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# **SOUTH CENTRAL COAST BASINWIDE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL COUNCIL**

Santa Barbara County APCD, 260 N. San Antonio Rd. Suite A, Santa Barbara, CA, 93110

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Air Pollution Control Officers

**Gary Willey**, APCO  
San Luis Obispo County APCD

**Ali Ghasemi**, APCO  
Ventura County APCD

**Aeron Arlin Genet**, APCO  
Santa Barbara County APCD

BCC MEMBERS

**Dawn Ortiz-Legg**  
3<sup>rd</sup> District Supervisor  
San Luis Obispo County

**Liz Campos**  
Council Member, City of Ventura  
Ventura County

**Paula Perotte**  
Mayor, City of Goleta  
Santa Barbara County

## **SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

December 21, 2023

Meeting Commenced at 10:00 a.m.

Present Council

Members:

Liz Campos, Dawn Ortiz-Legg, Paula Perotte.

Staff:

Ali Ghasemi, Tyler Harris, Aeron Arlin Genet, Alex Economou, Sydney Rouse,  
Gary Willey, and Karl Tupper.

### **1. Approval of Minutes of the October 5, 2023 Special Meeting.**

A motion was made by member Campos, seconded by member Ortiz-Legg that the minutes be approved.  
The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: 2 - Campos, Ortiz-Legg.

Noes: 0 - None.

Abstain: 0 - None.

Absent: 1 - Perotte.

### **2. Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

### **3. Update on the Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition (C5) (Economou/Rouse)**

Item Received.

Alex Economou provided the Council with an overview of the Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition's (C5) makeup and mission. C5 is a network of stakeholders throughout the central coast promoting the use of alternative fuels, vehicles and infrastructure. Their efforts are intended to advance affordable, domestic

transportation fuels, energy efficient mobility systems, and fuel saving technologies. Highlights of 2022 & 2023 include the annual Alternative Fuel Survey, fuel price reports, listening sessions, grants & incentives outreach, AFV infrastructure planning and development, workforce development and training, and outreach events that include Santa Barbara & SLO Earth Day, National Drive Electric Week, SCE Charge Ready Multifamily Webinar, Workplace Charging Event, and Direct Current Fast Charger (DCFC) Ribbon Cutting Event.

Alex provides the Council with an overview of the 2022 annual Alternative Fuel Survey results, stats on ZEV sales and EV charger installations over the last few years, details on environmental justice efforts as they relate to grant programs. He details the Energy Efficient Mobility Systems (EEMS) project which allows residents in low-income areas to travel conveniently and affordably. C5 is currently developing a strategic plan which addresses financial stability, building upon the coalition's membership, strengthening stakeholder engagement, increasing coalition awareness, and expanding regional network of ZEV infrastructure. One of the successful initiatives of this strategic plan process is the recently launched website to help promote the coalition's activities and to be a resource to help with grants and incentives.

#### **4. SLOAPCD's Backyard, Agricultural and Prescribed Burning Program. (Tupper)**

Item Received.

Karl Tupper provided the Council with an overview of the SLOAPCD's Backyard, Agricultural (AG) and Prescribed Burning program. AG and prescribed burning allows burning county wide for AG waste, range improvement, clear irrigation ditches and wildland vegetation management. To qualify for an AG burn permit, you must derive income from your AG activity. AG burn permits are \$100 and are valid for one calendar year on designated burn days from sunup to sundown. Last year SLOAPCD issued 670 AG burn permits.

Backyard burning is permitted only for occupants of one- and two-family dwellings located outside of Urban Reserve Line (URL) or Village Reserve Line (VRL) areas on permissive burn days from 10am-4pm. Backyard burn permits are \$50 and are valid during burn season, which opened on December 4, 2023 and runs through April 30, 2024. Last year, SLOAPCD issued 1,119 backyard burn permits.

Land outside of the URL or VRL and have a need for fire hazard reduction that do not qualify for Backyard or AG burn permits are subject to SLOAPCD compliance team inspection, can burn on a permissible burn day from 10am-4pm and cost \$100. Prescribed burns are larger burns coordinated with fellow government agencies, such as CAL FIRE, State Parks and Camp Roberts. SLOAPCD will authorize burns with an ignition authorization for low impact to the neighboring communities.

New this year, a permit from CAL FIRE is now required in addition to an APCD permit for agricultural and backyard burning in most areas of the county. CAL FIRE permits can be obtained online, at no additional cost.

#### **5. Update on Marine Vessel Speed Reduction Program. (Harris)**

Item Received.

Tyler Harris provided the Council with a presentation on Blue Skies and Blue Whales Program and how it was inspired by the Channel Islands shipping lane killing endangered whales in California. Approximately 80 endangered whales are killed off the U.S. West Coast every year. This program is meant to reduce whale deaths as well as reduce emissions from highly polluting cargo ships, particularly older ship models. This program provides financial incentives to slow vessel speed, since 2014 more companies and ships have participated in the program reducing NOx, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and ship strikes

on marine life. Program impacts in 2022, 23 shipping companies have signed up, 8 have received the top award, over 78% of the total distance travelled were less than 10 knots resulting in a reduction of 921 tons of NOx, 32,604 metric tons of regional greenhouse gases, and 44% reduction of fatal ship strikes to whales. So far, the program in 2023 has 38 shipping companies signed up, the vessel speed reduction zone to cover Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and the overall cooperation rate is at 77%.

Partnerships collaborating on this program have grown, including Santa Barbara County APCD, SLO County APCD, Ventura County APCD and other environmental groups.

Moving forward, considering creating a year-round program to slow vessel speed starting May 1, 2024, potential Chumash NMS expansion of VSR Zones and submitted a proposal to CARB to include Blue Whales, Blue Skies in the state Priority Climate Action Plan, this is a necessary step to be eligible for an EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant and potential funding for 2025-2030 and state-wide expansion.

#### **6. Update on the SBCAPCD's Long Range Fiscal Strategy. (Arlin Genet)**

Item Received.

Aeron Arlin Genet provided the Council with a presentation on SBCAPCD's Long Range Fiscal Strategy. Addressing challenges of fiscal instability, oil and gas revenue is anticipated to drop by 8% and many sources are under-paying for services, all the while salary and benefit costs continue to rise. High staff turnover, at approximately 11% annually, health care and pension increases, compounded with the high cost of living, creates a challenge to retain employees. Looking forward, over a 5-year window, the long-range fiscal strategy identifies a fiscal shortfall of 4% in the next fiscal year which could grow to 12% by 2027-28. Key measures in the Fiscal Strategy are to maintain annual CPI, development of a cost-recovery policy of 85%, update to Rule 210 amendments (fee rule), a multi-year phase-in of 12% increase per fee schedule and develop a fund balance policy of 15-20% operating budget.

The key measures were brought to the Board in October 2023, they were in support of all recommendations. Arlin Genet and team will bring the 85% Cost-Recovery Policy to the Board in January 2024. Rule 210 was released for public review on November 30 and held a workshop on December 14, and Community Advisory Council meeting will be held on January 10, 2024, and tentatively set to present to the Board in March and May 2024. The Fund Balance Policy will be presented to the Board in June 2024.

#### **7. Other Business/Confirm Next Meeting Dates and Format**

A motion was made by BCC member Ortiz-Legg, seconded by BCC member Campos to set the next regular meeting for March 28, 2024 at 10 a.m. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: 2 - Campos, Ortiz-Legg.  
Noes: 0 - None.  
Abstain: 0 - None.  
Absent: 1 - Perotte.

#### **8. Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:46 a.m.