

BOARD MEETING DATE: May 6, 2022

AGENDA NO. 21

REPORT: Administrative Committee

SYNOPSIS: The Administrative Committee held a meeting remotely on Friday, April 8, 2022. The following is a summary of the meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Receive and file.

Ben J. Benoit, Chair
Administrative Committee

SN:cb

Committee Members

Present: Chair Ben Benoit, Committee Chair
Senator (Ret.) Vanessa Delgado, Vice Chair
Mayor Michael Cacciotti
Board Member Gideon Kracov
Supervisor Janice Rutherford

Call to Order

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. **Board Members' Concerns:** There were none to report.
2. **Chair'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 May 6, 2022 Governing Board Agenda:** There were no changes to report.

5. **Approval of Compensation for Board Member Assistant(s)/Consultant(s):**
There were four proposals submitted: Contract modification for Ross Zelen and new contract for Destiny Rodriguez for Board Member Gideon Kracov; and new contracts for Josh Nuni and Jackson Guze for Councilmember Nithya Raman.

Moved by Cacciotti; seconded by Rutherford, unanimously approved.

Ayes: Benoit, Delgado, Cacciotti, Kracov, Rutherford
Noes: None

6. **Update on South Coast AQMD Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Efforts:**
Dr. Anissa Heard-Johnson, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer, provided an update on agency efforts.

Dr. Heard-Johnson discussed a fabulous female for Fabulous Female Friday and provided updates on upcoming DEI events, which included holiday commemorations and remembrances, think tanks, and the development of case studies that Employee Resource Groups are developing.

7. **Budget and Economic Outlook Update:** Susan Nakamura, Chief Operating Officer, indicated that similar trends continue and we expect revenues and expenditures to be on target. Permit activity is increasing. The vacancy rate has been affected by March retirements, but we continue to work on it.

Board Member Kracov and Chair Benoit recommended that this report can be made as needed.

8. **Engineering and Permitting Staffing:** Jason Aspell, Deputy Executive Officer, Engineering and Permitting, provided an update on staffing. He reported on permitting timelines and working with Southern California Alliance of Publicly Owned Treatment Works (SCAP) members to streamline processes. Mr. Aspell reported that there would be an additional supervisor position for the team that handles public facilities. He explained that there was a significant turnover due to retirements in 2018, but now 10-15 engineers are hired every year, except in 2020 because of COVID hiring freeze. We have ongoing engineer recruitment, promotional efforts, exploring temporary assignments of recent retirees to come back, and resource sharing across teams and divisions.

Stephen Jepsen, Executive Director, SCAP, provided public comment regarding support to reduce the permit backlog, specifically on wastewater and waste management. He commented on certain specific details required in the permit application that complicate the process. He requested that South Coast AQMD retain consultants temporarily to address the permit backlog.

David Rothbart, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts and Air Quality Committee Chair for SCAP, provided public comment regarding permit revision, alleviating the backlog by providing staff and recommended consultants be temporarily retained as a solution

Supervisor Rutherford suggested outsourcing and contract engineers.

Wayne Nastri, Executive Officer, indicated we have considered that option, but the greatest speed and effectiveness is trying to get retirees to come back on a contract basis that know our systems.

Chair Benoit confirmed that it is a priority we are working on.

9. **Adopt Executive Officer's FY 2022-23 Proposed Goals and Priority Objectives, and Proposed Budget; Determine that Proposed Amendments to Regulation III – Fees and Rule 1480 – Ambient Monitoring and Sampling of Metal Toxic Air Contaminants are Exempt from CEQA; Amend Regulation III – Fees and Rule 1480 – Ambient Monitoring and Sampling of Metal Toxic Air Contaminants:** Presentation on this item was waived and moved to be heard at the Special Governing Board meeting Budget Workshop.
10. **Status Report on Major Ongoing and Upcoming Projects for Information Management:** Ron Moskowitz, Chief Information Officer, Information Management, reported that we replaced our communication link between headquarters and Long Beach offices and also modernized our Sacramento office. We deployed portals for Cesar Chavez and CAPES for registration.

ACTION ITEMS:

11. **Authorize Purchase of OnBase Software Support:** Mr. Moskowitz reported that this action is a standard request every year for OnBase software subscription and support for one year from Hyland Software and funding is available in the budget.

Moved by Cacciotti; seconded by Benoit, unanimously approved.

Ayes: Benoit, Delgado, Cacciotti, Kracov, Rutherford
Noes: None

12. **Approve Compensation Adjustments for Board Member Assistants and Board Member Consultants for FY 2022-23:** Sujata Jain, Chief Financial Officer, Finance, reported that this action is a routine item for next fiscal year, 2022-2023, compensation for Board Member assistants and consultants.

Moved by Kracov; seconded by Cacciotti, unanimously approved.

Ayes: Benoit, Delgado, Cacciotti, Kracov, Rutherford
Noes: None

13. **Amend Section 30.4 of the South Coast AQMD's Administrative Code:** Mr. Nastri reported that this action is to amend section 30.4 of the Administrative Code which indicates the duties and responsibilities of the Board. Mr. Natri explained this amendment adds language that specifies that Chair can only serve two consecutive terms and that the Chair requested this amendment.

Mayor Cacciotti inquired about background of this coming up. Chair Benoit responded that agencies move better when there is movement and involvement and that all other Boards regularly rotate, and it helps to keep things fresh.

Mr. Natri noted that many years ago the Governing Board used to have this limit in place as such where the Chair could only serve two consecutive years.

Board Member Kracov and Vice Chair Delgado support and appreciation for this amendment.

Moved by Rutherford; seconded by Cacciotti, unanimously approved.

Ayes: Benoit, Delgado, Cacciotti, Kracov, Rutherford
Noes: None

14. **Consider Dissolution of the Health Effects of Air Pollution Foundation (HEAPF) as Research Projects are Completed and Funds are Depleted, Return of Remaining Funds to Health Effects Research Fund Upon Dissolution:** Sarah Rees, Deputy Executive Officer, Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources, reported that this action is looking at the dissolution of the Health Effects of Air Pollution Foundation (HEAPF). She indicated that this is a foundation we have been using to fund air quality studies, looking at the impact of ambient air quality and various health effects. Dr. Rees explained that there are three active contracts pending that are expected to conclude by September 2023. We are seeking dissolution because the amounts of funding we have been able to provide are very small compared to the type of work that these studies require since they are usually multi-year studies. We

would like to direct funds that we use for these studies for other measures such as our web projects and CAPES and be able to do further outreach on air pollution issues.

Chair Benoit supported this action and agreed this foundation has run its course.

Mayor Cacciotti expressed concern requested it come back to the Board when the studies are complete. Mr. Nastri confirmed we would have a presentation on the research to the Board.

Mr. Harvey Eder, Public Solar Power Coalition, provided public comment on the dissolution and expressed the importance of looking into brain cancer and premature deaths affected by air pollution.

Moved by Kracov; seconded by Benoit, unanimously approved.

Ayes: Benoit, Delgado, Cacciotti, Kracov, Rutherford
Noes: None

Board Member Kracov requested that Items 15 and 16 be heard in reverse order. Item 16 was heard before Item 15.

16. **Appoint Members to South Coast AQMD Hearing Board:** Faye Thomas, Clerk of the Boards, reported that this action is to conduct interviews to appoint two public members and one medical member and their alternates for new, three-year terms that begin on July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025. There were nine qualified applicants for the public member positions and two for the medical member. The Advisory Committee scored and ranked the candidates for public members and recommended that the top five scoring candidates be forwarded to this Administrative Committee for interviews. The Advisory Committee reviewed the qualifications of both medical member candidates and deemed both qualified for interviews with the Administrative Committee.

The Committee first interviewed the two medical members in alphabetical order: Dr. Alan Bernstein and Dr. Wayne Chen.

The Committee then interviewed five public members in alphabetical order: Micah Ali, Robert Copeland, Steven Samaniego, Catherine Showalter and Cynthia Verdugo-Peralta.

The Committee considered their respective professional backgrounds and experience.

After interviewing the candidates and discussion among Committee members, Board Member Kracov moved to reappoint Cynthia Verdugo-Peralta, and appoint Micah Ali as Public Members; reappoint Dr. Alan Bernstein as Medical Member and appoint Dr. Wayne Chen as Alternate Medical Member; and reappoint Robert Copeland and appoint Steven Samaniego as an Alternate Public Members; seconded by Cacciotti, unanimously approved.

Ayes: Benoit, Delgado, Cacciotti, Kracov, Rutherford
Noes: None

15. **Appropriate Funds and Amend Contract with Strumwasser & Woocher, LLP to Provide Representation and Advice to South Coast AQMD Hearing Board:** Ms. Nakamura reported that this action is to increase an existing contract for legal assistance for the Hearing Board for an additional \$35,000.

Moved by Benoit; seconded by Cacciotti, unanimously approved.

Ayes: Benoit, Delgado, Cacciotti, Kracov, Rutherford
Noes: None

WRITTEN REPORT:

17. **Local Government & Small Business Assistance Advisory Group Minutes for the February 11, 2022 Meeting:** The report was acknowledged and received.

OTHER MATTERS:

18. **Other Business:** None to report.
19. **Public Comment:** Mr. Eder provided public comment on scope plan.
20. **Next Meeting Date:** The next regular Administrative Committee meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Attachments

Local Government & Small Business Assistance Advisory Group Minutes for February 11, 2022



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE ADVISORY GROUP FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Council Member Rachelle Arizmendi, City of Sierra Madre
Paul Avila, P.B.A. & Associates
Todd Campbell, Clean Energy
John DeWitt, JE DeWitt, Inc.
Bill LaMarr, California Small Business Alliance
Rita Loof, RadTech International
David Rothbart, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mayor Carlos Rodriguez, LGSBA Chairman (Board Member)
Supervisor Janice Rutherford (Board Member)
Felipe Aguirre
Geoffrey Blake, Metal Finishers of Southern California
LaVaughn Daniel, DancoEN
Eddie Marquez, Roofing Contractors Association

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mark Abramowitz
Jason Henderson, California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance

SOUTH COAST AQMD STAFF:

Jill Whynot, Chief Operating Officer
Derrick Alatorre, Deputy Executive Officer
Aaron Katzenstein, Assistant Deputy Executive Officer
Lisa Tanaka O'Malley, Assistant Deputy Executive Officer
Kathryn Higgins, Director of Community Air Programs
Daphne Hsu, Principal Deputy District Counsel
Walter Shen, Planning and Rules Manager
Ricardo Rivera, Public Affairs Manager
Nicole Silva, Program Supervisor
Ryan Stromar, Senior Public Affairs Specialist
Daniel Wong, Senior Public Affairs Specialist
Van Doan, Air Quality Specialist
Elaine Hills, Air Quality Specialist
Anthony Tang, Information Technology Supervisor
Paul Wright, Senior Information Technology Specialist

Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order/Opening Remarks

Mr. Derrick Alatorre called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Agenda Item #2 – Approval of January 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Alatorre called for approval of the January 14, 2022 meeting minutes.

Motion to approve minutes made by Ms. Rita Loof with a minor edit; seconded by Mr. Todd Campbell; unanimously approved.

Ayes: Arizmendi, Avila, Campbell, DeWitt, LaMarr, Loof, Rothbart

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Aguirre, Blake, Daniel, Marquez, Rodriguez, Rutherford

No public comment.

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

No follow-up/action items.

Agenda Item #4 – Update on Assembly Bill (AB) 617 for 2021

Mr. Ryan Stromar provided an update on the AB617 program for 2021.

Ms. Loof asked about public comment period for the Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) in the Los Angeles area and Mr. Stromar responded there will be for the South Los Angeles area. Ms. Kathryn Higgins further indicated the draft CERP will be taken to Stationary Source Committee and Governing Board, which will provide opportunities for public comment in May 2022.

Mr. John DeWitt inquired if there is a current list of participants in the committees. Mr. Stromar indicated there is an updated roster with names and affiliation on each of the AB617 community webpages.

Mr. David Rothbart asked if the Community Steering Committees understand attainment limitations and authority of South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD). Mr. Stromar responded that before CSC members are selected, public outreach is conducted to educate the communities of South Coast AQMD's jurisdiction, responsibilities, and limitations. Mr. Alatorre informed Mr. Rothbart that there are many programs that can be selected and implemented, which can include emissions reduction or mitigation programs.

No public comment.

Agenda Item #5 – Update on South Coast AQMD Mobile Source Incentive Programs

Mr. Walter Shen presented an overview and highlights on South Coast AQMD mobile source incentive programs.

Mr. Paul Avila asked about the old engines being replaced, the balance of Federal money going into these incentive programs, and chances of funds being expended. Mr. Shen indicated inspectors are required to document both destruction of the original equipment and new replacement equipment prior to the issuance of reimbursements or funding. As for funding, the Governing Board approves a contract

to fund a program, and the funds approved are encumbered; therefore, the funds for the program will exist until the contracts are completed.

Mr. Rothbart inquired about cost-effectiveness of electrification versus near-zero options and air quality benefits. Mr. Shen responded the cost-effectiveness have thresholds as established by the Carl Moyer guidelines, which is based on public feedback. The cost-effectiveness threshold of \$30,000 per weighted ton of total reduced emissions is for getting equipment to current standards, while the \$100,000 per weighted ton of reduced emissions is for zero-emission projects. Currently, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) is working to increase the cost-effectiveness for zero-emission and electrification. However, a determination of the cost-effectiveness has not been made. Currently, the best “bang for your buck” is with marine and agricultural projects, and diesel-fueled equipment.

Ms. Loof inquired about the Community Air Protection Program (CAPP) and requested examples of other projects awarded funds. Ms. Nicole Silva indicated staff work with communities to establish stationary source projects and obtain approval from CARB to utilize funds under the Community Air Protection Incentives. Ms. Silva further stated staff is following a participatory budgeting process in distributing funds allocated for AB617 communities, and working with these communities to identify and prioritize projects to use those funds.

Mr. Campbell commented that once the warehouse indirect source rule is implemented, it may potentially provide additional incentive funding for mobile sources. Mr. Campbell asked if staff has information regarding this potential funding. Mr. Shen did not have any information would follow up with Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Bill LaMarr asked if there are contracted scrap dealers that destroy the old engines and where the money goes. Mr. Shen indicated his questions are outside the scope of incentive guidelines; however, staff ensures destruction of the old engines to meet State Implementation Plan guidelines to make sure emission reductions are permanent. Mr. LaMarr requested this item be placed on a future agenda and possibly have CARB attend to provide information. Mr. Alatorre recommended that staff conducts initial research prior to placing this item on an agenda.

***Action Item #1:** Inform Mr. LaMarr whether a presentation on old engine destruction will be placed on a future agenda.*

No public comment.

Agenda Item #6 – Other Business

Mr. Rothbart inquired about reinstating Home Rule Advisory Group (HRAG), which Mr. Alatorre will discuss with Mr. Wayne Natri and Governing Board Chair Ben Benoit.

***Action Item #2:** Provide an update on potential reinstatement of HRAG.*

Agenda Item #7 – Public Comment

No public comment.

Agenda Item #8 – Next Meeting Date

The next regular LGSBA Advisory Group meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 11, 2022 at 11:30 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m.