

Action Summary Minutes

San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Thursday, February 15, 2024

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 Chair, Supervisor Vito Chiesa, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.
- 2. ROLL CALL – was taken and a quorum was present.

Present:

Vito Chiesa, Supervisor, Chair	Stanislaus County
Deborah Lewis, Councilmember, Vice Chair	City of Los Banos
David Couch, Supervisor	Kern County
Robert Macaulay, Supervisor	Madera County
Buddy Mendes, Supervisor	Fresno County
Lloyd Pareira, Supervisor	Merced County
Alvaro Preciado, Mayor ¹	City of Avenal
Gilberto Reyna, Councilmember	City of Wasco
Robert Rickman, Supervisor ²	San Joaquin County
Rusty Robinson, Supervisor	Kings County
Alexander Sherriffs, M.D.	Appointed by Governor
Amy Shuklian, Supervisor	Tulare County
Elizabeth Wynn, Councilmember	City of Visalia

Absent:

Rosa Escutia-Braaton, Tania Pacheco-Werner, PhD

- 4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR – ITEM NUMBERS (14-20)
 - 14. APPROVE ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY UNIFIED AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEETING OF THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024

¹ Arrived at 9:12 a.m.
² Arrived at 9:53 a.m.

15. RECEIVE AND FILE LIST OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS FOR 2024
16. RECEIVE AND FILE SUMMARY OF RULES AND PLANS
17. RECEIVE AND FILE OPERATIONS STATISTICS SUMMARY FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2024
18. RECEIVE AND FILE BUDGET STATUS REPORTS AS OF JANUARY 31, 2024
19. APPROVE REAPPOINTMENT OF HEARING BOARD MEMBERS
20. APPOINT NEW MEMBER TO THE DISTRICT'S ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY GROUP

Public Comment: None

Moved: Mendes
Seconded: Shuklian
Ayes: Couch, Lewis, Macaulay, Mendes, Pareira, Preciado, Reyna, Rickman, Robinson, Sherriffs, Shuklian, Wynn, Chiesa
Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried to approve Consent Calendar (Items 14-20).

5. PUBLIC COMMENT – The following individual commented on under this item:
 - Robert Skoronski, Resident
6. ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE \$56,008,096 IN FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING NETWORK IN THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY – Todd DeYoung, Director of Strategies and Incentives, presented this item seeking the Governing Board's approval to accept and appropriate funds for the development of an electric vehicle charging network.

Chairman Chiesa commended the choice of locations and suggested that there be possible expansion in these locations for hydrogen fueling stations as well.

Councilmember Lewis asked if the sites have been designated, and if there would be another agency that would be supplying energy to the site, in addition to the solar panels. Mr. DeYoung responded that in this case, it would be the public utility servicing the areas.

Supervisor Shuklian inquired about where Highway 99 ranked among federally designated Alternative Fuel Corridors. Mr. DeYoung responded that he did not have the ranking for Highway 99, but shared that the locations for this project were chosen because of their connectivity to Highway 99. Mr. Sheikh also shared

that there is interest in hydrogen and funding opportunities, and emphasized the significance of Highway 5 and Highway 99 as major freight corridors. Mr. Sheikh also mentioned the \$1.2 billion allocation to the Arches Coalition stressing the importance of developing these corridors to address freight challenges.

Supervisor Pereira thanked Mr. Sheikh for his comments about hydrogen fuel. Supervisor Pereira requested that WattEV consider having local offices at each of the sites, stating the importance of local sales tax revenue.

Mayor Preciado expressed the need for more EV and hydrogen fueling facilities, including the need to reach out to rural communities to provide the necessary infrastructure. Mr. Sheikh agreed that addressing challenges related to hydrogen production is crucial for project success and mentioned ongoing conversations about potential hydrogen production facilities in various locations.

Supervisor Mendes inquired about public utility substation upgrades that may be necessary at both project locations. Mr. DeYoung explained that the infrastructure development will be a part of the program, and explained that the sites were chosen for existing capacity.

Supervisor Macaulay asked about the solar panels producing twice as much power as necessary and if WattEV would receive benefits of putting power back on the grid. Mr. DeYoung explained that the estimates were based on projected capacity and planning for future expansion. Additionally, Mr. DeYoung shared that the plan is not to sell the power back to the grid, but for storing in order to utilize at the facility.

Mr. Macaulay also inquired about the length of time required by WattEV to maintain the infrastructure. Mr. DeYoung responded that the terms of the grant require usage reporting for 5 years, and with WattEV providing a substantial amount of funding, they will have ongoing interest in maintaining this facility beyond the five years.

Mr. Macaulay inquired if the facility would be a free charging station or would it be fee based. Mr. DeYoung explained that the power at the charging stations would be sold at market-based pricing.

Supervisor Robinson congratulated the District for being awarded this grant, and asked about the lifespan of the mega-charger. Mr. DeYoung responded that this is emerging technology and the District does not yet have the lifespan data for mega-chargers.

Dr. Sherriffs thanked the staff for taking on this complex project. Dr. Sherriffs inquired about the plan for future updates to the Board on this project. Mr. DeYoung shared that with this large-scale project there will be continued opportunities for Board involvement and regular updates.

Ms. Lewis inquired about the Board's authority to change conditions in accepting this grant, such as earlier recommendation for local offices. Mr. Sheikh explained that board possesses some discretion regarding the proposal, with specific suggestions needing to be evaluated in terms of their feasibility and alignment with project guidelines and budgetary constraints.

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

- *Janet Dietzkamei, Resident*
- *Cynthia Pinto-Cabrera, Central Valley Air Quality Coalition*

Moved: Sherriffs

Seconded: Shuklian

Ayes: Couch, Lewis, Macaulay, Mendes, Pereira, Preciado, Reyna, Rickman, Robinson, Sherriffs, Shuklian, Wynn, Chiesa

Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried to (1) accept and appropriate \$56,008,096 in funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for the development of an electric vehicle charging network in the San Joaquin Valley; (2) authorize the Board Chair, with Executive Director/APCO recommendation, to execute an agreement with the FHWA and any sub-agreements necessary to administer this funding; (3) authorize the Executive Director/APCO to make administrative changes to this program, in order to ensure successful implementation of program funding; and (4) direct staff to recommend that WattEV consider having local offices at each of the sites.

7. RECEIVE UPDATE ON ATTAINMENT PLANNING EFFORTS TO ADDRESS FEDERAL STANDARDS – Jon Klassen, Director of Air Quality Science and Planning, along with Emily Kneeland, Program Manager, shared update on the status and next steps for District attainment planning efforts to address federal ambient air quality standards.

Supervisor Robinson thanked the staff for the report and shared his concern of mandates that come without a clear pathway for meeting the requirements.

Supervisor Macaulay expressed his concerns with the ability to meet federal standards and the impacts this may have on the State's prescribed burning efforts to mitigate wildfire risks.

Councilmember Lewis asked about the lack of air monitoring stations on the I-5 corridor. Mr. Sheikh responded that the District and CARB operate an extensive air monitoring network in the Valley that exceeds federal requirements.

Supervisor Mendes asked about the process and source of the information informing EPA's attainment standards. Mr. Sheikh responded that the Clean Air

Act requires periodic review of the standards, and as part of that review health studies are used to inform recommendations on the levels the federal standards should be set.

Supervisor Rickman shared his concern that these regulations burden the people locally who do not have control over the mobile sources and asked if there is a way to address the effects of traffic coming from out of the state and country. Mr. Sheikh expressed the importance of everyone in the region working together, including with CARB as they gather data on emissions, which will help us meet the standards set by the EPA. Our goal is to understand the problem well and take the right actions to protect public health.

Dr. Sherriffs spoke about EPA's scientific advisory review panel that is required to conduct a comprehensive analysis of peer-reviews scientific studies and literature every 5 years in making recommendations to EPA on the levels the federal standards should be set.

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

- *Cynthia Pinto-Cabrera, Central Valley Air Quality Coalition*
- *Janet Dietzkamei, Resident*
- *Thomas Menz, Resident*

8. CONSIDER AND APPROVE PROPOSALS TO ADDRESS ORGANIZATIONAL AND RESOURCE OPPORTUNITIES – Samir Sheikh presented this item which asked the Board to approve updates in organizational structure in an effort to enhance operational efficiency and effectiveness.

Chairman Chiesa expressed his support for the proposed changes and commended the District for the ongoing efforts to enhance operational efficiency and effectiveness.

Supervisor Mendes echoed Mr. Chiesa's support for the proposed changes.

Dr. Sherriffs spoke about the District's ability to be creative and responsive, and shared his support for this item.

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

- *Janet Dietzkamei, Resident*

Moved: Mendes

Seconded: Preciado

Ayes: Couch, Lewis, Macaulay, Mendes, Pareira, Preciado, Reyna, Rickman, Robinson, Sherriffs, Shuklian, Wynn, Chiesa

Nays: None

Motion unanimously carried to (1) amend the District's Position Control List effective February 24, 2024, to reclassify a Senior Policy Advisor to a Director of Policy and Government Affairs to oversee the planned establishment of the Policy and Government Affairs Department, which will consolidate the District's federal, state, and local government affairs activities in a single department to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the District's interactions with governmental entities and provide enhanced opportunities for succession planning; (2) amend the District's Position Control List effective February 24, 2024, to reclassify a Supervising Air Quality Engineer to a Supervising Air Quality Specialist to help address the significant workload within the District's Grants and Incentives Department and ensure adequate supervisory ratios within the department.

9. APPOINT AD HOC BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE – Samir Sheikh asked the Chair to appoint members to the Ad Hoc Budget Subcommittee. Mr. Sheikh said that one of the key steps in the District's budget development process is establishing an Ad Hoc Subcommittee to review and provide feedback on the District's Recommended Budget prior to the Budget Hearing in May.

Chairman Chiesa appointed Councilmember Escutia-Braaton, Councilmember Lewis, Mayor Preciado, Councilmember Reyna, Dr. Sherriffs, and Councilmember Wynn to serve on the Ad Hoc Budget Subcommittee.

10. VERBAL UPDATE ON CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD – Samir Sheikh referred Board Members to the written report.
11. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/APCO COMMENTS – Mr. Sheikh expressed his gratitude to the Board Members for their ongoing support and participation in various community activities in the Valley. Mr. Sheikh shared an update on the District's participation at the World Ag Expo, which was an opportunity for face-to-face connections with many stakeholders in the agricultural community. Mr. Sheikh thanked Supervisor Shuklian and Councilmember Lewis for visiting the District's booth to provide support. Additionally, Mr. Sheikh mentioned an upcoming visit to Sacramento to advocate for Valley budget and policy priorities.
12. GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – Councilmember Lewis welcomed Councilmember Wynn to the Board and shared about her first experience attending the World Ag Expo.

Supervisors Pareira and Robinson both welcomed Councilmember Wynn to the Board.

13. CLOSED SESSION – After providing an opportunity for members of the public to comment on matters to be discussed, the Board recessed to closed session at 11:28 a.m.

Supervisor Shuklian recused herself from participating in the closed session item.

A summary of any reportable actions taken in closed session will be provided to the Clerk of the Board, which will be available to the public upon request.

Public Comment: None

ADJOURN – Chair Chiesa adjourned the meeting at 11:57 a.m.