

# Meeting Highlights\*

## AB 617 Stockton Community Steering Committee Meeting #1

March 4, 2020, 5:30 pm  
Stockton Memorial Civic Auditorium, North Hall

Doors Open/Meet and Greet/Refreshments

5 p.m.

### Welcome, Introductions Meet-and-greet Icebreaker

*Christal Love Lazard, Facilitator, Institute for Local Government*

*Jonathan Pruitt, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Stockton, Community Co-host*

Christal Love Lazard welcomed participants and introduced the City of Stockton Councilmember Christina Fugazi, who will attend the AB 617 meetings as a resident to support the process.

Ryan Hayashi, Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer with the Valley Air District, welcomed the Community Steering Committee (CSC) and stated that the District is excited to work with the Stockton community on the Community Emission Reduction Program (CERP) this year.

Jonathan Pruitt stressed the importance of having different voices at the table and asked the CSC members to speak up if they are concerned with the participation process and/or are unfamiliar with any of the terms used.

Christal facilitated the icebreaker, a 'speed-dating' style conversation to answer the following question: "If you are to acquire any imaginable skill tomorrow, what skill would it be?"

### Community Boundary and Membership

*Christal Love-Lazard, Facilitator*

*Jessica Olsen, Program Manager, Valley Air District*

District staff outlined the process of how Stockton was selected as an AB 617 community. They then presented two potential AB 617 boundaries. The first was the CARB-approved boundary. The second boundary lines included the Conway Homes, Downtown, and Sierra Vista areas. The District explained that once the committee approved the final boundaries, the Southwest Stockton CSC status would become official.

Feedback from the committee included:

- *Can residents continue applying to be on the committee if they live in the boundary area?*
  - Yes. The District prioritizes residents participating on the committee and would be interested in adding more resident CSC members from the potential new neighborhoods.
- *There are concerns about the proposed construction of a tunnel. It will generate more truck traffic and air pollution around the Conway Homes. There is also a concern about Cyanobacteria.*
  - The Conway Homes is in the proposed project expansion area. There will be monitors to gather information about pollution sources.
- *The expanded project boundaries do cover neglected and affected areas in need.*
- *Blue line boundary include areas with community centers schools and other community gathering areas that need air quality improvements. The east pocket area has historically been neglected.*
- *Does the committee include 50% of the residents?*

- Yes, it is a community-led process where residents represent the 51% of the CSC.
- *The Conway Homes area should be included.*
- *Yes, per CalEnviroScreen 3.0, 30% of residents living in the Conway Homes are children and elderly.*

After weighing input from the committee, the announcement was made to select the expanded boundaries. Participants with the printed nameplates were official committee members now. The District staff asked committee members to find an alternate in case they were not able to attend and to encourage more residents to apply.

A steering committee member suggested re-naming the group the Stockton AB 617 Community instead of Southwest Stockton AB 617 Community.

### **Community Steering Committee Charter**

Introduction of Community Steering Committee Charter, including committee roles and expected commitments

*Christal Love Lazard, Facilitator, Institute for Local Government*

*Jonathan Pruitt, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Stockton, Community Co-host*

Jonathan presented the draft charter, including committee roles and expected commitments. He explained that he helped to create the charter, with the assistance of other community members. He walked the newly formed Stockton CSC members through the charter sections. He explained that the charter is the official document that guides the committee's participation and outlines roles that include advising the Valley Air District on CERP development and the roles of the other organizations that will be involved in the implementation.

- *Do you plan to hold committee meetings at various locations so that more people from those areas can attend?*
  - Yes, we intend to bring meetings closer to people living in the community boundary's neighborhoods.
- *Based on the experiences from Shafter and Fresno AB 617 steering committees, charter language that specifies the committee role as an "advising" body signals the lack of clarity about who has the final decision-making power and the jurisdiction to implement measures.*
  - The committee includes members representing industry, other government agencies as well as residents. The decision-making process is already noted in the draft charter as well as CARB's AB 617 Community Air Protection Blueprint. She stated that this community engagement process in Stockton will benefit from the lessons learned during year 1 of the Fresno and Shafter efforts. In her opinion, AB 617 is the most robust community led process in California.
- *The Community Air Protection Blueprint specifies the role of the Stockton steering committee as an advisory to the District. Please refer to the Blueprint to learn about roles in this engagement process.*

Christal pointed out Skott Wall, the Community Liaison from CARB, will cover the Blueprint in more detail later during the meeting. The District committed to send out the revised charter with the amended community name being changed from "South Stockton" to "Stockton". Once final, the charter will become a committee agreement and a guiding document.

Jonathan emphasized that deliberation and consensus will primarily guide the committee. Voting will be an option as well. He pointed out that the charter also outlines the role of community co-hosts, which are people representing community organizations that will take turns to co-lead the process.

Christal asked the Stockton CSC members to provide their thoughts and charter edits on the community co-leading opportunity.

- *Please clarify the co-leader role?*
  - Co-leading responsibilities include assisting in the development of the meeting agenda and co-leading parts of Stockton steering committee meetings. The idea is to have more voices.
  - Co-leading will help to make the process more transparent and balanced.
  - There is a concern that co-leaders must vet and approve meeting materials and handouts before the meeting per charter.
    - Jonathan added this section based on the lessons learned from other AB 617 communities. The idea is to translate materials in advance, with an eye towards making the information understandable for all, and providing the information in a timely fashion to avoid confusion and meetings running over time.
    - All comments are valid. Having a transparent process that outlines the procedure of adding and sharing meeting materials will help build trust. No materials will come as a surprise to anyone.
- *Please make materials accessible for people with disabilities as well. Include close captioning at future Stockton CSC meetings.*

With no other comments, Christal moved Stockton steering committee to the next agenda item. Christal instructed the committee members to review the charter in more detail after the meeting and email high level or specific edits and suggestions to District staff.

### **Community Air Protection Program (AB 617) Blueprint**

*Scott Wall, Community Liaison, California Air Resources Boards and Recordings*

Scott provided an overview of CERP and the Blueprint, including authorities and responsibilities of the air quality agencies, the community selection process and roles, statewide strategies, and criteria for community air monitoring and CERP. Scott encouraged committee members to familiarize themselves with the Blueprint on their own.

Highlights from the presentation include the following:

- Responsibilities to implement AB 617 vary. The steering committee shares the ideas and guides CERP development. The District ensures that CERP reflects a community perspective.
- Appendix E of the Blueprint lists 14 elements for developing community air monitoring plans and outlines a consistent process of data collection and reporting.
- Monitoring plans can support a wide variety of choices. The CSC discusses program elements and the types of action the monitoring plan will support.
- CARB, Air Districts, cities, counties and other agencies have various authorities to address exposure.
- Appendix C of the Blueprint outlines the requirements of CERP development, including engaging community and partners, understanding local challenges and tracking progress over time.
- The CERP Resource Center has additional information. A short training on AB 617 and CERP videos are available online as well. Google Search: “community air protection training on YouTube.”

### **Wrap Up/Next Steps**

*Christal Love Lazard, Facilitator, Institute for Local Government*

Christal asked the committee about their thoughts on having monthly meetings every first Tuesday of the month.

- *Can we send an alternative if we cannot attend every Tuesday? What if we cannot participate in meetings after September?*
  - Yes, alternatives are encouraged, there are application forms on the District's website for those wishing to serve as alternates for primary members <http://community.valleyair.org/selected-communities/stockton/steering-committee-documents/>. There will still be opportunities to stay engaged and participate past September, including watching live streaming and recordings of the meetings.

After a short discuss, the CSC voted by raising their hands to indicate their availability for the first Tuesday and Wednesday of the month.

- Tuesday – 22 people voted
- Wednesday – 25 people voted

Based on the vote, it was decided to hold the Stockton CSC meetings on the first Wednesday of each month.

Christal announced that the District would reach out with potential community tour dates. She also asked CSC members to take a picture with their nameplate before they leave.

**Public comment**

**7:30 p.m.**

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