
SOUTH CENTRAL COAST BASINWIDE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL COUNCIL

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

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
3rd District Supervisor
San Luis Obispo County

Liz Campos
Council Member, City of Ventura
Ventura County

Paula Perotte
Mayor, City of Goleta
Santa Barbara County

MEETING MINUTES

October 5, 2023

Meeting Commenced at 9:00 a.m.

Present Council

Members: Liz Campos, Karen Bright (Alternate). Paula Perotte.

Staff: Ali Ghasemi, Aeron Arlin Genet, Gary Willey, and Karl Tupper.

1. Approval of Minutes of the March 23, 2023 Regular Meeting.

A motion was made by member Perotte, seconded by member Bright that the minutes be approved with a correction to the Vice Chair name from "Ortiz Legg" to "Campos". The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Ayes: 3 - Campos, Perotte, Bright

Noes: 0 - None.

Abstain: 0 - None.

Absent: 0 - None.

2. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

3. SBCAPCD's Landscape Equipment Electrification Fund (LEEF) Program. (Arlin Genet)

Item Received.

Aeron Arlin Genet provided the Council with a presentation on Santa Barbara County's LEEF Program, which provides vouchers to incentivize commercial landscape equipment to convert to electric. The program has been ongoing for three years. Common landscape equipment causes substantial air quality

impacts. California Air Resources Board is requiring newly manufactured landscape equipment to be zero emission starting in 2024. In the first two years, pilot year and LEEF 2, 46 financing vouchers were issued and 729 pieces of electric landscape equipment were purchased. Additionally, SBCAPCD received \$850,000 from the Carl Moyer program to implement zero-emission landscape equipment for LEEF 3. Eligible organizations are commercial landscapers, non-profits, public agencies, schools, and businesses. The program requires the trade-in of gas landscape equipment for each new piece purchased. Demo days were held in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria in 2023 alongside manufacturers to demonstrate equipment for potential users. Progress since the LEEF 3 program launched includes 31 applications received, \$445,023 funds allocated (60% of eligible funds), 522 pieces of landscape equipment purchases which equates to 4,300lbs of pollutants (ROC, NOx, PM) reduced per year. If funding runs out before the program is done then funds from the Department of Motor Vehicles, authorized by AB 923, will be utilized.

4. Hearing Board Abatement Order Process. (Tupper)

Item Received.

Karl Tupper provided the Council with an overview of the Hearing Board make up and the order of abatement process. He discusses how a hearing board functions as a quasi-judicial board which hears requests from the regulated community for district rule variance, permit disputes, and requests for orders of abatement. Membership of the board as required by state law is 1 attorney, 1 professional engineer, 1 member of the medical profession, and 2 public members. An order of abatement is an order to cease an action, whether it be construction or operation, violating nuisance rules, visible emissions, etc. Enforcement tools used, in order, are Notices to Comply (NTC), Notices of Violation (NOV), and then lastly an Abatement Order (AO). Abatement Orders are for reoccurring issues and recalcitrant violators which levies a higher penalty and is enforceable through the Superior Court. Once the District has petitioned the hearing board and an Abatement Order is issued by the board, the Superior Court may not override it. A regular Order of Abatement is a contested action and have required findings, whereas Stipulated Order of Abatements (SOA) are for when the district and emitter come to an agreement of terms and conditions, there are no required findings, and the hearing board approves the SOA and issues a written explanation. In practice, the district petitions the board, the district prepares a proposed AO or SOA, the hearing is noticed 10 days in advance, testimony is heard, and the Board makes a decision on the petition.

5. Precision Vegetation Management Technology "BURNBOT". (Ghasemi)

Item Received.

Ali Ghasemi provides the Council with a presentation on new "Burnbot" technology for preventing wildfires and can be used as an alternative to prescribed fires. It can be safely used near homes and structures. Burn Bot RX1 is towed by remote controlled tractor and drones are utilized for surveillance and direction. Electric generators are utilized for power and the unit contains a suction chamber onboard to contain flames, smoke and embers. Adjustable propane torches scorch the landscape to remove fuel and then the resulting smoke is filtered through multi-stage filters. It also contains water sprinklers and a heavy roller to extinguish any remaining flames. The Burn Bot RX1 is a potentially viable tool to use instead of, or alongside, prescribed burns as it scorches the landscape in a controlled low emissions manner to remove fire fuels. Ali additionally provided an overview of the Air Curtain Incinerator which is an alternative to traditional open burning in order to reduce smoke. It is a large, insulated box unit that contains the burning wood material and it uses a large fan to blow a curtain of air over the top of the box to contain the smoke, maintain high temperatures, and push emissions toward filtration units. The Air Curtain Incinerator is predominately used to burn dead trees in forests.

6. SBCAPCD's Updated Advisory on Air Quality and Cannabis Operations. (Arlin Genet)

Item Received.

Aeron Arlin Genet provides the Council with a presentation on SPCAPCD's updated advisory on air quality and cannabis operations to provide guidance regarding the aspects of the industry that is restricted by or regulated by the SBCAPCD. Growing and harvesting of cannabis is considered an agricultural operation and outside of the district's regulatory authority; however, post-harvest operation (e.g., processing and manufacturing) are subject to district Rule 303. Air quality impacts include odors, electrical generators used, manufacturing, and other operations that require district permits. Existing post-harvest cannabis processing operations were given a grace period on or before December 1st, 2023, to submit a permit application to the Santa Barbara APCD. A Petition for an Abatement Order was recently submitted to the Hearing Board to ensure a non-compliant cannabis operation which continued to operate and expand operations complied with the APCD permitting requirements.

7. Group Discussion: Demand Side Grid Support and CHIRP Issues. (Willey)

Item Received.

Gary Willey discussed the state of California's grid system and issues facing it. The grid has been shifting toward renewable energy sources and during this transition period the effects of climate change have been creating a new series of issues. A new program called Demand Side Grid Support (DSGS) aggregates battery sources to be used during the peak electrical use periods in the evening times alongside backup generators to come online to support the grid. Another program discussed is Climate Heat Impact Response Program (CHIRP). CHIRP was designed to mitigate emergency uses of generators used for wildfires and heatwaves. The CHIRP program guidelines did not demand where power must come from, so large, mobile diesel generators have been a common piece of equipment used. These large generators used can consume 47,000 gallons of diesel fuel over a 24-hour period and emit a large number of particulates. Additionally discussed was that California will require 5,000-7,000 megawatts of electricity per year over the next 20 years in order to assist with climate, transportation, and energy goals. This need particularly pertains to the switch to electric vehicles. The energy need is equivalent to the electric output of 3 Diablo Canyon NPPs.

8. Other Business/Confirm Next Meeting Dates and Format

A motion was made by BCC member Bright, seconded by BCC member Perotte to set the next regular meeting for December 21, 2023 at 10 a.m.

Ayes: 3 - Campos, Bright, Perotte
Noes: 0 - None.
Abstain: 0 - None.
Absent: 0 - None.

9. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:45 a.m.