

BOARD MEETING DATE: August 6, 2021

AGENDA NO. 1

MINUTES: Governing Board Monthly Meeting

SYNOPSIS: Attached are the Minutes of the June 4, 2021 meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve Minutes of the June 4, 2021 Board Meeting.

Faye Thomas
Clerk of the Boards

FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 2021

Notice having been duly given, the regular meeting of the South Coast Air Quality Management District Board was conducted remotely via video conferencing and telephone. Members present:

Mayor Pro Tem Ben J. Benoit, Chair
Cities of Riverside County

Senator Vanessa Delgado (Ret.), Vice Chair
Senate Rules Committee Appointee

Council Member Joe Buscaino
City of Los Angeles

Mayor Pro Tem Michael A. Cacciotti
Cities of Los Angeles County – Eastern Region

Gideon Kracov
Governor's Appointee

Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
County of Los Angeles

Mayor Pro Tem Larry McCallon
Cities of San Bernardino County

Veronica Padilla-Campos
Speaker of the Assembly Appointee

Supervisor V. Manuel Perez (Joined the meeting at 11:20 a.m.)
County of Riverside

Vice Mayor Rex Richardson
Cities of Los Angeles County – Western Region

Mayor Pro Tem Carlos Rodriguez
Cities of Orange County

Supervisor Janice Rutherford
County of San Bernardino

Member absent:

Supervisor Lisa A. Bartlett
County of Orange

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Benoit called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

- Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Mayor Pro Tem Rodriguez
- Swearing in of Newly Appointed Board Member Veronica Padilla-Campos

Chair Benoit administered the oath of office to Veronica Padilla-Campos who was appointed for a term ending January 15, 2022.

Board Member Padilla-Campos expressed excitement about joining the South Coast AQMD Board and noted that she looked forward to working with fellow Board members.

- Roll Call

Supervisor Perez was absent for roll call and joined the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

- Opening Comments

Chair Benoit inquired about the status of plans for returning to in-person Board meetings in the William A. Burke Auditorium.

Executive Officer Wayne Nastri responded that plans are on track to return to the auditorium for the August 6, 2021 Board meeting. Chair Benoit added that the August Board meeting would be held in a hybrid format with the option to attend in-person or remotely through Zoom, and asked Board members to contact Mr. Nastri with any concerns about returning to in-person Board meetings.

Chair Benoit commented on the status of implementation of the Clean Truck Fund Rate by the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles and inquired about the possible need to pivot efforts to an indirect source rule (ISR) for the ports.

Mr. Nastri commented that staff is currently working on developing an ISR for railyards, which is scheduled for a public hearing in December 2021. He noted that staff has been engaged in discussions with the Ports and reported that the Port of Long Beach recently added near-zero emission trucks to the truck fee exemption to incentivize the use of natural gas trucks and prevent the ongoing purchase of diesel trucks. However, neither port has implemented the Clean Truck Fund Rate. Staff recommends presenting concepts for an ISR for Ports at the Mobile Source Committee. An ISR for Ports would have benefits for warehouses.

Chair Benoit suggested that staff conduct modeling to determine what is still needed and how close the region is to reaching attainment. He requested having a broader discussion of this topic at the Board retreat in September.

Mr. Nastri noted that by 2031 the Ports will be the largest source of NOx. He stated that staff plans to present information at the Board retreat that focuses on the progress in meeting attainment standards and challenges that need to be addressed. A joint discussion with CARB on concepts for attainment is also scheduled for the retreat, and staff will present results of the study that the Board authorized to evaluate the significance of meteorological effects and changing climate conditions on regional air quality.

Council Member Buscaino commented on plans to convene a meeting with the executive directors of the Ports and staff about the Clean Air Action Plan, noting that the result of that discussion will be reported through the Marine Port Committee.

Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti commented on fraudulent activity at smog check stations and suggested that staff provide a presentation on Senate Bill (SB) 210 (Leyva, 2019), the first program in the nation that would require inspection and maintenance of heavy-duty diesel trucks. Given the California Trucking Association's estimates of the total NOx emissions in the region attributed to heavy-duty trucks, it would be helpful to get background information and a status report on the legislation and the potential impacts on reducing emissions from trucks serving the Ports.

Vice Mayor Richardson reported that he has been actively engaged in discussions with the Ports, noting that concrete steps are being taken toward implementing the clean truck rate. He noted public statements, including an op-ed piece he wrote in February 2021, on the importance of implementing the clean truck fee. The clean truck fee needs to be implemented to transition to cleaner trucks and support fleet turnover. He also commented on the Resolution adopted by the Board of Harbor Commissioners to exempt low-NOx trucks from the clean truck fee, emphasizing the need for near-term emission reductions until zero-emission infrastructure and vehicles are available.

- Presentation: Air Pollution Triggers Gene Expression Changes in Transgenic Alzheimer's Mice Brains

Dr. Jo Kay Ghosh, Director of Community Air Programs/Health Effects Officer, introduced Dr. Keith Black and provided an overview of his research and accomplishments.

Dr. Black gave a presentation titled Air Pollution Triggers Gene Expression Changes in Transgenic Alzheimer's Mice Brains.

Chair Benoit thanked Dr. Black for his presentation and commented on the genetic marker that predisposed the mice to Alzheimer's and inquired about other possible factors.

Dr. Black responded that underlying genetic risk contributes to the development of Alzheimer's and all diseases but lifestyle, health and environmental factors can also be important drivers.

Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti commented on the recent adoption of the warehouse ISR and expressed concerns about schools and sensitive receptors near warehouses with significant diesel truck traffic. He asked what distance from air pollution sources impacts adverse health effects.

Dr. Black commented that the air collected for the study was within a quarter mile of heavily traveled freeways, but any area where air pollution occurs places individuals at risk.

Board Member Padilla-Campos asked whether the figure cited in the study for those at genetic risk for Alzheimer's disease applies to the population of Los Angeles County. Dr. Black responded that the 25 percent cited in the study applies to the population worldwide and refers to those who have one allele of a specific gene, which increases the odds of developing Alzheimer's.

Mr. Nastri commented that a lot of research and concern has been focused on adverse health impacts of ultra-fine particulate matter; however, the findings in this study suggests that larger size particulate matter may be more problematic. He asked whether a reexamination of the impacts of larger particulate matter on human health is warranted, given the results of this study.

Dr. Black acknowledged that it was surprising to see that the most dramatic effects in this study were due to fine and coarse particles. However, more research is needed to understand if coarse particulate matter may have different effects in the brain and on different types of disorders. He expressed appreciation to the Board for the continued funding of this important research.

Mr. Nastri noted that South Coast AQMD's focus on reducing emissions from diesel particulate matter is well placed, based on the findings of this study.

Vice Mayor Richardson thanked Dr. Black for his presentation and emphasized the need to continue to evaluate and study the links between Alzheimer's disease and air pollution. He commented on meeting with members of the Paramount City Council and South Coast AQMD staff to address concerns about the impacts of hexavalent chromium emissions. He also reported that the city of Long Beach recently adopted a new fee schedule for the Long Beach airport to incentivize the transition to clean vehicles and achieve immediate emission reductions. The fee structure offers significant discounts for fleets that use clean vehicles to pick up/drop off at the airport. This is an innovative model that could serve as a model for other areas.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – (Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.3)

Jessica Craven, North East Los Angeles (NELA) Climate Collective, thanked Dr. Black for his presentation. She urged the Board to continue to conduct Board meetings using a hybrid format that allows remote participation. She commented on the poor air quality in the Basin this summer, thanked the Board for adopting the warehouse ISR, and urged that they continue to take action to improve air quality and protect children in the South Coast region.

Harvey Eder, Public Solar Power Coalition, expressed concerns about local and national democracy, climate change and litigation on the Solar New Deal.

Chris Chavez, Coalition for Clean Air, congratulated Board Member Padilla-Campos on her appointment to the Board and thanked the Board for adopting the warehouse ISR. Mr. Chavez commented on Proposed Rule 1109.1 – NOx Reductions from Refinery and Refinery Related Equipment, emphasizing the need for the rule to include an emissions limit in the single digits. He expressed disappointment that refineries are writing a counter proposal and with continuous delays of the rule. He noted the urgency in reducing emissions, given the South Coast Basin's nonattainment status, and cautioned that further delays or compromises that weaken the rule increases the likelihood that a federal implementation plan (FIP) would be imposed.

Jerry Desmond, Metal Finishing Association of Southern California, expressed concern that CARB is developing an update to the Airborne Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) that proposes deadlines for phasing out hexavalent chromium plating technology on specific dates starting on July 1, 2024. Updates to the ATCM would replace the extensive work of South Coast AQMD staff, stakeholders and industry in developing Rule 1469 – Spraying Operations Using Coatings Containing Chromium. He added that metal finishing shops are investing a significant amount of money to install equipment and upgrade their facilities in compliance with Rule 1469 requirements. He stated that South Coast AQMD can have an important role in forming updates to the state ATCM and noted the important role of metal finishing companies in the defense and aerospace industries, and providing jobs.

Luis Guerrero, Sharefest LA/Wilmington resident, expressed concerns about the various air pollution sources surrounding the Wilmington area and expressed the need for research that tests the lung capacity of residents in the community. He commented on research efforts on air quality by some of his students, as well as their concerns about air quality in the Harbor City, Wilmington and San Pedro areas. He expressed appreciation to Council Member Buscaino's staff for connecting him to resources about the transition to cleaner and electric vehicles.

Chair Benoit commented on the USC Children's Health Study, a longitudinal study that started in the 1990s to examine the long-term effects of air pollution on the respiratory health of children living in Southern California. The results of the study found decreased

lung function in children that stayed in communities with higher levels of pollution. He asked that staff provide information about the study to Mr. Guerrero.

Ranji George, a member of the public, expressed support for hybrid meetings that allow remote participation. He thanked staff and the Board for inviting Dr. Black to speak and suggested having periodic scientific presentations that increase awareness. He expressed concerns that natural gas is being promoted as a solution to diesel air pollution and emphasized the need to address health impacts from natural gas combustion, including gas appliances in the home that contribute to indoor air pollution. He also urged the Board to address the recycling of electric battery waste generated by electric vehicle mandates.

Todd Campbell, Clean Energy, congratulated and welcomed Board Member Padilla-Campos to the Board and stated that he looks forward to working with her on key issues facing the region. He thanked the Board and Dr. Black for the research on Alzheimer's.

Edgar Baltazar, Sharefest LA, expressed concerns about the high air quality index (AQI) readings in the Harbor City area and suggested things we can do collectively to make a difference in reducing pollution.

Written Comments Submitted by:

Andris R. Abele Re: Clean Fuels Program

CONSENT AND BOARD CALENDAR

1. Approve Minutes of May 7, 2021 Board Meeting
2. Set Public Hearing August 6, 2021 to Consider Adoption of and/or Amendments to South Coast AQMD Rules and Regulations

Determine That Proposed Rule 1147.1 – NOx Reductions from Aggregate Dryers, Is Exempt from CEQA and Adopt Rule 1147.1

Items 3 through 15 -- Budget/Fiscal Impact

3. Adopt Resolution Recognizing Funds for FY 2020-21 Carl Moyer State Reserve Program
4. Recognize Revenue and Execute Contract for Class 8 Fuel Cell Truck Demonstration

5. Recognize Revenue, Transfer Funds, and Execute Contracts to Deploy 100 Battery Electric Drayage Trucks as part of CARB and CEC Pilot Project
6. Recognize Revenue and Reimburse General Fund for Administrative Costs for Enhanced Fleet Modernization Program
7. Issue Program Announcement for Combustion Freight and Marine Projects Category Under Statewide Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Program
8. Recognize Revenue, Transfer and Appropriate Funds, Issue a Solicitation and Execute Contracts and/or Purchase Orders to Meet Operational Needs for Rule 1180 and Community Scale Monitoring Programs
9. Recognize Revenue for Continued AB 617 Implementation
10. Remove Various Fixed Assets from South Coast AQMD Inventory
11. Authorize Cooperative Purchasing Agreement for Printing Equipment and Multi-Function Devices
12. Establish List of Prequalified Vendors for Janitorial Supplies
13. Transfer and Appropriate Funds and Execute Contract for Cybersecurity Assessment
14. Appoint Members to South Coast AQMD Hearing Board
15. Approve Award as Approved by MSRC

Items 16 through 21 – Information Only/Receive and File

16. Legislative, Public Affairs and Media Report
17. Hearing Board Report

18. Civil Filings and Civil Penalties Report
19. Lead Agency Projects and Environmental Documents Received
20. Rule and Control Measure Forecast
21. Status Report on Major Ongoing and Upcoming Projects for Information Management

Item 22 -- Staff Presentation/Board Discussion

22. Budget and Economic Outlook Update (*Presentation in Lieu of Board Letter*)

Jill Whynot, Chief Operating Officer, provided a brief update on Agenda Item No. 22 regarding the economic indicators and South Coast AQMD metrics and economic implications.

PRESENTATION ONLY; NO ACTION REQUIRED

Items 23 through 29 -- Reports for Committees and CARB

23. Administrative Committee
24. Investment Oversight Committee
25. Legislative Committee
26. Stationary Source Committee
27. Technology Committee
28. Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee
29. California Air Resources Board Monthly Report

Board Member Kracov noted that he has no financial interests in Item Nos. 3, 5, 6, 7 and 9 but is required to identify for the record that he is a Board Member of CARB, which is involved in these items.

Vice Mayor Richardson noted that he has no financial interest in Item No. 5 but is required to identify for the record that he is a Council Member of the City of Long Beach, which is involved in this Item.

Ranji George expressed support for the demonstration projects in Agenda Item Nos. 4 and 5 because they move the region towards zero-emission technologies; however, there is very little discussion about the disposal and recycling of electric and fuel cell batteries used in these projects. He urged the Board to address how battery waste will be discarded or recycled, noting that the responsibility should not be shifted to the Department of Toxic Substances Control to resolve, since most of the batteries are a result of South Coast AQMD and CARB clean vehicle mandates.

MOVED BY MCCALLON, SECONDED BY KRACOV, AGENDA ITEMS 1 THROUGH 29, APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 21-11 RECOGNIZING GRANT FUNDS AND APPROVING SOUTH COAST AQMD'S PARTICIPATION IN THE FY 2020-21 (YEAR 23) CARL MOYER STATE RESERVE PROGRAM; ADOPT RESOLUTION 21-10 RECOGNIZING GRANT FUNDS AND APPROVING THE SOUTH COAST AQMD'S PARTICIPATION IN THE CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION (CEC) AND CARB JOINT ZERO-EMISSION DRAYAGE TRUCK AND INFRASTRUCTURE PILOT PROJECT; ADOPT RESOLUTION 21-12 RECOGNIZING GRANT FUNDS AND ACCEPTING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE FY 2020-21 COMMUNITY AIR PROTECTION PROGRAM GRANT AWARD G20-CAPP-31; AND RECEIVE AND FILE THE COMMITTEE, MSRC AND CARB REPORTS, AND APPROVE THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON LEGISLATION AS SET FORTH BELOW, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: Benoit, Cacciotti, Delgado, Kracov, Kuehl, McCallon, Padilla-Campos, Richardson, Rodriguez, and Rutherford

NOES: None

ABSENT: Bartlett, Buscaino and Perez

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Agenda Item	Recommendation
AB 1260 (Chen) California Environmental Quality Act: exemptions: transportation-related projects	No Position
AB 1346 (Berman) Air pollution: Support small off-road engines	

30. Items Deferred from Consent and Board Calendar

PUBLIC HEARINGS

31. Determine That Proposed Amendments to Rule 1469.1 – Spraying Operations Using Coatings Containing Chromium, Are Exempt from CEQA, and Amend Rule 1469.1 (*Continued from May 7, 2021 Board meeting*)

Susan Nakamura, Assistant DEO/Planning, Rule Development and Area Sources gave the staff presentation on Agenda Item No. 31.

Supervisor Kuehl commented on the suite of source-specific rules that address hexavalent chromium. She expressed support for the adoption of the amendments to Rule 1469.1.

Board Member Kracov expressed appreciation to staff, community members and industry for their efforts with the rulemaking process. He commented on the extensive community air monitoring program that was conducted in the city of Paramount and asked who pays the costs associated with community monitoring and how South Coast AQMD regulations address monitoring costs.

Ms. Nakamura responded that if South Coast AQMD initiates community monitoring, the costs are paid for by South Coast AQMD. Under Rule 1480 – Ambient Monitoring and Sampling of Metal Toxic Air Contaminants, facilities that South Coast AQMD identify and demonstrate to be the source of elevated metal toxic air contaminants would be required to begin monitoring and have the option to pay a third-party contractor to conduct the monitoring or pay a fee to have South Coast AQMD staff conduct the monitoring. Board Member Kracov asked if the criteria in Rule 1480 has ever been triggered to which Ms. Nakamura responded, no.

The public hearing was opened, and the following individuals addressed the Board on Item 31.

Harvey Eder urged the Board to support the inclusion of solar power technologies in all rules. He expressed support for equitable solar transition and the Solar New Deal and locating battery recycling facilities in remote areas away from communities.

Bill Pearce, Boeing Company, thanked staff for working with stakeholders during the rulemaking process. He expressed support for the proposed rule amendments, noting that the amendments strengthen requirements in the current rule with respect to controlling emissions from spray booth operations while addressing Boeing's concerns.

Jerry Desmond, Metal Finishing Association of Southern California, expressed support for the rule amendments as they reflect significant discussion, dialogue and collaboration with all stakeholders.

There being no further testimony on this item, the public hearing was closed.

MOVED BY CACCIOTTI, SECONDED BY DELGADO; AGENDA ITEM NO. 31 APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 21-13 DETERMINING THAT PROPOSED AMENDED RULE 1469.1 – SPRAYING OPERATIONS USING COATINGS CONTAINING CHROMIUM IS EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF CEQA AND AMENDING RULE 1469.1 – SPRAYING OPERATIONS USING COATINGS CONTAINING CHROMIUM, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: Benoit, Cacciotti, Delgado, Kracov, Kuehl, McCallon, Padilla-Campos, Richardson, Rodriguez, and Rutherford
NOES: None

ABSENT: Bartlett, Buscaino and Perez

32. Determine That Proposed Amendments to Rule 1466 – Control of Particulate Emissions from Soils with Toxic Air Contaminants, Are Exempt from CEQA; and Amend Rule 1466

Michael Morris, Planning and Rules Manager, gave the staff presentation on Agenda Item No. 32.

Senator Delgado asked staff to explain the annual total cost increase resulting from PAR 1466.

Mr. Morris responded that the increase is primarily for the purchase of a software package that enables the monitors to talk to each other and associated subscription/data plan.

Mayor Pro Tem Rodriguez inquired about outreach efforts with industry and stakeholders.

Mr. Morris commented on the collaboration with industry, stakeholders, environmental organizations and other regulatory agencies and noted that Attachment D of the Board letter provides the list of entities that participated in the rulemaking process.

The public hearing was opened, and the following individual addressed the Board on Agenda Item 32.

Harvey Eder suggested that a map indicating affected facilities would help cities and counties with the preparation of their climate plans and expressed support for solar technologies due to its cost effectiveness.

There being no further testimony on this item, the public hearing was closed.

MOVED BY KRACOV, SECONDED BY DELGADO; AGENDA ITEM NO. 32 APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 21-14 DETERMINING THAT PROPOSED AMENDED RULE 1466 – CONTROL OF PARTICULATE EMISSIONS FROM SOILS WITH TOXIC AIR CONTAMINANTS IS EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF CEQA AND AMENDING RULE 1466 – CONTROL OF PARTICULATE EMISSIONS FROM SOILS WITH TOXIC AIR CONTAMINANTS, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: Benoit, Cacciotti, Delgado, Kracov, Kuehl, McCallon, Padilla-Campos, Richardson, Rodriguez, and Rutherford

NOES: None

ABSENT: Bartlett, Buscaino and Perez

33. Certification of Nonattainment New Source Review and Clean Fuels for Boilers Compliance Demonstration for 2015 8-hour Ozone Standard

Zorik Pirveysian, Planning and Rules Manager, gave the staff presentation on Item No. 33.

The public hearing was opened, and the following individual addressed the Board on Agenda Item 33.

Ranji George, a member of the public, expressed concerns with continued reliance on natural gas for heating, noting the contribution of natural gas to greenhouse gas emissions. He urged the Board to support solar thermal and fuel cell technologies.

There being no further testimony on this item, the public hearing was closed.

MOVED BY CACCIOTTI, SECONDED BY DELGADO; AGENDA ITEM NO. 33 APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 21-15 CERTIFYING THE NONATTAINMENT NEW SOURCE REVIEW (NSR) AND CLEAN FUELS FOR BOILERS COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION FOR 2015 8-HOUR OZONE STANDARD FOR THE SOUTH COAST AIR BASIN AND THE COACHELLA VALLEY AND DIRECTING STAFF TO FORWARD THE CERTIFICATION OF NONATTAINMENT NSR AND CLEAN FUELS FOR BOILERS COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION FOR 2015 8-HOUR OZONE STANDARD TO CARB FOR ITS APPROVAL AND SUBSEQUENT SUBMISSION TO U.S. EPA FOR INCLUSION IN THE STATE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (SIP), BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: Benoit, Cacciotti, Delgado, Kracov, Kuehl, McCallon, Padilla-Campos, Richardson, Rodriguez, and Rutherford

NOES: None

ABSENT: Bartlett, Buscaino and Perez

34. Determine That 2021 PM10 Maintenance Plan for South Coast Air Basin Is Exempt from CEQA and Approve 2021 PM10 Maintenance Plan for South Coast Air Basin

Dr. Scott Epstein, Program Supervisor, Air Quality Assessment/ Planning, Rule Development and Area Sources, gave the staff presentation on Item No. 34.

Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti commented on recent air quality forecasts. He inquired about the Air Quality Index (AQI) levels and noted there was one day over the past week that the forecast was in the red AQI category for the San Bernardino area.

Dr. Epstein stated that the red AQI range represents unhealthy air quality that could affect the general population. Air quality exceedances occur in the orange (unhealthy for sensitive groups) range. There have been approximately 20 unhealthy days in the basin this year for sensitive groups.

Chair Benoit commented on the effectiveness of the South Coast AQMD app in sending alerts and notifications to the public about air quality.

Board Member Kracov commented on the success of planning efforts and measures in contributing to the attainment of the PM10 standard. He asked whether wildfires are considered exceptional events and if they cause PM10 exceedances.

Dr. Epstein responded that wildfires are exceptional events. He noted that PM10 exceedances are not often caused by wildfires and usually occur when there is dust entrainment due to high winds; however, wildfires cause PM2.5 exceedances, which are an issue for PM2.5 attainment.

The public hearing was opened, and the following individuals addressed the Board on Item 34.

Harvey Eder noted that wildfires are becoming a normal occurrence rather than an exceptional event and the emissions from wildfires in 2020 were 10 times the normal level.

Mr. George expressed concerns with the frequency of wildfires and combustion technologies and their contribution to global warming. He urged support for zero-emissions technologies such as solar thermal and fuel cell technologies.

There being no further testimony on this item, the public hearing was closed.

MOVED BY CACCIOTTI, SECONDED BY MCCALLON; AGENDA ITEM NO. 34 APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 21-16 DETERMINING THAT THE 2021 PM10 MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR THE SOUTH COAST AIR BASIN IS EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF CEQA AND APPROVING THE 2021 PM10 MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR THE SOUTH COAST AIR BASIN AND DIRECTING STAFF TO FORWARD THE MAINTENANCE PLAN TO CARB FOR APPROVAL AND SUBMISSION TO U.S. EPA FOR INCLUSION IN THE STATE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (SIP), BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: Benoit, Cacciotti, Delgado, Kracov, Kuehl, McCallon, Padilla-Campos, Richardson, Rodriguez, and Rutherford

NOES: None

ABSENT: Bartlett, Buscaino and Perez

35. Determine That Proposed Amendments to Eastern Coachella Valley Community Emissions Reduction Plan are Exempt from CEQA, and Amend Eastern Coachella Valley Community Emissions Reduction Plan

Dan Garcia, Planning and Rules Manager, gave the staff presentation on Item No. 35.

Board Member Kracov recognized the hard work and efforts of staff, Community Steering Committee (CSC) members, community residents, state agencies and Supervisor Perez on the amendments to the Eastern Coachella Valley (ECV) Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) to further address concerns of the CSC members and community residents. He commented on the improved collaboration with other entities on actions where South Coast AQMD has limited jurisdiction such as the pesticide notification system.

Chair Benoit added his appreciation for the hard work that went into the undertaking to update the ECV CERP.

Supervisor Perez expressed appreciation for efforts at the grassroots level in developing the ECV CERP. He also recognized the extensive efforts and time of South Coast AQMD staff to accommodate and address the concerns of the ECV

AB 617 community, as well as the other AB 617 communities in the South Coast Basin. However, there are issues, such as the regulation of pesticides, that are under the jurisdictional authority of other entities but the South Coast AQMD is committed to engaging and collaborating with the appropriate entities on these issues. He emphasized the importance for everyone to work together. Supervisor Perez indicated that he was making a motion to approve the amendments to the ECV CERP and Mayor Pro Tem McCallon seconded the motion.

The public hearing was opened, and the following individuals addressed the Board on Item 35.

Peter Whittingham, representing Greenleaf Power, provided background information and an overview of the Desert View Power (DVP) Plant in Mecca owned by Greenleaf Power. He noted that DVP converts biomass sources that would otherwise be sent to a landfill or burned. It benefits the community as it provides electricity to homes in the Coachella Valley and is an alternative to the disposal of agricultural waste rather than open agricultural burning. He commented on the environmental benefits of biomass power plants, noting they are a net negative emitter of greenhouse gases since biomass introduces no new carbon into the GHG cycle. He expressed Greenleaf Power's desire to work collaboratively with residents, community organizations and CSC members in the Coachella Valley.

Miguel Hernandez, Comite Civico del Valle Inc, commended South Coast AQMD staff, community organizations, members of the CSC and ECV residents for their hard work and collaborative efforts, noting they were fully vested and engaged throughout the process. He expressed support for the approval of the proposed amendments to the ECV CERP.

Mariela Loera, Leadership Counsel, expressed frustration that the amendments to the ECV CERP do not address some general recommendations of CSC members and community residents. She highlighted recommendations that should have been included in the CERP; sections that were not amended; and the need to identify actions that directly achieve emission reductions, instead of relying on incentive-based strategies, and specific plans on how South Coast AQMD will collaborate with other entities that have the jurisdiction to implement actions such as developing a pesticide notification system. She requested that the Board direct staff to address the outstanding recommendations.

Supervisor Perez recognized the frustrations expressed but reiterated the need to work together and continue to take steps to move forward.

Harvey Eder expressed CEQA process concerns, equity issues and expressed support for solar power technologies and renewable energy.

Ed Luna, Mecca resident, expressed concern that the Coachella Valley is being compared to the San Joaquin Valley. He added that there are demographic, geographic and topographic differences in the Coachella Valley that do not align with issues in the San Joaquin Valley. He also questioned the comment made at the May 21, 2021 Stationary Source Committee that described the biomass process for the disposal of agricultural waste as a benefit to the community.

Chair Benoit clarified that there is an opportunity to make sure that burning agricultural waste is done properly and efficiently, and that doing it at a biomass facility could be an alternative to burning in an open field.

Ryan Sinclair, Loma Linda University/Leadership Counsel/Alianza/CSC member, commented on the great strides in moving this process forward, and highlighted the many meetings held to develop the proposed amendments. He acknowledged that interagency collaboration is challenging but is hopeful that concerns regarding pesticides will be addressed in coordination with the South Coast AQMD, Department of Pesticide Regulation and other agencies. The CERP is a living document that can be changed and adapted. He also expressed a desire to see more detail on how the emission reduction targets are directly tied to the recommended air quality priorities.

Supervisor Perez noted that the South Coast AQMD Board and staff are committed to further addressing concerns. He emphasized the need for everyone to continue working together as a team to move forward.

There being no further testimony on this item, the public hearing was closed.

MOVED BY PEREZ, SECONDED BY MCCALLON; AGENDA ITEM NO. 35 APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 21-17 DETERMINING THAT THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE AB 617 ECV CERP ARE EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF CEQA AND AMENDING THE AB 617 ECV CERP, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: Benoit, Buscaino, Cacciotti, Kracov, Kuehl, McCallon, Padilla-Campos, Perez, Richardson, Rodriguez, and Rutherford

NOES: None

ABSENT: Bartlett and Delgado

OTHER BUSINESS

36. Approve Compensation Adjustments for Board Member Assistants and Board Member Consultants for FY 2021-22

Sujata Jain, DEO/Chief Financial Officer, gave the staff presentation on Item No. 36.

MOVED BY BENOIT, SECONDED BY CACCIOTTI; AGENDA ITEM 36 APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: Benoit, Buscaino, Cacciotti, Delgado, Kracov, Kuehl, McCallon, Padilla-Campos, Perez, Richardson, and Rodriguez

NOES: None

ABSENT: Bartlett and Rutherford

CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Benoit at 12:00 p.m.

The foregoing is a true statement of the proceedings held by the South Coast Air Quality Management District Board on June 4, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Faye Thomas
Clerk of the Boards

Date Minutes Approved: _____

Ben J. Benoit, Chair

ACRONYMS

AQI = Air Quality Index

CARB = California Air Resources Board

CEC = California Energy Commission

CEQA = California Environmental Quality Act

CERP = Community Emissions Reduction Plan

ECV – Eastern Coachella Valley

FY = Fiscal Year

MSRC = Mobile Source (Air Pollution Reduction) Review Committee

NOx = Oxides of Nitrogen

NSR = New Source Review

PM10 = Particulate Matter ≤ 10 microns

RFP = Request for Proposals

SIP = State Implementation Plan

U.S. EPA = United States Environmental Protection Agency