that a public hearing is expected this fall. She noted that the issue is particularly relevant to the San Joaquin Valley due to the locations of proposed projects and may also involve county planning considerations related to fire safety.

13. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/APCO COMMENTS

Mr. Sheikh provided updates on an upcoming Washington, D.C., trip with the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council, noting that the trip will focus on advocating for Valley resources and for progress on state implementation plan issues. He also reported on staff participation in a national air quality conference covering wildfire impacts, exceptional events, forecasting, and public communication, with staff bringing back ideas for potential improvements. Mr. Sheikh reminded the Board and public about the November 4-5 Governing Board Study Session at Bass Lake and offered additional venue information for those planning to attend. He also recognized District staff, CAL FIRE, county emergency services, and Supervisors Pareira and Chiesa for their coordinated response to a tire recycling facility fire that caused smoke impacts in Stanislaus and Merced Counties.

14. GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Dr. Sherriffs thanked those participating in the upcoming Washington, D.C., trip and emphasized the importance of seeking partnerships and collaboration. He also expressed concern about the early transition to winter-blend gasoline and its potential impacts on ozone and secondary PM2.5 during periods of high temperatures.

Supervisor Macaulay offered to provide recommendations or assistance to Board members planning to attend the Governing Board Study Session at Bass Lake. He also provided an update on the North Fork biomass plant, noting that it has produced syngas and is undergoing evaluation, with full commissioning anticipated by the end of the year.

ADJOURN – Vice Chair Macaulay adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.