

**Meeting Highlights\***  
**AB 617 Shafter Community Steering Committee Meeting #25**  
*November 9, 2020, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm*  
*Virtual Zoom Meeting*

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

- Provide input on possible sites for trees placed as part of urban greening efforts
- Email the District with any additional feedback on the annual report

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

- Share results of ammonia monitoring at next CSC meeting
- Distribute a survey for feedback about where trees will be most beneficial in Shafter

**Welcome and Introductions:**

*Hanna Stelmakhovych, Facilitator, Institute for Local Government (ILG)*

*Ryan Hayashi, Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer, the District*

*Angie Nelson, Community Co-host, Shafter Community Member*

Hanna welcomed the Shafter CSC participants and introduced herself and the ILG team. She gave an overview of Zoom instructions and Spanish translation services. Hanna welcomed special guests Sandy Berg (CARB Board Member) and Dr. Alex Sherriffs (Board Member with CARB and the District).

Erica Manuel with ILG gave an overview of the agenda and meeting timeline. Ryan thanked the CSC for participating in the meeting and thanked the special guests for attending. He noted that the District staff is looking forward to feedback on and discussion about the annual report. Community co-host, Angie Nelson, introduced herself and her role with Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK). She thanked the CSC for allowing her to co-host the meeting.

**Standing Updates**

**Air Monitoring Plan:**

*Jon Klassen, Director of Strategies and Incentives, the District*

Jon gave an update on community air monitoring. Presentation highlights:

- The District is continuing to work with Richland School District to get the equipment set up at Sequoia Elementary School and Golden Oak Elementary School
- Staff is working with Shafter Labor Camp to install new equipment there
- There are new sites coming online soon and more data coming in about the Shafter area
- Based on requests from the CSC, the District has been doing some ammonia monitoring in the past week; samples are being sent to a lab and staff will share those results with CSC when they are available
- The purple air unit at the Shafter DMV site was not operating at the last meeting; it was just replaced and is now operational again
- Whenever one of the air monitoring sites or pieces of equipment isn't operating, the District will let the CSC know and begin investigation and repair

**School Filtration & Bus Subcommittee:**

*Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer, the District*

Jaime presented an update on the School Filtration and Bus Subcommittee. Presentation highlights:

- The District will launch the application for the school filtration program in a couple of weeks
- Staff learned they do not need to upgrade all school filters to MERV 14, they just need to ensure that the new filters are better filters than the school had before
- The District is looking at the Richland School District about electric school buses; Richland has participated in the school bus program in the past and staff is hoping to build upon those actions
- The District is working to get all schools in the Shafter area enrolled in the schools program, which includes getting some additional idling signs to those schools

**Question:** With regard to the school filter replacement, is that per season, per classroom, or do some schools just have better HVAC systems? What is the determinant of that? For the folks that can't have those filters, is the last resort the portable air filtration systems? What is the reality of retrofitting an entire HVAC system?

**District Answer:** Assessment is performed on a school by school basis. Most schools are trying to put in the higher filter levels, but some of the older schools have very old HVAC systems and can't accommodate the newer filters. The schools have to have assessments performed by a third party contractor to do an entire retrofit; the District would then bring the proposal back to the CSC, since large retrofits would eat a big chunk of funding.

**Question:** Has staff done any outreach to the 0-5yo daycares that service the agricultural or lower-income community?

**District Answer:** We can definitely look into that if it is something the CSC wants. We are focused on K-12 to begin with. The CAPP guidelines specifically say K-12.

**Question from Spanish-speaker:** Can the CSC have a specific amount of money allocated to the schools?

**District Answer:** Yes, we have \$250,000 in incentive funding for schools in Shafter.

**Follow-up question:** Do you believe that is the right amount of funding, given that there are not a lot of schools in our district?

**District Answer:** We have ten schools in the district within the Shafter boundaries and we think that will be enough money for those ten schools. Things can change and if they do change, staff will return to the CSC and share that.

### **Pesticide Monitoring Update:**

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

Nan gave an update on pesticide monitoring. Presentation highlights:

- At the last scientific review panel meeting for AB 617, there was a presentation regarding the 1,3-D mitigation pilot
- DPR has entered into the fieldwork phase of the pilot, which means staff is working to identify fields and applicators with growers, commodity groups, and County Ag Commissioners to find those fields and approve them for study
- DPR has site criteria that has to be met in order to select a field and decide the location for monitoring

- DPR staff has identified a few fields already and is hoping to pick up one particular application soon
- DPR is hoping to do as many as five or six fields during the study
- The notification conversations have been picking up and there will be more details to discuss at the next CSC meeting

**Question:** Will CSC members know what areas are going to be in the pilot or is it after the fact that we will know?

**DPR Answer:** I can get back to you about that. Typically, it is purely a scientific study, so from a safety perspective DPR doesn't want folks to know and possibly visit the sites. I can get back to you on the specifics.

### **CARB Update:**

*Skott Wall, Office of Community Air Protection, California Air Resources Board (CARB)*

Skott provided a CARB agency update. Presentation highlights:

- The blueprint is the guidance document that lays out the criteria for an emissions reduction program
- A subcommittee of the consultation group is meeting Nov. 18 from 1-4pm and CARB is looking for public participation

### **Vegetative Barriers and Urban Greening:**

*Melissa Iger, Tree Foundation of Kern*

Melissa shared a presentation on the Tree Foundation of Kern. Presentation highlights:

- Tree Foundation of Kern has been planting trees to help mitigate air pollution since 1994
- There are numerous human benefits of trees
- SoCalGas has donated \$1,000 toward trees for Shafter

**Question from Spanish-speaker:** How many trees can we get? The streets and houses don't have any green coverage and sadly, Shafter doesn't help us upkeep vegetative barriers.

**Guest-Speaker Answer:** Bay laurel is a good tree for providing protection. Bushes and trees are the best vegetative barriers and you should have people go out every couple of weeks to hose them off.

**District Comment:** Maintenance for the trees and long-term irrigation needs to be looked into. The District is going to be starting the process of prioritizing this. It requires the District to submit a program plan to CARB. Staff will start working on that and partner with someone to do a survey of where these trees will be most beneficial.

### **Update on Incentive CERP Strategies and Outreach:**

*Brian Dodds, Program Manager, the District*

*Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer, the District*

Brian gave an update on CERP strategies and the tracker. Jaime gave an overview of outreach. Presentation highlights:

- The measure tracker is on the Shafter community webpage, in both English and Spanish
- All CERP measures are identified and updated regularly
- The District welcomes feedback and questions
- CSC has already provided feedback on outreach strategies; the first round of outreach efforts included communications related to burning trash and the District put up a highly visible billboard to educate residents
- The District heard from the CSC that direct mail pieces in Shafter might be appropriate; a piece was drafted in both English and Spanish connecting people to the free solar option the CSC heard about from GRID Alternatives
- District is exploring the viability of publishing print advertisements
- Staff have put together a full outreach plan to discuss many of the strategies

**Question:** Can anybody find out how many registered wood stove inserts or freestanding wood stoves are in Shafter? On the open ag burning, I feel that the District should make special effort within the seven mile radius to contact the farmers who are pushing trees over and see what their plans are—they will be asking permission to burn very shortly. Lastly, there are 20 miles of grapevines ready to be burned within the boundary. There are dozens of homes and this field should not be burned.

**District Answer:** You are right on track with your comments. In regard to the wood stove devices, for the entire valley portion of Kern County, the number is just over 1,500 and there are four in Shafter. Thank you for the input, we have made note of it.

### **Final Draft of Annual Report:**

*Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer, the District*

Ryan reviewed the annual report and the comments received. Presentation highlights:

- The report is 54 pages of detailed information summarizing the many discussions about the CERP measures developed by the CSC, the community air monitoring plan that was developed directly with the CSC, and the deployment of that equipment and implementation of those individual measures
- The District recalled the CSC request to see draft materials well in advance of the due date
- The District also recalled the CSC request to ensure timely translation of documents. For that reason, not only did the District post those documents online, but they also sent physical copies to Spanish-speaking CSC members
- The District did receive feedback on the documents and has been working to incorporate it
- Within a week or so, air monitoring data at the DMV site will be available in real time
- The annual report will go to the District board in November and CARB board in December

**Comment:** The progress that has been made is really good. Great job keeping up with everything.

**District Response:** Thank you.

**Comment:** I am drafting a letter to the residents in Shafter asking for their ideas about air quality. I am willing to walk and go door to door to give them that letter.

**District Response:** We love that idea and would love for you to help get the message out. Maybe we can package the letter with District materials so they also get the information on the solar program and all the things they can take advantage of.

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

*Hanna Stelmakhovych, Facilitator, ILG*

Hanna thanked everyone for participating in the meeting and thanked Angie for co-hosting. Ryan thanked the special guests for attending and offered them a chance to address the CSC.

**Reminders:**

The next CSC meeting is Dec. 14 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.