Action Summary Minutes

San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Thursday, October 15, 2026

The meeting was held via video teleconference at the Central Region Office, Governing Board Room, 1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue, Fresno; the Southern Region Office, VTC Room, 34946 Flyover Court, Bakersfield; and the Northern Region Office, VTC Room, 4800 Enterprise Way, Modesto. Members of the public could participate in person at any of these locations or remotely via Zoom webinar. The meeting was also webcast.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The Chair, Supervisor Shuklian, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present:

Amy Shuklian, Supervisor, **Chair**	Tulare County
David Couch, Supervisor	Kern County
Rosa Escutia-Braaton, Councilmember	City of Modesto
Deborah Lewis, Mayor Pro Tem	City of Los Banos
Buddy Mendes, Supervisor	Fresno County
Tania Pacheco-Werner, PhD	Appointed by Governor
Lloyd Pareira, Supervisor[1]	Merced County
Gilberto Reyna, Mayor Pro Tem[2]	City of Wasco
Robert Rickman, Supervisor	San Joaquin County
Rusty Robinson, Supervisor	Kings County
Jose Rodriguez, Councilmember	City of Madera
Alexander Sherriffs, M.D.	Appointed by Governor
Liz Wynn, Vice Mayor	City of Visalia

Absent:

Vito Chiesa, Supervisor	Stanislaus County
Bobby Macaulay, Supervisor	Madera County

A quorum was present.

[1] Arrived at 9:03 a.m.
[2] Arrived at 9:13 a.m.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Shuklian acknowledged the passing of Ross Badertscher, a 21-year District employee, and expressed condolences to his family, loved ones, and colleagues. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, those present observed a moment of silence in his memory. Mr. Sheikh recognized Mr. Badertscher's service to the District in the District's Air Quality Planning department, most recently as a Senior Air Quality Specialist, and expressed condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues.

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR – ITEM NUMBERS (14-21)

14. *APPROVE ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY UNIFIED AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2026*

15. *RECEIVE AND FILE BUDGET STATUS REPORTS AS OF AUGUST 31, 2026*

16. *RECEIVE AND FILE SUMMARY OF RULES AND PLANS*

17. *RECEIVE AND FILE LIST OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS FOR 2026*

18. *RECEIVE AND FILE OPERATIONS STATISTICS SUMMARY FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2026*

19. *AMEND 2026-27 NONOPERATING BUDGET TO ADJUST ESTIMATED AMOUNTS TO ACTUAL AMOUNTS AS OF JUNE 30, 2026*

20. *RECEIVE AND FILE LISTING OF REFUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-26*

21. *RECEIVE AND FILE QUARTERLY UPDATE TO THE BEST AVAILABLE CONTROL TECHNOLOGY (BACT) CLEARINGHOUSE*

No public comments were received on this item.

Moved:	Mendes
Seconded:	Rodriguez
Ayes:	Couch, Escutia-Braaton, Lewis, Mendes, Pacheco-Werner, Pareira, Rickman, Robinson, Rodriguez, Sherriffs, Wynn, Shuklian
Nays:	None

Motion unanimously carried to approve Consent Calendar (Items 14-21).

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following individuals provided public comment:

- Andy Gallo, Resident
- Mary Elizabeth, Resident
- Connie Young, Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL)
- Nathan Trevino, SJVAPCD Employees Association
- Tony Silva, Labor Representative

6. S.T.A.R. RECOGNITION – YEARS OF SERVICE MILESTONES

Adriana Myovich, Director of Human Resources, recognized the following staff members for reaching a service milestone during the third quarter of 2026:

Five Years of Service

Zeferino Aleman, Air Quality Engineer
Michele Bartlett, Accounting Assistant
Natali Berruecos Caldera, Air Quality Specialist
Monica Contreras, Accountant
Dania Haj, Senior Air Quality Specialist
Sheri Moua, Air Quality Specialist
Conor Swezey, Network Systems Analyst
Manmohan “Manny” Singh, Air Quality Specialist
Matthew Robinson, Air Quality Engineer
Erika Woods, Air Quality Inspector

Fifteen Years of Service

Dante Sanson, Air Quality Specialist

Twenty Years of Service

Adriana Myovich, Director of Human Resources
Maricela Velasquez, Supervising Air Quality Education Representative Bilingual

Twenty-five Years of Service

Brian Dodds, Program Manager
Shawn Ferreria, Senior Air Quality Specialist
Esteban Gutierrez, Supervising Air Quality Specialist
Ryan Hayashi, Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer
Daniel Martinez, Program Manager
Kashmir Pandher, Air Quality Specialist

7. REPORT ON CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Manuel Cunha, Citizens Advisory Committee member, reported on highlights from the meeting held on October 6, 2026.

8. RECEIVE AND FILE THE 2026 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE DISTRICT'S INDIRECT SOURCE REVIEW PROGRAM

Mark Montelongo, Director of Policy and Government Affairs, presented the 2026 Annual Report on the District's Indirect Source Review Program and provided an update on the ongoing review of additional emission reduction opportunities under the program.

Vice Mayor Wynn requested an example of how mitigation fees are used. Mr. Montelongo cited the Darden Clean Energy project, explaining that funding received from the project would be used to achieve emission reductions required under its environmental document.

Ms. Wynn asked whether the difference between the mitigation fees collected per ton and the current cost of achieving emission reductions prompted consideration of fee increases. Mr. Sheikh explained that mitigation costs have risen significantly since the ISR rates were established nearly 20 years ago. He distinguished the fixed rates in ISR from the negotiated rates under voluntary emission reduction agreements. Ms. Wynn commended the District for its efforts to maintain rates over that period.

Dr. Sherriffs appreciated the presentation and emphasized the importance of permanent emission reductions. He noted that while mitigation costs have increased, the health care costs associated with not reducing emissions have also continued to rise.

Councilmember Rodriguez asked whether increasing ISR fees would support additional incentive projects and whether the current fee schedule would adequately fund future mitigation. Mr. Sheikh explained that 4% of offsite mitigation funds collected under ISR supports program administration and the remaining 96% funds incentive projects. He emphasized that any fee adjustment would continue to focus on achieving offsite mitigation under the rule through cost-effective projects that improve air quality and public health. Mr. Sheikh noted that maintaining the current rates could make achieving offsite mitigation increasingly difficult and that staff would evaluate project costs, emission reduction methodologies, and other funding opportunities before determining whether an adjustment is needed.

Mayor Pro Tem Lewis expressed support for other air districts exploring similar programs and shared concerns about emissions from open burning in the Bay Area affecting air quality in the San Joaquin Valley.

The following individual provided public comment:

- Mary Elizabeth, Resident

The Board received the informational report. No action was taken.

9. EXECUTE AGREEMENT WITH PACIFIC SOLAR FOR THE DISTRICT'S SOLAR ELECTRICITY PROJECT AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED $2,470,858

Mario Orosco, Director of Finance and Administrative Services, and Morgan Lambert, Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer, presented a recommendation to approve a $2,470,858 agreement with Pacific Solar for the District's Solar Electricity Project, including a budget amendment, project contingency, CEQA exemption, and authorizations for change orders, incentives, and potential future maintenance services.

Councilmember Escutia-Braaton asked how closely the top two proposals scored in the RFP evaluation. Mr. Lambert explained that the proposals received 89 and 84.3 points out of 100, respectively, and that Pacific Solar received the highest score for life-cycle cost, which accounted for 20 points in the evaluation. Ms. Escutia-Braaton asked about potential conflicts of interest and permitting requirements involving Pacific Solar. Mr. Lambert stated that staff had reviewed potential conflicts, none were identified, and no District permits were required. In response to a further question, he confirmed that no Board members participated as observers in the RFP process.

Supervisor Pareira expressed support for the project and suggested exploring options to donate the removed, functional EV chargers for reuse. Mr. Sheikh stated that the District would explore options for reusing the removed EV chargers, subject to feasibility.

Mr. Pareira suggested exploring whether excess weekend solar generation could benefit a neighboring facility and generate revenue for the District. He also suggested introducing Pacific Solar to an organization that assists farmers with District permitting and emphasized the importance of engaging PG&E early to avoid interconnection delays.

Councilmember Rodriguez asked whether projected energy production accounted for panel maintenance, dust accumulation, and degradation. Mr. Lambert confirmed that the projections accounted for degradation and explained that Pacific Solar has separately priced optional operations and maintenance services at approximately $10,000 annually for the first five years. He stated that these services would be evaluated for cost-effectiveness and could be authorized by the Executive Director/APCO under the proposed agreement, subject to Board approval of the recommendation.

Dr. Sherriffs expressed support for the solar project and asked about potential

energy savings from the roof improvements, the District's historical use of project contingencies, and opportunity to share the benefits with the public. Mr. Sheikh explained that the roof improvements would provide additional efficiency benefits that were not quantified in the project's savings estimates. He noted the 10% contingency was intended for unforeseen costs and ideally would not be needed. He supported public outreach to share the project's clean energy benefits, cost savings, and lessons with other agencies. Mr. Lambert stated that the District typically stays within the 10% contingency, which would cover potential alternate cable routing or utility equipment upgrades.

Supervisor Robinson noted the value of real-time performance monitoring in evaluating panel efficiency and maintenance needs and asked about the timing of the project. Mr. Lambert explained that the District had evaluated the project for several years, accumulated reserves, and considered other agencies' experiences. He noted that the availability of federal elective payments improved the project's financial outlook and that the project would reduce utility costs while supporting potential future electrical demand associated with the District's fleet.

Supervisor Mendes expressed support for the project, commended staff's technical expertise and work over several years, and emphasized the importance of coordinating with PG&E early to avoid interconnection delays.

The following individual provided public comment:

- Connie Young, CCL

Moved: Sherriffs
Seconded: Mendes
Ayes: Couch, Escutia-Braaton, Lewis, Mendes, Pacheco-Werner, Pareira, Reyna, Rickman, Robinson, Rodriguez, Sherriffs, Wynn, Shuklian
Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried to:

1) ***Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an agreement with Valley Pacific Builders, Inc. dba Pacific Solar for an amount not to exceed $2,470,858 to design, construct, install, and commission the District's Solar Electricity Project.***

2) ***Find that the District's Solar Electricity Project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.35 and CEQA Guidelines sections 15301 and 15302, and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption.***

3) ***Approve the attached Budget Resolution to amend the District's 2026-27 appropriations for the project costs plus a 10% contingency fund ($247,085), funded by decreases of the Long-Term Building Maintenance***

Reserve and Unassigned General Fund balance.

4) ***Authorize the Executive Director/APCO to approve change orders for unforeseen conditions and other changes necessary to complete the awarded Project scope, within the project contingency included in the Budget Resolution.***

5) ***Authorize the Executive Director/APCO, or designee, to take all necessary actions to pursue and receive any eligible federal elective payments and other available incentives associated with the project.***

6) ***Authorize the Executive Director/APCO to elect, at a future date and if determined to be in the District's best interest, the separately priced operations and maintenance services for the solar photovoltaic system through written authorization under Section C.1 of the Agreement, at the pricing established in Pacific Solar's proposal, subject to available funding.***

10. APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH AMBILABS NOT TO EXCEED $124,925 FOR DESIGN AND INSTALLATION OF PNEUMATIC SYSTEM FOR THE AIR MONITORING LABORATORY

Jon Klassen, Director of Air Quality Science, presented a recommendation to authorize a contract with Ambilabs, not to exceed $124,925, to design and install a pneumatic system for the District’s air monitoring laboratory.

Supervisor Robinson asked whether the Tracy monitoring station helps track pollution transported into the Valley from the Bay Area. Mr. Klassen explained that the station helps assess transported pollution and its impacts on the Valley. Supervisor Robinson also asked whether there was precedent for one air district charging another for transported pollution. Mr. Sheikh stated that he was not aware of such precedent but described prior studies and ongoing discussions concerning interregional transport, including documented impacts from the Bay Area on the northern Valley.

Supervisor Rickman asked how monitoring station locations are determined and whether studies quantify pollution transported from the Bay Area. Mr. Klassen said locations are based primarily on population and air quality. Mr. Sheikh noted staff would share prior study findings and consider further research through updated modeling, including the Valley’s attainment challenges.

Mayor Pro Tem Lewis recommended additional air monitoring near Highway 152 in Los Banos, citing the thousands of daily commuters traveling to the Bay Area from surrounding communities. Mr. Sheikh explained that special-purpose and community monitoring could help assess potential pollution transport and noted that monitoring had previously been conducted near Highway 152.

Supervisor Mendes asked about staff training for equipment calibration and using upwind and downwind monitoring data to assess transported pollution. Mr. Klassen confirmed staff receive training and that comparing monitoring locations helps identify pollution sources, including trans-Pacific emissions.

Dr. Sherriffs expressed support for the project and emphasized the importance of reliable air quality data, monitoring mobile corridors and their health impacts, and effective federal policies addressing diesel emissions.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner expressed support for the project and suggested revisiting the District's monitoring network and other community pollution data sources during a future Board discussion on the updated emissions inventory.

No public comments were received on this item.

Moved:	Mendes
Seconded:	Pacheco-Werner
Ayes:	Couch, Escutia-Braaton, Lewis, Mendes, Pacheco-Werner, Pareira, Reyna, Rickman, Robinson, Rodriguez, Sherriffs, Wynn, Shuklian
Nays:	None

Motion unanimously carried to authorize the Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer, with Board Chair signature, to execute a contract with Ambilabs to design and install a pneumatic system for the District's air monitoring laboratory for a total not to exceed $124,925.

11. VERBAL REPORT ON CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD ACTIVITIES

Dr. Pacheco-Werner reported on CARB's first informational hearing concerning the carbon capture and sequestration regulation, noting participation by Kern County. She emphasized the importance of county fire agencies being prepared to respond to proposed projects. She also thanked District staff for their ongoing collaboration with EPA and CARB on State Implementation Plan related issues.

12. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/APCO COMMENTS

Mr. Sheikh thanked Supervisor Chiesa, Councilmember Rodriguez, and Councilmember Escutia-Braaton for their advocacy during the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council's September trip to Washington, D.C., highlighting the Valley's resource needs and the importance of advancing Clean Air Act plans. He reminded the Board that the November 4-5 study session would be held at The Pines at Bass Lake, beginning at 11:00 a.m. on November 4, and noted a potential tour of a fuel-reduction project before the meeting. Mr. Sheikh thanked Dr. Pacheco-Werner for her work with CARB and reported that the updated ozone plan had been submitted to EPA following collaboration among District, CARB, and EPA staff. He noted that further updates would be provided at the Board study session.

13. GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

No Board members provided comments during this item.

ADJOURN – Chair Shuklian adjourned the meeting at 11:08 a.m.