

Action Summary Minutes
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 2, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

The Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting was held via video teleconference (VTC): with the Central Region Office (Fresno), the Northern Region Office (4800 Enterprise Way, Modesto, CA 95356), and the Southern Region Office (34946 Flyover Court, Bakersfield, CA 93308). Members of the public were allowed to participate in-person at any of the referenced locations or remotely via Zoom webinar. The CAC Meeting was also webcast.

1. CALL TO ORDER – The Chair, Patricia Matthews, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. ROLL CALL – was taken and a quorum was present to hold the meeting.

County	Member Name	Interest Group	Location
Fresno	Manuel Cunha	IAIG (P)	Fresno
Kern	Christine Zimmerman	IAIG (P)	Bakersfield
	John Sanders ¹	EIG (P)	Bakersfield
	Orchel Krier	CIG (P)	Bakersfield
Kings	Laura Brown	IAIG (P)	Fresno
	Patricia Matthews	CIG (P)	Fresno
Merced	Amy Lopes	IAIG (A)	Modesto
	Denise Holmes	EIG (P)	Modesto
San Joaquin	Ned Leiba	EIG (P)	Modesto
	Ben Cantu	CIG (P)	Modesto
Stanislaus	Chris Savage ²	IAIG (A)	Modesto
	Jami Aggers	EIG (P)	Modesto
Tulare	Fernando Rios	IAIG (P)	Bakersfield
	Dennis Mederos	CIG (P)	Fresno

(P) = Primary, (A) = Alternate, IAIG = Industry/Ag Interest Group, EIG = Environmental Interest Group, CIG = City Interest Group

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. APPROVE MINUTES FOR MAY 5, 2026

Ms. Matthews asked for member comments on the minutes from the May 5, 2026 Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting. With no comments, the Chair declared the Minutes approved.

¹ Left at 12:03 p.m.

² Arrived at 10:08 a.m.

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following individual provided comments during this item:

- Christian Bisher, Central California Environmental Justice Network (CCEJN)

6. CHAIR COMMENTS

Ms. Matthews thanked the committee members for their attendance.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/APCO COMMENTS

Samir Sheikh, APCO, updated the CAC on release of the District's Annual Report to the Community, upcoming June Governing Board items including the District budget and Ag Burning Alternatives Program, and continued Sacramento advocacy for clean air funding during a difficult state budget year. He also thanked CAC members for their ongoing funding advocacy efforts.

Ms. Brown asked whether the discussion referred to the recent California Air Resources Board (CARB) meeting where the final edits and version of the Cap-and-Invest program were approved. Mr. Sheikh confirmed and shared that District staff attended the two-day hearing and that additional updates would be provided later in the agenda.

8. VERBAL REPORT FROM CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD (CARB)

Mark Hixson, Manager of CARB's Central Valley Air Quality Planning Section, provided regulatory updates from CARB.

Mr. Cunha expressed concerns regarding CARB's portable emergency engine requirements, particularly the potential impacts on hospitals, including engine reliability, operational readiness during emergencies, and replacement costs. Mr. Hixson acknowledged the concerns and stated that staff would coordinate with CARB to gather information and provide a follow-up report before the next CAC meeting.

9. UPDATE ON ATTAINMENT PLANS AND RULES

Tim Franquist, Director of Air Quality Planning, updated the CAC on current air quality planning and rule development efforts.

Mr. Cunha commented on the importance of available CARB funding and expressed interest in discussing the allocation of those funds in relation to upcoming agenda items, including the PM2.5 plan, before the CARB representative departed the meeting.

Mr. Mederos asked for clarification regarding the reference to expeditious attainment of the 2006 24-hour PM2.5 standard. Mr. Franquist explained that the requirement relates to demonstrating emissions reductions and attainment as quickly as practicable through a 5% plan. Mr. Sheikh added that, while much of the Valley meets the standard, attainment requires all areas to comply, and additional efforts will be needed in remaining areas to achieve Valley-wide attainment.

Mr. Mederos acknowledged that, while the 20-year timeframe may seem lengthy, achieving air quality standards requires significant time and effort. Mr. Sheikh agreed, highlighting the Valley's unique PM2.5 challenges and noting that the District continues to work toward attainment as quickly as practicable while developing strategies to address remaining challenges.

Ms. Brown asked whether there were established deadlines associated with the PM2.5 plan process. Mr. Sheikh explained that, following final action on the nonattainment designation, the State Implementation Plan (SIP) would have required submission timelines. He noted that the District is working with CARB and EPA to prepare for the SIP process and meet applicable deadlines.

Ms. Matthews asked for additional clarification regarding public comments related to the ozone plan and the use of a "black box" for unidentified emission reductions. Mr. Sheikh explained that the provision allows for unidentified reductions under specific criteria when necessary and noted that similar approaches have been used in previous ozone plans. He added that the current amendment is related to changes in mobile source measures and that the District continues to work with CARB and EPA to identify additional emission reduction strategies. Mr. Sheikh also noted that ozone trends across the Valley continue to improve, though challenges remain in specific areas.

10. APPOINT CAC SUBCOMMITTEE FOR HEARING BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Sheraz Gill, Deputy APCO, provided an overview of the District Hearing Board appointment process and current vacancies for the District's regional Hearing Boards.

Ms. Holmes asked whether all six members who served last year are currently active CAC members this year, and inquired whether she could propose that they continue to serve for the current or upcoming appointment cycle.

After discussion, CAC Chair reappointed the prior six-member Hearing Board Appointment Subcommittee (Chris Savage, Manual Cunha, Ben Cantu, Orchel Krier,

Dennis Tristao, and Jami Aggers) to conduct interviews and return with recommendations for full CAC and Governing Board consideration.

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

11. UPDATE ON PRESCRIBED BURNING PROGRAM AND SUPPORT OF WILDFIRE MITIGATION EFFORTS

Jon Klassen, Director of Air Quality Science, and Jason Lawler, Director of Compliance, updated the CAC on wildfire smoke impacts, the 2026 wildfire outlook, and District support for prescribed burning and hazard reduction burning. Staff highlighted coordination with land managers, an air monitoring equipment cache, daily smoke coordination calls, smoke management through PFIRS, joint CAL FIRE permitting for hazard reduction burning, and public outreach during wildfire events.

Ms. Lopes asked whether District staff participate in Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) meetings and coordinate with emergency response organizations regarding wildfire preparedness, mitigation efforts, and community evacuation planning. Mr. Klassen explained that the District is not currently involved with VOAD but would look into opportunities to share relevant information and support disaster planning efforts.

Mr. Cunha asked whether the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is involved in wildfire mitigation discussions and noted potential funding opportunities to support agricultural producers, ranchers, and landowners with vegetation management efforts. Mr. Sheikh agreed that additional partnerships and funding opportunities should be explored and stated that staff would look into including NRCS and other organizations in future coordination efforts to help connect resources and support regional wildfire mitigation strategies.

Mr. Cunha highlighted the potential value of using sheep and goats for vegetation management and wildfire mitigation. He suggested exploring opportunities to engage herders and identify incentives or funding sources to support the use of grazing animals as a natural alternative for vegetation control.

Ms. Brown asked about potential options to address wildfire risks associated with abandoned agricultural lands and whether additional funding opportunities or partnerships could support fuel reduction efforts. Mr. Klassen explained that the District supports local, state, and federal fuel reduction projects, including prescribed burns, by helping streamline processes and reducing administrative barriers to allow projects to be completed efficiently.

Mr. Sheikh noted that the District has incorporated support for grazing efforts and other wildland management strategies into its legislative platform.

The following individual provided comments during this item:

- Christian Bisher, Central California Environmental Justice Network (CCEJN)

12. UPDATE ON STATE FUNDING AND LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mark Montelongo, Director of Policy and Government Affairs, updated the CAC on state legislation and clean air funding advocacy.

Mr. Savage asked for clarification regarding the projected 50% reduction in Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) revenues and whether the reduction applies only through 2030 or extends beyond that timeframe. Mr. Sheikh explained that the estimates apply primarily to the 2026–2030 period and noted that future revenues remain uncertain due to market conditions and auction proceeds, with additional discussions anticipated regarding the period after 2030.

Mr. Cunha expressed concerns regarding the availability of Cap-and-Trade funding for San Joaquin Valley programs, including agricultural burning alternatives, the Farmer Program, and Clean Car Program. He emphasized the need for continued funding support to help farmers transition to cleaner practices and requested consideration of a letter to CARB advocating for the use of available funds, including the \$70 million in funding, to support these priorities.

Mr. Sheikh stated that, consistent with previous CAC actions, the District would support an updated request advocating for continued funding opportunities for identified priorities. He recommended that the CAC consider taking formal action through a motion and vote, to reaffirm and further clarify its position regarding these immediate funding needs.

Mr. Savage acknowledged the importance of funding the identified programs but suggested that the CAC take a more strategic approach by developing a targeted advocacy plan rather than issuing duplicative letters. Mr. Cunha emphasized the urgency of upcoming funding timelines and recommended focusing immediate efforts on communicating support for key programs before budget and funding decisions are finalized. Mr. Savage suggested empowering the Chair to work with staff on a targeted approach that maximizes the CAC's impact.

Mr. Sheikh suggested that an updated letter could be part of a broader advocacy strategy to communicate CAC funding priorities to CARB, the Legislature, and the Governor's Office. He noted that a motion could authorize the Chair to participate in

discussions and represent CAC priorities, while staff could provide information and support to assist members in their outreach efforts.

Mr. Cunha supported allowing the CAC Chair flexibility to work with staff and continue discussions regarding funding priorities, emphasizing the need for timely action. Mr. Mederos suggested incorporating both the immediate funding concerns and a broader follow-up strategy into the letter. Mr. Sheikh agreed that an updated letter could address both elements by reaffirming priorities, reflecting current budget discussions, and authorizing continued outreach by the Chair and staff to advocate for CAC priorities.

Mr. Cunha moved that the Chair work with staff to develop a letter advocating for EQUIP funding and other available funding sources to support San Joaquin Valley priorities, while incorporating a broader strategic approach for continued advocacy efforts.

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

Moved: Cunha

Seconded: Mederos

Ayes: Cunha, Zimmerman, Brown, Lopes, Savage, Rios, Sanders, Holmes,
Leiba, Aggers, Krier, Matthews, Cantu, Mederos

Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried that the Chair work with staff to develop a letter advocating for EQUIP funding and other available funding sources to support San Joaquin Valley priorities, while incorporating a broader strategic approach for continued advocacy efforts.

13. AB 617 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

Stephanie Ng, Director of Community Strategies and Resources, provided an update on AB 617 Community Air Protection Program activities. Michelle Byars, Air Pollution Specialist for CARB's Office of Community Air Protection, provided updates on upcoming AB 617 activities.

Ms. Brown asked for an update on funding spent through the Stockton AB 617 program. Ms. Ng reported that of the \$31.5 million allocated through the Community Emissions Reduction Program (CERP), approximately \$27.2 million has been completed or committed. She noted that remaining funds are primarily allocated to residential programs, which require additional time for community members to apply and participate.

Ms. Brown asked whether SB 1075 has a state fiscal impact and whether it would be subject to review through the Assembly Budget Committee process. Mr. Sheikh explained that the bill has a state fiscal component that would be considered through the legislative appropriations process. He further explained that questions remain regarding future funding levels available for local implementation costs under the evolving Cap-and-Invest funding structure.

14. OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS REPORTS

Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer, reported that the District's Annual Report to the Community is available, with the Spanish version expected the following week, and that copies will be distributed to committees, boards, elected officials, economic development partners, District lobbies, and outreach events. She also highlighted county-specific inserts, school-year outreach, wildfire season preparations, and a planned coordination meeting with public health officers.

15. CAC MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Cunha requested that CARB provide additional information regarding projected electricity demand associated with electrification efforts, including electric vehicles, trucks, and building electrification. He expressed concern about whether sufficient energy infrastructure exists to support future demand and suggested that CARB provide an analysis of anticipated power needs and generation requirements.

16. VOLUNTEER TO PRESENT REPORT DURING GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Mr. Cunha volunteered to present the CAC report at the May Governing Board Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:13 p.m.