

BOARD MEETING DATE: October 2, 2020

AGENDA NO. 20

REPORT: Administrative Committee

SYNOPSIS: The Administrative Committee held a meeting remotely, Friday, September 11, 2020. The following is a summary of the meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:  
Receive and file.

Dr. William A. Burke, Chair  
Administrative Committee

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### **Committee Members**

Present: Dr. William A. Burke/Chair (videoconference)  
Council Member Ben Benoit/Vice Chair (videoconference)  
Council Member Michael Cacciotti (videoconference)  
Council Member Judith Mitchell (videoconference)

Absent: None

### **Call to Order**

Chair Burke called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. **Board Members' Concerns:** Dr. Burke mentioned a recent newspaper article regarding air quality and stated that Board Members need to be informed directly about air quality. Wayne Natri, Executive Officer responded that all Board Members are currently receiving alerts, copies of ozone levels and smog advisories, which are received immediately as they are issued. Also, Board Members have requested information that they can utilize on their social media feeds. Mr. Natri stated that staff will be more proactive in communicating such information to the Board. Dr. Burke asked if staff was interviewed and Mr. Natri responded that the reporter submitted a list of questions and he was provided data in response to those questions. Mr. Natri added that between 25-30 media requests were received regarding the air quality impact of the fires.
2. **Chairman's Report of Approved Travel:** None to report.

3. **Report of Approved Out-of-Country Travel:** None to report.
4. **Review September 4, 2020 Governing Board Agenda:** There were no comments.
5. **Approval of Compensation for Board Member Assistant(s)/Consultant(s):** There were no proposals to consider.
6. **Update on South Coast AQMD Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Efforts:** Mr. Nastri reported that since last month's report, the Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Advisory (IDEA) panel has met four times and are working on workforce recruitment, specifically targeting outreach and promotional opportunities. The Latinx/Hispanic and Black employee groups have also met. On September 8, 2020, Kori Carew, an advocate, speaker and inclusion strategist, spoke to the South Coast AQMD staff regarding human and civil rights, diversity and inclusion. There were approximately 650 employees participating. Dr. Burke asked if the Board Members were notified. Mr. Nastri responded that the information was included in the weekly report, and a recording is also available. Council Member Mitchell asked that the recording link be sent to the Board Members. Mr. Nastri responded that he will send the link. Dr. Burke commented that this is a complex issue and he would like to see progress. Mr. Nastri responded that the Bay Area AQMD is the only agency he is aware of that is moving more quickly than South Coast AQMD. The Bay Area AQMD recently hired Veronica Eady, formerly a Deputy Executive Officer for CARB, as their Diversity and Equity Officer. Mr. Nastri added that we are working on a job description for an Equity Officer. Dr. Burke asked when will we move forward with this position. Mr. Nastri responded that he will get back to him before the next Administrative Committee. Mr. Harvey Eder, Solar Power Coalition, commented that he did a study for the Public Utilities Commission on equity in the late 70s, and expressed concerns about the Coronavirus.
7. **Budget and Economic Outlook Update:** Jill Whynot, Chief Operating Officer, reported that there were no significant updates since the September Board meeting. We had another typical week where the number of permits received were lower than the same week the previous year.
8. **South Coast AQMD 2019-2020 Why Healthy Air Matters Program End-of-Year Report:** Derrick Alatorre, Deputy Executive Officer, Legislative, Public Affairs & Media, reported that the Board created the Why Healthy Air Matters (WHAM) program in February 2019. This program involves outreach to students and teachers in environmental justice communities to educate them about the South Coast AQMD and air pollution, and it seeks to inspire students to pursue academic professional careers related to air quality and the environment. For this year, outreach occurred to over 40 school districts, eight private schools and five charter schools. Twenty-seven school districts and five private schools entered into agreements with the South Coast AQMD, resulting in 100 schools confirmed

to participate in the first year of the WHAM program. The program was positively received by teachers and students. Council Member Cacciotti asked if global warming and climate change will be included in the curriculum. Mr. Alatorre responded that our current curriculum was created by Sonoma Technologies, but staff is looking into creating our own curriculum to include global warming. Council Member Cacciotti stated that he would like to observe some of the classrooms when schools go back to in-person learning and would also like to get electric vehicles, electric lawnmowers and electric trimmers on display. Mr. Alatorre responded that he will look into it. Mr. Nastri asked if Council Member Cacciotti is interested in looking at grant opportunities for schools that can actually utilize and show that technology on a daily basis and get it implemented in schools. Council Member Cacciotti replied yes. Fabian Wesson, Assistant Deputy Executive Officer, Legislative, Public Affairs & Media, added that our elementary school program includes cars, lawnmowers and leaf blowers on the playgrounds for the kids to see. Council Member Mitchell extended her congratulations to the Lee Andrews Group for getting this program off the ground and for having done amazing work. Stephanie Graves, Lee Andrews Group, relayed her gratitude to her team and South Coast AQMD staff for effective teamwork and commended Monica Kim for her exemplary work on this project. Mr. Eder commented that he used to work for Santa Cruz county as an educator and that this is an excellent program.

9. **Status Report on Major Ongoing and Upcoming Projects for Information Management:** Ron Moskowitz, Chief Information Officer, Information Management, reported that between June and August, 11 new systems went live including the VW Phase 3 Zero-Emission Class 8 system which went into production on August 18, 2020. As of September 11, 2020, a total of 24,390 people used our mobile application, which gained over 2,000 users in just the last week due to the poor air quality. All other projects are on schedule.

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

10. **Appoint Alternate Public Member to Hearing Board:** Faye Thomas, Clerk of the Boards, reported that this item is to fill an alternate public member position on the Hearing Board. Twenty-two applications were received, and three candidates met the requirements. The Hearing Board Advisory Committee reviewed and evaluated the applications and resumes and recommended that the top three ranked candidates move forward for interviews with the Administrative Committee. Micah Ali, Maria Slaughter and Vasken Yardemian were interviewed, and the committee recommended Micah Ali.

Moved by Cacciotti; seconded by Benoit, unanimously approved.

Ayes: Burke, Benoit, Cacciotti, Mitchell  
 Noes: None  
 Absent: None

11. **Issue Purchase Order for Ingres Relational Database Management System Software Support:** Mr. Moskowitz reported that this item is a standard request to issue a purchase order for an Ingres Database Management System, including software licensing, maintenance and support for one year. The database supports over 30 critical South Coast AQMD client server and web-based applications. The funds are available in the budget.

Moved by Mitchell; seconded by Benoit, unanimously approved.

Ayes: Burke, Benoit, Cacciotti, Mitchell  
Noes: None  
Absent: None

12. **Execute Lease Contract for Mailing Equipment:** John Olvera, Deputy Executive Officer, Administrative & Human Resources, reported that this action is to authorize the Executive Officer to execute a five-year lease agreement with Pitney Bowes for mailing and shipping, folding, inserting, and envelope addressing equipment, at a five-year lease and maintenance cost of \$156,851. Pitney Bowes was the bidder with the highest average evaluation score in each of the equipment categories and the lowest overall cost proposal. Funding for this lease is in the current budget and will be requested in subsequent budgets.

Moved by Cacciotti; seconded by Mitchell, unanimously approved.

Ayes: Burke, Benoit, Cacciotti, Mitchell  
Noes: None  
Absent: None

13. **Transfer and Appropriate Funds for the Rule 1180 Program, Execute Purchase Orders and/or Contracts and Issue Solicitation:** Jason Low, Assistant Deputy Executive Officer, Science & Technology Advancement, reported that in order to establish community air monitoring near refineries, the Board recognized over \$7 million in the Rule 1180 Special Revenue Fund and \$4.5 million is included in the Fiscal Year 2021 budget from annual fees to continue community monitoring. These actions are to transfer and appropriate up to \$861,000 from the Rule 1180 Special Revenue Fund to the Science and Technology Advancement budget and to execute purchase orders and contracts for air monitoring equipment and vehicles. Lastly, this action is to issue a solicitation for an independent technical audit of the Rule 1180 Fenceline and Community Air Monitoring Network. Council Member Mitchell asked if we are required under AB 617 to do fenceline monitoring. Dr. Low responded that for AB 617, we take community input to develop a monitoring strategy in the community air monitoring plan and staff informs the community that Rule 1180 air monitoring is already occurring in the Carson/Wilmington/Long Beach community for which refineries were identified as a priority. There is also a

refinery that is outside of that area that is subject to fenceline monitoring under Rule 1180. Ms. Barbara Baird added there was a Muratsuchi Bill that required the refineries to pay for fenceline monitoring. Rule 1180 is consistent with the bill and was developed so refineries will pay for the whole cost of the program. Council Member Cacciotti asked if the three vehicles being purchased will be clean vehicles. Dr. Low responded that staff is looking for the cleanest vehicles that can fit the function and these vehicles will be larger van-type vehicles to carry the air monitoring equipment, calibration gases and other devices. Council Member Cacciotti asked about electric vehicles. Mr. Natri stated that the cost of electric vehicles of this type would be three times higher and may not have the reliability necessary. Council Member Mitchell asked if we have considered propane-powered vehicles. Mr. Natri stated it again becomes an issue of reliability. Mr. Eder commented that the South Coast AQMD should consider alcohol fuels which provides a reduction in carbon dioxide. Council Member Cacciotti suggested we consider the green-powered energy vans.

Moved by Mitchell; seconded by Cacciotti, unanimously approved.

Ayes: Burke, Benoit, Cacciotti, Mitchell  
Noes: None  
Absent: None

#### **WRITTEN REPORTS:**

14. **Local Government & Small Business Assistance Advisory Group Minutes for the June 12, 2020 Meeting:** The report was acknowledged and received.
15. **Environmental Justice Advisory Group Minutes for the January 24, 2020 Meeting:** The report was acknowledged and received.

#### **OTHER MATTERS:**

16. **Other Business:** None.
17. **Public Comment:** Mr. Eder commented that there was a newspaper article regarding lawmakers and their instability.
18. **Next Meeting Date:** The next regular Administrative Committee meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

#### **Attachments**

- Local Government & Small Business Assistance Advisory Group Minutes for the June 12, 2020 Meeting
- Environmental Justice Advisory Group Minutes for the January 24, 2020 Meeting



# South Coast Air Quality Management District

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## LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE ADVISORY GROUP FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Council Member Ben Benoit, LGSBA Chairman (Board Member)  
Supervisor Janice Rutherford (Board Member)  
Felipe Aguirre  
Mayor Pro Tempore Rachele Arizmendi, City of Sierra Madre  
Paul Avila, P.B.A. & Associates  
Todd Campbell, Clean Energy  
LaVaughn Daniel, DancoEN  
Bill LaMarr, California Small Business Alliance  
Rita Loof, RadTech International  
Eddie Marquez, Roofing Contractors Association  
David Rothbart, Los Angeles County Sanitation District

### MEMBERS ABSENT:

Supervisor V. Manuel Perez (Board Member)  
Geoffrey Blake, Metal Finishers of Southern California  
John DeWitt, JE DeWitt, Inc.

### OTHERS PRESENT:

Mark Abramowitz  
Harvey Eder, Public Solar Power Coalition  
Tom Gross, Board Member Consultant (*Benoit*)  
Dan McGivney, SoCal Gas  
Patty Senecal  
Mark Taylor, Board Member Consultant (*Rutherford*)  
Ross Zelen

### SOUTH COAST AQMD STAFF:

Jill Whynot, Chief Operating Officer  
Derrick Alatorre, Deputy Executive Officer  
Ron Moskowitz, Chief Information Officer  
Sujata Jain, Chief Financial Officer  
Sarah Rees, Ph.D., Assistant Deputy Executive Officer  
Fabian Wesson, Assistant Deputy Executive Officer  
Jo Kay Ghosh, Ph.D., Health Effects Officer  
Teresa Barrera, Senior Deputy District Counsel  
Victor Yip, Senior Enforcement Manager

Mark Henninger, Information Technology Manager  
Anthony Tang, Information Technology Supervisor  
Van Doan, Air Quality Specialist  
Elaine-Joy Hills, Air Quality Specialist  
Paul Wright, Senior Information Technology Specialist

#### **Agenda Item #1 - Call to Order/Opening Remarks**

Chair Ben Benoit called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m.

Mr. Derrick Alatorre provided guidelines and general instructions for participation in the remote meeting for the Local Government & Small Business Assistance Advisory Group (LGSBA) meeting via Zoom webinar and teleconference.

#### **Agenda Item #2 – Approval of May Meeting Minutes/Review of Follow-Up/Action Items**

Chair Benoit called for approval of the May 8, 2020 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Mr. Bill LaMarr referenced Mr. Ian MacMillan's response to a question on establishing a de minimis level for stationary sources on page three of the May 8, 2020 meeting minutes and commented that the Small Business Administration defines small businesses by the number of employees and annual receipts, ranging from 500-1500 employees and \$7.5-37.5 million; it is not defined by the physical size of a facility. Mr. LaMarr further added that the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) also does not define small businesses by the square footage. Mr. Alatorre stated that staff will review the minutes and make corrections if needed. Mr. LaMarr stated the reason for the comment on the definition was to make a point and have it memorialized. Chair Benoit stated that it may be a future action item or discussion, not quite related to the minutes.

#### **Agenda Item #3 – Review of Follow Up/Action Items**

Mr. Alatorre stated that there were no follow-up or action items.

#### **Agenda Item #4 – Summary of Recent Studies of Air Pollution & Health Effects**

Dr. Jo Kay Ghosh provided a summary of key recent research studies of air pollution and health effects.

Ms. Rita Loof referenced slide #17 and asked for an explanation of exploratory behavior. Dr. Ghosh explained that mice have a natural curiosity and exploratory behavior refers to their desire to explore different spaces.

Mr. David Rothbart stated that the California Air Resources Board (CARB) is working on expanding the list of toxic compounds that are required to be reported to be used for health risk assessments and are not assigning toxicity values. They are using similarities in chemical properties to determine toxicity values. Mr. Rothbart asked how that approach is viewed from a regulatory standpoint. Dr. Ghosh replied that risk assessments rely on having toxicity values in order to calculate risk from a particular pollutant. The ability to develop a toxicity value for use in risk assessment depends on having appropriate studies available to derive those values. In some cases, there could be studies that show a pollutant is toxic, but there may not be enough information to derive a quantitative toxicity value.

Mr. Harvey Eder commented on the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) virus, climate change, economy, oil prices, and various statistics.

Mr. LaMarr commented that the business community is constantly being bombarded by the public with the belief that businesses are the cause of cancer and commented that words like “suggestive” and “could” in the reports indicate that the studies show no definitive answer. Mr. LaMarr stated that cancer is not a single disease, it is a collection of diseases and suggested that staff take the opportunity to address the public’s concern when there is an assumption that a specific facility is the cause of illnesses. Dr. Ghosh replied that it’s generally not possible to pinpoint a particular pollutant or air pollution as the cause of a specific person’s health problem, but studies have shown that there are a number of health conditions linked to air pollution exposure. As more studies are conducted, the air pollution levels associated with a health outcome could be better quantified. Dr. Ghosh stated that this relates to the toxicity levels and risk assessments previously referenced by Mr. Rothbart. Mr. LaMarr referenced a quote from a book by University of Southern California (USC) Professor Thomas Mack indicating that there is no evidence confirming that cancer is caused from an environmental carcinogen and stated that not much has changed. Dr. Ghosh replied that hexavalent chromium (Cr(VI)) is an air toxic, which meets the criteria for a known human carcinogen and clearly linked to cancer risk. Other air pollutants are also classified as known human carcinogens, such as benzene and formaldehyde. Today’s presentation focuses on particulate matter 2.5 (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and its linkage to certain types of cancers. The composition of the PM<sub>2.5</sub> is important as well; for example, it is composed of Cr(VI), then obviously it would be a carcinogen. Mr. LaMarr referenced slide #6 and stated that there are no firm statements linking PM<sub>2.5</sub> to cancer. Dr. Ghosh commented that when it comes to ascertaining whether a pollutant causes a particular disease, you need more than a single study to come to those conclusions. Therefore, agencies review the entirety of the science that is available on that topic in order to come to a conclusion. For example, the U.S. EPA concluded from their scientific review that the relationship between PM<sub>2.5</sub> and cancer is “likely to be causal.”

#### **Agenda Item #5 – Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 General Fund Budget**

Ms. Sujata Jain provided an overview of the General Fund Budget detailing staffing levels, expenditures, and revenues required to maintain current program commitments.

Mr. Paul Avila asked if the South Coast AQMD is eligible for Federal grants and loans available. Ms. Jain replied that South Coast AQMD applied for two grants under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act and is awaiting a response.

Mr. LaMarr asked if South Coast AQMD has a \$230 million unfunded pension liability. Ms. Jain replied yes. Mr. LaMarr stated that State and Los Angeles (LA) City employees opted for pay cuts due to budget deficits and asked if South Coast AQMD has considered a similar approach instead of fee increases. Ms. Jain replied that there is no fee increase this year and future increases will be based on how the fiscal year ends and the Governing Board’s (GB) decision. Mr. Alatorre indicated that, currently, there are no plans for pay cuts, layoffs, or furloughs; however, future decisions will depend on the revenues. Mr. LaMarr stated that South Coast AQMD’s revenue sources are dependent on the businesses and the economy and suggested open discussions with businesses with all options being considered. Ms. Jain stated that updates are presented at the Administrative Committee and GB meetings to maintain transparency and provide the GB with ample information to make their decisions. Chair Benoit added that all options are being considered and we will get through this together.



Ms. Loof asked for the funding status of Assembly Bill (AB) 617 and what will happen in upcoming years. Ms. Jain replied that AB 617 funding for FY 2020-21 has been approved. Mr. Alatorre replied that a new bill, which was previously Senate Bill (SB) 808 authored by Senator Mitchell, is in review by the legislature. This new bill is for the appropriation of \$50 million from the air pollution control fund for implementation in FY 2021-22, independent of the Cap-and-Trade Program; however, an additional \$200 million, which is from the Cap-and-Trade Program, may be affected as results from the previous auction were much lower than expected.

Ms. Rachelle Arizmendi asked if there have been any discussions on prepayment of the unfunded liability pension and how to assertively address it. Ms. Jain replied that South Coast AQMD is still paying outstanding pension obligation bonds, which will be completed in three years. The budget includes almost \$7 million in addition to contributions, so when the payments are complete, that fund may be available for prepayment of the liability pension upon the GB's approval. Chair Benoit stated that it is something the GB is considering.

Mr. Eder commented on solar energy and investments.

Ms. Jill Whynot indicated that the AB 617 incentive funding in the proposed budget was \$200 million. It was \$245 million the previous year and \$250 million the year before that, and South Coast AQMD continues working to obtain any possible increase.

**Agenda Item #6 –Monthly Report on Small Business Assistance Activities**

No comments.

**Agenda Item #7 - Other Business**

None.

**Agenda Item #8- Public Comment**

**Agenda Item #9 – Next Meeting Date**

The next regular Local Government & Small Business Assistance Advisory Group meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 14, 2020 at 11:30 a.m.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.



# South Coast Air Quality Management District

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## **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY GROUP FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2020 MEETING MINUTES**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Senator Vanessa Delgado (Ret.), EJAG Chair (Board Member)  
Rhetta Alexander, Valley Interfaith Council  
Manuel Arredondo, Coachella Valley School District, Retiree  
Suzanne Bilodeau, Knott's Berry Farm  
Paul Choe, Korean Drycleaners & Laundry Association  
Dr. Afif El-Hasan, American Lung Association  
Mary Figueroa, Riverside Community College  
Dr. Monique Hernandez, California State University, Los Angeles  
Dr. Jill Johnston, University of Southern California  
Humberto Lugo, Community Member  
Daniel Morales, National Alliance for Human Rights  
Rafael Yanez, Community Member  
Donald Smith, 136th Street Block Club

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Council Member Ben Benoit, (Board Member)  
Supervisor Janice Rutherford, EJAG Vice Chair (Board Member)  
Dr. Lawrence Beeson, Loma Linda University, School of Public Health  
Kerry Doi, Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment  
Evelyn Knight, Long Beach Economic Development Commission  
David McNeill, Baldwin Hills Conservancy

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Harvey Eder, Public Solar Power Coalition

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

Jill Whynot, Chief Operating Officer  
Fabian R. Wesson, Assistant Deputy Executive Officer/Public Advisor  
Nancy Feldman, Principal Deputy District Counsel  
Alicia A. Rodriguez, Senior Public Information Specialist  
Jeanette N. Short, Senior Public Information Specialist  
Brandee Keith, Secretary  
Daniei Brown, Career Development Intern

### **Agenda Item #1: Call to Order/Opening Remarks**

Ms. Fabian Wesson called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m., and introduced the new Advisory Group Chair, Senator Vanessa Delgado.

Chair Delgado greeted the group, shared information about her professional experience, and the goals she aims to achieve as the Chair for the Environmental Justice Advisory Group (EJAG). Members also introduced themselves and shared their goals in participating in EJAG.

### **Agenda Item #2: Approval of October 25, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Chair Delgado called for the approval of the October 25, 2019 meeting minutes. Ms. Rhett Alexander moved to approve the minutes and Ms. Mary Figueroa seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Agenda Item #3: Review of Follow-Up/Action Items**

Ms. Wesson provided a response to the October 25, 2019 action items:

- **Action Item:** E-mail the Advisory Group a link to the “Estamos Aqui: A Community Documentary” two-minute trailer that was shown at the EJ Conference in 2019. The link was emailed on October 25, 2019.
- **Action Item:** Share with the EJAG members conference break-out session notes from the EJ Conference in 2019. Conference break-out session notes were available as a handout at the meeting.
- **Action Item:** Agendize community science overview. A brief overview was presented by Rafael Yanez at the meeting.

### **Agenda Item #4: Goals and Objectives for 2020**

Ms. Wesson referred members to the Goals and Objectives included in the agenda packet and reported two additional items be added at the request of South Coast AQMD Board Member Janice Rutherford, in absentia: Item 13 – Updates on Implementation of the 2016 AQMP; and Item 14 – Update on the Development of the 2022 AQMP. Mr. Manuel Arrendondo requested to add a goal of Implementing Existing Technology in Communities. Ms. Mary Figueroa moved to approve the Goals and Objectives as amended; Dr. Jill Johnston seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Agenda Item #5: EJAG Accomplishments 2019**

Ms. Wesson reviewed EJAG’s Accomplishments throughout 2019 and asked for comments. None were given.

### **Agenda Item #6: Environmental Justice Community Partnership Recap of 2019**

Ms. Alicia Rodriguez provided a recap of the Environmental Justice Community Partnership (EJCP) in 2019.

Ms. Mary Figueroa asked what kind of information is provided to students in the Clean Air Ranger Education (CARE) program to take home. Ms. Alicia Rodriguez explained all students received a backpack containing a letter to parents, informational pamphlets on South Coast

AQMD programs, and coloring books. Ms. Figueroa asked if the informational pamphlets were available in Spanish, and Ms. Wesson confirmed all were.

Chair Delgado asked if the 2020 dates had been finalized for the various EJCP meetings. Ms. Rodriguez explained some dates have been finalized, however others are still being established and staff will share the dates with the EJAG members as they become available.

**ACTION ITEM:** Send EJCP meeting schedules as they become available to all EJAG members.

Ms. Rhett Alexander asked if the students visited by the CARE program were given the chance to ask questions, and what they were. Ms. Rodriguez confirmed students were given an opportunity to ask questions, and that many inquired about wildfires, what they as students could do to be aware of air quality, and how to help improve air quality.

Ms. Wesson shared that South Coast AQMD also has a high school program called Why Healthy Air Matters (WHAM). She offered to provide information to the EJAG members.

**ACTION ITEM:** Provide EJAG members information on WHAM program.

Mr. Daniel Morales asked about the environmental conditions around the schools visited in the CARE program, and if there were a lot of diesel trucks. He explained that research states that students attending school near a high traffic area with diesel trucks have asthma. Ms. Rodriguez shared that most of the schools visited were in areas with significant trucking activity and goods movement. Mr. Morales recommended Wilson Elementary in Colton be considered for the CARE program.

Ms. Suzanne Bilodeau requested an email regarding future scheduled CARE programs. Ms. Rodriguez pointed out that any outside visitors wishing to attend need to confirm with her ahead of time, as school policies would prevent unauthorized visitors without prior notice.

**ACTION ITEM:** Send CARE program meeting schedule to all EJAG members when available in the Summer of 2020.

Ms. Figueroa asked how the schools were selected for the CARE program. Ms. Wesson explained the schools were predominantly chosen from known environmental justice and AB 617 selected communities. Other outreach was also extended throughout our four county region.

Ms. Nancy Feldman, Principal Deputy District Counsel reiterated comments in regard to attending, as each school district has rigorous requirements on who is allowed on campus. She further explained that South Coast AQMD employees go through a background check to assure the schools that nothing nefarious is in their background.

Ms. Rhett Alexander asked if lesson plans left with teachers were materials they could continue to use after CARE program visits. Ms. Rodriguez explained the lesson plans were still being developed and would include future activities for students and parents to pursue. Ms. Wesson added that the desired outcome would be to keep the students and school staff engaged on air quality by sharing ideas like establishing an environmental justice club. Ms. Alexander asked if the terms “climate change” or “global warming” are linked to the programs. Ms. Rodriguez

stated that it currently was not, and Ms. Alexander suggested it be included so they can learn to use those phrases.

Mr. Harvey Eder, a member of the public, commented in regard to kids getting asthma. He stated there is a real cost and that a health benefit fund should be set-up to reimburse families and schools when medical leave is taken.

Chair Delgado stated that she would like to work with staff to acquire grant funding to expand the CARE program. She further stated if we focused on schools in AB 617 communities, organizations such as Alta Med and Kaiser could contribute to such programs when there is a nexus to health. She asked staff to develop a plan for growing the program with the following information: how many schools could realistically be visited, are more staff needed, and what the timeline would look like through 2021.

**ACTION ITEM:** Provide information to EJAG Chair on expansion of CARE program.

Mr. Humberto Lugo asked the age group served by the CARE program. Ms. Rodriguez replied that currently it's elementary, 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Mr. Lugo suggested including it into the STEM program in AB 617 community schools and through grant funding engage children into monitoring efforts such as mapping.

Mr. Rafael Yanez suggested partnering with the schools and provide Purple Air Monitors with grant funding. Ms. Wesson mentioned that air monitors were being distributed in the high school program (Which are included in the kit until completion of curriculum) and could be extended into the elementary school programs as well (With expansion of the CARE program with funding).

#### **Agenda Item #7: Community Science Overview**

Mr. Yanez provided an overview of community science. He noted that Public Lab defined "Community science as a collaboratively lead scientific investigation, exploration and engagement in the entirety of the scientific process". Mr. Yanez stated that we need to understand the issues, learn the science, and ask questions to be more engaged in the community.

#### **Agenda Item #8: Member Updates**

Mr. Paul Choe requested information on dry cleaner facilities still in need of replacing equipment, to help outreach to them about Rule 1421 requirements, and the January 1, 2021 deadline to have non-perchloroethylene machines.

**ACTION ITEM:** Provide a list of dry cleaner facilities needing replacement before deadline and how much grant money is still available.

Dr. Afif El-Hasan shared the high importance of flu vaccines, especially in areas of high pollution, which exacerbates compromised immunities.

Mr. Donald Smith shared an update on his efforts to discuss road repairs, street sweepers, and degraded streets with his local government. He shared a news article regarding federal fracking projects and expressed the importance of keeping informed on such projects as it affects the air.

Dr. Jill Johnston shared that she is working on a project in collaboration with University of Illinois at Chicago and the National Institutes of Health developing a bilingual app for environmental hazard reporting with communities. The prototype is almost in place, they are pilot testing it with organizations to have it deployed within six months at no cost on Androids and iPhones. Then hopeful to work, collaborate, and integrate with South Coast AQMD's complaint system into their app. Mr. Yanez invited Dr. Johnston to present the project at an upcoming AB 617 meeting at which a community action plan is discussed.

Ms. Figueroa read sections of an article regarding environmental violations in the implementation of the World Logistics Center. She shared that the impact of increased trucking on a stretch of freeway unequipped to handle high traffic would result in increased idling of large trucks. She stated that the local elected representatives approved the World Logistics Center as they indicated the need for jobs, but she expressed the need for jobs is putting children at continued risk as they already live in a smoggy area.

**Agenda Item #9 - Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Agenda Item #10- Public Comment**

Mr. Eder suggested the South Coast AQMD and other local agencies pursue litigation against the fossil fuel industries and invest in future solar energy.

**Agenda Item #11: Next Meeting Date**

The next regular EJAG meeting is on Friday, April 24, 2020 at 12:00 pm.

**Adjournment**

Chair Delgado shared contact information and welcomed members to contact her if they wished to meet individually on environmental justice. The meeting was adjourned at 1:32 pm.