

Action Summary Minutes

San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Meeting was held via video teleconference: 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 Chair, Supervisor Amy Shuklian, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present:

Amy Shuklian, Supervisor, **Chair**
Vito Chiesa, Supervisor
David Couch, Supervisor
Rosa Escutia-Braaton, Councilmember
Deborah Lewis, Mayor Pro Tem
Buddy Mendes, Supervisor
Tania Pacheco-Werner, PhD
Lloyd Pareira, Supervisor¹
Gilberto Reyna, Mayor Pro Tem²
Jose Rodriguez, Councilmember
Alexander Sheriffs, M.D.
Liz Wynn, Vice Mayor

Tulare County
Stanislaus County
Kern County
City of Modesto
City of Los Banos
Fresno County
Appointed by Governor
Merced County
City of Wasco
City of Madera
Appointed by Governor
City of Visalia

Absent:

Bobby Macaulay, Supervisor
Robert Rickman, Supervisor
Rusty Robinson, Supervisor

Madera County
San Joaquin County
Kings County

A quorum was present.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

¹ Arrived at 9:30

² Arrived at 9:17

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR – ITEM NUMBERS (18-25)

18. APPROVE ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY UNIFIED AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEETINGS OF JUNE 18, 2026
19. RECEIVE AND FILE OPERATIONS STATISTICS SUMMARIES FOR THE MONTHS OF JUNE AND JULY 2026
20. RECEIVE AND FILE BUDGET STATUS REPORTS AS OF JULY 31, 2026
21. RECEIVE AND FILE SUMMARY OF RULES AND PLANS
22. RECEIVE AND FILE LIST OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS FOR 2026
23. APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH HB STRATEGIES FOR FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$112,320
24. RECEIVE AND FILE QUARTERLY UPDATE TO THE BEST AVAILABLE CONTROL TECHNOLOGY (BACT) CLEARINGHOUSE
25. RECEIVE AND FILE DRAFT 2026 ANNUAL DEMONSTRATION REPORT FOR THE DISTRICT RULE 9610 (SIP- CREDITABILITY OF EMISSION REDUCTIONS GENERATED THROUGH INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

Public Comment:

No individuals provided comments during the time allotted for public comments on this item.

Moved: Mendes

Seconded: Sherriffs

Ayes: Chiesa, Couch, Escutia-Braaton, Lewis, Mendes, Pacheco-Werner, Rodriguez, Sherriffs, Shuklian, Wynn

Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried to approve Consent Calendar (Items 18-25).

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following individuals provided public comment during this item:

- Connie Young, Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL)
- Manuel Cunha, Nisei Farmers League (NFL)

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 second quarter of 2026:

Five Years of Service

Sage Davis, Senior Air Quality Inspector
Justin Downs, Senior Air Quality Inspector
Marissa Gomez, Programmer Analyst
Bush Lam, Air Quality Inspector
Entor Pineda, Air Quality Engineer
Karen Russell, Air Quality Inspector
Annalisa Sanfilippo, Air Quality Specialist

Ten Years of Service

David Born, Supervising Air Quality Inspector
James Le, Supervising Network Systems Analyst
Stephanie Stark, Supervising Air Quality Inspector

Fifteen Years of Service

Bradley Dawson, Supervising Air Quality Instrument Specialist

Twenty Years of Service

Stephanie Hitchman, Senior Air Quality Specialist
Christopher Kalashian, Air Quality Specialist
Seng Lee, Senior Programmer Analyst
David McDonough, Air Quality Specialist
Adam Mumford, Supervising Air Quality Inspector
Kevin Wing, Senior Air Quality Specialist
Nhia Vu, Supervising Air Quality Specialist
Yu Vu, Air Quality Specialist

Twenty-five Years of Service

Morgan Lambert, Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer
Lori Sheridan, Air Quality Inspector

Chair Shuklian congratulated the employees on their years of service.

7. REPORT ON CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Manuel Cunha, Citizens Advisory Committee member, reported on highlights from the meeting held on August 4, 2026.

8. ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE \$7,465,741 IN ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION FOR DEPOT CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR MEDIUM AND HEAVY-DUTY ON-ROAD ZERO-EMISSION VEHICLES

Aaron Tarango, Program Manager, Strategies & Incentives Department, presented the District's \$7.47 million grant award from the California Energy Commission for electric vehicle charging hubs in Stockton and Bakersfield and requested Board approval to accept and appropriate the funding and to enter into the necessary project agreements.

Councilmember Escutia-Braaton asked why the proposed project included only electric charging infrastructure and did not include hydrogen refueling. Mr. Tarango explained that the solicitation allowed for either hydrogen or electric projects, and that the project partners proposed an electric project. Samir Sheikh, Executive Director/APCO, added that project selection is driven by factors such as economics, technology readiness, site considerations, and partner expertise, and noted that the District continues to pursue hydrogen projects where appropriate.

Dr. Sherriffs asked how the project's scale compared to the partner's other renewable energy projects and how prior project experience would support implementation. Mr. Sheikh stated that the project is generally similar in scale to others in the partner's portfolio. Mr. Tarango noted that lessons learned from previous heavy-duty truck electrification projects will inform permitting, utility interconnection, technology selection, and charger requirements.

No individuals provided comments during the time allotted for public comments on this item.

Moved: Pacheco-Werner

Seconded: Wynn

Ayes: Chiesa, Couch, Escutia-Braaton, Lewis, Mendes, Pacheco-Werner, Pareira, Reyna, Rodriguez, Sherriffs, Shuklian, Wynn

Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried to:

- 1) Accept and appropriate \$7,465,741 from the California Energy Commission (CEC) for the installation of two electric depot charging infrastructure hubs for zero-emission vehicles.***
- 2) Authorize the Board Chair, with Executive Director/APCO recommendation, to enter into any agreements with CEC and subcontractors as necessary to accept and administer this funding.***
- 3) Approve the attached Budget Resolution to amend the 2026-27 District Budget to appropriate \$7,465,741 in new revenue.***

9. ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE \$152,214 IN FUNDING FROM THE CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT PROGRAM FOR RESIDENTIAL LAWNMOWER REPLACEMENTS

Todd DeYoung, Director, Strategies & Incentives Department, presented the item requesting Board approval to accept and appropriate \$152,214 in funding from the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Supplemental Environmental Project Program.

Supervisor Mendes asked how long the funding was expected to last. Mr. DeYoung stated that the District anticipates administering the funding within the fiscal year through the existing residential program, with additional outreach as needed to meet participation goals.

Mayor Pro Tem Lewis asked whether an old lawnmower must be turned in and how the funding would reach communities throughout the Valley. Mr. DeYoung explained that the funding will support the replacement component of the program, which requires an old mower to be turned in and provides greater documented emission reductions. Mr. Sheikh clarified that the funding is available Valley-wide and will be accompanied by targeted outreach to encourage participation in areas with lower program participation.

No individuals provided comments during the time allotted for public comments on this item.

Moved: Sherriffs

Seconded: Mendes

Ayes: Chiesa, Couch, Escutia-Braaton, Lewis, Mendes, Pacheco-Werner, Pareira, Reyna, Rodriguez, Sherriffs, Shuklian, Wynn

Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried to:

- 1) Accept and appropriate \$152,214 from the California Air Resources Board Supplemental Environmental Project Program to fund residential lawnmower replacements.***
- 2) Authorize the Board Chair, with Executive Director/APCO recommendation, to enter into any agreements with CARB and other entities as necessary to accept and administer this funding.***
- 3) Approve the attached Budget Resolution to amend the 2026-27 District Budget to appropriate \$152,214 in new revenue.***

10. UPDATE ON 2026 WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE EFFORTS

Jon Klassen, Director, Air Quality Science Department, and Heather Heinks,

Program Manager, Outreach & Communications Department, provided an update on the 2026 wildfire season, its impacts on Valley air quality, and the District's efforts to provide residents with resources and outreach to reduce exposure to wildfire smoke.

Councilmember Escutia-Braaton asked whether data was available on the annual number and long-term trend of wildfires in California, including whether community education and outreach efforts may be contributing to changes in fire frequency. Mr. Sheikh responded that approximately 4,600 fires had occurred in 2026 to date, compared with 5,300 at the same point in 2025 and a five-year average of approximately 5,900. He noted that longer-term data could be used to further evaluate the trend.

Dr. Sherriffs commended the District's wildfire resources and its focus on public health and actionable information. He recommended emphasizing that wildfire impacts extend beyond forest fires and highlighted the importance of forest and land management, building hardening, and addressing climate change.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner emphasized the importance of continued investment in wildfire response and suggested developing targeted educational materials for sensitive populations, including pregnant women, older adults, and those with health conditions. Mr. Sheikh supported the suggestion and noted opportunities to further emphasize the health impacts of wildfire smoke and protective measures.

Mayor Pro Tem Lewis asked whether local fire departments and other government agencies are included in wildfire safety education efforts. Ms. Heinks confirmed that local fire departments, community centers, and other agencies are invited and encouraged to participate through the local Fire Safe Councils.

Supervisor Pareira commented on the increased use of early air support to quickly contain wildfires and asked whether this approach was being used Valley-wide. Ms. Heinks confirmed that it was, and Mr. Klassen noted that increased resources and a shift toward rapid fire suppression following severe wildfire seasons have helped reduce the number of acres burned. Supervisor Pareira also recognized CAL FIRE and PG&E for their additional firefighting support.

Chair Shuklian emphasized that wildfire impacts are not limited to forested areas, noting a recent 3,700-acre fire along the Tulare-Kings County line and associated evacuation warnings. She stressed that wildfire impacts are occurring throughout the Valley.

No individuals provided comments during the time allotted for public comments on this item.

11. REPORT ON STATE BUDGET AND LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS

Mark Montelongo, Director, Policy & Government Affairs Department, provided an

update on the state budget, state and federal legislative activities, and the District's ongoing advocacy efforts to advance Board priorities and secure clean air resources for the Valley.

Mr. Sheikh emphasized the District's year-round efforts to advance the Board's legislative and policy priorities and secure resources for the Valley. He highlighted successes with AB 617 and Clean Cars for All, expressed optimism regarding potential funding for agricultural programs, and thanked the Board, staff, and Valley partners for their continued advocacy.

Vice Mayor Wynn requested that the Board receive an email update on final legislative outcomes once they are available.

Mayor Pro Tem Lewis asked whether other California air districts also participate in funding programs such as Clean Cars for All and FARMER, and whether the funding is Valley-specific or statewide. Mr. Sheikh explained that the funding is statewide, with the Valley receiving a significant share based on program needs and other factors. He noted that the District historically helped develop programs such as Clean Cars for All and FARMER that were later expanded statewide. Mayor Pro Tem Lewis asked about the Valley's historical share of state Clean Cars for All funding. Mr. Sheikh estimated that the Valley typically receives approximately 30-35% of statewide funding and noted that strong local demand and program performance support continued efforts to secure significant allocations.

Mayor Pro Tem Reyna recommended expanding Clean Cars for All outreach to small, rural communities, including Wasco and McFarland, to increase awareness and participation. Mr. Sheikh supported the recommendation and noted opportunities for targeted outreach and community events to ensure residents throughout the Valley are aware of and can access the program.

Dr. Sherriffs commended the District's continued advocacy and asked about AB 2313 and AB 868. Mr. Sheikh noted that the bills raised concerns regarding local control and requirements affecting cities and counties, and emphasized the importance of meaningful input from affected jurisdictions.

The following individual(s) provided public comment during this item:

- Roger Isom, Western Ag Processors Association; CA Cotton Ginners and Growers Association
- Manuel Cunha, Nisei Farmers League (NFL)
- J.P. Cativiela, Dairy Cares

12. VERBAL REPORT ON STATE IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

Tim Franquist, Director, Air Quality Planning Department, and Jon Klassen, Director, Air Quality Science Department, provided an update on efforts to attain federal PM2.5 and ozone standards, including plan reviews, contingency and

maintenance measures, transportation conformity, and the need for continued state and federal investment in clean air technologies.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner asked how the District is navigating contingency measures and development of the 5% plan amid ongoing litigation, including updates to emissions inventories and modeling and opportunities for public input. Mr. Sheikh explained that the District continues moving forward with approved measures while working with CARB on updated inventories, modeling, and emissions data, with workshops and other opportunities for public input anticipated.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner asked about this year's air quality trends and the influence of wildfire smoke. Mr. Sheikh noted some challenges early in the year but stated that overall ozone conditions have remained relatively favorable, with wildfire smoke contributing to some impacts.

Councilmember Rodriguez commended the District's emissions reductions and suggested incorporating measurable public health benefits into future plans to better demonstrate the impact of the District's efforts.

The following individual provided public comment during this item:

- Christine Zimmerman, Western States Petroleum Association (WSPA)

13. UPDATE ON DISTRICT'S PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS

Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer, provided an overview of the District's public education and outreach strategy in support of clean air goals.

Dr. Pacheco-Werner asked about plans to engage high schools and higher education institutions with the District's Annual Report. Mr. Sheikh highlighted efforts to measure engagement with the report and to integrate it into educational outreach. Ms. Holt described enhancements to the program, including plans to promote the digital story map to educators and to explore opportunities to incorporate it into classroom learning.

No individuals provided comments during the time allotted for public comments on this item.

14. VERBAL REPORT ON CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD ACTIVITIES

Dr. Pacheco-Werner, the Board's representative on the California Air Resources Board, provided a report on recent CARB activities. She highlighted the importance of the upcoming months in identifying additional emissions reduction opportunities and the role of incentives, and encouraged Governing Board participation in upcoming CARB discussions on the carbon capture, removal, utilization, and storage program, noting its potential significance for the San Joaquin Valley.

15. GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Lewis announced an upcoming California Agricultural Leadership Foundation event focused on water availability and the future of agriculture. She encouraged Board members to attend and noted its relevance to Valley farmers.

Supervisor Mendes commended the District's leadership for their efforts on behalf of the Valley and encouraged continued advocacy in Sacramento despite the challenges faced by the District.

16. APCO COMMENTS

Mr. Sheikh provided updates on available funding opportunities, including the newly funded Drive Clean in the San Joaquin rebate program and a federal grant program for municipal and private fleets to purchase Class 6 and 7 electric trucks. He encouraged Board members to share the programs with eligible constituents and businesses. He also reminded the Board that the September Governing Board meeting was moved up one week to September 10, 2026, due to scheduling conflicts.

17. CLOSED SESSION

The Board met in closed session. A written report of any reportable action will be provided to the clerk and made available to the public upon request.

No individuals provided comments during the time allotted for public comments on this item

ADJOURN – Chair Shuklian adjourned the meeting at 12:41 p.m.