

Meeting Highlights*

AB 617 Shafter Community Steering Committee Meeting #27

January 11, 2021 | 5:00pm-7:00pm

Virtual Zoom Meeting

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

- Email District with suggestions for outreach ideas for lawn & garden incentives
- Volunteer if interested in co-hosting in the future

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

- Update CSC on school bus and air filtration activities at Shafter High School and Grimmway Academy
- Share City of Shafter's adopted bicycle plan with CSC

Welcome and Introductions

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

Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer, District

Martha Murrieta, 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, Spanish translation services, and provided an agenda overview.

Community co-host, Martha Murrieta, introduced herself and shared her experience and her wishes for improved air quality in the Shafter community. Jaime thanked the group for their continuous hard work.

Standing Updates

Community Air Monitoring Update:

Chay Thao, Program Manager, District

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

- The District is working with Richland School District to install a monitor at Golden Oak Elementary and have identified a location
- The monitor at Sequoia Elementary School will be near the air monitor from DPR
- The District is hoping to put a trailer at the Shafter farm labor camp

- It has been challenging to find a safe location in Mexican Colony, but there are individual sites the District may be able to monitor permanently
- The District is continuing to work on an interactive air monitoring map of the van stops and integrating the community air monitors into RAAN

Comment: Mexican Colony just bought a property that might be usable for your purposes. I can check on that.

District Response: That would be great!

Question: How long will the trailer be located at the labor camp?

District Response: We do not have a set time frame on it, but will happily explore options with the CSC.

School Filtration & Bus Subcommittee:

Crystal Yunker, Senior Air Quality Specialist, District

Crystal provided an update on the School Filtration and Bus Subcommittee. Presentation highlights included:

- The District has been involved in ongoing communications with Richland School District to follow up on their interest in deploying electric school buses in the community
- The school district has identified challenges with charging infrastructure needed to support those buses
- The District is working with its team to coordinate additional funding with other sources to support the installation of charging infrastructure
- The District is engaging the school district to understand the air filtration needs specific to each school site

Question: How many buses is Richland committing to? Are any other school districts interested?

District Response: We have heard feedback from other schools that it is something they are exploring. There are contracts in place at Richland, but we need to tackle the infrastructure challenges in order to move forward.

Question: There was a question about rolling this out to preschools in the area. Is there an update on that?

District Response: Right now, we are not sure there will be enough funding for the preschools that easily fall within the guidelines.

Question: At a previous meeting, central charging stations for the city were mentioned. Would the school be open to charging those buses at those locations or does the infrastructure have to be at the schools?

District Response: We have a strategy for some alternative fuel charging stations as a separate CERP strategy. Most of the time, schools put their charging infrastructure within their bus barn so they can keep it secure.

Pesticide Monitoring Update:

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

Nan gave an update on pesticide monitoring. Presentation highlights included:

- DPR is collecting data in Shafter on the 1,3-D mitigation pilot
- DPR has had conversations with Kern County about the local notification and statewide notification process
- DPR sent a letter to Kern County requesting the County submit regular reports of approved notices of intent (NOI) for intended pesticide applications; requesting these NOIs within 7 miles of Shafter so DPR can provide a notice to the community
- The local notification process will be a pilot for a new statewide notification process
- The Governor's proposed budget for FY 21-22 includes elements that support a new funding structure for DPR; the budget proposed to establish a collection of funds through a tiered assessment of pesticide products

Question: Will you be asking the residents or EJ advocates to recommend usage of the new funds or will it come strictly from DPR?

DPR Response: The budget proposal has to be approved by the legislature, so right now the only option is to make comments on the budget.

Question: The telone report is supposed to be available in March; will that be available for the March meeting or April meeting?

DPR Response: The data actually comes back from the lab in March. The report will come out between April-June.

CERP Measure Mapping Exercise w/ City of Shafter

Michael James, Public Works Director, City of Shafter

Michael led an interactive activity with the CSC. Michael pulled up a map of city projects in the pipeline and asked for CSC input on additional project recommendations within the City of Shafter and 7-mile radius beyond the city limits. All suggestions were [documented in social pinpoint](#).

Comment: I support every single one of the projects and they all benefit our community.

ILG Response: Thank you, this is the kind of feedback we are looking for from the CSC.

Comment: The city just purchased a piece of property in North Shafter between Fresno Ave. and Tulare Ave. If there was a bigger road there, it would protect kids walking to school and people wouldn't have to walk on Highway 43.

City of Shafter Response: The city conducted citizen engagement sessions specifically about the park by Sunny Lane on the opposite side of Highway 43(that's the property the city acquired and we are pursuing a state park grant for a community park to be developed). We got a lot of feedback about the need for walkways so people can ride their bikes and walk.

Comment/Question: Shafter Parks & Rec is going to be moving, meaning students will have to cross Lerdo Highway. I hope there is a way to get a bike path or safe walking area for them there. Additionally, when did the timeline to get CERP measures spent start and how much longer do we have to expend the funds? At what point can we re-allocate unspent funds?

District Response: The clock has begun. At this point the money that has been allocated to Shafter has an expenditure timeline of June 2022. I don't want that to stifle the creativity of the group and the opportunity to look for new projects, but we do need to keep moving forward.

Comment: There is an empty yard at the corner of Valley and Lerdo. Is there an opportunity for car charging in that location? It is a little more central.

City of Shafter Response: That property is privately owned and hasn't been built on yet.

Comment: Do you know of any sidewalks planned for Euclid toward James? There are curbs, but not sidewalks and on rainy days, it is muddy. There are also no curbs or gutters at the neighborhood toward Poplar and Riverside.

City of Shafter Response: We have a pavement reconstruction project further west, but I will pay closer attention to the area you mentioned. That's a great suggestion.

Question from Spanish-speaker: Can we invest in mercury lighting? Our city is poorly lit.

District Response: Unfortunately, I don't know that there is an air quality benefit to improved lighting.

Comment: I support the idea of building sidewalks and gutters. Kern County Public Works did an amazing presentation on a study of turning unpaved sidewalks into sidewalks; it increased activity and decreased PM 2.5.

Kern County Public Works Response: We initially had people on the CSC, but we have lost track of the meetings and want to reengage. There are quite a few miles of potential bike lanes out there.

City of Shafter Comment: The city does have an adopted bicycle plan and I will send it to the District to share with the CSC.

Comment: The current challenge with street sweeping is we need people more aware of the rules about leaving piles of leaves in the gutter.

City of Shafter Response: I appreciate you bringing that up.

Comment from Spanish-speaker: On my street, the sweeper passes twice a month and if it went by more frequently, there would be less dust on the streets.

Commercial and Residential Lawn and Garden Equipment

Jeannine Tackett, Strategies & Incentives, District

Jeannine gave an update on commercial and residential lawn and garden equipment. Presentation highlights included:

- The District took the [Clean Green Yard Machine \(CGYM\)](#) Program enhancements to the board and received approval to operate them
- Commercial program is near completion and should be able to launch with the enhancements soon. The program will offer enhanced incentives for school districts to clean up existing hand-held gas powered devices
- The District received enhanced funding to place all electric equipment in schools within community boundaries
- The District is targeting other commercial type landscape businesses operating in the community and providing outreach to those companies for even higher program participation rates
- The residential program just launched. It provides incentives to residents for replacing gas powered mowers to purchase new electric zero emission mowers
- The two options are: replacement of existing mower or new purchase with no replacement

Question: Does this also include residents in Mexican Colony?

District Response: Yes, this program covers everything within the 7-mile radius.

Question: For the option where you surrender a gas-powered mower, does it need to be a working mower?

District Response: Yes, it does need to be working.

Annual Enforcement Report

Jason Lawler, Manager, District

Jason updated the CSC on the annual enforcement report. Presentation highlights included:

- The report details all enforcement notices of violations issued, complaints responded to and inspections performed
- The report is posted on the Shafter CSC webpage in English and Spanish

Public Comment

No public comment.

Wrap Up/Next Steps

Hanna Stelmakhovych, Facilitator, ILG

Hanna thanked everyone for participating in the meeting and thanked Martha for co-hosting. Martha thanked the CSC and suggested they continue working together as a team.

Reminders

The next CSC meeting is Feb. 8 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.*