



# South Coast Air Quality Management District



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## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY GROUP

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 2019  
MEETING MINUTES**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dr. Joseph Lyou, South Coast AQMD Governing Board, EJAG Chairman  
Rhetta Alexander, Valley Interfaith Council  
Dr. Larry Beeson, Loma Linda University, School of Public Health  
Suzanne Bilodeau, Knott's Berry Farm  
Paul Choe, Korean Drycleaners & Laundry Association  
Kerry Doi, Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment  
Dr. Afif El-Hasan, American Lung Association  
Mary Figueroa, Riverside Community College  
Dr. Monique Hernandez, California State University, Los Angeles  
Humberto Lugo, Komite Civico del Valle  
Daniel Morales, National Alliance for Human Rights  
David McNeill, Baldwin Hills Conservancy  
Rafael Yanez, Member of the Public

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Ben Benoit, South Coast AQMD Governing Board  
Dr. Clark E. Parker, South Coast AQMD Governing Board, Vice Chair  
Marc Ang, Asian Industry B2B  
Manuel Arredondo, Coachella Valley School District, Retiree  
Myron Hale, SLMQM  
Dr. Jill Johnston, University of Southern California  
Maria Elena Kennedy, Quail Valley Task Force  
Evelyn Knight, Long Beach Economic Development Commission  
Angelo Logan, Occidental College & East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice  
Donald Smith, 136th Street Block Club

### **SOUTH COAST AQMD STAFF:**

Fabian Wesson, Assistant Deputy Executive Officer, LPAM  
Nancy Feldman, Principal Deputy District Counsel, Legal  
Daphne Hsu, Sr Deputy District Counsel, Legal  
Denise Gailey, Public Affairs Manager, Local Government/Community Outreach  
Alicia Rodriguez, Senior Public Information Specialist

Dr. Jo Kay Ghosh, Health Effects Officer  
Lourdes Cordova-Martinez, Senior Public Affairs Manager  
Rom Moskowitz, Chief Information Officer  
Anna Yoo, Staff Assistant  
Brandee Keith, Secretary

**CALL TO ORDER – 12:15 p.m.**

**ACTION ITEMS (Items 1 through 3):**

**1. Call to Order/Opening Remarks**

Dr. Lyou called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

**2. Approval of October 26, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

Minutes were approved without changes.

**3. Review of Follow-Up/Action Items**

Mrs. Fabian Wesson reviewed the follow-up/action items identified in the previous meeting:

***Action Item #1: Staff to work with Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources on providing information to Ms. Alexander about Proposed Rule 1410.***

Update: Staff contacted Michael Krause, Planning and Rules Manager, to give an update to Ms. Alexander. Staff are working to coordinate the meeting.

***Action Item #2 and #3: Staff to send EJAG information on the upcoming Facility-Based Mobile Source Measures meeting. Staff to send EJAG the link of the Facility-Based Mobile Source Measures webpage with information on where to find presentations and future meetings.***

Update: Staff sent an email on 11/6/18 to EJAG members with the link to the requested information, as well as a copy of the presentation from the October 24th meeting. The next working group meeting will be held in March, date TBD.

***Action Item #4: Staff to give a presentation to EJAG on the Electric Lawn and Garden Equipment program at South Coast AQMD.***

Update: Item number 5 on the agenda is an update on the status of the Electric Lawn and Garden equipment program.

***Action Item #5: Staff to give regular AB617 timeline updates to EJAG.***

Update: Jo Kay Gosh, Health Effects Officer, will be presenting an update on AB 617.

***Action Item #6: Staff connect Ms. Mary Figueroa to Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources regarding indirect source rules in Riverside.***

Update: Staff connected Ms. Figueroa to Ian MacMillan, Planning and Rules Manager.

***Action Item #7: Staff to send a poll to EJAG regarding whether the next meeting be held on January 18, 2019 or January 25, 2019.***

Update: A poll was sent out to EJAG on 11/6/18, and the date of the EJAG meeting was moved to January 18th.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS (Items 4 through 6):**

##### **4. AB 617 Updates**

Dr. Jo Kay Ghosh provided updates on AB 617 implementation. She reported that steering committees have been convened for all three communities, and Dr. Lyou added that committees were given basic information and education on air quality issues.

Mr. Kerry Doi asked for clarification that during the first meeting of each steering committee, a list of concerns was drawn up for the respective communities. Dr. Ghosh confirmed this was the purpose of the first meetings, and committees would begin prioritizing concerns in upcoming meetings. Mr. Doi asked if there were similarities in the concerns raised between the three communities, and Dr. Ghosh confirmed that yes, there had been similar issues discussed. Mr. Doi inquired whether members of the Advisory Group would have access to the notes gathered from the steering committee meetings, and Dr. Ghosh confirmed the information would be available on the South Coast AQMD website.

Mr. David McNiell asked if there had been a survey conducted via a web application. Dr. Ghosh explained that for the purposes of these committees, information was gathered in a face-to-face brainstorming session and discussion.

##### **5. Electric Leaf Blower Incentive Programs**

Ms. Lourdes Cordova Martinez delivered a presentation on electric leaf blower incentive programs.

Dr. Afif El-Hasan asked whether there were any statistics on monetary savings through the program. Ms. Cordova-Martinez confirmed program documents and outreach have included this information.

Mr. David McNeill asked if the program had reached a point at which manufacturers and service providers are also seeing a cost benefit. Ms. Cordova-Martinez confirmed this information was also available. Dr. McNeill suggested asking past participants give demonstrations or testimonials on the program.

Ms. Rhetta Alexander mentioned a potential facility which might be interested in more information on the program, and Ms. Cordova-Martinez suggested avenues by which to connect the facility to resources.

Ms. Mary Figueroa asked if South Coast AQMD had considered how to address concerns and extend outreach to communities hesitant to provide personal information due to immigration status. Ms. Cordova-Martinez stated that information gathered during the application process is held for reference but never used to gather

residency or citizenship status. She pointed out that program incentives are processed at the points of sale, with no requirements to either give an address or report to a government facility.

Dr. Monique Hernandez asked for current outreach plans for reaching the small business owner. Ms. Cordova-Martinez outlined several intended strategies.

Mr. Danny Morales asked if the Commercial Leaf Blower Exchange program had made data available on locations of businesses participating in the program. Ms. Cordova-Martinez confirmed the program outreach included information for locations to find the program, as well as demographic data for participation.

Dr. Afif El-Hasan asked if outreach included recommendations for charging equipment during off-hours, and whether or not an incentive could be arranged with Southern California Edison. Ms. Cordova-Martinez expressed that the program might still be too small to negotiate such an incentive.

Mr. Kerry Doi asked if there had been any studies done regarding the amount of carbon produced by electric equipment production versus the continued emissions of gas-powered equipment. Dr. Lyou explained there is a significant net benefit as electricity is increasingly produced from renewable services.

Mr. Rafael Yanez suggested outreach include some reminder to collect leaves and grass clippings and help reduce the environmental impact of debris.

Mr. Humberto Lugo asked if there was data demonstrating reductions to educate and confirm the benefits of switching to all-electric equipment. Ms. Cordova-Martinez summarized outreach efforts, and Mr. Lugo specified a greater need for education to the actual individuals using the equipment.

Mr. David McNeill pointed out the need for easier-to-understand language in outreach.

Ms. Rhetta Alexander asked whether the commercial versions of the new equipment had been demonstrated as long-lasting and durable, and Ms. Cordova-Martinez confirmed they had.

## **6. Smartphone Air Quality Applications Update**

Mr. Ron Moskowitz provided a demonstration on the South Coast AQMD smartphone application.

Mr. Rafael Yanez asked what sort of information was being collected by the app. Mr. Moskowitz confirmed the app collects no personal information.

Dr. Lawrence Beeson asked how differently-valued AQI reports per cities were arranged. Mr. Moskowitz explained it would show the highest (worst affected) areas first. Dr. Beeson also asked if there were plans to include more detailed air toxics, and Mr. Moskowitz explained this would require more internal discussion.

Mr. David McNeill inquired on the vulnerability of the monitoring network, which in the past shown “Good” Air Quality in areas directly affected by fires and smoke, which might indicate an error in monitoring. Mr. Scott Epstein, South Coast AQMD's Health Effects Program Supervisor, explained that certain environmental conditions such as wind might not facilitate a monitor directly reading factors like direct or concentrated smoke, and as a result South Coast AQMD warns residents to take precautions if they see or smell smoke,

regardless of what the AQI monitoring might read. Dr. Lyou pointed out that AQI calculation can also vary by monitoring network.

Mr. David McNeill inquired as to the monetary cost of developing such a sophisticated app. Mr. Moskowitz stated the cost of production had totaled approximately \$100,000 over a period of four months.

Dr. Lawrence Beeson asked how the AQI was calculated for cities which did not have a dedicated monitor present. Mr. Scott Epstein replied that the current process defaulted to the nearest monitor.

Dr. Lyou asked Mr. Humberto Lugo to share information about his organization's monitoring system, IVAN Air. Mr. Lugo did and asked if there were plans for the South Coast AQMD app to incorporate community sensors. Mr. Moskowitz shared staff was discussing the matter.

Ms. Monique Hernandez asked how the South Coast AQMD would track down smoking vehicles or violators when app users call 1-800-CUT-SMOG. Suggestions were made that a non-driving passenger might snap a photo of the DOT number and license plate of the violator.

Mr. Humberto Lugo commented that local alerts did not share enough information for affected populations. Dr. Lyou acknowledged communications were constantly being reviewed to better inform residents.

## **OTHER MATTERS:**

### **7. Other Business**

Mrs. Fabian R. Wesson reminded members of requirements to complete two hours of ethics training, and members should expect emails from South Coast AQMD's legal department.

Ms. Monique Hernandez shared intentions for UCLA and South Coast AQMD to partner on a port tour.

Mr. Danny Morales shared his organization's efforts to work with their local mayor to encourage trucking groups to take advantage of the Carl Moyer program.

### **8. Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

### **9. Next Meeting Date – Friday, April 26, 2019**

**ADJOURNMENT – Dr. Lyou adjourned the meeting at 2:15 pm.**