

**Meeting Highlights\***  
**AB 617 Fresno Community Steering Committee Meeting #29**  
*January 13, 2021 | 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm*  
*Virtual Zoom Meeting*

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

- Volunteer to be a community co-host at a future meeting

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

- Schedule planning meeting to strategize approach for CSC annual planning; send Doodle poll with additional meeting dates
- Provide the CSC with a wood burning report for the days that exceeded 35 micrograms per cubic meter
- Call CSC members who have not been participating to expand participation
- Schedule a meeting for CSC members, City of Fresno staff and City Council to discuss the truck rerouting study

**Welcome and Introductions**

*Erica Manuel, Facilitator & CEO/Executive Director, Institute for Local Government (ILG)*  
*Ryan Hayashi, Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer, District*  
*Estela Ortega, City of Fresno, 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.

Ryan welcomed the CSC back to the first meeting of the year. Community co-host, Estela, thanked the CSC for being present and stated that her goal is to lower contaminants and help improve the health of the community. Estela has lived in Fresno for over 20 years and joined the CSC because of her son's asthma.

**Comment:** I am excited that Estela is taking a lead in this. It is so nice to have the residents working at this. I am appreciative of your leadership and willingness to learn.

**Options for 2021 Strategic Planning**

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

Erica introduced several options for a CSC annual planning process. Presentation highlights included:

- Three items need to be discussed as part of 2021 planning: Agenda items to discuss during 2021 CSC meetings, CERP measure prioritization and any other key activities

to accomplish this year along with metrics for success

- Two options for planning: discuss these topics at a future regularly scheduled CSC meeting or schedule an additional special CSC meeting

The CSC reached consensus that annual planning should be discussed at a separate meeting. The District agreed to send out a Doodle Poll with possible meeting dates.

### **Lawn & Garden Incentive Measures**

*Jeannine Tackett, Strategies and Incentives, District*

*Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer, District*

Jeannine updated the CSC on lawn & garden incentive measures. Jaime highlighted outreach efforts and options for community participation. Presentation highlights included:

- There are two program options: replacement of an existing mower or purchase of a new mower (with no replacement requirement)
- The application is available online in both English and Spanish
- The program is open and available to residents now
- The District wants to ensure that people in the community that have lawns learn about this program

**Comment:** What happens if a resident wants to apply and doesn't have access to the internet? I encourage the District to reach out to Lilia, because she has a wonderful Facebook network.

**District Response:** Any residents without internet can call our offices and we will walk them through the process via phone and input the information for them.

**Question:** Is there a list of approved dismantlers?

**District Response:** Yes, that is on our website and we will drop that link in the chat.

### **Residential Wood Burning Enforcement and Grant Update**

*Jason Lawler, Manager, District*

Jason updated the CSC on wood burning enforcement. Presentation highlights included:

- We are just over halfway through the wood burning season, which runs November-February
- Our commitment in the CERP is to do 4 hours of surveillance within the 617 community

- Since the beginning of November, we have done a total of 257 hours of surveillance and we have found 46 violations
- There are 418 registered wood burning devices within the City of Fresno

**Question:** Do you have any numbers on days of exceedance for the 35 micrograms per cubic meter?

**District Response:** We can definitely pull those numbers and have a summary at a future meeting.

**District Response:** Our Burn Cleaner program is open and exists for the purpose of providing funding to residents to replace existing fireplaces. Renters are eligible to participate as long as the property owner signs off. The application is available on our website or can be submitted via email.

**Question from Spanish-speaker:** Is the residential wood burning program only for chimneys or does it also include when people are outside using wood to warm themselves up or cook?

**District Response :** Our restrictions apply to the fireplace and outdoor wood burning. If someone is burning clean wood on a barbecue for cooking, that is ok.

**Comment:** The program needs to be more accessible. Special targeting has to be done to get residents in the 617 boundary to participate.

**Question/Comment:** Of the violations documented so far, how many of those within 617 boundary claimed that it was their only heat source? If you give a violation to someone who only has that heat source, are you also educating them at that moment and signing them up to make sure they are first in line for a registered device? With the incentive program, the end goal should still be phasing out wood burning, not just improvement to a better registered device.

**District Response:** We should have clarified that. In the 617 community, it is only for gas inserts. We will not pay for wood burning devices if people have the ability to put in a gas device.

**Comment:** I track RAAN for the sites that we have people working at my company. I noted today at 10:00 that multiple sites were all at four, which is pretty dirty. Those are higher numbers than I've seen for a while.

**District Response:** You are totally right, the District realizes it has been a really dirty week and it is the highest number we have seen in a while.

**Comment:** This program is amazing and seems to improve every year. For our communities, television and other media is not the best way to reach residents.

**Response from ILG:** Thanks for all the comments received so far. The District is taking notes on these suggestions for outreach and increasing participation.

**Question:** What is the outreach to the news media? What is the timeline for the 2021-22 fall campaign? What is the outreach to real estate agents?

**District Response:** We have a good relationship with the media. We generally begin planning the 2021-22 season around early summer. We are constantly looking to do more outreach to real estate agents. Before COVID, we went to their meetings regularly, but it has slowed down lately because of social distancing. Everything you mentioned is on our list and we are always looking to do more.

**Public Comment:** Natural gas isn't that much better. If everyone had gas stoves, wouldn't the neighborhood have NOX problems?

**Response from ILG:** That is a good technical question; I will ask the District staff answer that question in the chat.

### **CERP Tracker Review**

*Jessica Olsen, Program Manager, Air District*

Jessica presented the updated CERP tracker. Presentation highlights included:

- The District heard a lot about the CSC wanting to see a document that highlighted where progress is being made and what the implementation plan is from year to year
- We are trying to find a balance that acknowledges all input we received; some CSC members want more detail while others prefer a document with less detail
- This new version of the CERP tracker has fewer words and more metrics
- The District included a quick way to display what the CSC has done to date
- The new 2021-2024 column has been added to identify planned funding and the number of units targeted for the remaining years

**Comment:** There is no start or end date for major milestones included. This does not include a Gantt chart. Will there be a proper Gantt chart incorporated into this document as we go into annual planning? I am not happy with this document in its current form and I don't think it reflects my feedback.

### **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:

- Subcommittee has been hard at work. There has been lots of good discussion about what the CSC wants included in the RFP

- There have been discussions about contracting directly with a university or public health department for the health elements of the RFP
- The subcommittee has requested that the RFP and the agreement between the city and the District be brought to the larger CSC for review
- We hope to get the RFP approved by the CSC in March and have a consultant selected and moving forward by July

**Question:** Can you discuss the status of the \$250,000 funding allocation from the city?

**City of Fresno Response:** The Fresno City Council amended the proposed budget from October, which included a \$250,000 allocation for the study. At the end of the budget process, the city budget was overextended by \$4 million. When the final budget was adopted, the line item for the truck re-route study was removed. The city doesn't have any additional cash to contribute to the effort at this time, though that could change mid-year.

**City of Fresno Response:** This was a difficult decision between funding parks, salaries, etc. With all of the budget motions exceeding \$4 million, some of the items had to go and this happened to be one. We did accept the \$250,000 cash allotment from the District and are very grateful.

**Comment:** I am concerned that the CSC is fronting 50% of the funding. I am disappointed in the city. I would love to hear from some members of the City Council on this.

**Comment:** The communities, businesses, areas, and individuals who have influence get their projects and priorities into the budget. I will not accept a budget shortfall and want this CSC not to accept it either.

**Comment:** I want to refer to an email that the city was included on about the money that was supposed to be allocated to the truck reroute. In that email, the funds were confirmed and adopted by City Council. If there were amendments to the budget, the CSC should have been notified.

**City of Fresno Response:** I agree it is a confusing process. That budget motion did pass. The mayor's initial budget was balanced, but by the time the council was done passing budget motions, that number was \$4 million more than available funds. The final motion that council adopted did not have the additional funds from the city for the study.

**Comment:** The city is negligent in updating their truck routes. If there was an issue with the budget being over by \$4 million and the truck reroute study money was set aside, that was the city's opportunity to bring that to the CSC. We are going into an RFP process and need to know how much money we have.

**Summary Comments from ILG:** The CSC is incredibly concerned about the loss of city funding for the truck reroute study. To keep moving forward, the CSC would like a meeting scheduled with the city staff and City Council members at an upcoming truck reroute subcommittee meeting. As a reminder, the District has indicated that additional funds could

be made available through the CERP to fund the study at a higher level if additional city funds do not materialize.

### **Wrap Up/Next Steps**

*Erica Manuel, Facilitator, ILG*

Erica thanked everyone for attending and making the meeting productive. Community co-host, Estela, thanked everyone for being at the meeting and letting her express herself.

### **Reminders**

Next regularly scheduled CSC meeting is Feb. 10 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.*