

Action Summary Minutes

San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District

**GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

Thursday, August 17, 2023

**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 meeting was also webcast.**

- 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER – The Chair, Supervisor Vito Chiesa, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 3. ROLL CALL – was taken and a quorum was present.

*Present:*

Vito Chiesa, Supervisor, <b>Chair</b>	Stanislaus County
Deborah Lewis, Councilmember, <b>Vice Chair</b>	City of Los Banos
Rosa Escutia-Braaton, Councilmember <sup>1</sup>	City of Modesto
Robert Macaulay, Supervisor <sup>2</sup>	Madera County
Buddy Mendes, Supervisor	Fresno County
Tania Pacheco-Werner, PhD <sup>3</sup>	Appointed by Governor
Lloyd Pareira, Supervisor <sup>4</sup>	Merced County
Alvaro Preciado, Mayor	City of Avenal
Gilberto Reyna, Councilmember	City of Wasco
Robert Rickman, Supervisor	San Joaquin County
Rusty Robinson, Supervisor	Kings County
Alexander Sherriffs, M.D.	Appointed by Governor
Amy Shuklian, Supervisor	Tulare County

*Absent:*

Councilmember Bessinger, Supervisor Couch

<sup>1</sup> Left at 11:00 a.m.

<sup>2</sup> Left at 10:37 a.m.

<sup>3</sup> Left at 10:25 a.m.

<sup>4</sup> Arrived at 9:12 a.m.

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR – ITEM NUMBERS (16-24)
16. APPROVE ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY UNIFIED GOVERNING BOARD MEETING OF THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2023
  17. RECEIVE AND FILE LIST OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS FOR 2023
  18. RECEIVE AND FILE SUMMARY OF RULES AND PLANS
  19. RECEIVE AND FILE OPERATIONS STATISTICS SUMMARY FOR JUNE AND JULY 2023
  20. RECEIVE AND FILE BUDGET STATUS REPORTS AS OF JULY 31, 2023
  21. RECEIVE AND FILE QUARTERLY UPDATE TO THE BEST AVAILABLE CONTROL TECHNOLOGY (BACT) CLEARINGHOUSE
  22. RECEIVE AND FILE DRAFT 2023 ANNUAL DEMONSTRATION REPORT FOR DISTRICT RULE 9610 (SIP-CREDIBILITY OF EMISSION REDUCTIONS GENERATED THROUGH INCENTIVE PROGRAMS)
  23. APPROVE CONTRACT WITH ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS RESEARCH INSTITUTE, INC ARCGIS FOR UPGRADE OF THE DISTRICT'S GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM NOT TO EXCEED \$164,550
  24. APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH HUSCH BLACKWELL STRATEGIES FOR FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$103,300

Public Comment: None

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

***Motion carried to approve Consent Calendar (Items 16-24).***

5. PUBLIC COMMENT – The following individual(s) commented on this item:
- Janet Dietzkamei, Resident
  - Connie Young, Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL)

6. STAR RECOGNITION (Service, Teamwork, Attitude, Respect) – Chenecua Dixon, Director of Personnel recognized the following staff members for reaching a service milestone during the second quarter of 2023:

Five Years of Service

Nancy Aldaoud, Air Quality Assistant  
Ariana Bovee, Senior Air Quality Specialist

Ten Years of Service

Daniel Buschman, Air Quality Instrument Specialist

Fifteen Years of Service

Allan Abrea, Air Quality Field Assistant  
Jennifer Ledergerber, Air Quality Compliance Manager  
Mark Montelongo, Program Manager  
Cherie Reed, Air Quality Specialist  
Jeannine Tackett, Supervising Air Quality Specialist  
Lien Vong, Office Assistant

Twenty Years of Service

Derek Fukuda, Supervising Air Quality Engineer  
Ramon Norman, Senior Air Quality Engineer

Thirty Years of Service

Bryan Wong, Supervising Accountant

Mr. Chiesa commended the staff on their longevity and institutional knowledge within the organization.

Mr. Mendes thanked the staff for their hard work and thanked them for always having a smile on their faces.

Ms. Lewis echoed the comments and congratulated the staff on the great work.

Mr. Reyna commented on the palpable happiness when he walks into the building and congratulated the staff members who were recognized today.

Dr. Sherriffs thanked the staff and expressed the importance of the positivity from the staff when there are such daunting tasks when facing air quality issues.

7. REPORT ON DISTRICT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES – Manuel Cunha, Citizens Advisory Committee chair, reported on highlights from the meeting held on August 1, 2023.
8. VERBAL REPORT ON THE 2023-24 STATE BUDGET – Tom Jordan, Senior Policy Advisor, shared updates on air quality funding in the 2023-24 state budget in light of the budget deficit, and provided a report on District and Valley

stakeholder efforts to increase funds in programs critical to the Valley's attainment efforts.

Mr. Chiesa asked about the FARMER program funding allocations. Mr. Sheikh explained that California Air Resources Board establishes the funding levels based on their FARMER guidelines that includes analysis and allocation of statewide funding.

Ms. Shuklian asked what the funding amounts for the FARMER program have been in the past. Mr. Jordan responded that the amounts fluctuate and have varied from \$50 million to approximately \$200 million.

Mr. Robinson commended the District's achievements this year and said he hopes that the pressure to increase funding continues in order to assist the Valley farmers.

Dr. Sherriffs thanked the District for the hard work involved in securing funding and asked about funding for low carbon transportation. Mr. Jordan responded that there is a substantial amount of funding to help meet these goals, particularly in regards to heavy-duty vehicles.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner shared her appreciation for the District's involvement on work with electric vehicle infrastructure and the importance of advocating for funding of mobile source reduction strategies.

9. APPROVE PROJECT PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF INCENTIVE PROGRAMS AND APPROVE ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUSTMENTS TO PREVIOUSLY-APPROVED PROJECT PLANS WITHIN AB 617 COMMUNITIES OF SOUTH CENTRAL FRESNO, STOCKTON, ARVIN/LAMONT AND SHAFTER – Todd DeYoung, Director of Grants and Incentives, presented this item seeking the Board's approval of project plans to implement the Public Benefit Program within the AB 617 communities of South Central Fresno, Shafter, and Arvin/Lamont. Additionally, Mr. DeYoung recommended funding reallocations and enhancements to approved programs within AB 617 communities of Shafter and Stockton.

Mr. Mendes asked about the charging stations that have already been installed and if they are monitored to ensure they are operational and have not been vandalized. Mr. DeYoung expressed that there is an ongoing effort and the District works directly with the contractors or the company who provides warranty replacement of the equipment.

Ms. Lewis asked if the public benefit grant program for police vehicles has been successful. Mr. Sheikh shared that with the Board's leadership and efforts from Councilmember Bessinger, there have been a significant number of agencies participating and the list is continuing to grow.

Dr. Sherriffs commended the District's success in adapting and responding to the needs of the AB 617 communities. Dr. Sherriffs asked about who is responsible for the cost of the maintenance of the chargers. Mr. DeYoung responded that there are different programs and arrangements in which the chargers have been purchased and deployed that determines the maintenance agreements and costs.

Mr. Preciado shared that EV charging infrastructure and hydrogen stations are scarce in rural areas, and inquired if the District has any grants available to make them more available in rural areas. Mr. DeYoung shared that there are funding opportunities available from the federal Inflation Reduction Act and the District is actively pursuing funding opportunities.

Mr. Robinson asked if the current chargers deployed in Shafter are being utilized. Mr. DeYoung said the District has received positive feedback regarding the existing chargers and the feedback from the community also identified the opportunities for program enhancements being recommended today.

Mr. Macaulay asked for clarification on the Public Benefit Grants program and how the funding amounts were determined for each community. Mr. DeYoung explained that the programs and funding were developed based on priorities established by the Community Steering Committees through the Community Emission Reduction Program (CERP) process. DeYoung added that the CERPS were ultimately approved by both the Governing Board and CARB.

Mr. Pereira inquired about the economics behind electric vehicle charging stations and whether they are viable without the significant incentives being provided. Mr. DeYoung responded that economics of the stations really depend on the operating model being deployed, ranging from public entities offering free charging to their residents to businesses simply recovering the cost of electricity to some businesses making a nominal profit on the stations.

Mr. Pereira also asked about hydrogen fuel. Mr. Sheikh responded that the District has been supportive of hydrogen fuel production and infrastructure.

Ms. Escutia-Braaton asked about the process to identify AB 617 communities. Mr. Sheikh shared that the State of California selects the communities based on several factors along with the community's ability to work with agencies in developing and implementing a Community Emission Reduction Program. Mr. Sheikh added that there have been some additions in recent years but a lack of resources to support an expanded program, and the District is focused on ensuring programs in the existing AB 617 communities are successful.

Mr. Rickman asked if it would be possible to include the residential lawn and garden equipment replacement events with the Tune in Tune up events. Mr. DeYoung responded that the District is always looking for ways to leverage programs. Specifically, in regards to the lawn and garden equipment replacement

program events, these are currently limited to AB 617 community residents so it may be confusing to the Tune in Tune up event attendees if they are not eligible for the lawn and garden equipment replacement.

Mr. Reyna requested information about the cost of level 3 charging stations. Mr. DeYoung responded that the cost is highly variable and depends on the existing infrastructure of the location with cost ranging from \$15 thousand per charger of the extreme low end to well over \$100 thousand per charger on high end.

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

- Janet Dietzkamei, Resident

Moved: Mendes

Seconded: Lewis

Ayes: Escutia-Braaton, Lewis, Macaulay, Mendes, Pareira, Preciado, Reyna, Rickman, Robinson, Sherriffs, Shuklian, Chiesa

Nays: None

***Motion unanimously carried to (1) approve the Project Plan to provide incentives to replace older public fleet vehicles with new, clean-vehicle technology within the AB 617 communities of South Central Fresno, Arvin/Lamont and Shafter utilizing the District's existing Public Benefit Grants Program guidelines; (2) approve the following administrative adjustments to previously-approved Project Plans and Incentive Programs within the AB 617 communities of Stockton and Shafter: (a) reallocate up to \$100,000 from the School Air Filtration measure to the Residential Lawn and Garden measure in Stockton, and (b) increase the cap for electric vehicle Level 3/DC fast chargers from \$25,000 to \$50,000 per charger in the approved Charge-Up Electric Vehicle Charger Incentive Program CERP measure in Shafter to leverage additional state funding; (3) authorize the Board Chair, with Executive Director/APCO recommendation, to execute agreements necessary for successful implementation of the programs; and (4) authorize the Executive Director/APCO to make administrative changes to the programs as necessary to ensure successful implementation of the programs.***

10. ADOPT PROPOSED DISTRICT RULE 3171 – Brian Clements, Director of Permit Services, presented this item and recommended the Board adopt the proposed Rule 3171 (Federally Mandated Ozone Nonattainment Fee - 1997 8-Hour Standard) to satisfy federal Clean Air Act requirements.

Dr. Sherriffs asked where the District currently stands on meeting the 1997 revoked eight hour standard. Mr. Sheikh responded that we have seen significant process towards meeting this standard and 2023 is the target yet for meeting attainment.

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

- Janet Dietzkamei, Resident

*Moved:* Sherriffs

*Seconded:* Preciado

*Ayes:* Escutia-Braaton, Lewis, Mendes, Pareira, Preciado, Reyna,  
Rickman, Robinson, Sherriffs, Shuklian, Chiesa

*Nays:* None

***Motion unanimously carried to adopt Proposed Rule 3171 (Federally Mandated Ozone Nonattainment Fee - 1997 8-Hour Standard) and authorize the Chair to sign the attached Resolution.***

11. RECEIVE UPDATE ON ATTAINMENT PLANNING EFFORTS TO ADDRESS FEDERAL STANDARDS – Emily Kneeland, Program Manager in the District’s Air Quality Science and Planning Department, presented an update on the status and next steps for District attainment planning efforts to address federal ambient air quality standards.

Mr. Chiesa asked if the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law target non-attainment areas. Mr. Sheikh responded that there are some cases where they do, and others that are not as clear, which is where the advocacy comes in to make sure the new guidelines are clear.

Mr. Robinson thanked the District staff for all of their efforts.

12. VERBAL REPORT ON CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD (CARB) ACTIVITIES – Samir Sheikh shared the CARB update in Dr. Pacheco-Werner’s absence, noting that CARB did not hold meetings in July or August.
13. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/APCO COMMENTS – Samir Sheikh shared updates on the extensive outreach and participation for the Zero Emission Landscaping Equipment grant program. Additionally Mr. Sheikh reported on the District’s in person outreach efforts at schools utilizing back to school weeks to share information about wildfire preparedness, grant programs available and general air quality information. Lastly, Mr. Sheikh shared that the District has been awarded the Fresno County Frances H. Raymond Award in recognition of outstanding contributions in management, research, education, and seeking public awareness of forest resources in California.
14. GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS– Ms. Escutia-Braaton reported she recently had the opportunity to meet with several stakeholder groups to share the work the District has been doing and introduce herself as a Governing Board Member.

Ms. Lewis spoke about her attendance at the Tune in Tune up event in Merced.

She also shared her thoughts and well wishes to all those affected by the fires in Maui.

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 11:25 a.m.

Public Comment: None

**ADJOURN** – Chairman Chiesa adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.