

Action Summary Minutes

San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District

**GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

Thursday, September 21, 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, 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, Councilmember Deborah Lewis, called the meeting to order at 9:02 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
Drew Bessinger, Councilmember	City of Clovis
David Couch, Supervisor	Kern County
Robert Macaulay, Supervisor	Madera County
Buddy Mendes, Supervisor	Fresno County
Robert Rickman, Supervisor	San Joaquin County
Alexander Sherriffs, M.D.	Appointed by Governor

*Absent:*

Councilmember Escutia-Braaton, Dr. Pacheco-Werner, Supervisor Pareira, Mayor Preciado, Councilmember Reyna, Supervisor Robinson, Supervisor Shuklian

- 4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR – ITEM NUMBERS (15-22)
  - 15. APPROVE ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY UNIFIED GOVERNING BOARD MEETING OF THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2023
  - 16. RECEIVE AND FILE LIST OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS FOR 2023
  - 17. RECEIVE AND FILE SUMMARY OF RULES AND PLANS

18. RECEIVE AND FILE OPERATIONS STATISTICS SUMMARY FOR AUGUST 2023
19. RECEIVE AND FILE BUDGET STATUS REPORTS AS OF AUGUST 31, 2023
20. APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH TROPOSPHERIC MEASUREMENT SYSTEMS INC. NOT TO EXCEED \$327,043 FOR REPLACEMENT OF FRESNO-SIERRA SKY PARK AND MERCED-COFFEE AIR MONITORING SHELTERS
21. APPROVE CONTRACT WITH ENTHALPY ANALYTICAL TO PROVIDE LABORATORY ANALYSIS OF TOXIC ORGANIC COMPOUNDS FOR A TOTAL OF \$144,870
22. APPROVE CONTRACT WITH DESERT RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO PROVIDE LABORATORY SPECIATION ANALYSIS OF PARTICULATE MATTER 2.5 SAMPLES FOR A TOTAL OF \$273,743

Public Comment: None

Moved: Bessinger

Seconded: Mendes

Ayes: Bessinger, Couch, Lewis, Macaulay, Mendes, Rickman, Sherriffs, Chiesa

Nays: None

***Motion carried to approve Consent Calendar (Items 15-22).***

5. PUBLIC COMMENT – The following individuals commented on under this item:
  - Connie Young, Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL)
  - Manuel Cunha, Nisei Farmers League (NFL)
  - Thomas Menz, Resident
  - Andrea Uribe, Leadership Counsel for Justice & Accountability

*This item taken out of order*

9. ADOPT PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RULE 8051 (OPEN AREAS) – Emily Kneeland, Program Manager in the District's Air Quality Science and Planning Department, requested approval of proposed amendments to Rule 8051 to incorporate a contingency measure that would lower the rural acreage applicability threshold for open areas.

Dr. Sherriffs thanked the staff for their work and the collaboration with other agencies.

Public Comment: None

Moved: Mendes  
Seconded: Sherriffs  
Ayes: Bessinger, Couch, Lewis, Macaulay, Mendes, Rickman, Sherriffs,  
Chiesa  
Nays: None

**Motion unanimously carried to (1) adopt the proposed amendments to District Rule 8051 (Open Areas); (2) authorize the Chair to sign the Resolution.**

*This item was taken out of order*

8. APPROVE PROJECT PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF LIGHT DUTY PASSENGER VEHICLE INCENTIVE PROGRAMS IN AB 617 COMMUNITIES – Brian Dodds, Program Manager in the District’s Grants and Incentives Department, presented the proposal seeking Board approval of two project plans for the implementation of light duty passenger vehicle incentive programs within AB 617 communities.

Mr. Bessinger asked if the program in Shafter would be available to individuals only, or could organizations apply. Mr. Dodds responded that this specific program is available only to individuals. However, Mr. Dodds explained that the District does have programs for public agencies that provide similar incentives.

Dr. Sherriffs commended this program and asked about the vehicle replacement program now requiring vehicles to be battery electric or plug-in hybrid and the quantification of emission reductions from the plug-in hybrid vehicles. Samir Sheikh, Executive Director/APCO, responded that in these programs, there is a quantification of the benefits from each project. Specific to plug-hybrid vehicles, the battery electric miles generally occur in the in the shorter distance travel within the community and the internal combustion miles occur when there's longer travel.

Mr. Macaulay asked about the recommendation to authorize APCO to make administrative changes to the program as necessary. Specifically he asked what changes may be anticipated and would there be report out to the Board of any changes made. Mr. Sheikh responded that there are not any anticipated changes, and any changes would be reported back to the Board.

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

- Manuel Cunha, NFL

Moved: Mendes  
Seconded: Bessinger  
Ayes: Bessinger, Couch, Lewis, Macaulay, Mendes, Rickman, Sherriffs,  
Chiesa  
Nays: None

**Motion unanimously carried to (1) approve the project plan to provide state Community Air Protection incentive funding to repair high polluting vehicles in AB 617 communities of Shafter, South Central Fresno, Stockton and Arvin/Lamont utilizing guidelines consistent with the District's Drive Clean in the San Joaquin vehicle repair (Tune In Tune Up) program; (2) approve the project plan to provide state Community Air Protection incentive funding to replace older passenger vehicles with newer, clean-vehicle technology within the AB 617 communities of Shafter, South Central Fresno, Stockton and Arvin/Lamont utilizing guidelines consistent with the District's Drive Clean in the San Joaquin vehicle replacement program, and adding funding category for new vehicle purchases with an incentive level of up to \$20,000 per vehicle; (3) authorize the Board Chair, with Executive Director/APCO recommendation, to execute agreements with Valley Clean Air Now as necessary for successful implementation of the vehicle repair and replacement AB 617 programs; and (4) authorize the Executive Director/APCO to make administrative changes to the programs as necessary to ensure successful implementation of the programs**

*This item was taken out of order*

10. AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 2023 GOVERNING BOARD STUDY SESSION FOR EDUCATIONAL AND STRATEGIC PLANNING PURPOSES – Samir Sheikh reviewed the proposed agenda for the Governing Board Study Session scheduled for November 29-30, 2023 in Modesto, CA.

Ms. Lewis would like to include CARB and the legislature in the discussion of illegal fireworks and ways to prevent them from coming into California.

Mr. Macaulay appreciated the continued discussions on making Wildfire prevention a priority to the District.

6. VERBAL REPORT ON WILDFIRE SEASON – Jon Klassen, Director of Air Quality Science and Planning, and Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer, provided an update on the current 2023 wildfire season and ongoing District outreach and education efforts.

Ms. Lewis inquired about elevated PM2.5 in August and September and asked for clarification of the number and location of Merced County air monitoring sites. Mr. Klassen clarified that the map shown in the presentation did not include every air monitoring site and that Merced, Stockton, and Madera had similar air quality impacts during this time.

Ms. Lewis inquired about the school outreach program and if it was done outside of the AB 617 communities. Ms. Holt explained that all schools in our District have been receiving the outreach as part of the Healthier Air Living Schools Program.

7. REVIEW AND PROVIDE COMMENT ON THE 2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY – Samir Sheikh reviewed the draft 2022-23 Annual Report the Community with the Board and requested any input they have to enhance the report.

Mr. Bessinger inquired about the portion of report that discusses working with the communities to address open burning. Mr. Bessinger stated that in his community there are large numbers of dead trees and asked if the District could research any technology for urban areas. Mr. Sheikh responded that there may be opportunity to deploy different technology that could reduce activities that may impact air quality and cost. Mr. Sheikh stated that it could be something to discuss and explore potential opportunities. Mr. Macaulay shared that Madera County faces similar issues with urban chipping and partners with Sierra Resource Conservation District and suggested that agency as a potential partner in this discussion.

Dr. Sherriffs thanked the staff for an exceptional report and appreciates the section with new climate initiatives.

Ms. Lewis asked about the possibility of having additional air monitoring sites added to the west side of the Interstate-5 corridor in Merced County. Mr. Sheikh explained that adding additional monitors would be require a broader discussion with the Board as adding monitors is very costly and the District exceeds the number of required federal air monitors in the Valley.

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

- Nancy Richardson, Resident
- Connie Young, CCL

12. VERBAL REPORT ON CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD (CARB) ACTIVITIES – Samir Sheikh shared the CARB update in Dr. Pacheco-Werner's absence and referred Board Members to the written report.
13. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/APCO COMMENTS – Mr. Sheikh shared updates the Board on the recent trip to Washington, D.C., where Councilmember Escutia-Braaton, Supervisor Chiesa, and Mayor Preciado traveled with staff to advocate on District priorities including Clean Air Act implementation and transportation issues. Mr. Sheikh announced the annual Kids Calendar contest is open for entries, and asked the Board to assist with getting the word out for this annual event. Mr. Sheikh concluded with his appreciation on behalf of the District to Valley legislators who worked hard to understand our priorities and ensure the Valley was able to receive Farmer Funding as part of this year's state budget.
14. GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – Board Chair Chiesa commented on the trip to Washington, D.C., and shared the strong leadership shown by Mr. Sheikh and Mr. Jordan during this trip.

Ms. Lewis thanked the District staff along with Mr. Cunha for the work involved in coordinating the Ag showcase to highlight new and improved tractor and farming equipment.

15. CLOSED SESSION – The Board recessed to closed session at 11:05 a.m.

**ADJOURN** – Vice Chair Lewis adjourned the meeting at 11:46 a.m.