

AB 617 Community Steering Committee - Meeting #8
July 10, 2019, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Vang Pao Elementary School Cafeteria

1. Doors Open/Meet and Greet/Refreshments

2. Welcome

Jessica Luternauer, Facilitator

Jessica welcomed the Committee members and invited the first speaker, Jaime Holt, Valley Air District Director of Communications

Jaime Holt, Director of Communications

Jaime Holt provided an introduction to the meeting goals for the evening. As a part of the Community Emission Reduction Program development, this meeting will focus on updating the Committee about strategies under development in partnership with other agencies. The Valley Air District does not have jurisdiction over air pollution sources such as mobile sources or land use. Therefore, this meeting will give the public and the Steering Committee the opportunity to hear about local strategies and plans that can be developed through partnerships with agencies such as the California Air Resources Board, California Department of Transportation, and the City of Fresno. Jaime also noted that she would be acting as the facilitator for the evening, due to a transition in facilitation service providers.

Jessica Olsen, Program Manager of Analysis, Modeling, and Monitoring

Jessica Olsen provided an update from the June 26, 2019 meeting. At this meeting, the Committee was given an opportunity to do a “deep dive” analysis of the initially proposed strategy concepts. The results of the Committee’s prioritization of these measures and comments that the Committee made about the potential strategies will be used to develop more defined strategies to be discussed at the July 24 Steering Committee meeting. After a committee member question, Jessica stated that these prioritization exercise forms will still be accepted and incorporated into the development of the draft strategies through July 17th, and all comments or feedback from the Committee and the public are welcomed on an ongoing basis.

After Jessica’s update, Jaime introduced Brian Moore from the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

3. California Air Resources Board Update on State and Community-Specific Strategies and Discussion

Brian Moore, CARB Staff

Brian Moore gave a presentation outlining the CARB State-wide strategies that may be applicable for implementation through the South Central Fresno Community Emission Reduction Program. Brian reviewed state-wide strategies that addressed the top community concerns. He also reviewed other state-wide strategies approved by the CARB Governing Board for development as a part of the AB 617 program that can be included in the South Central Fresno CERP upon Committee request. Brian provided answers to Committee questions about land use measures, stating that CARB will be more active about writing comment letters for land use and transportation projects as a part of AB 617. Karen Magliano provided further information about CARB commenting on projects that may impact air pollution. Brian also provided information about risk factors for newer diesel trucks, fuel mixture testing, and heavy-duty truck regulations and inspections in response to Committee member questions. To

conclude, Brian provided further information about how Committee members and the public can be involved in the development of regulations that may be included in the CERP.

Summary of Feedback from Posters:

- Impact of upcoming projects to South West Fresno
- Collaboration with TCC
- Form a partnership to study rerouting for Heavy Duty Trucks – (South West Plans)
- What’s going on with the smog checks for Heavy Duty trucks (SB 1 Provisions 2020)
- How are they going to collectively capture risk assessments in the community (want the data to move the needle)
- How much is being done by regulation and incentives (wants percentages)

4. California Department of Transportation: Discussion of Transportation Projects Impacting the Community

Scott Friesen and Neil Bretz, Project Managers from the California Department of Transportation

Detailed information about two projects under development in the community was provided. The first project will improve a 3.2 mile segment along State-Route 99 from Clinton south to El Dorado Ave, with funding provided through SB-1. This project will replace the pavement along the 99 with a long-lasting pavement, as well as expanding the footprint of the freeway in preparation for possible future capacity expansion. This project is entering the public comment phase and the development of the environmental process, and Scott explained how Committee members and the public could be involved in the public process for the project. Scott also provided further information about the design of the project, including impacted structures and plans for vegetation incorporation in the project, in response to Committee member questions. The project will be under construction in 2025, with public comment on the environmental study for the project accepted for the next two years.

Neil discussed the South Fresno Interchange Project, which will make improvements to interchanges along Hwy 99 from American Ave to North Ave. This project proposes to convert the half interchanges at American, Central, and North Ave to full interchanges, with new bridges that are wider with bike lanes and sidewalks as well as signalized ramp interchanges. This will assist in increasing efficiency of the interchanges and the highway to support future industrial development and reduce traffic congestion in the area. This project is also in the initial stages of the environmental process, with air quality, noise assessments, and other environmental analysis underway. The draft environmental document should be available in early 2021, with public comment about the project accepted at that time, and final design of the project for North and American Ave and construction occurring in 2024, and the Central Ave interchange occurring 2-3 years later.

Summary of Feedback from Posters:

- Want more work done to increase the vegetative barrier
- Impacts to the park? Are they closing the Belmont exit
- Impacts to the cemetery
- Tree Fresno and CAL Trans need to partner
- How does this project relate to Air Quality
- Have CAL Trans environmental staff follow and attend AB 617
- Truck route plans

- Share the environmental assessment
- How far does SB 1 expand
- Open house on the 7th (At the District)
- Social economic study for the project
- Community wants to be involved

5. City of Fresno: Discussion of Development and Transportation Opportunities

Jennifer Clark, Director of Development and Resources Management for the City of Fresno, and Sophia Pagoulatos, Manager of Long Range Planning for the City of Fresno

A summary was provided in regards to six development plans currently in process for the City of Fresno. These plans fall under the City's General Plan, and support economic development as well as promoting environmental benefits and air quality improvements through an emphasis on active transportation. There is a public scoping meeting on Monday, July 15th to discuss the South Industrial Priority Area Specific Plan, and Jennifer provided an informational flyer and encouraged community members to attend. Jennifer provided answers to Committee questions to how AB 617 and the City Planning process can intersect to address land use issues and improvements in community air quality.

Summary of Feedback from Posters:

- Where is the intersection going to be with AB 617
- What are the city's commitments moving forward
- Concerns with road widening in front of Edison High School (PM2.5 a problem)
- How to monitor health outcomes

6. Wrap up and Next Steps

Reviewed the goals and takeaways from the meeting and discussed next steps.

**Refer to meeting audio and video to review the full details and comments from the meeting.*