

Action Summary Minutes

San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Thursday, April 25, 2024

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, 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 Chair, Supervisor Vito Chiesa, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.
2. ROLL CALL – was taken and a quorum was present.

Present:

Vito Chiesa, Supervisor, Chair	Stanislaus County
Deborah Lewis, Councilmember, Vice Chair	City of Los Banos
David Couch, Supervisor ¹	Kern County
Rosa Escutia-Braaton	City of Modesto
Robert Macaulay, Supervisor	Madera County
Buddy Mendes, Supervisor	Fresno County
Tania Pacheco-Werner, PhD	Appointed by Governor
Alvaro Preciado, Mayor	City of Avenal
Gilberto Reyna, Councilmember ²	City of Wasco
Rusty Robinson, Supervisor	Kings County
Alexander Sherriffs, M.D.	Appointed by Governor
Amy Shuklian, Supervisor	Tulare County
Elizabeth Wynn, Councilmember	City of Visalia

Absent:

Lloyd Pareira, Robert Rickman

¹ Arrived at 9:40 a.m.

² Arrived at 9:13 a.m.

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR – ITEM NUMBERS (16-23)
16. APPROVE ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY UNIFIED AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEETING OF THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024
 17. RECEIVE AND FILE LIST OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS FOR 2024
 18. RECEIVE AND FILE SUMMARY OF RULES AND PLANS
 19. RECEIVE AND FILE OPERATIONS STATISTICS SUMMARY FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2024
 20. RECEIVE AND FILE BUDGET STATUS REPORTS AS OF MARCH 31, 2024
 21. RECEIVE AND FILE QUARTERLY UPDATE TO THE BEST AVAILABLE CONTROL TECHNOLOGY (BACT) CLEARINGHOUSE
 22. APPROVE CONTRACT WITH ENTHALPY ANALYTICAL, LLC TO PROVIDE LABORATORY ANALYSIS OF NON-METHANE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS FOR A TOTAL OF \$107,800
 23. APPROVE CONTRACT WITH ENTHALPY ANALYTICAL, LLC TO PROVIDE LABORATORY ANALYSIS OF CARBONYL COMPOUNDS FOR A TOTAL OF \$39,750.50

Public Comment: None

Moved: Mendes
Seconded: Shuklian
Ayes: Escutia-Braaton, Lewis, Macaulay, Mendes, Pacheco-Werner, Preciado, Robinson, Sherriffs, Shuklian, Wynn, Chiesa
Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried to approve Consent Calendar (Items 16-23).

5. PUBLIC COMMENT – None
6. STAR RECOGNITION (Service, Teamwork, Attitude, Respect) – Chenecua Dixon, Director of Personnel, recognized the following staff members for reaching a service milestone during the third quarter of 2023:

Five Years of Service

Ryan Delmanowski, Supervising Air Quality Specialist
Jocelyne Mejia-Talamantes, Senior Air Quality Specialist
Kevin Ng, Senior Air Quality Specialist
William Worthley, Supervising Air Quality Specialist

Ten Years of Service

Lawrence Castaneda, Maintenance Worker

Fifteen Years of Service

Olan Bailey, Air Quality Instrument Technician
Gurpreet Brar, Air Quality Engineer
Yvette Ciotti, Air Quality Assistant
Cristina Padilla, Staff Technician
Ubaldo Rodriguez, Air Quality Assistant

7. REPORT ON DISTRICT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES – Ben Cantu, Citizens Advisory Committee Chair, reported on highlights from the meeting held on April 2, 2024.
8. REVIEW AND PROVIDE COMMENT ON THE 2023 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY – Samir Sheikh reviewed the draft 2023 Annual Report to the Community with the Board and requested any input they have to enhance the report prior to finalization.

Supervisor Chiesa commended the report and how it showcases the great work being done by the District.

Dr. Sherriffs appreciated the report and sees it as a great educational tool with an upfront emphasis on public health. Additionally, he asked to include additional discussion on the impacts of climate change, especially as it relates to wildfires.

Mayor Preciado said that this report is a powerful tool to share with the community and thanked the District staff for a great job.

Councilmember Lewis appreciated the report and how it highlights the information to make it easy for the public to understand.

Councilmember Wynn thanked the staff for the wonderful community document.

Dr Pacheco-Werner commended the report and suggested including the PM2.5 standards as reference points to the charts on page 19 of the report, similar to what is done in the ozone charts.

Councilmember Escutia-Braaton thanked the District staff for the report and suggested that the work and collaboration of the Citizens Advisory Committee be highlighted in the report.

Supervisor Robinson thanked the staff for the report and its representation of the achievements accomplished over the past 20 years.

Supervisor Mendes congratulated the staff for the progression of the Annual Report over the years.

Councilmember Reyna spoke about the recent news report of the cities in the Valley with the highest air pollution and asked if there is an opportunity to include additional information in the report highlighting the continued efforts and improvement in air quality in the Valley.

Public Comment: *The following individuals commented on this item:*

- *Ben Cantu, Resident*

9. REPORT ON 2023-2024 WINTER RESIDENTIAL WOODSMOKE REDUCTION STRATEGY– Robert Gilles, Program Manager in the District’s Air Quality and Science Department, and Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer, presented the District’s report on implementation of the residential woodsmoke reduction strategy for the 2023-2024 winter season.

Supervisor Shuklian inquired about any incentive programs available for outdoor open fire pits. Mr. Sheikh responded that there are not currently any incentives for replacing these. He added that It would be helpful to understand how significant the use of outdoor open fire pits has become and if it would be beneficial to include them in the funding opportunities.

Supervisor Shuklian additionally inquired about the process of after-hours complaints, and if there is staff in the evenings who are sent out to observe. Ryan Hayashi, Deputy APCO, explained that dependent upon circumstances, there are staff assigned to conduct evening observations and are sent to address the complaint.

Supervisor Macaulay spoke of the necessity of having both a fireplace and a heat pump in high-elevation areas with frequent power outages. Additionally, he asked if efforts are being made to expand the program to include heat pumps and allow

exemption to keep wood burning fireplaces. Ms. Holt shared that the grant program offers incentives to replace older fireplaces with EPA certified wood burning stoves or insert if there is not access to natural gas.

Supervisor Robinson inquired about the funding amounts for heat pumps. Mr. Sheikh explained that the transition to a heat pump can be costly, but with our grants and significant federal tax credits it can help the homeowner to convert to a heat pump.

Dr. Sherriffs emphasized the impact residential fireplaces have on health and thanked the District and Board for the engagement.

Public Comment: *The following individuals commented on this item:*

- *Thomas Menz, Resident*

10. APPROVE PROJECT PLANS AND REALLOCATE COMMUNITY EMISSIONS REDUCTION PROGRAM FUNDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF INCENTIVE PROGRAMS WITHIN AB 617 COMMUNITIES OF SHAFTER, ARVIN/LAMONT, AND STOCKTON – Jessica Olsen, Director of Community Strategies and Resources, requested approval project plans and the reallocation funding associated with the CERPs for the communities of Arvin/Lamont, Shafter, and Stockton.

Supervisor Chiesa asked if Kern County COG has sought out other funding such as the Active Transportation Grant to add to this funding. Mr. Sheikh said there are various community projects in places like Arvin and the county that are partnering with other funded initiatives, such as in park development. Mr. Sheikh also shared the importance of collaboration between projects and maximizing resources.

Supervisor Macaulay inquired if local jurisdictions have committed to maintaining the projects in the future. Ms. Olsen said that there is an understanding it will be maintained.

Dr. Sherriffs spoke about the cost-effectiveness of locomotive projects despite their expense. Additionally, he shared his appreciation for additional opportunities while providing an alternative approach to reduce NOx emissions significantly.

Public Comment: *The following individuals commented on this item:*

- *Yolanda Alcantar, Kern County Public Works Department*
- *Michael James, City of Shafter Public Works Department*
- *Margo Preus, Resident*
- *Lynnda Martin, Resident*

Moved: Wynn
Seconded: Shuklian
Ayes: Couch, Escutia-Braaton, Lewis, Macaulay, Mendes, Pacheco-Werner, Preciado, Reyna, Robinson, Sherriffs, Shuklian, Wynn, Chiesa
Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried to (1) approve the Road, Sidewalk and Bike Lane Improvements Project Plans for implementation of incentive programs within the AB 617 community of Arvin/Lamont, consistent with District Board and CARB-approved Community Emissions Reduction Programs; (2) approve \$1,275,000 of remaining District Board and CARB-approved Shafter Road, Sidewalk and Bike Lane Improvements Project funds to support the proposed City of Shafter Bike Lane project; (3) reallocate \$600,000 in the District Board and CARB-approved CERP for the Shafter AB 617 community from the Locomotive Switcher Replacement Measure to the Road, Sidewalk and Bike Lane Improvement Measure to fund an amendment to the Kern County Mexican Colony paving project; and (4) reallocate \$386,628 in the District Board and CARB-approved CERP for the Stockton AB 617 community from the School Air Filtration Measure to the Commercial Lawn and Garden Equipment Measure.

11. ADOPT PROPOSED OZONE CONTINGENCY MEASURE STATE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN REVISION FOR THE 2008 AND 2015 8-HOUR OZONE STANDARDS – Emily Kneeland, Program Manager in the District’s Planning Department, presented this item seeking the Governing Board’s adoption of the Ozone Contingency Measure State Implementation Plan Revision for the 2008 and 2015 8-Hour Ozone Standards.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner said It would be beneficial for the Board to be aware of the engagement with EPA regarding these matters and if they are willing to support the direction we're headed. Mr. Sheikh shared that the District has been engaged with EPA on this matter for over a year. Mr. Sheikh also explained that there have been conversations that have included answering questions and guidance on the interpretation of the proposal.

Public Comment: *The following individual(s) commented on this item:*

- *Thomas Menz, Resident*

Moved: Mendes
Seconded: Pacheco-Werner
Ayes: Couch, Escutia-Braaton, Lewis, Macaulay, Mendes, Pacheco-Werner, Preciado, Reyna, Robinson, Sherriffs, Shuklian, Wynn, Chiesa
Nays: None

Motion unanimously approved to (1) adopt the Ozone Contingency Measure State Implementation Plan Revision for the 2008 and 2015 8-Hour Ozone Standards to address ozone contingency measure requirements under the Clean Air Act; and (2) to authorize the Chair to sign the attached Resolution.

12. VERBAL UPDATE ON CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD – Dr. Pacheco-Werner shared that she is working with CARB to ensure that there are more opportunities for community engagement on the various upcoming implementations and rules. Dr. Pacheco-Werner spoke about meetings with stakeholders across different sectors that are connected to the low carbon fuel standard that is set to be considered by CARB this year.
13. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/APCO COMMENTS – Mr. Sheikh spoke about the ongoing efforts to monitor the state budget as the District continues to advocate for air quality priorities. Additionally, he shared the concern over potential deficits with the Governor’s budget revisions. Mr. Sheikh also highlighted the continuing improvements of the Healthy Air Living Schools program as it was featured in the California Special District’s Association publication.
14. GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS –Supervisor Mendes praised the District employees for all of the great work being done. Supervisor Chiesa shared his appreciation of the District ITS staff for the work they do behind the scenes to make the meetings run so smoothly.
15. CLOSED SESSION – After providing an opportunity for members of the public to comment on matters to be discussed, the Board recessed to closed session at 11:44 a.m.

Public Comment: None

ADJOURN – Chair Chiesa adjourned the meeting at 11:59 a.m.