

Meeting Highlights*

AB 617 Stockton Community Steering Committee Meeting #16

February 16, 2021 | 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Virtual Zoom Meeting

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

- Review and send in comments on draft CERP by Feb. 28

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

- Denote CERP language revisions in a different font or color for CSC
- Add the locomotive switchers and electric school bus measures to the discussion agenda for the next CSC meeting
- Follow up with Stockton Unified on measure related to air filtration in schools and MERV filters they are installing
- Provide additional information on Port-related measures not currently approved for the CERP; consider additional discussion at next meeting

Welcome and Introductions

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

Ryan Hayashi, Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer, District

Erica welcomed the Stockton CSC participants to the second meeting of the month, introduced the ILG facilitation team, gave an agenda overview and flagged the extended meeting time.

Ryan thanked the CSC for the many comments they submitted to the District on the draft CERP. He noted that the CSC has reached a big milestone in the AB 617 process.

Erica recapped the previous CSC meeting and discussed some process improvements that may help the virtual meetings remain productive and engaging for all members.

The following items were discussed and incorporated into the meeting:

- **Elevating resident voices**—every perspective is valid and the plan is to adjust our discussion practices to make sure resident voices and quieter voices are elevated, even in a virtual environment
- **Chat box activity**—the chat log at the last meeting was dozens of pages long and included many side conversations that were not specifically related to the topic being discussed verbally. CSC members had shared concerns with being unable to follow both. CSC members were asked to please limit the chat comments to only reflect the item being discussed at that time
- **Voting process**—voting can be done more quickly and in a more streamlined, transparent manner. In the future, every CSC member vote will be shown on the screen so voting members can validate their choices in real time

Comment: Thank you, I think these clarifications are extremely helpful and I appreciate the toning down of the chat box.

ILG Response: Thank you. We received similar feedback from other CSC members as well.

Erica also identified a number of discussion topics from the last meeting that generated significant CSC interest. She outlined the following subjects and next steps related to them:

- **Health studies**—the District is going to clarify the exact type of health studies the CSC is looking for to help inform the decision-making process
- **Adding measures to CERP after Board approval**—there may be some confusion about what can and cannot be added to the CERP after it is approved by the District or CARB board; the District will clarify this
- **Delaying the CERP**—there have been discussions about getting another extension on the CERP; the District will provide clarity on options for delaying the CERP
- **How CERP measures impact Stockton’s AB 617 budget**—there is a correlation between which measures are included in the CERP and the final budget for AB 617 activities in Stockton; the District will explain that dynamic

District staff shared the following insights related to the above:

- **Health studies** - The District has reviewed the legislation, the scientific review panels, the federal EPA guidance and other existing studies of the Central Valley; there are no existing health studies that have been completed for the Stockton area that show a direct nexus between the implementation of specific measures and types of pollution reduced and certain types of health indicators. The AB 617 legislation was crafted to remove criteria pollutant emissions; if the CSC does that with measures in its CERP, the region will get the health benefits desired
- **Adding measures to CERP after Board approval** – The District has received feedback from CARB that the CERPs should be “living documents”. This reflects the possibility that there may be new technologies that would benefit the AB 617 communities over the course of the CERP implementation timeframe. The Stockton CSC will be able to recommend amending the CERP to include measures that incorporate new or emerging technology or make substantive changes as more information becomes available through implementation. However, the CERP should not be amended frequently and any amendments the CSC votes on after initial adoption may require District Board approval
- **Delaying the CERP** – At the request of the CSC, the District submitted an extension request on behalf of this CSC in December. CSC members have been working very hard to meet the new deadline and the committee is close to finalizing a CERP that reflects CSC input. An additional extension is likely not possible, as the statute is clear that the deadline has already passed. Additional delays would begin to impact implementation timeframes with incentive funding having specific timelines to expend funds
- **How CERP strategies impact Stockton AB 617 budget** - The District previously shared what the budget could be for incentive strategies; those budget suggestions were included in the strategy prioritization survey the District sent out in late summer that the CSC responded to. During the October 2020 meeting, the District shared what the possible funding may be available to the Stockton community, provided the CSC identified strategies that could be spent within the required timelines (June 30, 2025).

The District shared the budget amounts for the CERP strategies that the CSC is considering for inclusion in the latest draft of the CERP. If the CSC does not want to include a particular measure in the CERP, those dollars may not be able to be redirected to the overall budget. For example, if certain high emission reduction measures with considerable costs are excluded from the CERP, that may potentially reduce the total incentive funding available for the Stockton community as those funds cannot necessarily be re-allocated to other strategies unless there is a clear ability to spend incentive funds within the timelines to expend the funds

Review and Discuss Draft CERP

Jessica Olsen, Program Manager, District

Jessica reviewed the initial draft CERP comments received from the CSC. Presentation highlights included:

- All comments received are included in the draft posted on the Stockton AB 617 webpage
- Comment highlights included:
 - Acknowledgement of the hard work and input provided by the CSC
 - Re-order CERP layout to reflect community priorities in each of the sections; based on prioritization survey
 - Prioritize zero-emission over near-zero emission technologies where feasible
 - Clarify match funding in places where CERP mentions “identifying funds”
 - Clarify implementation timeline

Based on this feedback, the District agreed to the following revisions in the later drafts:

- Include historical background of Stockton
- Re-order measures in the CERP to reflect CSC prioritization
- Include a ranked list of community priorities
- Specify how the District will work to leverage other funding for several measures to get more out of AB 617
- Clarify that resident incentives are only for those in the AB 617 boundary
- Include a proposed implementation timeline
- Rewrite the CERP measures to prioritize electric technologies where feasible
- Include more details about school filtration measures, including monitoring component

Question: Is it possible for the revisions to be in a different font or color?

District Response: Absolutely, I think that’s a great idea.

Comment: It seems like we are funding already existing programs. When we have asked how much is already being spent on certain programs, we don’t get a response--I think that’s where the friction is. We want to move things forward, but want to have these questions answered.

District Response: Good point. Some programs may have funding right now through other programs or agencies, but that amount may be on a year-by-year basis. AB 617 is a five-year program and we have dedicated funding for these projects for the next five years. If a project or

measure is important to the CSC, it should be included in this CERP to ensure that funding is made available. We cannot rely on consistent or appropriate funding from other programs.

Follow-up comment: We are not trying to be obstructionists. So much money seems to go to industries that have polluted in our community and have never done outreach, which is traumatic for us.

District Response: It is definitely personal and we understand the trust-building that needs to take place.

Comment: I would like to see more innovative programs and measures included in the CERP. For example, a community-run air monitoring system would be wonderful.

Response from ILG: Thanks for your suggestion.

Comment: People are stealing catalytic converters and it seems like a burden to get them replaced. Etching on them will help dissuade thieves from stealing them and keep our air clean, since people don't have the funds to replace them.

Question: Given that we endure the worst asthma rates in the state, I am curious about who we are waiting behind for funding?

District Response: The programs follow statewide guidelines that extend beyond the District. These programs most often allocate funding on a first-come, first-serve basis and are Valley-wide. We do not have the ability to reserve funding from other sources and demand it go to Stockton. The Valley has the most disadvantaged communities with needs and desires to benefit from emission reductions from projects funded

Comment: We held a formal vote on a red category item in which we had a tie. Is there a consensus on that item? Since Stockton is a major logistics hub, I would like us to put together a delegation where we approach Amazon for funding technologies that could be developed if the industries are willing.

ILG Response: Thank you. A comment in the chat says that Amazon is already looking at alternative energy sources. In regards to the vote, we did have a tie, so that measure was not included in the CERP, based on our charter.

District Response: Our plan is to better inform the CSC so members have a better understanding of the benefits certain measures provide.

Question: At the last CAMP meeting, we were notified that the air monitoring equipment has already been purchased. A few months ago, the CSC voted that we would only approve the map of monitoring locations. Can someone clarify how equipment was purchased when the CSC only approved the map?

District Response: The District worked closely with the CSC on identifying sources of concerns and their location. During the August 2020 meeting, the District shared a map of the general locations the CSC proposed for air monitoring equipment and the District shared what types of air monitoring equipment would be needed to monitor the air pollution. The District informed CSC that the next step would be to purchase some of the air monitoring equipment, such as the trailer, with the intent of placing it at Washington Elementary and asked for the CSCs feedback and did not receive any. The PM 2.5 monitors are a more standard type of equipment that we will need in our inventory. We also bought a couple multi-pollutant monitors as well, based on the

types of pollutants the CSC identified they were concerned about. These items have been purchased but not yet placed.

Budget Prioritization Exercise

Ryan Hayashi, Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer, District

Ryan presented the CERP incentive funding strategy to the CSC. Presentation highlights included:

- Funding must be liquidated by 6/30/2025
- Proposed funding amounts based on multiple factors
 - Cost effectiveness
 - Exposure reduction for sensitive populations
 - Availability of potential projects
 - Willingness/availability of businesses/organizations/agencies to provide cost share and partner on projects
 - Ability to complete project within legislative deadline
 - Overall project cost
- Stockton CERP incentive measures are anticipated to have a budget of \$36-\$42 million

The District shared a spreadsheet with CSC-suggested incentive measures listed with the incentive cost per units, proposed number of units, allocation amount, and direct reductions estimate.

Question: Did you assess barriers to electrical panel upgrades to homes and providing incentives for panel upgrades so more folks can apply for the regular incentive programs to purchase an electric car?

District Response: We want residents to understand that trickle charging really does work. While it is great to have in-home Level II chargers, you do not need to redo all of the electrical in your house to participate.

Comment: The EV mechanic training is a great example of innovative programs that can really elevate this CERP. It could make a lasting impact in Stockton.

District Response: Thank you.

The CSC flagged the EV mechanic training measure as one that should have increased funding if the college district can accommodate additional capacity.

Question: Is the car share program the same one the Housing Authority presented? How long is this \$1 million going to last?

Housing Authority Response: Yes. The Housing Authority has the money for the chargers and this money would be for the cars. The budget is intended to fund the five-year length of the grant. It is specifically for Sierra Vista I, Sierra Vista II, and Conway Homes.

Comment: I think we are light on our budget for the EV mechanic training. The real concern is, for some of our community members, being able to afford the tools that they need to accomplish the task of working in the field after they have met the standard. That might be something we want to look at.

ILG Response: Thanks for that comment; it is an important workforce development conversation.

Note: *The District included the locomotive switchers incentive measure in the funding spreadsheet even though it is not currently approved to be included in the Stockton CERP; this was done to show the CSC what the funding amount and emissions reductions might be.*

Comment: We should focus on small business trucking over fleets.

District Response: Yes, we will put together outreach campaigns. This will require significant effort from the CSC to engage residents and ensure that we inform all the local businesses.

Stockton Unified School District Comment: Stockton Unified has done \$1.8 million in infrastructure upgrades. We have obtained two buses from the CEC, four buses from CARB, and we have a 24-bus infrastructure that we can accommodate. If the CSC uses some of your money for this, it would help us fill our fleet.

ILG Comment: Thank you for that context. We'll try to get a consensus from the CSC about whether to re-consider that item at a future meeting.

Comment: We did not hear people's rationale for how they voted in the last meeting on the red measures that did not get into the CERP. I get the sense there is a lot of push to include huge polluters and we need to consider it more carefully. We need to prioritize cleaning the air.

ILG Comment: Thanks for that comment. This is why the budget prioritization exercise is an important step; so you can see the cost effectiveness of each measure and the potential emission reductions.

Question: I would like to have a COVID lens in this program. Can that be added on rail and buses—places where people are confined? Has anyone thought of including and funding that?

District Response: There is some discussion at the state level, specifically about schools. We are closely watching what the state does so that any filtration the District incorporates also aligns with what the state is doing.

CARB Comment: If the CSC decides not to fund switchers, there is no reason you cannot approach your local railyard and ask for a voluntary agreement that the first locomotives they replace are voluntarily restricted to operate only in your community.

District Comment: There is a contract requirement that would require them to spend a certain amount of time in the AB 617 community because we are using local money and want to ensure emissions reductions stay local.

Based on the dialogue and CSC interest, Erica suggested that the CSC and District put the locomotive switchers and electric school bus measures back on the agenda for the March meeting so the CSC can decide on inclusion in the CERP.

Question: For the air filtration in schools measure, Stockton Unified is already planning to put MERV 13 filters in all of the classrooms. Are these measures intended for outside of Stockton Unified?

District Response: That is new information for us, so we will reach out to Stockton Unified to better answer that question.

Question: Is \$80,000 per school sufficient funding for the air filtration in schools measure?

District Response: There are 33 schools in the community and we think that budget is appropriate.

Wrap Up/Next Steps

Erica Manuel, Facilitator & Executive Director/CEO, ILG

Erica thanked the CSC for their work and reminded the group that the committee is scheduled to vote on the CERP at their next meeting.

Reminders

The next CSC meeting is March 3 on 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.