

Samir Sheik
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

August 8, 2019

Re: Shafter CERP

The most recently proposed air district CERP of 09/06/2019 incorporates many of the proposals which have come from the majority on the Shafter Steering Committee. These include funding for solar panels and electric vehicles. Steering Committee members are pleased that funding will be available to help DPR set up a public notification system for nearby toxic pesticide use and in addition the vast majority of Shafter CSC members have also voiced their comments on making the Notice Of Intent public in Shafter. Funding for sidewalk and road improvements plus bicycle lanes is also appreciated and very much needed.

Unfortunately, a couple major proposals from the Committee are still missing.

One is funding to the City of Shafter for the maintenance of new trees. Funding to receive and plant trees is currently available elsewhere and the air district has committed to help secure this funding. But young trees need good thorough maintenance for several years. We continue to request funding for this maintenance of around \$250,000.

The second major omission is electrification of homes and buildings. Current PG&E incentive and rebate programs, although useful, are not sufficient to promote widespread electrification.

We note from the area source inventory that NOx and direct PM2.5 emissions from heating with natural gas are substantial in the City of Shafter. We also note that a majority of these emissions, probably 90%, are in the three winter months when PM2.5 is at its highest levels. This means reductions in this area are nearly four times more effective at reducing deadly air pollution than reductions from a similar source which occurs year around. We also note that natural gas rates are increasing rapidly. We also note that the near future requires renewable electricity for virtually all energy needs if the world is to effectively combat global warming. The State of California legislature agrees with this situation and State goals require this transition away from natural gas over the next 20 years, if not sooner. We also note that electric heating technology is very advanced today and very efficient. We also note that this all-electric future is upon us in terms of new construction requirements in a growing list of California cities and will no doubt be state-mandated in the near future, similar to the current 2020 requirement for solar panels on most new construction. Finally, we note that a just transition to this future of clean energy for current home owners requires monetary help for lower income residents such as the majority that live in a rural town like Shafter.

Because of all of the above, this CERP is lacking if it fails to include a program helping the residents of Shafter to electrify their homes. Many incentive programs for local farmers pay 75% or more of costs for new equipment which in some cases is zero emission such as electric all-terrain vehicles or electric yard trucks at almond hullers. We are not saying these are bad programs but the same type of program needs to be in place for residents and should be included in this CERP.

We request that the air district, through AB617 funding, support the electrification of homes in Shafter with incentives covering at least 75% of the cost for electric heat-pump heating, electric high-efficiency water heaters, and electric induction stoves or stove tops. We feel that \$750,000 would be a good start for this program.

We suggest the extra \$1 million for the two proposals above come from elimination of the alternative fueling station proposal because the combustion of natural gas, even in vehicles, is not a viable part of the near future. Alternatively, the heavy-duty diesel truck replacement program in the CERP can be reduced by another \$1 million.

Sincerely,

Shafter AB617 Committee Members

Dora Hernandez (Mexican Colony),
Maria Marquez,
Felipa Trujillo,
Soccoro Guzman,
Angelica Lopez,
Antonio Lopez,
Fermin Vargas,
Esperanza Castelan,
Christoper Marquez, (Shafter Residents),
Byanka Santoyo,
Tom Frantz,
Gustavo Aguirre Jr. (EJ Reps)