

Meeting Highlights*

AB 617 Shafter Community Steering Committee Meeting #24

October 12, 2020, 5:00pm-7:00pm

Virtual Zoom Meeting

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

- Brainstorm topics to be discussed at potential future Air Monitoring Subcommittee meetings
- Suggest additional locations for the District to conduct their curtailment enforcement efforts
- Contact the District to receive a printed copy of the draft Annual Progress Report
- Provide feedback on the draft Annual Report by Oct. 23
- Contact the District with suggestions for additions to future CSC meeting agendas
- Give CARB suggestions for placement of “no-idling” signs
- Provide suggestions to CARB about where staff should be looking for heavy duty diesel trucks in the community, when they return to Shafter in Q4

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

- The District will provide more details about data from the air monitoring van at a future CSC meeting

Welcome and Introductions

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

Ryan Hayashi, Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer, Valley Air 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 and Spanish translation services then reviewed the agenda. Ryan thanked everybody for attending and noted District is looking forward to feedback and discussion on the Annual Report. Community co-host, Martha Murrieta, introduced herself and explained she is looking forward to keeping the community clean and healthy.

Standing Updates: Air Monitoring Update

Chay Thao, Program Manager, Valley Air District

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

- The District is continuing to monitor at Sequoia Elementary and Golden Oak Elementary
- The District is almost finished reviewing the lease agreement with Shafter Labor Camp
- Staff has started afternoon and evening PM monitoring in the community with the van to balance with morning monitoring
- The District used the van to respond to community inquiries and concerns, including one within the almond harvest area near Mexican Colony; data is on the website
- The Air Monitoring Subcommittee met on Sep. 22; the District compiled a list of questions from CSC members and assembled information to help answer questions related to air monitoring data

Question: The Shafter purple air monitor has been off for more than three weeks. Purple air monitoring is important because it updates every minute and a half and gives you the last ten

minutes average, which is very useful for rapid changes in smoke or dust. Can the PM 10 data accommodate hourly updates?

District Response: We are working on identifying the issue with that particular Purple air monitor. District staff has gone to the site and performed some maintenance on the monitor and will try to get it back online or replaced. The PM10 unit is designed to automatically upload to CARB's network, so we are looking for a way for the PM10 data to be integrated with District's system and to upload automatically

Standing Updates: School Filtration Subcommittee Update

Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer, Valley Air District

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

- The District has been trying to put a grant application together for six public schools in the Shafter community for air filtration. Staff is gathering information about what they already have, what filters might work, and where there might be significant work that needs to be done in the schools
- Staff is trying to get MERV 13 filters into schools before kids head back to in-person instruction; the District has been talking to a company that has worked on this type of program in other parts of the state
- Staff hopes to have a draft grant application to share with the CSC at the next meeting
- The District has electric school buses that have been approved and are coming into the area through the Richmond School District

Standing Updates: Pesticide Monitoring Update

Minh Pham, Pesticides Programs Division, Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR)

Minh Pham, DPR Supervisor, gave an update on pesticide monitoring. Presentation highlights included:

- The DPR Assistant Director, Nan Singhasemanon, recently presented at the scientific review panel regarding the 1,3-D mitigation pilot and plans moving forward
- DPR has been working closely with growers and applicators in different regions to identify areas to do the pilot program
- The pesticide air monitoring database was just updated with Shafter results at the end of September
- Ambient air monitoring data is coming in faster now and will be updated at the end of this month

Question: There were high readings for 1, 3-D last January in Shafter. Is there any explanation for what went wrong?

DPR Response: DPR did see a higher than normal application spike during the January month, however, that was within the realm of 20 PPB, whereas the acute threshold is in the 110 PPB, so it is well below the actual indicated threshold. DPR is still looking into it because it is a little bit lower than we would like it to be. Staff has looked at a lot of PUR usage reports and we did not see anything unusual.

Standing Updates: CARB Update

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

Skott provided a CARB agency update. Presentation highlights included:

- The Community Air Protection Blueprint, the guidance document that sets out all things related to AB 617, is going through a lengthy process of being reviewed for updates
- There is a subcommittee that brainstormed topics that should be reviewed for updates based upon first year learnings
- The subcommittee will meet on Oct. 15 at 1:00pm on Zoom to delve deeper into the categories of specific updates that need to be made on the Blueprint moving forward

Standing Updates: Enforcement Update

Jason Lawler, Air Quality Compliance Manager, Valley Air District

Justin Shields, Community Outreach & Enforcement, CARB

Jason gave a District enforcement update. Presentation highlights included:

- The District is responsible for five enforcement measures in the CERP: wood burning curtailment, illegal burning of residential waste, statewide anti-idling regulation, inspection frequency of stationary sources, and the pilot program for conducting self-inspections at gasoline stations
- Wood burning curtailment – this measure only happens in the winter, the information provided was for last year’s woodburning season (curtailment season is Nov. 1 through the end of February) District has committed that on each day that a curtailment is declared in Kern County, we will do four hours of enforcement within the Shafter community and was requesting additional feedback on locations, days, and times to focus enforcement from the CSC
- Illegal burning rules – this measure limits the potential for localized PM 2.5 and residential waste; District has completed targeted enforcement efforts of this measure for each of the first three quarters of 2020
- Statewide anti-idling regulation – District works in partnership with CARB to enforce this. The measure reduces localized PM 2.5 and toxic air quality impacts from heavy-duty diesel trucks was requesting additional feedback on locations, days, and times to focus enforcement from the CSC
- Stationary sources – when we adopted the CERP, District agreed to increase the frequency of inspections at permitted facilities within the Shafter community that have had emissions violations within the last 3 years to limit the localized toxic impacts
- Pilot training for self-inspections at gas stations – this is currently on hold, but is intended to provide hands-on training to gas station operators to limit the potential of air quality impacts from vapor recovery defects at gas stations
- In the first half of 2020, there were 12 complaints, which resulted in five enforcement actions

Justin provided a CARB enforcement update. Presentation highlights:

- CARB has “no-idling” signs available; they were designed with Caltrans to post on public roads to deter idling by heavy duty trucks
- CARB would like to know where these signs will have the most impact and can provide them to the community free of charge

- CARB has enhanced idling sweeps to also look at heavy duty diesel trucks to determine compliance, not only with CARB's idling regulation, but also with its truck and bus regulation and the transportation refrigeration unit regulations
- CARB performs desk audits to see if units are compliant
- CARB will update strategies based on feedback from the community
- CARB will be back in Shafter at the end of the year; please suggest where staff should be looking for trucks in the community

Question: Are there no-idling signs available for school zones?

Answer: The CARB no-idling signs can be posted on any public road. We also have no-idling signs specifically for school sites. District also has no-idling signs that they distribute to schools.

Discussion of Annual Progress Report

Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer, Valley Air District

Jaime reviewed the latest draft of District's Annual Progress Report to CARB. Presentation highlights include:

- District needs feedback from the CSC by Oct. 23
- Staff will present the report to the District governing board at the November meeting, then it will be forwarded to CARB for their December board meeting
- In addition to the Annual Report, there are two additional attachments from CARB that have been sent to the CSC; please review all three documents
- Staff received a number of comments at the last meeting and have noted those and they will be incorporated into the next draft
- The report narrative includes: AB 617 background information, Shafter community overview, boundary, community engagement, and the transition to virtual meetings
- Technical elements include: community emissions inventory development, community air monitoring, stationary monitors and monitoring van, pesticide monitoring, weekly monitoring update, compliance and enforcement
- The report features a table of CERP enforcement measures and their status; also lists specific strategies in the CERP

Question: In the last CSC meeting, you mentioned that the report is still in draft form. Have you made any changes yet?

District Response: It is still a rough draft. At the time of the last CSC meeting we had just completed the initial draft so none of the CSC had seen it. The District has made changes based on feedback received and will continue to make additional edits to the report based on feedback received by Oct. 23 and will allow ample time for the CSC to comment on it.

Comment: I want to clarify that the item we are talking about for CARB's November board meeting is called the "regulation for reporting criteria air pollutants and toxic air contaminants." It is expanding the level of emissions sources that need to report their emissions to the District and then the District reports them to CARB.

Comment from Spanish-speaker: Everything sounds very good and hopefully soon, we will see new changes here in Shafter.

Question: Are the idling signs bilingual?

CARB Response: The ones that are geared toward heavy-duty diesel trucks are only in English; the other signs, which are geared towards passenger vehicles are also currently only in English. We are exploring how best to get signs in Spanish as well.

District Comment: I want to talk briefly about the impacts of the almond harvest on air quality. When the District receives these complaints, we always send staff out to speak with people conducting the harvest and ask them to implement best practice measures to limit and reduce the amount of dust they are generating. The CSC voted to include a measure that provides incentive funding to replace old equipment with low dust harvesting units. District staff have been collecting the names and contact information of the people harvesting the nuts as the Shafter CERP has a measure to replaced old harvesting equipment with low-dust equipment. We have submitted a project plan to CARB in order to fund this project and will be reaching out to the growers in Shafter.

Stipend Update

Erica Manuel, CEO & Executive Director, ILG

Erica updated the CSC on the stipend program. Presentation highlights:

- Thank you to all CSC residents who have signed up for the stipend program
- A few people are close to the \$600 annual tax reporting limit and ILG needs their W-9s to continue issuing checks
- A resident must be present for 75% of the meeting to receive a stipend for each eligible meeting
- Checks go out once a month usually in the 3rd or 4th week
- Please contact ILG or District any time to sign up for the program; signups will be retroactive and include all eligible meetings in 2020

Wrap Up/Next Steps

Hanna Stelmakhovich, Facilitator, ILG

Hanna thanked everyone for attending the meeting and asked Martha for closing remarks. Martha thanked the CSC and looks forward to co-hosting again in the future now that she has experienced it.

Question: How would District like to receive comments on the report?

District Response: District will accept comments in whatever format CSC members want to provide them. Email, verbal, hard copy, etc.

Reminders:

The next CSC meeting is Nov. 9 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.*