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DATE: September 10, 2026

TO: SJVUAPCD Governing Board

FROM: Samir Sheikh, Executive Director/APCO



**RE: ITEM NUMBER 9: AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER
2026 GOVERNING BOARD STUDY SESSION
FOR EDUCATIONAL AND STRATEGIC
PLANNING PURPOSES**

RECOMMENDATION:

Review the proposed agenda topics for the 2026 Governing Board Study Session and provide feedback on the draft proposed agenda.

BACKGROUND:

In addition to regularly scheduled monthly Governing Board meetings, the District also periodically holds longer study sessions to allow Board members and the public to engage in more detailed discussions for educational and strategic planning purposes.

The Governing Board Study Sessions are conducted in full adherence to the Brown Act requirements, and are designed to provide for a fuller but less formal exchange and more relaxed dialogue amongst Governing Board members, District staff, and members of the public in attendance.

The 2026 Governing Board Study Session will be held at the Pines at Bass Lake beginning at 11 a.m. on November 4th and concluding before 5 p.m. on November 5th. Additional logistical details will be provided to the Governing Board and the public prior to the Study Session.

The purpose of this item is to discuss potential agenda topics of strategic interest to the Board to assist in preparation for the upcoming meeting. In addition to these topics, in keeping with past tradition, the final agenda will also include updates from District

partners. The final agenda will be developed and published by the required timeframes ahead of the November 2026 Governing Board Study Session.

PROPOSED AGENDA TOPICS:

1. CalEnviroScreen 5.0 and Its Implications for Valley Communities

The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) first published CalEnviroScreen (CES) in 2013 as a screening tool to assess the combined environmental and socioeconomic burdens facing communities throughout the state. OEHHA has refined the tool several times since its initial release, most recently with the 2026 release of CES 5.0, which refreshed the underlying data and introduced additional indicators for assessing and comparing communities. Because CES scores are commonly used to determine the distribution of incentive and programmatic funding to air districts throughout the state, closely following these changes will be important moving forward. The purpose of this item is to trace the evolution of CES, assess the changes introduced in CES 5.0 relative to previous versions of the tool, and explore the implications of these changes for the Valley and communities across the state.

2. Attainment Planning and Modeling in the San Joaquin Valley

The San Joaquin Valley faces unique and difficult air quality challenges and, for decades, has developed and implemented innovative air quality attainment plans to address federal ambient air quality standards, resulting in significant air quality improvements and associated health benefits. While the Valley has attained a number of federal standards, meeting the latest ozone and PM2.5 standards remains a significant challenge. Because of both the Valley's success in reducing precursor emissions and its ongoing air quality challenges, the Valley and other areas of California are frequently on the leading edge of critical Clean Air Act policy issues. The Valley and other regions of California cannot meet the latest standards without significant additional investments and actions to further reduce emissions, particularly from mobile sources under state and federal jurisdiction. The purpose of this item is to review the status of the Valley's attainment plans and engage your Board on strategies for addressing these regulatory and policy needs.

3. Strategic Implementation of District's Incentive Programs

The District's voluntary incentive programs are among the largest and most respected in the state. These programs complement regulatory control measures by securing much-needed emission reductions from source types over which the District has little or no direct regulatory authority. Because participation is voluntary and the resulting reductions are both highly cost-effective and beyond what regulations require, these programs have delivered significant air quality benefits throughout the Valley. Through strong advocacy at the state and federal levels, the District has generally seen incentive funding grow over the past several years. More recently, however, due to state and federal budget challenges, funding for critical programs has declined significantly. The purpose of this item is to take a comprehensive look at your Board's existing Incentive Strategy, reaffirm the elements of the strategy that continue to serve the Valley well, and explore possible enhancements to ensure the programs remain highly effective in an uncertain funding environment.

4. Expanding Youth and School Outreach Through Healthy Air Living Schools

Youth and school outreach continues to be a top priority for the District. The District's Healthy Air Living Schools program remains a highly successful avenue for delivering air quality education, resources, and timely information to school staff, students, and families throughout the San Joaquin Valley. Building on the program's success, staff continues to evaluate opportunities to expand and enhance outreach efforts, strengthen engagement with schools and students, and reach additional youth audiences across the Valley. The purpose of this item is to highlight the District's ongoing engagement with schools and to explore potential enhancements and new outreach opportunities designed to broaden the reach and impact of the District's youth-focused education efforts.

5. Wildfire Impacts and Enhanced Fuel Reduction Efforts

Due to decades of forest mismanagement, prolonged drought, and changing climate conditions, the Western United States has experienced record-setting wildfire seasons in recent years, and wildfires and their detrimental impacts on air quality remain a significant concern. Following the record-breaking 2020 and 2021 seasons and active wildfire seasons in the years since, the 2026 season continues to develop and has the potential for significant air quality impacts in the Valley. The purpose of this item is to assess wildfire impacts on Valley air quality, evaluate the progress of state and federal agencies toward joint fuel reduction goals, and discuss the District's ongoing work with local organizations and Valley residents to reduce exposure to harmful wood smoke and support enhanced fuel reduction efforts.

6. Advancing the District's STAR Work Culture

The District remains committed to fostering a workforce that delivers high-quality technical work while providing exceptional customer service to the public, the regulated community, partner agencies, and fellow employees. The principles of STAR serve as the foundation of the District's work culture and reinforce the expectations that guide how employees approach their work, collaborate with one another, and serve the communities of the San Joaquin Valley. Consistent with its commitment to excellence and continuous improvement, the District cultivates a culture that respects the diversity and unique perspectives of its staff and encourages employees to identify opportunities for improvement, offer solutions, and actively participate in efforts that strengthen the organization and the services it provides. The purpose of this item is to highlight the District's ongoing efforts to sustain and advance its STAR work culture, illustrate how these principles continue to be reinforced throughout the organization, and invite your Board's guidance and suggestions for continued improvement.

7. Deploying New Information Systems and Technologies to Enhance Service and Operational Efficiency

The District employs a broad array of information systems and technologies across all of its programs to streamline operations, improve internal processes, and deliver exceptional service to the public. This reflects the District's ongoing commitment to identifying opportunities to maximize efficiency across all departments and to enhance engagement with the customers and communities it serves. The purpose of this item is to showcase key technology projects recently completed and currently underway that are strategically designed to improve existing District processes and further elevate the quality of customer service provided by the District.