

Action Summary Minutes
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

December 5, 2023 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, Manuel Cunha, called the meeting to order at 10:02 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
Kern	Les Clark	IAIG (P)	Bakersfield
	John Sanders	EIG (P)	Bakersfield
	Orchel Krier	CIG (P)	Bakersfield
Kings	Kelly Deming	EIG (P)	Fresno
	Kalish Morrow	CIG (P)	Fresno
Madera	Nick DeHart	EIG (A)	Fresno
	Jeff Troost	CIG (P)	Fresno
Merced	Jose Delgadillo	CIG (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	Derek Williams	IAIG (P)	Fresno
	Dennis Mederos	CIG (P)	Fresno

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

3. APPROVE MINUTES FOR AUGUST 1, 2023 – Mr. Cunha asked for member comments on the minutes from the October 2023 CAC meeting. Hearing no comments or changes, he declared the minutes approved.

Public Comment: none

¹ Left meeting at 11:22 a.m.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – none
5. CHAIR COMMENTS – Mr. Cunha welcomed the committee members and staff, and thanked everyone for their attendance. Mr. Cunha thanked the District for the tremendous job on the November Governing Board Study Session and the agriculture showcase.
6. 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 2023 Governing Board Study Session was held in downtown Modesto on November 29th and concluding November 30th. There were a number of topics of strategic interest covered during the meeting. Two areas of interest for the CAC were discussions around the continued efforts to work closely with Valley agriculture and partner agencies to identify opportunities for further reducing localized and regional dust particulate matter emissions from nut harvesting, and the efforts to ensure that the necessary utility upgrades and fueling infrastructure are planned for and deployed to support California's goals to transition the majority of mobile sources to zero emissions (electric/hydrogen) in the coming decades.
 - On November 29, 2023, the District held a cleaner agricultural equipment showcase to highlight the collaboration between the District, Valley agricultural stakeholders, state and federal partner environmental agencies, state and federal legislators, and the California Governor which has resulted in the accelerated turnover of older agricultural equipment to lower-emitting equipment. At the event, representatives from the District, California Air Resources Board (CARB), National Resource Conservation Services, and Environmental Protection Agency signed a proclamation lauding the successful efforts to reduce agricultural-related air quality emissions in the San Joaquin Valley.
7. 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.
8. 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 that will affect thousands of truck owners in the state, and the impacts the regulations will have on rural farming communities and small business owners.

9. ELECT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM

– Morgan Lambert, Deputy APCO, explained that the Chair of the Committee serves a two-year term and the term of the current Chair, Mr. Cunha, is set to expire at the end of 2023. Mr. Lambert further explained that the CAC Chairmanship has historically rotated between the City, Industry/Agriculture, and Environmental Interest Groups. He said the next group up in the rotation was the City Interest Group.

Public Comment: None

Moved: Leiba

Seconded: O'Brien

Ayes: Cunha, Hoffdahl, Williams, Auston-Tibbetts, Sanders, DeHart, Leiba, Aggers, Cantu, O'Brien, Mederos

Nays: Clark, Deming, Troost, Krier

Abstain: Morrow

Motion carried to elect Ben Cantu, CIG Primary Representative from San Joaquin County, as Citizens Advisory Committee Chair for a two-year term.

10. INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR NON-COMBUSTION ALTERNATIVES TO OPEN BURNING OF RAISIN TRAYS

– Aaron Tarango, Program Manager in the District's Grants & Incentive Department, reported to the CAC that the Governing Board authorized additional funding for the 2023 harvest season to assist Valley raisin growers dispose of raisin trays through non-combustion alternative methods ahead of the raisin tray burning phase-out deadline of January 1, 2024. Mr. Tarango detailed the program guidelines and shared that a minimum of 50% of the program funds are reserved for small growers (less than 100 acres farmed throughout the Valley).

Public Comment: None

11. DISCUSS CLIMATE INITIATIVES AND POTENTIAL CO-BENEFICIAL OPPORTUNITIES

– Tom Jordan, Senior Policy Advisor, and Todd DeYoung, Director of Grants & Incentives, shared the District's positions relating to recent climate change initiatives at the state and federal level. Mr. DeYoung reported on several opportunities under the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The District has been extensively involved in outreach and advocacy to ensure funding opportunities prioritize clean air efforts and is working to maximize funding in the San Joaquin Valley.

Mr. Leiba encouraged the cost effectiveness of emission reductions be considered in developing and prioritizing clean air efforts.

12. 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.

Mr. Clark requested more details on CARB efforts. Mr. Sheikh explained that the program being updated is the state incentive program guideline called the Community Air Protection Incentives Guidelines. Mr. Sheikh further explained that the guidelines are being updated with the general goal is to make sure guidelines are flexible in allowing the ability to spend the Community Air Protection funds in a cost-effective way across a range of project categories.

13. OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS REPORTS – Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer, expressed gratitude for participation in the agricultural equipment showcase in the Northern region last week. Additionally, she highlighted the ongoing efforts under the District's wood smoke reduction program and shared two programs for replacing wood-burning fireplaces with gas or electric devices. Lastly, she gave an update on Clean Air Room outreach which focuses on providing portable air purifiers to residents.
14. CAC MEMBER COMMENTS – Mr. Sanders asked if there were any updates regarding the topics at the Governing Board Study Session. Mr. Sheikh explained that the discussions around infrastructure and power grids have raised a lot of interest and he anticipates these issues will be multi-agency efforts that will require a lot of ongoing follow up. The District's upcoming Legislative Platform will emphasize many of these issues.

Mr. Mederos thanked Mr. Cunha for his service as the committee Chair.

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.