

Meeting Highlights*

AB 617 Fresno Community Steering Committee Meeting #24

August 12, 2020, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Action items for the Fresno Community Steering Committee:

- CSC members should email SJVAPCD staff if interested in being a community co-host for a future meeting
- CSC members should provide feedback on any sites where SJVAPCD should consider placing air monitoring equipment

Action items for San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District:

- SJVAPCD will bring the topic of electrifying school buses back to the school bus subcommittee
- SJVAPCD will share the draft annual report for CARB prior to the September CSC meeting
- SJVAPCD will request a DPR update at a future CSC meeting
- SJVAPCD will reschedule the September CSC meeting because it coincides with the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) meeting
- SJVAPCD should consider reviewing the Resolution to ensure that all elements are being addressed by the CSC
- SJVAPCD will research the Centennial Highway Project as a potential vegetative barriers example

Welcome and Introductions

Erica Manuel, Facilitator & CEO/Executive Director, Institute for Local Government (ILG)

Ed Ward, Community Co-host

Erica introduced herself and the ILG team, welcomed all participants, and went over Zoom etiquette and translation services.

She then gave an overview of the meeting agenda and transitioned to Ed Ward for co-host remarks. Ed thanked SJVAPCD for the opportunity to co-host and pointed out that the agenda was developed with CSC input.

Stipends for Community Steering Committee Resident Members

Ryan Hayashi, Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer, Valley Air District

Ryan gave an update on stipends for Fresno CSC resident members. Presentation highlights:

- The Air District has found a path to provide stipends to resident members of the CSC
- Stipends will include a \$75 reimbursement per full CSC meeting for up to 15 CSC meetings per year, which is equivalent to \$1,125 per calendar year
- Subcommittee meetings do not qualify for reimbursement
- Stipends are subject to the availability of AB 617 funding on an annual basis
- ILG will provide the stipends, which will be retroactive to January 2020
- There will be an application required to receive the stipends
- Stipends can be expected within 30 days of the CSC meeting

- To qualify for a stipend, a resident member must be present for 75% of the CSC meeting or 90 minutes of a 2 hour meeting
- If a primary member was unable to attend a meeting and an alternate served in their stead, the alternate member qualifies for a stipend for that meeting
- SJVAPCD will get approval from their Board on August 20

Question: I am listed as somebody from the business area, but I am a consultant and have not been able to receive any sort of revenue from consulting because of COVID. Is there any way I am eligible for a stipend because I have lost a year and a half of income?

Answer: Unfortunately, the stipend program follows the recommendation by the California Air Resources Board (CARB), which states that only resident members qualify to receive stipends and these recommendations received support from the statewide AB 617 consultation working group.

Question: Have you thought about having a stipend for the subcommittee meetings so residents have an incentive to participate more?

Answer: The District is following the CARB guidance only recommends stipends for community steering committee meetings, not subcommittees.

Technology Solutions Update

Kevin Hamilton, Central California Asthma Collaborative (CCAC)

Kevin described technological challenges some resident CSC members may face in participating in virtual meetings. CCAC is working with the SJVAPCD to offer CSC members assistance with any technological challenges to ensure all residents on the CSC can fully participate in all meetings. If there are any residents who do not have access to Wi-Fi or a free telephone connection, they can let Heather Heinks (SJVAPCD) or Kevin Hamilton know and they can provide Wi-Fi-enabled tablets.

Question: Will this be extended to the other communities in AB 617?

Answer: Yes, the District partnered with another community based organization to provide internet service and technology needed to be able to participate.

Truck Rerouting Subcommittee Update

Andrew Benelli, City of Fresno

Andrew gave an update on the truck re-routing study. Presentation highlights:

- The City of Fresno is doing a study of the current truck routes and looking at alternative truck routes throughout the whole city and part of the county
- The City is sharing the cost with SJVAPCD and hiring a consultant to do the truck route study
- The City is preparing an RFP to send out to consultants that are qualified to do this kind of work; there are firms that specialize in this, so the City expects to receive strong proposals

Question: Are you sharing the RFP with the committee before it goes out?

Answer: Yes. The RFP is being routed internally for additional comments, then it will be sent to the subcommittee.

Question: Will the study take into consideration the new interchanges at North Avenue, Central Avenue, and American Avenue, and identify how much the traffic will increase on the existing truck routes once those interchanges are developed?

Answer: The City has been working with Caltrans on designs for new interchanges. There is not currently any funding available for construction. Central Avenue has been dropped from the list.

Caltrans has developed several different alternatives and will be looking at increases in traffic from the current development and undeveloped lands as well.

Question: Will the RFP be looking at American Avenue from the scope of being in the sphere of influence? Will the RFP be looking at the 10 and 20-year build out in life cycle? Does the RFP include greenways?

Answer: Some of the existing truck routes in the county may be re-routed, so we are asking respondents to include county areas that are influenced by truck traffic. Yes, the RFP will look at the 20-year build out. Looking at greenways is something that could be considered. The current draft version does not ask for that in the scope of work, but that comment can be incorporated after CSC review.

Question: You mentioned you would consider including accident history. Will you be providing public health data that addresses the cumulative pollution burden that would be a public health concern for wherever you recommend rerouting trucks?

Answer: That was discussed at the subcommittee meeting and the City agrees it is important. We do not know if the prime consultant will have that specific background so the selected firm may need a sub-consultant to do that type of work. It is included in the RFP and we are eager to see what kind of proposals are received and what the cost will be.

Question: When is the draft RFP going to be out?

Answer: We plan to have it to the subcommittee within 30 days. We would like to release it to the consultants within 60 days, but that depends on how many comments we receive from this group.

Comment: If the consultant we are hiring to do the truck rerouting study doesn't have the skill set to provide public health data, we may want to explore hiring another consultant because it's very important that public health is connected to this.

Answer: The City agrees.

Comment: There is a piece of software being used by Fresno COG as part of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) process right now that may align with what the city needs. It is used by transportation planners across the state for health indicators and is accepted by Caltrans.

School Filtration and Bus Subcommittee Update

Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer, Valley Air District

Jaime gave an update on the school filtration and bus subcommittee. Presentation highlights:

- There is a second subcommittee meeting for August 25 at 4:00pm
- After conducting research, we have developed a survey for schools, which includes the number of air conditioning units at each school, the age and location of the air conditioning units, the manufacturer model, the size of the filter, the MERV ratings, how many filters each unit requires, and current maintenance schedule
- SJVAPCD is conducting direct outreach to get some of the schools to come to the subcommittee meeting on August 25
- The grants team is going to mock up an application for this program that can be shared with the CSC based on the CARB guidelines for how the funding can be applied to school filtration systems
- There will be a discussion at the subcommittee meeting about when and where to best reach out to school boards or trustees

Question: You mentioned the source of funding would be grants. Does any of this work fall under the CARES Act? Is there a plan to look at how this might affect students? In preparation for when they return to schools, looking at the ventilation system seems like it might be consistent with the CARES funding.

Answer: In some cases, the CARB funding pays for 100% of these filters. In those instances where schools can't easily plug into the grant program, we absolutely can look at alternative paths to help them.

Question: Filters are not the same as systems. Do we have enough AB617 funding to cover a certain amount of necessary HVAC replacement or upgrades or is it just enough for filters?

Answer: It depends. For schools that can't use the filters, the next step is to get standalone units in the classrooms. The budgeted amount is \$1.5 million and that is enough to cover 55 schools. We anticipated doing primarily filter replacements.

Comment: The schools typically have an annual maintenance plan. Getting that information should be easy once you get to the right person. I like the comment about CARES funding and how we can leverage these 617 funds in conjunction with CARES to get everyone up and running.

Question: What would it take to eliminate the cause of the bad air quality in schools where they wouldn't need to have the filtration systems? Is that impossible? Rather than filter the air, is it possible to eliminate the cause of the air?

Answer: You just outlined the main purpose of AB617. As we work to get reductions, we also want to start protecting people. That is why our CERP has a parallel process of mitigation and emissions reductions.

Question from Spanish-speaker: Why haven't we talked about the buses? It is on the agenda and we seem to be moving on to the next item.

Answer: There hasn't been as much movement in Fresno, but we are looking to bring that back to the subcommittee because we would love to see the electrification of buses here.

Community Air Monitoring Results and Update

Jon Klassen, Director of Air Quality Science and Planning, Valley Air District

Jon gave a brief overview of the recent air monitoring results. Presentation highlights:

- Since our last meeting, there has been lots of activity and SJVAPCD has put up new air monitoring sites
- The Fresno AB617 portal has information on the new sites and what is happening day-by-day
- Malaga Elementary will be our most comprehensive monitoring site
- Weekly air monitoring updates are available on the webpage
- The entire network is nearly deployed for South Central Fresno

Question: The speciation work being done at Malaga cannot be displayed in real time like PM data. Is that data displayed on the webpage? How often are the results going to be updated? Also, one of the things we have asked about was pesticides. That was never addressed. Is it possible to add some monitoring for pesticides?

Answer: For the PM2.5 and VOC speciation, because that data requires laboratory analysis, when we get the reports back from the lab, we will work on compiling that data and we plan to put it in the quarterly reports that the District will be providing an update to the committee. For pesticide work, we

are working on having the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) give an update to this committee on the work they are doing across California and in the Valley. We can talk with them about air monitoring and pesticides in the areas and make a request to speak.

Question: Could we put an air monitoring site at Amazon or one of those locations that is not too far from the school district to get information on pollution?

Answer: We have reached out to some of those facilities. We haven't had a lot of luck, but would love to hear your thoughts on different locations near Orange Center that could work.

Question: I found a resident willing to let the Air District use her property near H and Belmont to measure the air quality in the area. Was that done?

Answer: We will check. There has been a lot of monitoring in that area with the van, but we can certainly go to that location and take some measurements near that area.

Comment: Right now, the South Central Specific Plan, which is in this 617 area, is being looked at closely by the Mayor. Can we say that with new development, if you fall into the overlays, we require there to be air monitors as part of the development agreement?

Measures Tracker Update

Jessica Olsen, Program Manager, Valley Air District

Todd Payne, Community Action Partnership of Kern (CPAK)

Jessica gave a brief update on the tracking of individual measures in the CERP. Presentation highlights:

- The tracker is on the Fresno AB 617 webpage in Spanish and English
- Every measure is listed by measure type, measure number and description, the details as written in the CERP, and detailed status updates
- SJVAPCD is committed to tracking the status of every single measure as well as the progress being made with CARB on funding discussions
- The funding associated with specific measures is subject to Community Air Protection Program (CAPP) guidelines
- Your CERP includes many different measures that are not included in those guidelines, so CARB has been working on guidelines to allow for funding the community air protection funds, called Chapter 6
- The first measure we are taking through this process is the truck re-routing study; we submitted that project in June and are working with CARB to get it approved
- There are a dozen other CERP measures that project plans are being prepared for now
- SJVAPCD will notify the CSC and post those project plans on the webpage once they are submitted to CARB in draft form and we will be inviting comments

Comment: I would love to see this information in a Gantt chart format.

Answer: Thank you, that's great feedback. We will continue to develop this and make it user-friendly.

Question: Are these updates the main status update that we're going to be presenting to CARB? If so, is that including the information about the resolution update?

Answer: You helped us transition nicely to the next part of this agenda, which is an update from CARB on progress tracking and the update to the board.

CARB: CARB is working on a tracking type tool as well. Within your emission reduction program, there are statewide CARB-based measures, as well as measures specific to your CERP, so we will track this and listen to feedback. Our board is looking forward to an update on the seven first-year communities that have CERPs. In September, there are two CARB board hearings; the one on the 24th will have the update topic. We will reach out to CSC members and we are already talking with the SJVAPCD about the format of the board update on the 24th and what information, if any, is needed.

Comment: One of the things I think will be critical for our success in the summaries is having a clearly defined way that we're going to present. We want to make sure that it's done right and everyone has their voice heard.

Answer: Thank you. In October, there will be a more comprehensive draft report generated by SJVAPCD on the status of each of the communities. The September CARB meeting is really a touch base on the status of where things are, but there will be later opportunities to collaborate on the written report.

Question: We have discussed a template so that all air districts have this model to follow. What is the status of that?

Answer: CARB has been working with the districts on data exchange templates and once we finalize it, it will be posted. It will be a consistent template across the communities to compare and contrast.

Comment: The truck idling in Malaga is bad at night when drivers are idling in their trucks. Sometimes the wind is going towards the communities and the air quality is above 100.

Answer: A lot of the air quality work we will be doing in Malaga will help discern what is going on in that area.

Wrap Up/Next Steps

*Erica Manuel, Facilitator & CEO/Executive Director, Institute for Local Government (ILG)
Ed Ward, Community Co-host*

Erica thanked everybody for participating in a productive meeting and asked CSC members to suggest future agenda items. Ed thanked everyone and mentioned being particularly interested in vegetative barriers as a continued topic for discussion.

Comment: I want the CSC to have the opportunity to review what the resolution said from February because some of the resolutions were important priorities of the community that leading up to the approval of the CERP weren't included.

Answer: Thank you. That is something that we are looking to put together.

Question: Can the SJVAPCD staff to look up Centennial Highway Project in Bakersfield and explore how they did their greening and tree planting?

Public Comment:

There were no public comments via Facebook.

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