

Meeting Highlights*

AB 617 Stockton Community Steering Committee Meeting #9

October 20, 2020 | 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Action items for the Stockton Community Steering Committee (CSC):

- Send any comments on draft CERP measures to the District by Oct. 30
- Submit any recommendations about voting on the CERP measures to the Air District

Action items for San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (District):

- Invite the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission to present again at a future meeting
- Make sure Jeff Wingfield receives a transcript of the meeting chat so he can answer questions related to the port
- Re-send both draft CERP spreadsheets to CSC for additional feedback

Welcome and Introductions

Erica Manuel, Facilitator and Executive Director, Institute for Local Government (ILG)

Ryan Hayashi, Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer, the District

Mary Elizabeth, Community Co-host, Stockton Resident, Sierra Club

Erica welcomed the Stockton CSC participants to the additional October meeting, went over Zoom etiquette and gave an overview of the agenda.

Ryan thanked the CSC and acknowledged the additional work and commitment of the CSC. Ryan introduced Mary Elizabeth for community co-host remarks.

Delta-Sierra Group's Conservation Work

Mary Elizabeth, Stockton Resident, Sierra Club

Mary thanked the CSC and explained her role in the Delta-Sierra Group. She presented on the group's conservation work and how it affects the City of Stockton, including housing, the Port of Stockton, and algal blooms. Presentation highlights include:

- Delta-Sierra Group works in the San Joaquin County around water and land conservation, air, transportation and housing as it relates to the land use
- Some of the Delta-Sierra work includes groundwater sustainability planning, integrated regional water management planning, etc.; members serve on a variety of local and regional advisory groups, committees, and commissions
- Delta-Sierra Group has been reaching out to the Port of Stockton about toxic coal dust concerns, increased traffic and coal shipments, truck idling, projects adoption and public participation processes, as well as commenting on EIR and other public documents
- Sierra Club emphasizes member education about racial justice

Port of Stockton Discussion

Jeff Wingfield, Environmental and Public Affairs Director, Port of Stockton

Jeff presented on the Port of Stockton's air quality monitoring and emission reduction projects. Presentation highlights include:

- The Port is a state agency that distributes mainly non-containerized construction materials and agricultural products and generates its revenue via leases and shipments
- The Port shares CARB's concerns about impacts on neighboring communities and strives to go beyond regulatory requirements to minimize environmental impacts
- Some of the current Port projects include development of a port-wide emissions inventory, retrofitting and replacing current cargo handling equipment with zero and near-zero equipment and charging infrastructure, and exploring hydrogen powered technology options
- The Port will engage an internal port tenants group to explore additional emission reduction strategies, funding and partnership opportunities
- The Port will also form an EJ working group to receive feedback about projects, understand local concerns, and identify alternative solutions
- The Port is seeking more community input and engagement in the future and welcomes participation from the CSC and other members of the community

In the interest of time, Erica Manuel directed CSC members to ask questions in the chat box and asked Jeff to stay online to answer all questions, if possible, in the chat.

Question: How often does the Port provide maintenance on the water hyacinth?

Port Response: Water hyacinth are the responsibility of the Department of Boating and Waterways; they typically maintain it by spraying (and doing mechanical harvesting when conditions worsen). While the Port can get involved upon request, it has to operate under the existing Department of Boating and Waterways' permits.

Stockton Diamond Grade Separation Project

Rene Gutierrez, Associate Planner, San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission

Rene gave an update on the Stockton diamond grade separation. Presentation highlights:

- The project EIR is currently underway
- The Commission will release the draft EIR in Winter 2021
- The project will separate two rail lines, the most congested rail bottleneck in California
- Estimated to cost \$230 million

Update on CARB Regulation Timelines

Skott Wall, Community Liaison, Office of Community Air Protection, CARB

Skott gave an overview of CARB regulation timelines. Presentation highlights include:

- There is a five year timeline for implementation of AB 617 (2021-2025)

- The time frame should allow significant time to implement all of the measures, develop annual reports each year, and make adjustments as priorities change
- There is a five year lookback to make sure the emissions reductions for the measures are long-lasting

Community Emissions Reduction Program (CERP) Strategies

Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer, the District

Jaime thanked CSC members for responding to the CERP worksheets. She presented on the input received:

- District has begun to update the potential strategies and incorporate CSC comments into the CERP worksheets
- The highest priority based on the CSC ranking and feedback is vegetative barriers and urban greening; the Air District has increased the recommended dollar amount for that measure to reflect the high priority
- Truck routes are another high priority

Comment: We should research any existing programs with funding for heavy-duty vehicles, so we are not using AB 617 funding unnecessarily. I agree with the air filtration for schools. The buses do not travel as far, so there is not a huge need.

District Response: We will explore that. There are definitely existing programs, but they are typically over-subscribed.

Question: Aren't the buses privately owned?

District Response: The school buses are owned by Stockton Unified School District.

Question: Was this list of initiatives developed based on the CARB brainstorming ideas and community recommendations?

District Response: The strategies come from comments the District has received from the CSC, but they also include recommendations from both CARB and the District based on emissions reductions, and measures that the District has seen work well in other communities.

Follow-up comment: In terms of the enforcement measures, my decision to give call-outs or support certain measures came from the unintended consequences to the demographics that this population serves. My approach was to focus on industrial sources.

District Response: I agree and the District heard that.

Question: During the implementation phase, will the District try to identify a single point person at the District for certain communities?

District Response:: Right now, the communities have several point people. If the District gets another community, there are discussions taking place about how best to divide that workload for maximum impact and support.

Question: Regarding enforcement, it was said the District and Port of Stockton would work together. Why would that discussion only take place between those two?

District Response:: In the strategies, it does include specific CARB enforcement of measures related to regulations about equipment and ships. CARB has committed to enforcing those at the port as well.

Wrap Up/Next Steps

Erica Manuel, Facilitator and Executive Director, ILG

Erica thanked the CSC members and thanked Mary Elizabeth for volunteering her time and presenting. Mary Elizabeth thanked the Air District and closed out the meeting.

Reminders

Next regularly scheduled CSC meeting is Nov. 4 via Zoom. All the presentations, meetings highlights, transcripts and the Zoom meeting recording will be posted online.

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

Public Comment

No public comment.