

Meeting Highlights*
AB 617 Fresno Community Steering Committee Meeting #28
December 9, 2020, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Virtual Zoom Meeting

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

- Submit additional agenda items for the next air monitoring subcommittee meeting
- Volunteer to be a community co-host at a future CSC meeting
- Submit names of small businesses that may be interested in City of Fresno loans
- Submit comments on the Regional Transportation Plan to City of Fresno

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

- Track AB 841 and share key milestones and updates with the CSC when necessary
- Distribute hard copies of the CERP at-a-glance
- Focus next CSC meeting agenda on reviewing visualization improvements made to the CERP tracker and discussing CERP priorities; incorporate a budget update if possible
- Reschedule lawn & garden incentive agenda item
- Include more detailed reports of air monitoring results, such as names and levels of contaminants
- Share comparative data from stationary monitors to regulatory monitors so CSC can see the difference

Welcome and Introductions:

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

Ryan Hayashi, Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer, the District

Gregory Barfield, Scott Mozier and Lupe Perez, City of Fresno, CSC Community Co-hosts

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.

Ryan welcomed the CSC, expressed excitement about the meeting and obtaining additional feedback from the CSC about ways to improve the AB 617 implementation process. He turned it over to Gregory Barfield, Scott Mozier, and Lupe Perez, from the City of Fresno for co-host remarks.

Updates included:

- The City of Fresno has four protected bike lane corridors that are already funded, undergoing design and will be built in 2021
- The City is implementing active transportation improvements in late 2021-2022
- The City will install no idling signs to target some of the hot spots of concern already noted by the CSC
- The City is busy disbursing grants to small businesses
- Loans are available for businesses to access
- The first two battery powered electric buses are coming in February and nine more will be approved at the next City Council meeting
- The City is working on the Regional Transportation Plan and encourages comments from the CSC
- The City will have a new mayor on Jan. 5

- Greg will transition to Assistant City Manager in January
- There are lots of leadership and administrative transitions currently taking place at the City

Standing Updates

Truck Rerouting Subcommittee Update:

Scott Mozier, PE Director, City of Fresno

Scott gave an update on the truck rerouting subcommittee and the RFP. Presentation highlights included:

- A subsection of the truck rerouting subcommittee has volunteered join a working group to work with the city on specific refinements to the RFP
- The city received good input on language revisions for the RFP
- The city is working through how best to address the health impacts element of the study
- The study is well funded and the CSC will be pleased with the work
- Next step is to meet with working group on Friday 12/11 to wordsmith and get consensus
- The city expects to look at proposal responses in the Spring

Question: Are there any documents we need to read before the meeting on Friday?

City of Fresno Response: Not in advance of the meeting, but we will have specific sections and topics that we will go through during the meeting. We are hoping for substantial feedback.

Comment from Spanish-speaker: I am thankful to the District because I saw three vehicles in my area enforcing in my community.

ILG Response: It's always great to hear that progress is being made.

Comment: As we talk about truck rerouting, it brings up the question regarding the MOU. We need the MOU between the City and the District to be developed as soon as possible.

City of Fresno Response: Because our leadership transition is still in progress, this is an item that will need to be discussed after January 5. A realistic timeframe is likely of late January-early February for beginning the conversations.

Comment: We understand that transitions take time. But we expect to receive the names of key stakeholders at the City once you know them in January. In addition to the city staff who leads the various departments that might need to be involved, I think it's important that the staff of the council members who are part of the AB 617 area are also engaged.

ILG Response: The CSC is very excited at the possibility of having this MOU and there is interest in making sure that momentum is maintained despite the transition.

City of Fresno Response: It is my responsibility to bring this forth to the City Manager and I am committed to doing that (Gregory Barfield).

District Response: Over the last month, we have reached out to the City and reinforced the CSC's interest in participating in a robust dialogue and MOU development. We have already begun sharing ideas about possible topics that can be part of an MOU and we are looking forward to working with the City soon to move this item forward. The City indicated the best time to have these discussions is after the transition.

School Filtration and Bus Subcommittee:

Nayamin Martinez, CSC member

Ivanka Saunders, CSC member

Crystal Yunker, Strategies & Incentives, the District

Jeannine Tackett, Senior Air Quality Specialist, the District

Nayamin and Ivanka provided an update on an ad hoc meeting they participated in. District staff updated the CSC on the school filtration and bus subcommittee. Presentation highlights included:

- Met with Fresno Unified to ensure they are committed to the buses
- Fresno Unified's main concern is infrastructure; the CSC may need to plan for solutions to this issue (i.e. should we decrease the amount of buses, so there's funding available for infrastructure?)
- We plan to continue discussions with residents about where charging stations should be placed
- We requested data on asthma rates to more strategically prioritize schools in the district
- Fresno Unified is conducting a study for their existing charging needs and believe only minor modifications need to be made to service incoming buses
- Fresno Unified has been actively assessing their systems at various schools and meeting with multiple manufacturers to see what devices are available, what site location needs exist and what works best with existing systems
- The District is exploring what other types of devices can be added to existing systems to help improve filtration
- AB 841 has been approved and is in process; this will provide additional funds to help schools reopen safely and a portion can be used to upgrade and repair existing HVAC systems

CARB Comment: I have talked to our electric bus staff at CARB. If anyone on the CSC wants the CARB perspective, please email and we can set up a call.

ILG Response: Thank you. I think some CSC members will take you up on that offer and will look for your contact information in the chat.

Question: With a new federal administration coming in, does anybody know if there is going to be any money given to the schools to upgrade their filtration systems? If so, do you think that money could help those schools by providing the funding match necessary to upgrade those systems?

City of Fresno Response: A lot of what is happening right now at the federal level is just to keep the government afloat. When the Biden administration completes its transition, they will start to roll out other resources that may be useful.

Question: Where is AB 841 in the legislative process and will you let us know when we should write a letter of support?

District Response: Yes, absolutely. The way the bill is written, the money will be handled through the utility companies and we should see those application processes starting around March 2021. We can definitely try to track the time frames and provide updates when necessary.

Vegetative Barriers Subcommittee:

Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer, the District

Jaime gave an update on the new vegetative barriers subcommittee. Presentation highlights included:

- On behalf of the CSC, Nayamin applied for two full-time AmeriCorps climate change fellows
- The fellows can help implement CERP measures related to urban greening and vegetative barriers

- The District is reaching out to Caltrans, the City of Fresno, the County of Fresno, Tree Fresno, the Department of Conservation, Fresno State and others to find out what is already being done and make that available in a concise list for the CSC

Comment: Thank you for your efforts to provide some extra help. It's outstanding.

Air Monitoring Update:

Chay Thao, Program Manager, the District

Chay provided an update on continued community air monitoring. Presentation highlights included:

- Out of ten sites, there are only two left; Madison Elementary and Edison High School
- The District is working to make it easier to obtain van data by putting it into an interactive map on the webpage
- As requested by CSC, the District is integrating community air monitoring into the existing regulatory monitors that are part of RAAN
- At the upcoming air monitoring subcommittee, the District will provide a summary of completed air monitoring updates, what is left, and what we've learned; feedback is encouraged

Comment: The CSC would like to see more details on the toxic air contaminants, such as the names of the contaminants and what those levels have been.

District Response: The District will include that.

Comment: I would like to see all the raw data unfiltered in an excel spreadsheet.

District Response: We will provide that to you.

Comment: The City of Fresno needs to get the PM 2.5 numbers along Interstate 99 because you are building that hotel for the homeless.

City of Fresno Response: We will take that into consideration. Thank you.

Question: Would it be too problematic for you to compare that data in the different stationary monitors to the regulatory monitors so the CSC can see if there are any spots with significant differences?

District Response: Yes, in our quarterly report, we compare them. We will put that together for you all to see.

CERP Tracker Review:

Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer, the District

Jaime presented two CERP tracking documents to the CSC. Presentation highlights included:

- The District recently created a new document related to the CERP
- The document is a snapshot of the CERP; it is a simplified overview (at-a-glance CERP) that has been posted on the website and can be shared externally with the general public
- The comprehensive tracker is still missing a key element, which is an easy way to see progress; the District wants CSC input before refining that document
- The tracker can link to other documents

- The District wants to communicate enough information to the CSC so members are informed but not overwhelmed

Comment: The at-a-glance CERP is missing a chart with the major bullet points about AB 617, including the start and end dates of the project and key milestones through the years. You should also add a thermometer of the allocation by fiscal year for this entire program, so you can denote the different projects that start within that year. The larger handout is definitely confusing. To better revise that document, I recommend a Gantt chart with every project listed, then you can hyperlink each of those line items and note progress made during each cycle.

ILG Response: Thank you. I see the District is taking copious notes on these suggestions.

Comment: The CERP at-a-glance is a good effort to describe the CERP. On the larger document, it needs timelines, it needs to be brief with fewer words and it needs to list how much money the District is investing in each of those rows of projects.

ILG Response: Thank you.

Comment: I want to uplift the residents and would like to hear what measures need to be worked on next and what they want to prioritize moving into January.

ILG Response: Thanks for that comment. I welcome any resident comments at any time during this meeting.

Comment: I think the prioritization discussion deserves to be focused on a whole meeting.

ILG Response: We hear you and appreciate that comment. Our initial thought was we would discuss the outline of the tracker so we can move into that discussion of priorities at a subsequent meeting.

District Response: Thank you. We definitely hear what you are saying. This agenda item was more focused on how we can make this tracker easier for members to use as a tool. We have already received a lot of feedback and differing opinions on how it can be presented, so if we can have more discussion on what the group as a whole desires, we can design this with the majority of the group in mind.

Comment: When will we have a deep dive into the CERP priorities? I'd like to see the MOU, the land issues, the enforcement and jurisdiction issues discussed and prioritized as soon as possible.

Comment: I keep hearing that this document should provide accountability and transparency. The thing that undermines trust is the lack of accountability and the repetition of trying to get information which is withheld. This document needs to house all relevant information and hyperlink to the health outcomes and data.

ILG Response: Thank you.

ILG Response: To paraphrase the CSC comments received so far in this meeting about the current version of the CERP tracker, the District needs to tighten the language, remove redundancy, and make the content shorter but more relevant. The District will work to fix the visuals and format, but the CSC recommends adding columns, the budget, and implementation/status report. What we are hearing is this is the number one priority. We do not want to have this conversation again, and the CSC wants to see progress on this tracker. We also heard that the CSC wants to move into the strategy and prioritization discussions. The District will ensure that an upcoming meeting agenda focuses on strategic implementation and alignment, with resident priorities in mind.

District Response: Thanks, everyone. It is always tough to hear that things aren't perfect. We want a perfect process for all of you and we are committed to finding ways to make your time productive and well spent. We don't want to come back with something that is still not right. If there are a few

CSC members open to working with the District to make sure we are capturing what you want, then we can come back to the next meeting and have something more meaningful.

Comment: I think the design is least important. We should get everything else in order first.

Comment: I think both parts are connected. It is important to know how much progress we have made and what things we need to prioritize moving forward, from the residents' perspective. That is more important than formatting, but it is connected.

ILG Response: I think what we've heard is that the design will be refined between now and the next meeting and that prioritization and strategy will be discussed at the next meeting. The question is how to integrate this visualization conversation.

Comment: There is strength in simplicity, but I believe there needs to be reasonable understanding of outcomes and progress. One of the outcomes we hope to achieve is reduction of wood burning in our impacted area. How would it look for us to be successful with our wood burning piece? We have to determine what success looks like so that as we move these charts forward, we can evaluate progress. I am not sure we always know what's going on as a committee, necessarily.

ILG Response: Thanks. I'm hearing CSC members say that the snapshot and the full tracker should include the progress we are making at key milestones.

Comment: I wanted to flag one of your comments centered on how we segment the document in terms of ensuring the District provides enough information for everyone related to the CERP goals. Different stakeholders have had different priorities. I think it would be a value add if the CSC had a summary detailing where the District is related to each of the different CERP goals. That would help us in our decision-making process as we approach January.

ILG Response: Thank you. We have reached consensus via verbal comments and chat comments that we need to discuss this at the next meeting.

Wrap Up/Next Steps:

Erica Manuel, Facilitator, ILG

Erica thanked everyone for attending and the CSC for the honest dialogue.

Question: Can we please add a budget update to next month's agenda?

ILG Response: Thank you. We can ask the District to add that to list of agenda items for next month.

Comment: I wanted to congratulate Commissioner Randolph who was just appointed to CARB. We are excited about the leaders the Governor is appointing to the Board.

District Response: Thank you! We agree. Dr. Pacheco-Warner will also be a representative from San Joaquin to the CARB Board as well.

Ryan wished the CSC happy holidays and thanked them for their flexibility, honesty and input, and for continuing to work with the District. The City of Fresno thanked the CSC for allowing them to join in the process and co-host the meeting.

Reminders:

Next regularly scheduled CSC meeting is Jan. 13 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.