

## Meeting Highlights\*

### AB 617 Shafter Community Steering Committee Meeting #18

March 9, 2020, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
Shafter Veterans Hall  
309 California Ave, Shafter, CA 93263

#### Doors Open/Meet and Greet/Refreshments 5PM

#### Welcome and Introductions

*Christal Love-Lazard, Facilitator, Institute for Local Government (ILG)*

*Valley Air District staff*

*California Air Resources Board (CARB) staff*

*Gustavo Aguirre, CSC Member*

*John Guinn, CSC Member*

California Air Resources Board (CARB) approved the Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) on February 13, 2020.

Members of the Community Steering Committee (CSC) shared reactions to the February 13 meeting in Shafter, reporting the CARB Board was receptive and thankful to the community and that most of the agricultural, oil, and environmental justice communities were supportive of the Community Emission Reduction Program (CERP). The CSC toured the city with the CARB Board, showing the community and state has been able to work together to find common ground and what it means to work collaboratively. Take away included but were not limited to:

- Air District commitment to change the food at each CSC meeting
- CARB reaffirming the commitment to \$29 million centered in Shafter
- Recognition that if one program in the CERP is under or over-subscribed that the CSC wants to have flexibility to move money around.

The Valley Air District and CARB thanked the CSC for the tremendous amount of work that went into developing the CERP and that the CARB Board tour and evening meeting was the culmination of over a year of very hard work from the entire committee working collaboratively with the District. CARB staff are currently updating the resolution based on the directive from CARB's Board, including:

- Incorporating a funding replacement of natural gas with electric heat pumps
- Flexibility in years of replacement for vehicle replacement program
- Providing resources so trees in the urban greening strategy will be maintained

The CARB Board will come back in six months for a first report back in Fresno. Steering committee's report will be included in the report back. The CARB legal team is reviewing resolution before finalized and posted.

#### CSC and Public Questions:

- It was their understanding that CARB's Board mentioned there was not enough money placed in the Urban Greening category, where will money come from? Direction was to ensure this was captured in the resolution. The District will help to identify where that would come from. CSC suggested additional money could go to urban greening from high speed rail. A Kern COG representative shared that Arvin

has been successful in getting CAL FIRE grants, and there will be urban forestry funding from CAL FIRE in the future. Kern COG will keep an eye out for future grants.

- What is the status of stipend for steering committee? CARB is working on it at a higher level and more guidance to come.
- If we do get additional funding for urban greening, will it be added to the CERP or added to something else? District to follow up on this question.
- Given new law from state regarding sustainable groundwater management to ensure basin doesn't get over drafted, where will water come from to maintain the greenery? District will bring in state agencies and others around urban greening to better understand how to identify additional funding.

### **Incentives Strategy Implementation Update**

*Todd De Young, Director of Grants and Incentives, Valley Air District*

The District presented on next steps given the approval of the CERP. Overview: committee went through variety of measures to prioritize incentive related measures. Ranked order in which would like to see these prioritized. Community Air Protection Guidelines, available on CARB's website, include a variety of traditional incentive program options such as truck, tractor, OHV equipment, which will allow replacement with cleaner diesel, natural gas, electric and are items that can move forward immediately since they are part of the existing guidelines. The remainder will need to get taken through a process with CARB executive board to create guidelines and approve use of funds.

CARB is currently developing guidance for approval of CERP measures not currently in Community Air Protection guidelines, this new guidance will be incorporated over the next several months. The District will need to show how it will calculate emissions reductions, benefits, etc. to provide a framework for how the money will be spent. Funding through AB 856 2019 State budget. District has money in house to immediately start implementing certain projects in the CERP. Spending deadlines require funding to be liquidated by June 2022.

#### **Questions:**

- What are the guidelines of the bill? Is it a requirement to use the funds within the Community Air Protection program? The requirements are specified in the bill language- generally speaking, they have to be used in these programs.
- If the money is not used will we have to return it? Any money not liquidated will have to go back to the state. Will be critical to shift money from oversubscribed to undersubscribed to ensure needed emission reductions occur and to avoid the possibility funds would have to be returned to the state and can get money from future budget allocations
- Is \$59 million for all of Shafter or the larger San Joaquin Valley? There are certain restrictions to spend the funding in low income or disadvantaged communities. The District committed to funding the measures in both the South Central Fresno and Shafter CERPs.
- Explain what the CARB grant program guidelines are. CARB is requiring guidelines for the newly developed CERP measures not covered by existing guidelines, which includes emission factors, tier level of the engine replacement, everything used to calculate the reductions, project length, anything related to the project are included in the guidelines.
- If most of items are not in guidelines, how long will it take and is there a public process? The District has already started on draft framework language to get programs adopted by CARB. The District is working closely with CARB to get chapter 6 guidelines (guidelines for new CERP

measures) finalize. Once finalized, the District can submit proposed guidelines and once approved by CARB, the District can start funding the measures.

The District shared they have secured four school bus replacements with electric school buses, working on charging infrastructure, and are in discussions to replace an additional 10. Identified many Agricultural Tractor replacements and moved them to front of the line to be funded with AB 617 funding. Targeting heavy-duty trucks to be replaced with zero and near zero equipment. The District just closed clean fuel infrastructure Request for Proposals (RFP) and identified several potential projects such as natural gas and heavy duty EV charging. The District wants to hear how to effectively market programs to the community such as Tune In Tune Up.

#### **Questions:**

- Does this apply to the Richland school district only? Kern school district, and one other, potentially Rio Bravo.
- Will natural gas fueling station offer bio gas only? There is not a requirement for bio gas but can check.
- \$59 million set aside, specifically for 617? That money could go out the door in conditions in Carl Moyer, etc? One way to honor the work being done, on measures in progress, propose ribbon cutting events for tractors and school buses. Yes, agree.
- What will Ag pump replacements pay for? Diesel and natural gas pumps converted to electric as same incentive. It will also pay for some measure of line extension.
- When was the solicitation process? The RFP closed a month ago, open RFP district-wide
- For special solicitation for things in CERP, request to notify committee members that this is happening. Yes.
- Can the CSC provide direct mail address since some people do not have email addresses so community members can mail suggestions of how to market? Yes.
- Tune In Tune Up- I couldn't meet requirements because my car didn't fail smog, however, I'm still interested in trading it in. What options are there? The District has been looking at that exact issue, piloting that model year vehicles do not have to fail smog.
- Can the District specify requirements of eligible addresses for the Tune In Tune Up program? Will be more specific.
- As complete measures, how is District going to be able to validate and verify if it will benefit the community? As offering Tune Ups, how can validate that replacement vehicles will stay here so Shafter benefits from it? Majority of programs have reporting processes, have contractual obligations, balancing act to make it not too onerous to encourage participation, is expectation that vehicle remains in the district. Don't know if want to restrict people if they have to move. Want benefit to remain in Shafter, in Kern County, don't know where could limit where to drive vehicle. Research we've done shows vehicle will stay in city.

#### **2020 Meeting Topics Discussion**

*Christal Love-Lazard, Facilitator, Institute for Local Government (ILG)*

The group discussed a proposed schedule for the year and articulated how partner agencies can participate in solutions.

#### **Questions:**

- July has a lot of items before the reporting in Sept. Is it possible to divide the items so the CSC will not be rushed? Yes, options: can add one of them into May, or could have a June meeting. Don't think have to have everything done by Sept. as the goal is to demonstrate significant progress by 6 months.
- Do we have flexibility to add meetings? Up to the group.
- Where are air monitors? The District held a monitoring presentation previously, may not see them in the community and may not be apparent because don't want them vandalized. Van has one, DMV has one, one at Sequoia Middle School, and van traveling on a weekly basis. Two trailers move around, mobile sites also get set up.
- Monitoring discussed in January, were a lot of unknowns, first thing was monitoring at the Golden Oak playgrounds less than 10 ft. from diesel trucks, and is one of the most critical locations in the community. Need thorough updating on monitoring at every meeting, should be able to see these even if preliminary. Want to see these early and frequently.
- Requesting an update on every meeting on where we are with the new guidelines that are being put together and if possible copies of them.
- Is it possible to hold an April meeting to understand monitoring at the schools? And to discuss Urban Greening and vegetation barriers?

#### **Agreement from the group**

- City is on Oct agenda- what is role? Land use issues in the CERP coordination of the county and the city.
- Don't see conversations about stipends on the schedule, would like to see a proposal for residents. For the 6 month report draft would like to see how the Steering Committee participates. From day 1 to day 90 would like to see the emissions reduced.
- Based on feedback, Air District suggests adding an April and June meeting and split up July topics into those meetings. Use July as a review of the report. A Component of monitoring will be discussed at the next meeting. Have done monitoring around the Golden Oak playground. Will have outward facing portal shared soon. Next meeting: monitoring update, grants guidelines update, CARB update on stipend and public facing website that displays monitoring data

Feedback on what and who is missing from agenda topics: electric car incentives, Miocar update (Kern COG can provide this update), EV chargers, Ag Commissioner from Kern County, Shafter Wasco Water District.

#### **Community Steering Committee Member Participation**

*Christal Love-Lazard, Facilitator, Institute for Local Government (ILG)*

The CSC welcomed new resident member of the committee, Michelle McManus. Actively soliciting additional residents to be on the committee. If there are residents that want to participate and are willing to learn about the CERP and the process, please share contacts.

#### **Wrap up**

*Christal Love-Lazard, Facilitator, Institute for Local Government (ILG)*

Looking to schedule April meeting.

Next Meeting on calendar May 11, 2020 5:30 pm