
SOUTH CENTRAL COAST BASINWIDE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL COUNCIL

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

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Gary Willey, APCO
San Luis Obispo County APCD

Michael Villegas, APCO
Ventura County APCD

Aeron Arlin Genet, APCO
Santa Barbara County APCD

COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Councilmember, City of Arroyo Grande
San Luis Obispo County

Mike Morgan, Vice-Chair
Councilmember, City of Camarillo
Ventura County

Al Clark
Councilmember, City of Carpinteria
Santa Barbara County

MEETING MINUTES

May 24, 2018

Meeting Commenced at 10:05 a.m.

Present

Council Members: Barbara Harmon and Al Clark
Staff: Gary Willey, Mike Villegas and Aeron Arlin Genet

1. Approval of Minutes of February 22, 2018

A motion was made by Ms. Harmon, seconded by Mr. Clark that the minutes be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 2 - Harmon, Clark
Noes: 0 - None.
Abstain: 0 - None.
Absent: 1 - Morgan

2. Public Comment Period

None.

3. **Thomas Fire Update** (Mike Villegas/Aeron Arlin Genet)

Mike Villegas and Aeron Arlin Genet provided an update on the Thomas Fire. Mike stated that it had strong Santa Ana winds of 40 miles per hour and 60 miles per hour gusts. The District operates five BAM sites for particulate matter 2.5 and two sites for particulate matter 10 which provide near real-time data. The District's monitoring staff provided weekend air quality advisories and as a future improvement, plan to provide Spanish translation.

In response to complaints regarding burning natural oil seeps, grab samples were taken at three locations on 12/15/2017. The benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xy (BTEX) levels were elevated compared to the annual average at the toxics site in Simi Valley. Benzene levels (5 ppb) were below the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) acute Reference Exposure Level (8 ppb) and the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Intermediate Minimal Risk Level (6 ppb).

The community also had concerns with potential Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon (PAH) emissions, which are associated with the combustion of organic matter such as crude oil. Therefore, the District staff obtained a high-volume sampler from SCAQMD and filter media from a contract laboratory. In addition to a 24-hour sampling run for PAHs, a 24-hour time integrated sample for BTEX was taken at Saint Thomas Aquinas College. The results indicated BTEX levels (1 ppb) were well below OEHHA acute REL and ATSDR MRL, but elevated compared to the annual average at our toxics site in Simi Valley. The PAHs levels were quite low. For future improvements, we will expand the explanation of the results and presentation of minimum and maximum levels of compounds measured at our toxics site in Simi Valley.

The calculated cancer risk based on the BTEX levels is at a level of concern, but the risk is not overwhelming. The health risk assessment was based on a six-month exposure, which overstated the risk. If there are any future incidents with burning oil seeps, we will focus on VOC and BTEX monitoring.

Aeron Arlin Genet stated that since the fire started in Ventura it was difficult to know how long or how significant it would be for Santa Barbara County, but the District closely monitored the air quality and worked with Public Health on messaging. Understanding the ramifications, we will need to be much more engaged at the start of any neighboring fire and faster going forward with messaging and EBAM deployment. We were fortunate as far as the loss of structures, but the air quality impact was severe – thirteen days of unhealthy air quality.

Historically, the particulate matter (PM) monitor in the City of Santa Barbara has been representative of air quality in the south coast. However, due to the proximity of the fire to Carpinteria and the ongoing meteorological conditions, air quality impacts were more significant than normal. The District worked CARB to secure and deploy three portable devices (EBAMs) in regions where permanent PM stations do not exist (i.e., Carpinteria, Los Alamos, Santa Ynez). All air quality readings, from the permanent stations and portable devices were posted to the District's website, along with forecast maps for the county.

An additional EBAM will be purchased to keep at-hand and possibly a mobile station for emergencies. Another take-away is to have an EBAM deploy strategy in place that identifies secure locations with electricity countywide to streamline the deployment of these devices during emergency response.

US Forest Air Resource Advisory was available during this wildfire for forecasting, and fortunately the advisor was a former employee of the Santa Barbara air district and has vast knowledge of our local microclimates. Messaging in both English and Spanish was very important in the District, staff worked with the Cal Fire emergency operation center (EOC) and participated in town hall meetings to provide

daily updates on air quality conditions, ash clean up, use of N95 masks, and clean rooms. Advisories were issued in both English and Spanish to mass media, social media, landscape companies, and posted to our website.

4. **AB 617 Update**

(Mike Villegas/Aeron Arlin Genet/Gary Willey)

Mike Villegas stated that on March 8th he met with our local social/environmental justice organization and on April 9th the Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy hosted a workshop which I attended at the Ventura County Government Center. On April 19th our District conducted our first public workshop and a list of communities we will be reviewing was submitted to CARB on April 27th. Some incentive funds are earmarked for disadvantaged communities which we will utilize for agricultural projects and replacing equipment and make substantial headway in reducing diesel particulate.

Staff's first cut utilized the CalEnviroScreen mapping tool, EPA environmental justice mapping tools and District information on permitted facilities. The future steps include another scheduled workshop on June 19 and reaching out to community organizations such as the Oxnard Inter-Neighborhood Community Organization (INCO). The District is going to receive \$142,000 for implementing AB 617 which came from the total statewide funding of 27.5 million.

Gary Willey stated low-income communities were targeted. Out of the state appropriation, our county received \$655,000 for projects and \$46,000 for administration. Low income communities are targeted by the census tracts as defined by AB 1550 but they will be reviewed as some were not identified (such as San Miguel) in this methodology. The outreach components are newspaper ads, social media, and targeted sources. A series of workshops were hosted with a light lunch served on May 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.

The potential projects District staff is pursuing are electric school buses, SoCo transit electric bus, EV charging stations in the city of Paso Robles, near-zero emission CNG waste haulers in the city of Paso Robles and San Luis Obispo, ag equipment replacement in the Oceano area, and alternative fuel stations such as CNG. For future of the new statewide funding, admin for community work is \$25 million this and next year; and mobile projects \$250 million this year and \$310 million for next year.

Aeron Arlin Genet stated fund distribution within disadvantaged/low income communities. In Fiscal Year 2018-19 \$614,063 will be available for projects and \$40,938 will be administrative funds. Outreach will be conducted at community events including on April 19th and June 2nd, advertising on transit buses, as well as English and Spanish surveys conducted in low income communities and online. Approval will be sought to receive funds at the June Board meeting. Additional work will be performed on emission inventory and Best Available Retrofit Control Technology (BARCT) which will be driven by ARB and developing a clearinghouse on their website to make it work within each District.

The communities were selected based on the AB 1550 low income threshold criteria for Santa Barbara County. Moving forward, general projects are being identified based on the input received from the surveys and reporting it to the Board in June to provide a resolution and accept the funding.

5. **Oceano Dunes SVRA Update**

(Gary Wiley)

Gary Wiley provided a brief background on the State Vehicular Recreation Area which encompasses 7.4 miles of coastline; 3854 acres total; 1,637 acres are open to riding off-highway vehicles; the land is owned by State Parks, San Luis Obispo County and Phillips 66; bounded by Pismo Beach, Arroyo

Grande, Grover Beach and Nipomo Mesa; and predominant northwest winds. It's the only state park in California where you could drive a vehicle on the beach with over 2 million visitors per year, over 325,000 street-legal vehicles, over 200,000 off-highway vehicles and on Memorial Day weekend could bring 15,000-20,000 visitors. The particulate matter (PM) air quality on Nipomo Mesa has been monitored for PM 10 over 20 years with significantly more exceedance standards than elsewhere in the county, between 60-80 state standard exceedances per year and 0-3 federal standard exceedances per year. Also, a significant higher peak level than elsewhere in the county from 200-600 ug/m3 on episode days. The emissivity of bare sand as determined by State Park's own studies shows the riding areas are 5-7 times more emissive than non-riding areas.

The nuisance abatement order proceedings were started by retired APCO Larry Allen with an initial hearing held on November 13, 2017. The hearing was continued from January 30, 2018 to March 21, 2018 to consider a proposed stipulated order of abatement (SOA) and was finally approved on April 30th, SOA 17-01; there is no admission of violation or nuisance finding. The Order is a mitigation based on vegetative foredunes for 5 years, immediate 74 additional acres fenced off, Spring mitigation of 18 acres of new vegetation and 30 acres of sand fencing, and all 2018 fenced acreage will be planted over the next few years. Also, the Order creates an independent Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) to oversee the plans, reports and results and works in parallel with the park's redesign. The APCO or Parks could terminate this order at any time and it would return to the Hearing Board or we could request a hearing to modify if necessary and the state parks covers the District's reasonable costs.

The remaining four-year plan is due in the Spring of 2019. In conclusion, this is the first time a state agency issued an abatement order; it utilized outsourced hearing board attorney and had a high level of public comment for four full days. It was a costly process, but it achieved the goal of a plan to alleviate the high PM levels with the most expedient and defensible approach.

6. AAPCA/CAPCOA Conference Update

(Mike Villegas/Aeron Arlin Genet)

Mike Villegas stated he attended the Association Air Pollution Control Association (AAPCA) conference in April, which is a national organization of air pollution control agencies with most of its members from the Southeast, Midwest, Texas, and Oklahoma regions. They have been effective advocating at Congressional hearings stating the U.S. grant funding is critical for state and local. Some good news from the U.S. EPA is that they are working to streamline the exceptional events process.

Aeron Arlin Genet stated the EPA Regional Administrator for Region 9, Michael Stocker, was appointed this week.

7. Other Business/Confirm Next Meeting Date

No other business was discussed. The next meeting is scheduled for August 22, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

8. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:57 a.m.