

Meeting Highlights*
AB 617 Shafter Community Steering Committee Meeting #30
April 12, 2021 | 5:00pm-7:00pm
Virtual Zoom Meeting

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

- Send CARB questions related to implementation funding in advance of next CSC meeting
- Share recommendations for air monitor placement locations in the community of La Colonia Mexicana with the Air District
- Share additional feedback on the Replacement of Passenger Vehicles with Electric Battery or Plug-in Hybrid Vehicles Program; respond to proposed program details and initial concepts

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

- Follow up on the status of a viable air monitoring location in Mexican Colony
- Provide an outline of AB 617 budget spending

Welcome and Introductions

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

Ryan Hayashi, Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer, Valley Air District

Janet Herrera, Community Co-host, Shafter 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.

Ryan welcomed the CSC and shared his excitement about CERP implementation progress.

Community co-host, Janet Herrera, shared a presentation on the Central California Asthma Collaborative, where she is a community health worker. She gave an overview of current projects aimed at improving health outcomes in the Central Valley. She encouraged CSC members to contact her for any outreach needs related to improving air quality and educating about air pollution.

Standing Updates

Community Air Monitoring Update:

Jon Klassen, Director of Air Quality Science and Planning, Valley Air District

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

- Air District is continuing to operate the newest installed air monitoring site at Golden Oak Elementary, Sequoia Elementary, and the air monitoring van at Shafter Farm Labor Camp
- Air District will provide detailed updates as that data comes in; it is available in real time for PM 2.5 and ozone on the Shafter CSC webpage
- There was a high wind event on January 27 that affected Shafter. The Air District looked at speciation data for PM 2.5 measured on that day and the results confirm no abnormal spikes in volatile organic compounds (VOC)
- Ammonia measurements are ongoing at Shafter DMV. None detected, but the Air District will continue to monitor and update
- Air District is summarizing data collected for the 4th quarter across all Shafter sites and will share that report ASAP

Question: The CSC previously talked about placing a stationary air monitor in the community of La Colonia Mexicana. Has the Air District worked with residents to identify locations? Regarding resources, if the only limitation is connectivity, where are there opportunities in the AB 617 budget to make something like that happen?

Answer from Air District: For that area, we do have a unit set aside. The challenge has been trying to find a secure location to place the equipment without constantly having it at a resident's home. The Air District is working through those things. Please send recommendations for places where we can place it in the area.

Follow-up comment: La Gardenia restaurant has access to power and potential connectivity, as it is a public space.

Response from Air District: Thank you. This is the last area of Shafter where the Air District is trying to get monitoring equipment set up and it is an important one, so we certainly want to figure this out.

Comment: CSC members have requested an outline of CARB's and the District's budget of how much has been spent on air monitoring equipment and how much of that has been deployed. The CSC understands how much money was allocated to the CERP, but we want to see the individual budgets for what was prioritized by the CSC.

Response from ILG: Thank you for those comments.

Comment: I want to bring a motion for the next meeting to get a clear budget of how much has been spent on the monitoring.

Response from Air District: Thank you for bringing that up. We will have that put on the next CSC agenda.

School Filtration & Bus Subcommittee:

Brian Dodds, Program Manager, Valley Air District

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

- Richland School District is working closely with PG&E on infrastructure needs for school buses

- The school district is working with bus manufacturers to identify what is going to work to meet their community needs
- Richland School District reps can attend the next CSC meeting and provide more context/direction
- There are several state and federal resources that provide for increased HVAC units that school districts are trying to navigate

Question: How many buses are being allocated to Richland?

Answer from Air District: Right now, Richland has contracts for four electric school buses.

Question: The CSC has ten buses available through the Air District. Can schools outside of the AB 617 boundary apply for those?

Answer from Air District: They can apply provided that those buses are working and operating in the Shafter community.

Question from Spanish-speaker: Did representatives from the Air District or schools take into account how many schools are in the area or was a school pre-determined to be the one to receive the funding?

Answer from Air District: When the CSC developed the CERP, we took into account the schools in the Shafter AB 617 community and what that would look like in terms of participation of school buses and potential air filtration measures. With regard to selecting a school for funding, the Air District has to work off the applications received. So far, Richland is the school district that has submitted applications for this type of projects. There is AB 617 funding for up to ten school buses, so there are additional opportunities for other school districts operating buses in the area.

Pesticide Monitoring Update:

Minh Pham, Pesticide Programs Division, DPR

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

- DPR has started engaging in Eastern Coachella Valley AB 617 community. They have similar needs as Shafter and DPR will use lessons learned moving forward
- Pilot studies conducted in Shafter are in lab process right now; DPR has all air, weather and soil sampling and will share that data when analysis is complete
- No updates on notification

City of Shafter Update:

Michael James, Public Works Director, City of Shafter

Michael updated the CSC on recent city activities. Presentation highlights included:

- Since last CSC meeting, the City had a virtual discussion with Air District staff on a future project
- Kern COG staff also provided details on current and future CMAQ projects that AB 617 might be able to partner on

- He confirmed project opportunities are limited over next few years
- The City may be restructuring funding allocations to put heavier emphasis on projects in the coming years
- Current projects focus on road shoulders, sidewalks, bike lanes, and charging stations at public facilities
- The Air District expressed interest in right of way acquisition for a roundabout at intersection of 43 and Santa Fe Way
- City staff is ready to take these project discussions further and commit staff and resources to make these projects a reality

CARB Update:

Karen Buckley, Office of Community Air Protection, California Air Resources Board (CARB)

Karen shared that they just posted AB 617 Implementation Funds documents. She can discuss it at the next CSC meeting.

CSC Feedback on CERP Measure Implementation

Brian Dodds, Program Manager, Valley Air District

Brian presented an update on the implementation of the incentive measures for passenger vehicles. Presentation highlights included:

- Several program plans based on CSC priorities have been submitted to CARB
- The Light-duty Vehicles measure includes light-duty charging infrastructure, vehicle repairs, and vehicle replacement options
- Installation of the Electric Vehicles Charging Station measure
 - This measure aims to provide a combo of level 2 and level 3 EV charging infrastructure to support the deployment of battery electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles in Shafter community
 - \$850,000 in AB 617 funds provided for installation of 78 EV chargers
 - Once CARB reviews and approves program plan, the Air District will work with the CSC on an outreach strategy
- Tune In Tune Up Program
 - The measure would provide \$400,000 aimed at repairing up to 500 vehicles in the Shafter community
 - Program plan to be submitted to CARB late April
- Replacement of Passenger Vehicle with Battery Electric or Plug-in Hybrid Vehicles measure
 - \$6,000,000 in funding provided for the replacement of up to 300 vehicles
 - Limited to one replacement allowed per household
 - The Air District has developed initial concepts for the program and will refine with CSC
- The conversation about outreach is outgoing
- The Air District is starting a pilot event in April called *Friday Night Live* to get the community interested in funding for clean air equipment

Question: Is the grant amount about 75% of the cost or is that highly variable?

Answer from Air District: It is highly variable.

Question from Spanish-speaker: The CSC has heard about expansion plans in Shafter, including parking. Wouldn't it be convenient if the city supports a parking structure that also features charging stations?

Answer from Air District: That is a great suggestion. Any time somebody is doing improvements, they should take that opportunity to think about charging infrastructure.

Question from Spanish-speaker: What year does the vehicle have to be in order to qualify for repairs?

Answer from Air District: Any year model can participate in the repair program.

Question: Is there a mileage requirement for the plug-in vehicles?

Answer from Air District: There is not.

Comment from Spanish-speaker: I would like the vehicle replacement program to be prolonged, so those that are having trouble participating can have an opportunity.

Response from Air District: We appreciate that feedback.

Public Comment

Comment: I am from IQ Air, I put my information in the chat box and would love to talk to the Air District when you get a chance.

Response from Air District: Great, we look forward to connecting.

Wrap Up/Next Steps

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

Hanna thanked everyone for participating in the meeting and thanked Janet for co-hosting.

Reminders

The next CSC meeting is May 10 via Zoom. All the presentations, meeting 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.*