

Meeting Highlights*

AB 617 Shafter Community Steering Committee Meeting #28

February 8, 2021 | 5:00pm-7:00pm

Virtual Zoom Meeting

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

- Send location suggestions to CARB for 2021 air monitoring
- Send CARB recommendations for new enforcements to accomplish in 2021

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

- Share VOC sample data from Jan. 27-29 with CSC
- Confirm air filtration capacity and needs of K-12 schools in Shafter
- Develop and share a one-page report on enforcement activities for second half of 2020
- Share a report of resident CSC attendance for 2020

Welcome and Introductions

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

Ryan Hayashi, Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer, District

Anabel Marquez, Community Co-host, Shafter Community Resident

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, Anabel Marquez, introduced herself and shared her experience and reason for participating in the CSC. She explained her goal is to help stop pesticide contamination and improve public health. Anabel said she plans to keep fighting for her community and the world and hopes to find more programs like AB 617.

Standing Updates

Community Air Monitoring Update:

Chay Thao, Program Manager, District

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

- The District is putting monitors at Golden Oak and Sequoia Elementary; fencing and electrical will be installed shortly
- The air monitoring trailer was placed at Shafter Labor Camp

Question: I was recently looking at air monitoring data and saw an alarming spike during Jan. 26-29 in Shafter. Is there any insight about this spike? Did the District communicate with the local agricultural community to see what might be the explanation of this spike?

District Response: We noted that this was due to high winds. We issued a health caution advisory.

Question: In the weekly updates, there was a VOC sample taken on Jan. 27-29. Is that data available?

District Response: Not yet but we will share it when it is.

School Filtration & Bus Subcommittee:

Brian Dodds, Program Manager, District

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

- The District had a productive meeting with Richland School District on air filtration and buses; there may be opportunities to increase air filtration on some school sites
- The equipment is already operating with highest level filter the system will allow at other school sites
- Biggest hurdle on school bus side is EV infrastructure; the District is having ongoing discussions and working with PG&E to address electrical needs at preferred charging locations
- The District has offered full support to overcome infrastructure hurdle where possible
- The school district has contracted for four buses but can't proceed until charging infrastructure is addressed

Question: With regard to the air filtration systems, there is an outstanding action item of a list of schools that were up to date with the air filtration systems and the capacity to install these devices. What is the status of head start programs and early education centers?

District Response: The guidelines are currently for K-12 schools. We talked about going to daycare centers or early education centers after exhausting all the opportunities within K-12. I can follow up with some of the school districts and see where they are with identifying what is available for their particular schools.

Pesticide Monitoring Update:

Val Dolcini, Director, Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR)

Nan Singhasemanon, Assistant Director, DP

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

- DPR is committed to developing a pilot notification system that makes sense for Shafter
- The telone mitigation pilot project has its first pilot just north of Shafter
- DPR finished monitoring in December and is analyzing the samples; reports will be available shortly after that

- Three more applications are in progress; Tulare County and two near Stanislaus County

Question: Thank you for continuing the commitment to Shafter. Regarding the telone, are you also testing the 12 recommended practices that reduce telone emissions?

DPR Response: We are trying to get through as many of those as we can, but want to have a comprehensive understanding of those measures. The idea is to get the feasibility for the growers and applicators too. They will have different reception to the methods.

Question: Is it helpful to go in the field and see first-hand what these pilot programs are?

DPR Response: We would be happy to do that.

Question from Spanish-speaker: We have an amendment for SB 1000 for building houses. How does AB 617 communicate this information with the residents of Shafter?

City of Shafter Response: We just released our draft environmental justice element to the public for review and comment. There will be a public workshop on the document on Feb. 18 and initials comments are due Feb. 22. The community can be involved in the whole process. The city council will consider the document on either April 6 or 20.

District Response: Our District staff can chat at a future meeting on this topic. They are in contact with the City of Shafter and will comment on these types of city documents to ensure they line up with AB 617 measures Shafter has included in their CERP.

Question: What were the two strategies incorporated in the Shafter pilot that just wrapped up?

DPR Response: High soil moisture and deep ripping.

CARB Update:

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

Skott updated the CSC on developments at CARB. Presentation highlights included:

- CARB has a public workshop on March 4 at both 1pm and 5pm on advanced clean fleets regulation, including an opportunity for feedback
- The Office of Community Air Protection (OCAP) has a new director, Deldi Reyes

Update on Enforcement Activities

Valarie Ballard, Manager, Southern Region, District

Justin Shields, Community Outreach & Enforcement, CARB

Valarie and Justin updated the CSC on enforcement activities throughout the second half of the 2020 calendar year. Presentation highlights included:

- Enhanced enforcement in wood burning curtailment, illegal open burns, diesel idling, stationary source inspections
- Gas stations self-inspection training is on hold until COVID lockdown regulations are eased

- The District conducted four hours of enhanced enforcement for wood burning devices, which resulted in seven violations
- The District conducted 40 hours of enhanced enforcement surveillance of open burning and responded to five public complaints, which resulted in six violations
- One violation was issued for diesel idling
- The District conducted enhanced inspection frequency of stationary sources; 26 violations issued (nine were emissions-related)
- CARB staff were in Shafter for 2 days in 4th quarter of 2020; they performed 136 program inspections on 40 heavy-duty diesel vehicles and issued two citations

Question: Is there anywhere we can see this enforcement report?

District Response: This is based on raw data. We can put a resource together for the CSC.

Present New Shafter Tracker

Jessica Olsen, Program Manager, District

Jessica presented the updated Shafter CERP progress tracker. Presentation highlights included:

- Posted to the Shafter AB 617 community webpage and updated before every meeting
- The new tracker is shorter and more digestible
- Includes status of CARB CAP guideline development where applicable
- Provides a status report on incentive programs
- Displays reductions the CSC wants to target with all measures

Question: One of the items in the CERP is urban greening. There was \$50,000 from the District and there was supposed to be a match. Will donating \$50,000 worth of trees from a tree foundation count as a match?

District Response: Yes. We are in the process of submitting our project plan to CARB for approval of this measure.

Question: On the CAP guidelines column, what does N/A mean?

District: It means it is either not an incentive measure or it is an incentive that is already included or approved without submitting separate guidelines.

Question: The World Ag Expo starts tomorrow. Will there be information presented about the low dust harvester issue for the local farmers?

District Response: The World Ag Expo is a little too big an audience for this grant program, but we are getting information to local farmers.

Comment: I am getting a lot of farmers asking about the low dust harvesting, so whatever the District is doing, it's working.

Response from ILG: Thank you for sharing.

New CSC Members

Heather Heinks, Outreach & Communications Manager, District

Heather explained to the CSC that there are several applications from potential new members. Presentation highlights included:

- Most Shafter CSC members have been members since inception
- There are currently 28 members listed on roster; 18 are residents, the rest represent EJ or government sector
- Of the 18 residents, there are about four people who have not joined the CSC meetings in over a year
- Two interested resident applicants are in the queue

Question: Who is not showing up and who wants to join the CSC?

District Response: The people we haven't seen in about a year are: David Puiser, Maria Jaime, and Philip Jimenez, and we are thrilled that one is here tonight, but usually has work conflicts. The new applicants are Minerva Hernandez and Maribel Valle.

Question: For those of us who have been here the whole time, will the new folks have the exact same voting as the old CSC members?

District: Yes, that is the plan. It would be the District's responsibility to get the new members up to speed on all the work that has been done so they can make informed decisions.

Question: If more people are interested, how long can they join for?

District Response: It is not an open enrollment, it is about addressing the fact that we have new interest from residents. As a CSC, you can evaluate on an annual basis.

Comment from Spanish-speaker: Thank you for keeping us in mind. These applicants have been with us anonymously for the last year and are aware of what is going on in the community.

District Response: Thank you for that feedback.

Comment: I don't have a problem with adding people who want to join, but I would like a report that gives the attendance of all residents and I would like the CSC to address that participation. I think it's important for people who do want to be on the CSC to tell us why they want to be on the committee.

ILG Response: Thank you for that.

Public Comment

Question: Regarding the low dust harvesting, is there a social media campaign or do we need to create that ourselves?

District Response: Yes, we have budgeted for a social media campaign.

Follow up question: Regarding the criteria for the CSC members, what is the definition of resident?

District Response: A resident is someone that lives within the boundary of the AB 617 community.

Wrap Up/Next Steps

Hanna Stelmakhovych, Facilitator, ILG

Hanna thanked everyone for participating in the meeting and thanked Anabel for co-hosting. Anabel thanked the CSC for the opportunity and thanked the District for sharing information about what is going on in Shafter. She said she looks forward to seeing the CSC next month and is sending a virtual hug.

Question: Is the application for the dust harvesters just for the boundaries of AB 617 or all of Kern County?

District Response: The program is Valley-wide. There is specific funding for the Shafter AB 617 community, which includes the boundary area.

Reminders

The next CSC meeting is March 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.*