
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

Michael Villegas, APCO
Ventura County APCD

Aeron Arlin Genet, APCO
Santa Barbara County APCD

Larry R. Allen, APCO
San Luis Obispo County APCD

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mike Morgan
Councilmember, City of Camarillo
Ventura County

Janet Wolf
2nd District Supervisor
Santa Barbara County

Karen Bright
Councilmember, City of Grover Beach
San Luis Obispo County

MEETING MINUTES July 20, 2016

Present

Council Members: Mike Morgan and Janet Wolf.
Staff: Mike Villegas and Aeron Arlin Genet.

1. Election of Officers

A motion was made by Janet Wolf, seconded by Mike Morgan to nominate Karen Bright as Chair. The motion passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 2 - Morgan, Wolf.
Noes: 0 - None.
Abstain: 0 - None.
Absent: 1 - Bright.

Due to Ms. Bright's absence, Mr. Morgan acted as Chair.

2. Approval of Minutes of March 30, 2015

Received and filed.

3. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

4. Marine Vessel Speed Reduction Program (Aeron Arlin Genet)

Mr. Villegas and Ms. Arlin Genet recently attended the EPA Clean Air Excellence Award Ceremony in Washington DC to receive an award for the 2014 Vessel Speed Reduction program. Santa Barbara County APCD and Ventura County APCD, along with several other participants, were one of only seven award recipients. In addition to the ceremony, they met with Congressman Alan Lowenthal of the Los Angeles and Long Beach Ports who was interested in the vessel speed reduction project and currently looking to propose legislation that would give public recognition to companies willing to participate in a speed reduction program on a voluntary basis.

The 2016 vessel speed reduction project is currently underway, from July 1 through November 15, with a more structured incentive program, giving greater financial incentive for larger speed reductions down to 12 or 10 knots. In addition, participants are being asked to voluntarily fill out a whale siting report so that the marine sanctuary can track whales within the channel. So far 12 shipping companies have submitted applications with 350 possible transits. The ongoing challenge for this program is funding.

5. Air Quality Monitoring Project in Cuyama (Aeron Arlin Genet)

Santa Barbara County APCD launched a pilot project to monitor particulate matter (PM₁₀) in New Cuyama using 2 different low-cost portable monitors, comparing them to a portable non-federal method (eBAM), and the federal method using a BAM. The sensors are smaller, lower cost and use less staff resources, however the accuracy can be questionable. Students from Cuyama Valley High School will be engaged in the project. The data was collected through June and results are being compiled. Once available, the data will be compared to a larger study being conducted by South Coast APCD and EPA. If proven effective and reliable in a rural application, portable air quality monitors can be beneficial for use during high wind events and fires.

6. Update on Grove Incident Oil Spill in the City of Ventura (Mike Villegas)

On June 23 a valve in a 10" pipeline failed, spilling roughly 45,000 gallons of oil into a barranca in the hills above the city of Ventura. The district took air quality samples the same day at the site of the leak as well as the bottom of the barranca where it was dammed off and pooling. The highest benzene level came in at 1.8ppb. California's reference exposure limit is 8ppb, so health concerns were minimal. Because the oil went into a barranca, which is a waterway, CA Fish & Wildlife took the lead in the investigation, cutting out local agencies. Information from that investigation was not made available until a June 30 meeting, and it showed zero benzene levels because of the type of equipment used, contradicting levels found by the district with more sensitive equipment. This outcome spawned discussions about who should take samples, as well as how and when they are taken, and the importance of getting the information out to the public as quickly as possible. In response to the investigation, at its July 19 meeting the Ventura County APCD Board voted for more district involvement in the unified command of community incidences.

7. Update on Proposed Power Plants in Ventura County (Mike Villegas)

The Energy Commission will be having a preliminary staff assessment workshop on July 21 and it includes the districts' preliminary determination of compliance for 2 natural gas-fired turbines at an existing power plant at Mandalay Beach in Oxnard. The existing plant is 430MW and will be reduced to 262MW once the new turbines are operational. Because operation costs will be lower, and there will be an 85% reduction in capacity, the assumption is actual emissions will increase and they will need to provide Emission Reduction Credits (ERCs). Although this is a fossil fuel, it is extremely clean. Even so, the community has environmental justice concerns.

8. Status update on EPA/ARB Settlement Agreements with Volkswagen (Larry Allen)

Due to Mr. Allen's absence, this item was not discussed.

9. Discussion on California's Tree Mortality from Bark Beetles and Drought (Larry Allen)

Due to Mr. Allen's absence, this item was not discussed.

10. Other Business/Confirm Next Meeting Date

No other business was discussed. The next meeting will be September 21, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

11. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.