

Meeting Highlights*
AB 617 Fresno Community Steering Committee Meeting #27
November 10, 2020, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Virtual Zoom Meeting

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

- Email the District if interested in being a community co-host
- Email the District to volunteer for the vegetative barriers and urban greening subcommittee

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

- Determine how many Fresno Unified classrooms (with students) have evaporative coolers
- Explore the feasibility of adding the real-time air monitoring map to the main District's website
- Explore solutions for combining discussions about measures from the Shafter CERP that link to the Fresno CERP
- Discuss integrating pesticide monitoring with DPR and CARB and bring those discussions back to the CSC
- Include a larger review of the measures tracker on a CSC meeting agenda in the near future
- Explore new ways to visualize and present the measures tracker so it is more readable and easy to understand
- Send the truck map to the CSC
- Contact the City and request a representative to speak at a CSC meeting about Orange Avenue and the current truck routing problems and possible solutions

Welcome and Introductions:

Erica Manuel, Facilitator & CEO/Executive Director, Institute for Local Government (ILG)
Ryan Hayashi, Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer, the District
Nayamin Martinez, CSC Community Co-host

Erica introduced herself and the ILG team, welcomed all participants, and went over housekeeping items and translation services. The facilitation team provided an overview of the meeting agenda and Zoom controls.

Erica welcomed special guests Sandy Berg (CARB Board Member) and Dr. Alex Sherriffs (Board Member of the District and CARB). Ryan welcomed the CSC and passed it to Nayamin for community co-host remarks. Nayamin encouraged CSC members to co-host in the future and asked members to share why they are motivated to participate in the CSC.

Standing Updates

Truck Rerouting Subcommittee Update:

Andrew Benelli, Assistant Director/City Engineer, City of Fresno

Andrew gave an update on the truck rerouting study RFP. Presentation highlights:

- City of Fresno received a lot of comments from the CSC
- The city addressed those comments and modified the RFP to incorporate them

- The city will be meeting with the subcommittee to go through how to address each comment

Question: I volunteered to wordsmith the RFP. When will the CSC see some basic draft language of the changes before the December meeting? Will the draft language include the budget breakdown?

Answer: The city will send it out 7 to 10 days before the meeting, which is not yet scheduled. We may not include the budget because there is still work to do on the city's end with executing an agreement between the city and the District.

School Filtration and Bus Subcommittee:

Eric Payne, CSC member

Eric provided an update on the school filtration and bus subcommittee, which included a recently meeting with numerous school board trustees. Presentation highlights:

- Many schools in Fresno cannot place higher MERV filters in their sites, but they can circulate air through the filters more often
- Fresno Unified is at its highest MERV rating and has done an extensive assessment of all facilities
- The transportation director at the city provided a synopsis of Fresno's transition plan to electric buses
- CSC recommended re-allocating funding to cover the cost of charging stations if CARB allows it; CARB will provide guidance
- The District wants to work with Fresno Unified to determine the exact needs for each location and how the program can meet those needs for all the schools
- There is a follow up meeting to discuss electric buses and the infrastructure
- The District committed to a pilot program that is already up and running

Question: What about replacing filters in portables?

District Answer: If there is a portable that has a filter that can be replaced, it will be. Some of the portables are running on really old technology. In those cases, the District might install the standalone air filtration purifiers.

Question from Spanish-speaker: How many school buses will be changed out in Fresno?

District Answer: The CERP contains enough funding to replace 16 schools buses in South Central Fresno.

Comment: The whole idea that there are still portables in Fresno Unified with evaporative coolers is news to me and I would like to see an inventory of those. The mold risk from those is pretty high compared to a standard cooling system. The CSC needs to target funding to replace those.

District Response: Fresno Unified said there were only a limited number of evaporative coolers used in non-traditional classrooms and vocational rooms.

Question: What are the next steps for the subcommittee?

District Answer: The subcommittee got a firm commitment from the trustees and top staff that they want to do what the District is calling a pilot with Fresno Unified that will address some of the schools that are most at risk and get some electric school buses going. Grant staff is working to get the assessment done and design a program to meet those needs.

Comment from Spanish-speaker: The CSC needs to be able to put funding into the older schools so they can replace those filters.

District Response: Thank you.

Recent Community Air Monitoring Results:

Jon Klassen, Director of Strategies and Incentives, the District

Jon provided an update on recent community air monitoring. Presentation highlights:

- The District has formally executed the lease agreement for Madison Elementary School
- Staff is working with Fresno Unified to set up a location at Edison High School
- The air monitoring van has continued to take measurements around locations the CSC recommended
- The District is making progress on developing a real time air monitoring map
- Staff is taking steps toward integrating community air monitoring data into the RAAN system

Question: Has there been any progress made to make the air monitoring data more easily accessible? Why hasn't this data been incorporated in RAAN? Is there any baseline data that the District has captured with other monitors in the past so the CSC can see the trends?

District Answer: Accessibility of data is connected to numerous factors; the District is creating a map with air monitoring data in real time that should help address numerous issues

Question: Will the District be putting these monitors in the annual update to the monitoring plan for next year and adding them into the regulatory network?

District Answer: These networks are separate from the regulatory network, which are there for decades and capture long-term trends. The monitoring networks for AB 617 are a little more flexible and we are trying to isolate impacts of various sources in the area.

Comment: As the District integrates the data into the system, it needs to be user friendly.

District Response: We agree.

DPR Update:

Nan Singhasemanon, Assistant Director, Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR)

Minh Pham, Air Program Manager, DPR

Nan gave an update on pesticide regulation. Minh gave an overview of the air program. Presentation highlights:

- DPR is on track to develop regulations next year in accordance with the toxic air contaminant process to reduce acute and chronic community exposure to telone
- DPR is evaluating alternative 1,3-D application methods that will reduce emissions
- DPR is developing a functional statewide pesticide application notification system
- The air program is responsible for assessing pesticide concentrations in the air
- Three pillars of monitoring: application site monitoring, seasonal studies, and long-term monitoring

Question: Why is Parlier included in the South Central Fresno pilot program?

DPR Answer: Parlier was one of the original sites DPR had for the telone study and is part of the ongoing 1,3-D pilot program. It is the area closest to Fresno where we are doing that pilot program.

Question: When the map of AB 617 was expanded to include parts of Southwest Fresno, there was a concern for residents about monitoring pesticides. How and when can DPR start monitoring for pesticides in the schools that belong to the South Central area?

DPR Answer: DPR doesn't know when, but would like to open up the conversation. Monitoring can be a broad spectrum. DPR can assist with gathering information for the CSC so we can get the ball rolling.

Question from Spanish-speaker: How much pollution from the industry and from vehicles has been reduced here in the community?

DPR Answer: On pesticides, there are regulations in place and DPR is monitoring progress and ensuring that all steps minimize pollution. That monitoring will determine if additional reductions are needed.

District Comment: Generally in the Central Valley, we have reduced pollution from stationary sources by 80%-90% and from mobile sources about 50%-60%, over the last 20-30 years.

Question: How does DPR shut down pesticide drift? At what point does DPR cite, charge or ban bad pesticide sites? Is there any policy for notification of chemicals to surrounding housing developments that adjoin farmland? Is there health data with regards to asthma or deaths caused by pesticide drift?

DPR Answer: When it comes to drift, both DPR's enforcement group and the county Ag commissioners' enforcement group are always available for any type of drift incidents. When it comes to pesticide use in California, we do quite a bit of work with buffer zones and setbacks. If someone is applying something onto a field, there is a buffer zone between the edge of that field and any exposure to anybody living near or around there. DPR's health and safety team collects data on illnesses. The Pesticide Illness Surveillance Program (PISP) has data available online. We also publish an annual report highlighting specific episodes and cases of specific illnesses.

Question: In our tracking for CERP measures, we talk about a DPR pilot mitigation program. Are you considering this program to be the foundation for the DPR pilot mitigation program mentioned in the CERP tracking progress? I was surprised to find out that DPR is working on AB 617 with Shafter when this Fresno CSC has asked about pesticide monitoring from the beginning. There may be information from Shafter that could be helpful to Fresno residents as well.

DPR Answer: DPR and District could have communicated better about the efforts being done in Shafter and how they relate back to Fresno. This is all part of the learning process and we will continue to improve.

Comment from Spanish-speaker: Please ensure we are able to notify the public, especially the workers in the fields who are impacted by the pesticides that spread in that community. On Chestnut Avenue, there is a school and they should be notified when pesticides are emitted in that area.

DPR Response: DPR's school regulations incorporate the aspect of notifications. There are occasional incidents with field workers and drift, but DPR tries to minimize those.

Question: When will the CSC get a status report on pesticide monitoring and if it will be incorporated more broadly in our community?

DPR Answer: The District will work with DPR and CARB to discuss options and bring those discussions back to the CSC.

Update on Incentive CERP Strategies and Outreach:

Todd DeYoung, Director of Strategies and Incentives, the District

Todd gave an update on incentive CERP strategies. Jaime briefly highlighted outreach progress. Presentation highlights:

- The District has tried to make the progress tracker more user-friendly
- Many of the recommended programs were not included when CARB was putting together the CAPP guidelines, which is a testament to the CSC's innovation
- Some programs require the District to get approval from CARB to spend AB 617 funding
- The District is working on those program plans so we can proceed with implementation
- The District is developing an outreach plan for the different strategies that are listed on the tracker
- There will be more information on the outreach plan in the coming months

Comment: This tracking plan reflects the core elements of the CSC's work. The tracker highlights all the measures we are covering. We agree that the outreach efforts need to include CSC members spreading the word to residents and the community so the District does not miss what the CSC intended for that measure. I would like to see a better review of this tracker on our next agenda so we can dig deeper into it and incorporate more feedback.

District Response: We can add this item to a future agenda

Comment: I would like to see the tracker broken down into an information sheet that is very simple and straight to the point. People should be able to read this in less than five minutes and understand it. The District should provide a Gantt chart of tasks and a timeline for implementation of the tasks.

District Response: That is great feedback. The District will see if there is a better way to present the information.

Question from Spanish-speaker: What is being done regarding the heavy duty trucks going through Orange Avenue?

District Answer: A couple of the measures touch on heavy duty trucks. The truck rerouting study has the potential to impact truck routes within the community. There are measures targeting reducing emissions from heavy duty trucks, replacing trucks, providing charging infrastructure, fueling infrastructure; this will all have an impact on truck emissions within the 617 community.

Question: At the last meeting, the District committed to addressing the issue on Orange Avenue with the heavy duty trucks. What progress has the District made with enforcing mobile source rules or truck routes on that street?

District Answer: At the last meeting, the City of Fresno shared the hotline to call in. The District can add the truck route on the AB 617 page so the CSC can understand where trucks can and can't be. The other piece will be the truck rerouting study.

Comment: The District should have someone from the city come talk about Orange Avenue and the current traffic and routing problems.

District Response: We will definitely reach out.

Final Draft of Annual Report

Ryan Hayashi, Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer, the District

Ryan reviewed the annual report with CSC comments incorporated. Presentation highlights:

- The District is starting the process for rule development this year and notices will be sent to CSC for participation in the development process

- Staff have almost fully deployed the air monitoring equipment that was part of the community air monitoring plan

Question: I thought the MOU between the District and different entities was part of the resolution that CARB approved when they approved our CERP? The CSC has not seen or heard that. Can you provide a status report?

District Answer: Absolutely. There will be a new administration in the City of Fresno and the District is excited to work with them. We know how important the MOU is to this CSC and staff is committed to working with the city and the CSC. The District will provide regularly updates on that.

Comment: The CSC should be allowed to review the progress report together with the District. If we do this at the same time, we can compare the individual points of action that we have or have not accomplished and compare it to the progress tracking report.

Response: We are happy to explore that approach as we move through the tracking process

Wrap Up/Next Steps:

Erica Manuel, Facilitator & CEO/Executive Director, ILG

Erica thanked everyone for participating in the meeting and turned it over to Sandy Berg and Dr. Alex Sherriffs for closing remarks. Both board members thanked the CSC for their commitment and the staff for their coordination efforts.

Erica thanked Nayamin for being the community co-host.

Reminders:

Next regularly scheduled CSC meeting is Dec. 9 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.