

September 29, 2021

Ryan Hayashi  
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District  
1990 East Gettysburg  
Fresno, California 93726

RE: AB 617 Steering Committee – Land Use Subcommittee

Dear Mr. Hayashi:

The City of Fresno continues to be committed to consultation and coordination with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. Over the past several years, the two agencies have enhanced and expanded our communication to ensure that projects in preliminary stages have earlier opportunities for input on air regulations and those that have been approved are evaluated for compliance and monitoring. This more robust process includes regular staff coordination meetings and additional routing for comment procedures. It is our desire to document this process through this letter.

#### Coordinating with the Air District

City and Air District staff meet monthly to discuss projects in the AB 617 area and larger projects within the City. These meetings include a discussion of pre-applications and general routing procedures for projects within the AB617 area and throughout the City. Types of procedures and coordination discussed include:

- Potential projects within the AB 617 area
- Pre-Applications and Air District reviews
- Minor Applications – modifications of existing entitlements
- Full Applications – establishment of new uses
- Status of current projects
- Infrastructure projects within AB 617 area being constructed by the City
- Discuss any upcoming projects within the City that will be coming for their review

#### Applications to the Air District

Within the AB617 geographic boundary, all minor applications will be evaluated for coordination. These include Tenant Improvement, Zoning Clearance, Minor Deviations, Minor Revised Exhibits, Industrial Site Plan Review, and Environmental Assessments (Negative Declaration or Exemption). The process includes:

- Application completeness review

- Property location verification
  - Within AB 617 area - Email correspondence to the Air District to determine if the project will be routed based on the operational statement.
    - Air District responds no, the application is not routed.
    - Air District responds yes, the application is routed to Air District

For major applications, all applications will be routed to the Air District regardless of location. These include Amendments to existing projects, New Site Plan Review, New Conditional Use Permits, New Tentative or Tract Maps, Environmental Assessment (Mitigated Negative Declaration or EIR), Rezone, General Plan Amendment, Annexation, or Amendment to Development Code Text.

#### Coordination with Air District once project Accepted

Once a project is routed, several steps and deadlines must be met; projects are discussed during monthly coordination meetings.

#### During Review

- 15 day comment period to end and reviews comments
- If an IS is part of the project, Air District comments are incorporated
- Once IS is released it is sent to the Air District during public review period & staff coordinates if they have comments

#### After Review

- If there was an IS and there are mitigation measures related to Air Quality, staff may reach out to the Air District if needed to verify compliance or ask for clarification on certain rules. Typically, compliance documentation is requested from the applicant and then verified with the Air District.
- If there isn't an IS, there typically is no compliance review after conditions are issued.

The City of Fresno offers residents a variety of opportunities to provide input on land use planning and development matters occurring in the City of Fresno through participation in standing committees such as District Review Committees and Specific Plan Implementation Committees, as well as ad hoc committees such as the General Plan Implementation Review Committee, and similar. In accordance with AB617, the Steering

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Committee is permitted to comment on all land use matters in the City in the same manner as any other members of the public, non-profit organizations, or other non-governmental entities. This is an important role, that is separate from the responsible-agency role, and that allows members of the AB617 Steering Committee to submit letters on behalf of the committee to the Planning Commission, and Steering Committee members may attend Planning Committee meetings to submit written and oral comments on the record. The City Council may consider these comments in the same manner as any other public comments received.

The City of Fresno remains committed to engaging with the public, including the AB617 Steering Committee and our responsible-agency partners, to review and discuss land use planning and development matters that occur throughout the City of Fresno.

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Esqueda, City of Fresno  
City Manager