

**AB 617 Community Steering Committee - Meeting Number 2**  
**January 14, 2019, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.**  
**Shafter Veterans Hall**  
**Shafter, CA**

**1. Doors Open/Meet and Greet/Refreshments**

**2. Welcome**

Jimmy Yee provided a welcome to the steering committee and members of the public before introducing the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer, Dave Warner.

**3. Community Boundary Discussion**

*Dave Warner, Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer*

Dave Warner provided an overview of AB 617 and the ways it is changing how air districts and the San Joaquin Valley as a whole look at emissions. He mentioned that Shafter is one of the first two communities in the Valley to be going through this steering committee process. He then provided a brief overview of the night's agenda.

Warner then spoke about boundaries and mentioned that steering committees could expand the boundaries. Warner proposed sticking with the census tract boundary that had already been established and he indicated that two members of the committee represented the nearby unincorporated community of Mexican Colony, which provided representation outside Shafter city limits.

**Summary of Committee Discussion:**

Potential expansion of the boundaries to include Mexican Colony, Cherokee Strip and other unincorporated communities that are adjacent Shafter's city limits. Residents of these unincorporated communities consider themselves to be a part of the community of Shafter and should be included in the boundaries.

A committee member suggested expanding the boundaries to a seven mile radius from the City of Shafter with the understanding that no additional members would be added to the committee as a result of that change.

Warner clarified that the Charter already includes language that the committee is to look outside the boundaries to find sources of pollution that impact the community, so the purpose of expanding the boundaries would be to include additional members onto the committee.

Clarified that air quality monitoring locations do not need to within the community boundary if it is important to locate them outside the boundary to determine where emissions are coming from.

Warner went on to reiterate his preference for using the census block, with the understanding that the steering committee is able to evaluate local emissions sources that impact the community wherever those sources may be, including outside of the community boundary. He then asked if the steering committee was aware of any additional individuals who should be or had expressed interest in the committee besides those already serving on it. No names were suggested.

He then mentioned that the charter could be amended to include looking at emissions sources outside the boundary, within a seven-mile radius of the center of Shafter, for sources that impact the City of Shafter.

Further discussion clarified that the committee also wanted to examine impacts of such sources on people that live near them, even if those people are outside the boundary. The committee expressed no objections to Dave's suggestion that this also be added to the charter.

**Public Comment:**

A member of the public asked if the committee will just be looking at just the City of Shafter for emissions reductions or if it will be the jurisdiction of the whole seven-mile radius just discussed, and how will it know if has achieved its goals? Warner said that emissions reductions can be sought everywhere, and indicated it is too early in the process to know what metrics will be used for measuring success in achieving emissions reductions.

**4. Steering Committee Charter**

*Dave Warner, Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer*

Warner provided a presentation ([in English/en Español](#)) on the charter, including CARB's guidance to air districts on AB 617 implementation. Included in the meeting materials for committee members and for the general public's review was a draft charter as a starting point for discussion, which was handed out at the December meeting for review and feedback. Two comments were received on the charter between the December and January meetings, as indicated below:

- The Charter should state clearly that sources of emissions that exist outside the community's boundary, but may impact the community, will be examined for potential emissions reductions, just as if they were within the community boundaries. (It is noted in Warner's presentation that this is done, as it is allowed per CARB's Blueprint for air districts).
- The advisory role of committee members who are representatives of government agencies should be moved from Attachment A, "AB 617 Community Steering Committee Selection Criteria" to the Charter itself. (Warner notes in the presentation that this is done).

Warner provided an overview of the community steering committee's objectives, including its role in assisting the air district with developing an air monitoring plan and a Community Emission Reduction Program to be adopted by the District Governing Board. He then provided an overview of the committee roles and responsibilities and standard committee meeting procedures. This included approaches to additional community outreach, who has the regulatory authority to address challenges, how emissions reduction targets will be measured,

meeting procedures, and whether the steering committee should vote or strive to achieve consensus.

Discussion occurred among the committee members about whether government officials should be able to participate in the committee. Warner mentioned said that it is critical that they take part in the committee, but that any government employee in a position of power will not be taking part in final decision making.

There may be other committee members who do work as government employees, but who applied to serve on the committee as residents of the City of Shafter and not in a formal capacity representing their employer, the City of Shafter.

After discussion, the charter was accepted by consensus, as modified per the boundary discussion.

## **5. Community Emission Sources**

*Brian Clements, Manager of Technical Services, Air District*

Clements provided an overview of community emissions sources for the community boundary section only. This included stationary sources of emissions, which are regulated by the district; mobile sources, which are regulated by the state and federal governments; and area sources, which have a limited/shared regulatory responsibility. Among these, residential fuel combustion, food/ag processing, service and commercial, manufacturing/industrial and other fuel combustion were among the top sources near Shafter. The question was asked whether residential fuel combustion included ag burning, and Clements indicated it did not.

Clements went on to state that farming was the top contributor of Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM 2.5), with commercial charbroiling being the second. He then provided an overview of mobile source emissions in Shafter, with on-road heavy duty vehicles being the largest source of emissions for the local area. Discussion occurred about air monitoring and what the air district hopes to achieve with the air monitoring plan.

### **Committee then identified local pollution sources of concern in a mapping exercise:**

Pollution sources that were suggested multiple times are indicated by \*.

- Dairy emissions (west and southwest)\*\*\*\*\*
- Water treatment plant (west)
- Landfill emissions, recycling (west)\*\*\*\*
- Expand the southern boundaries to include Mexican Colony
- GAF Roofing plant on highway 99\*\*
- JP Oil Co. natural gas plant, Plains LPG (south)\*\*
- Pesticide application/crop dusting\*\*
- High-speed rail construction

- Highway 99
- Feed lot on E. Lerdo Hwy
- Oil production\*\*\*
- Fertilizer plant off 43 towards 58\*\*
- Amtrak train, Santa Fe line, on 43 and Lerdo
- Garlic factory
- Tractor machinery shop (east)
- Industry near airport
- Dust from harvesting\*\*
- Exhaust from machinery
- Burning by farmers, residents
- Plant pollution behind the Colony
- BBQ place on Lerdo
- BBQ chicken stands, La Hacienda and La Fiesta

## 6. Topics for Next Meeting

*Jimmy Yee, Facilitator*

Jimmy provided an overview of potential agenda items for upcoming steering committee meetings, which included the following:

- AB 617 calendaring and deadlines
- Air monitoring plan requirements
- Air monitoring needs

Yee asked if there are other items committee members wanted to add to the list of agenda items for upcoming meeting. Before opening it up to the committee, Warner provided the clarification that the AB 617 calendaring agenda item is a calendar of what the air district hopes to cover agenda items over the series of meetings to receive committee feedback on upcoming agendas.

A committee member asked for clarification on air monitoring, and Dave provided additional information about what that agenda item would cover. A steering committee member mentioned the seasonality of emissions sources and expressed specific concerns about season-specific air quality issues in areas like Mexican Colony and Cherokee Strip. Warner reiterated that this is a multi-year commitment. Another committee member asked why dairies were not included in this discussion. Warner mentioned that Brian Clements' presentation included sources within the community boundaries only, so dairies were not included because there aren't any within the boundaries.

As the committee looks at sources outside the boundaries, dairies will come up. A committee member asked why the air district did not start monitoring PM 2.5 in November 2018, and Dave Warner indicated he would follow up internally to see what could be done to commence monitoring in the area.

## **7. Public Comment**

*Jimmy Yee, Facilitator*

There was an inquiry about pesticide use near schools and sensitive receptor sites, particularly pesticides that are known to be neurotoxins. Warner mentioned that the air district, which has reached out to the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) in the past, does not have jurisdiction over pesticide regulation, although they are able to monitor some pesticides as a stationary emissions source. DPR has been invited to speak to the committee at a future date. Someone asked if it has come up between CARB and DPR in the past that the air district should regulate pesticides, or if there is the opportunity for the committee to recommend monitoring for pesticides in locations. Warner replied that is a possibility.

Someone asked whether the Ag Commissioner would come out and do tests to find out who is responsible for emissions. Warner mentioned that is the purpose of the committee is to identify sources of pollution and identify emissions reduction strategies. He went on to say that, in the case of an emergency, it would likely be emergency responders identifying the source of emissions and communicating with the public and not the committee. Where it is not an emergency situation, it would be within the purview of the committee.

A member of the public asked what would happen if the emissions monitoring that comes from AB 617 reveals large amounts of pesticides, which are outside the regulatory jurisdiction of the air district. Warner responded that, although the air district is not able to regulate high levels of pesticides, they could talk to DPR and share the data point with the state to let them know about the situation as part of this process to work with them.

A member of the public asked if it has come up between the air district and DPR during AB 617 discussions that the air district should regulate pesticides, or if there is the opportunity for the committee to recommend monitoring for pesticides in locations in and around Shafter. Warner replied that conversations between the air district and DPR occurred during the early nineties.

Someone asked if pesticides could be monitored in sensitive areas as part of this committee even though regulatory jurisdiction is outside of the air district's authority. Warner verified that is a possibility.

Yee asked if there were any further comments and concluded the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

*Refer to meeting audio and video to review the full details and comments from the meeting.*