

BOARD MEETING DATE: May 7, 2021

AGENDA NO. 17

REPORT: Administrative Committee

SYNOPSIS: The Administrative Committee held a meeting remotely, Friday, April 9, 2021. 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  
Mayor Pro Tem Ben Benoit, Vice Chair  
Mayor Pro Tem Michael Cacciotti

### **Call to Order**

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

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. **Board Members' Concerns:** There were no concerns to report.
2. **Chairman's Report of Approved Travel:** There was no travel to report.
3. **Report of Approved Out-of-Country Travel:** There was no travel to report.
4. **Review April 2, 2021 Governing Board Agenda:** There were no comments to report.
5. **Update on South Coast AQMD Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Efforts:** Anissa (Cessa) Heard-Johnson, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer, reported

on events this month. An Anti-Hate Rally, which had almost 300 participants, was in response to the anti-Asian hate movement and hate incidents taking place. The event included statements from our affinity groups to show solidarity. At a Women's History Month event, Mayor Mitchell and CARB Chair Liane Randolph participated in a panel discussion on women in the environmental justice movement. There was also an Interrupting Bias in the Workplace Workshop presentation for staff.

6. **Budget and Economic Outlook Update:** Jill Whynot, Chief Operating Officer, reported that there were more permits incoming last week than the same week in the previous year.
7. **Status Report on Major Ongoing and Upcoming Projects for Information Management:** Ron Moskowitz, Chief Information Officer/Information Management, reported that on March 24 they conducted a bidders conference for a cyber security assessment RFP and had nearly 100 attendees from about 50 different companies. The proposals are due today and staff will finalize recommendations over the next few weeks. He reported that staff finished enhancing the grant management system for Prop 1B and Cleaner School Bus Incentive programs enabling more efficient evaluation and approval of applications, and South Coast AQMD now has over 45,000 users on our mobile application. He also announced that he was inducted into the 2021 U.S. CIO Hall of Fame.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

8. **Recognize Revenue, Appropriate and Transfer Funds for Air Monitoring Programs, Issue an RFQ and Purchase Orders for Air Monitoring Equipment and One Vehicle, and Execute a Contract:** Jason Low, Assistant Deputy Executive Officer, Science & Technology Advancement, reported that South Coast AQMD can expect to receive grant funds of around \$700,000 from U.S. EPA for the PM 2.5 monitoring program and up to \$2.1 million from the U.S. Government for the Enhanced Particulate Monitoring program. Funds have been previously recognized by the Board for the Science to Achieve Results (STAR) program. These actions are to recognize this revenue and to appropriate funds to the PM 2.5 and Enhanced Particulate Monitoring Programs; transfer up to \$350,000 between major objects in the STA budget to rely on expenditures for the Enhanced Particulate Monitoring Program and up to \$125,000 for the STAR program; issue RFQ for air monitoring equipment and purchase orders and one vehicle; and execute a contract for data tools for citizen scientists.

Moved by Cacciotti; seconded by Benoit, unanimously approved.

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

9. **Authorize purchase of OnBase Software Support:** Mr. Moskowitz reported that this item is to purchase a software subscription and support for an electronic document management system. The funds are contingent on approval of the fiscal year 2021/22 budget.

Moved by Benoit; seconded by Cacciotti, unanimously approved.

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

10. **Adopt Executive Officer's FY 2021-22 Proposed Goals and Priority Objectives, and Proposed Budget:** Sujata Jain, Chief Financial Officer, Finance, requested that this item be waived, as it will be discussed at the Governing Board Budget Workshop. The Committee agreed.

11. **Execute Contract to Upgrade Real-time Public Alerts of Hydrogen Sulfide Events in the Coachella Valley:** Jo Kay Ghosh, Health Effects Officer, Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources, reported that this item is to execute a contract to continue the hydrogen sulfide monitoring network near the Salton Sea. Part of the contract is to provide technical upgrades that will enhance the performance of the system, which in addition to the monitoring also include an email subscription system, maintaining the web page to provide the public data, and provide email notifications to subscribers. The recommended action is to execute the contract with Sonoma Technology who is the existing contractor for the system, not to exceed \$77,300 from the AES Settlement Fund.

Vice Chair Benoit said this is important and noted a recent thunderstorm that pushed odors all the way out to Orange County and Los Angeles County. He asked that a press release be issued when the email system is in place. He also asked if this can be integrated into our app.

Moved by Benoit; seconded by Cacciotti, unanimously approved.

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

12. **Establish a List of Prequalified Counsel to Represent and Advise South Coast AQMD on Legal Matters Related to Environmental Law and General Matters:** Bayron T. Gilchrist, General Counsel, Legal, reported that this item is to establish two lists of pre-qualified Counsel. One is to represent South Coast AQMD in environmental law matters and one is to represent South AQMD in general governmental matters.

Moved by Benoit; seconded by Cacciotti, unanimously approved.

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

### **WRITTEN REPORTS:**

13. **Local Government & Small Business Assistance Advisory Group Minutes for the February 12, 2021:** The report was acknowledged and received.

### **OTHER MATTERS:**

14. **Other Business:** There was no other business.
15. **Public Comment:** There was no public comment.
16. **Next Meeting Date:** The next regular Administrative Committee meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

### **Attachment**

Local Government & Small Business Assistance Advisory Group Minutes for February 12, 2021



# South Coast Air Quality Management District

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## LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE ADVISORY GROUP FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

### MEMBERS ABSENT:

LaVaughn Daniel, DancoEN  
John DeWitt, JE DeWitt, Inc.

### OTHERS PRESENT:

Mark Abramowitz  
Harvey Eder, Public Solar Power Coalition  
Frank Forbes  
Thomas Gross, Board Member Consultant (*Benoit*)  
Debra Mendelsohn, Board Member Consultant (*Rutherford*)  
Dan McGivney, SoCal Gas  
Mark Taylor, Board Member Consultant (*Rutherford*)

### SOUTH COAST AQMD STAFF:

Jill Whynot, Chief Operating Officer  
Derrick Alatorre, Deputy Executive Officer  
Anissa Heard-Johnson, Deputy Executive Officer  
Sarah Rees, Deputy Executive Officer  
Victor Yip, Assistant Deputy Executive Officer  
Daphne Hsu, Senior Deputy District Counsel  
Mark Henninger, Information Technology Manager  
Zorik Pirveysian, Planning & Rules Manager  
Hugh Heney, Air Quality Analysis & Compliance Supervisor  
Brian Roche, Systems & Programming Supervisor  
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**

Supervisor Janice Rutherford called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

### **Agenda Item #2 – Approval of January 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes/Review of Follow-Up/Action Items**

Supervisor Rutherford called for approval of the January 15, 2021 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

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

Mr. Alatorre provided a response to the action items from the previous meeting and indicated that these items will be addressed during today's Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) presentation.

### **Agenda Item #4 – Update on recent Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) Related Activities**

Mr. Zorik Pirveysian provided an update of the South Coast Air Basin Attainment Plan for the 2006 24-hour Particulate Matter<sub>2.5</sub> (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) Standard, the Coachella Valley Extreme Area Plan for the 1997 8-hour Ozone Standard, and the 2022 AQMP development.

Mr. David Rothbart indicated that the 2016 AQMP described incentive funding needed to achieve emissions reductions. He stated that federal sources are unlikely to be clean enough to get to attainment and expressed concern about the unintended consequences of Section 185 of the Clean Air Act (CAA) that would be placed on major stationary sources for non-attainment. Mr. Rothbart indicated that Rule 317 – Clean Air Act Non-Attainment Fees might not be able to offset future penalties and would like to know how it would be possible to maintain the ability to avoid those consequences. Additionally, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) has a focus on electrification of all sources; however, it might not occur quickly enough for attainment. It appears that CARB is not looking at transition fuels and technology for immediate emissions reductions and would like to find ways to continue discussions with CARB to foster transition fuels and achieve reductions as soon as possible. Mr. Pirveysian stated that the 2016 AQMP specified a reduction of 108 tons/day of nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) by 2023, which is a challenge and needs regulations or programs to achieve it. Subsequently, there was a Contingency Measures Plan (CMP) to address the 108 tons/day NO<sub>x</sub> reduction. The CMP specified requirements for South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD), CARB, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Approximately 60-70 tons/day were identified to be from federal sources, such as ocean-going vessels, aircrafts, and trucks, to achieve that level of reductions. Without those emissions reductions, it would be impossible to demonstrate attainment. There is a fee equivalency provision in Rule 317 allowing offset so that the major sources don't have to pay the fee. There must be a reductions surplus to demonstrate equivalency on money spent on projects that would offset fees that major sources have to pay. In terms of near-term reductions as part of the mobile source strategies, CARB is in the process of updating the mobile source strategy and will have additional short-term reductions, such as maintenance or other programs. Dr. Sarah Rees indicated that South Coast AQMD continues to raise this issue with EPA and there are ongoing discussions. As for CARB, there is a change in leadership and we will continue to have discussions on the need to get to near-zero and on how to achieve immediate reductions. Mr. Rothbart commented on the focus on electrification and offered assistance, if needed.

Mr. Bill LaMarr expressed support for Mr. Rothbart's comments and recommended to communicate with the new administration and EPA to address sources in their jurisdiction so that businesses are not affected by Section 185. Mr. Alatorre indicated there is an ongoing effort to alert Congress of upcoming mandates and ask for assistance when needed, such as incentive funding or authority. Mr. LaMarr stated that it's only been one month since the inauguration and that previous visits were prior to that and asked

what could be done now. Mr. Alatorre replied that there is ongoing communication and the earliest return to Washington D.C. would be later this year. Chair Benoit asked to check if congressional members and the administration representatives are open to other types of meetings and suggested having virtual meetings with them, if possible. Mr. Alatorre stated that there are meetings with the members from our delegation and will work on meetings with the administration representatives. Dr. Rees indicated that the administration is in the transition period and does not have an assigned administrator yet and suggested waiting for assignment of a permanent representative. Mr. LaMarr commented that it is the time to plan. Mr. Alatorre replied that we have been prepared for 10 years and continue to do so. He also mentioned that Senator Padilla is from our region and is aware of the issues and we will have a strong voice on the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW), which EPA reports to. We will utilize every tool we have to ensure that the administration and legislative bodies hear from us.

Ms. Rita Loof referenced slide #10 and indicated that RadTech previously provided comment on the Reasonable Available Control Technology (RACT) and that South Coast AQMD relied on outdated documents from EPA. Ms. Loof hopes the science behind these documents is updated. Mr. Pirveysian stated that a letter was submitted to EPA requesting to update the guidelines. When considering a RACT and Best Available Control Technology (BACT) analysis, the latest regulations adopted by other agencies in California or the United States (US) are reviewed to provide a benchmark of the latest technologies that other agencies have considered.

Mr. Todd Campbell commented that proposed Rule 2305 – Warehouse Indirect Source Rule would be more effective if there is more flexibility, particularly to include near-zero yard tractors. The Port of Los Angeles has 4-5 BYD Motors tractors, which don't work. If these yard tractors don't work and near-zero tractors have no point values, the ports might turn to diesel-fueled equipment.

Mr. Harvey Eder provided comment on solar power.

#### **Agenda Item #5 – Compliance & Enforcement (C&E) Programs**

Mr. Hugh Heney provided information on Compliance & Enforcement (C&E) programs, including information on inspections and enforcement actions. Mr. Brian Roche provided an overview of the Facility Information Detail (FIND) online tool.

Mr. Rothbart indicated that having routine dialog with the regulated community is very helpful and suggested having additional training courses available, possibly coordinated by a permit streamlining and permitting committee. Mr. Heney indicated that management is available to discuss training options.

Ms. Loof referenced slide #7 and asked if the training program provides small businesses with resources and information to prevent violations. If not, Ms. Loof requested for consideration. Mr. Heney stated that in the past, staff would host events at various locations within South Coast AQMD and provided assistance to small businesses. Ms. Jill Whynot indicated that there are programs for small business assistance, training courses, and website updates. There are limited resources, but South Coast AQMD strives for, continues to improve and will consider the suggested ideas. Ms. Loof suggested having links available on the website for businesses as they are reluctant to reach out to inspectors for assistance and having access to other community contacts and resources.

Mr. LaMarr referenced revenue data presented at an earlier meeting and slide #6 on air quality complaints and asked if the revenue from penalties decreased due to less inspections or high compliance



rate. Ms. Whynot replied that inspectors continue to conduct inspections, modified to meet safety requirements. As for penalties, it is difficult to determine what it is driven by as there is a large number of small penalties, but 95% of the total amount could be from 3-4 large penalties. Staff is always striving to help improve compliance rates, which is generally high. Mr. LaMarr agreed that there is a high compliance rate. Mr. LaMarr asked how long a Notice of Violation (NOV) or Notice to Comply (NC) is available on the FIND program. Mr. Roche replied that they will remain on FIND indefinitely. Mr. LaMarr referenced slide #3 and asked if a mobile fuel truck would be classified as a facility. Ms. Whynot replied that a mobile fuel truck does not meet the traditional definition of a facility, but may be subject to permitting requirements. South Coast AQMD has the authority to regulate sources even when permits are not required, such as sources subject to Rule 1113 – Architectural Coatings.

Mr. Geoffrey Blake indicated that there was an ombudsman in the past and asked if there will be one in the future. Mr. Alatorre replied that he is the Public Advisor, who is the point of contact for the public and businesses.

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

No comments.

**Agenda Item #7 - Other Business**

None.

**Agenda Item #8- Public Comment**

Mr. Eder provided additional comments on solar power.

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

The next regular Local Government & Small Business Assistance Advisory Group meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 12, 2021 at 11:30 a.m.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.