



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE ADVISORY GROUP FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ben Benoit, Council Member and LGSBA Chairman
V. Manuel Perez, Supervisor, Fourth District, Riverside County
Rachelle Arizmendi, Mayor Pro Tempore, City of Sierra Madre
Paul Avila, P.B.A. & Associates
Geoffrey Blake, Metal Finishers of Southern California
LaVaughn Daniel, DancoEN
John DeWitt, JE DeWitt, Inc.
Bill LaMarr, California Small Business Alliance
Eddie Marquez, Roofing Contractors Association
Carlos Rodriguez, Council Member, City of Yorba Linda
David Rothbart, Los Angeles County Sanitation District

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Janice Rutherford, Supervisor, Second District, San Bernardino County
Felipe Aguirre
Todd Campbell, Clean Energy
Cynthia Moran, Mayor, City of Chino Hills
Rita Loof, RadTech International

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ruth Ann, Board Member Consultant
Terry Ahn, Orange County Sanitation District

SOUTH COAST AQMD STAFF:

Derrick Alatorre, Deputy Executive Officer
Fabian Wesson, Assistant Deputy Executive Officer
Nancy Feldman, Principal Deputy District Counsel
Mark Henninger, Information Technology Manager
Michael Morris, Planning & Rules Manager
Carol Gomez, Planning & Rules Manager
Philip Crabbe III, Public Affairs Manager
Lane Garcia, Program Supervisor
De Groeneveld, Sr. Information Technology Specialist
Elaine-Joy Hills, AQ Inspector II
Van Doan, AQ Inspector II
Julie Valencia, Radio Telephone Operator

Agenda Item #1 - Call to Order/Opening Remarks

Chair Ben Benoit called the meeting to order at 11:36 a.m. and introduced a new member of the Local Government & Small Business Assistance Advisory Group, Mr. Carlos Rodriguez.

Agenda Item #2 – Approval of March 8, 2019 Meeting Minutes/Review of Follow-Up/Action Items

Chair Benoit called for approval of the March 8, 2019 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

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

Mr. Derrick Alatorre stated that there are no follow up or action items.

Agenda Item #4 – Online Subscription Services

Mr. Mark Henninger and Mr. Michael Morris presented on South Coast Air Quality Management District's (South Coast AQMD) online subscription services.

Mr. David Rothbart asked if emails are already in the system or they need to be transferred. Mr. Morris replied that emails need to be transferred. At this point in the rule development process, notifications have been sent. However, email updates need to be added to this process.

Mr. Bill LaMarr asked if there are any reminders sent to companies to update South Coast AQMD when the contact information changes. Mr. Morris stated that adding reminders into the program is a great suggestion. Currently, the companies are contacted after several unsuccessful email deliveries.

Chair Benoit suggested that it is effective to set up an email box dedicated to notifications and allowing it to be accessible by multiple staff members.

Ms. Fabian Wesson suggested that it is effective to request that companies update South Coast AQMD if a new staff member assumes the designated title that is listed.

Mr. Rodriguez asked how many stakeholders are currently receiving the notifications. Mr. Morris replied that it depends on the rule development process, it could be from hundreds to tens of thousands of interested stakeholders. Approximately 30,000 stakeholders were notified regarding this topic. Councilman Rodriguez asked when this transition will occur and if it is an opt-in. Mr. Morris stated that the goal is 2022 and confirmed that it will be an opt-in.

Agenda Item #5 – Update on AB 2766

Ms. Carol Gomez provided an update on the Assembly Bill (AB) 2766 subvention fund program.

Mr. John DeWitt asked if emission reductions were determined by air monitoring data or calculations. Ms. Gomez responded that there are air monitors throughout the South Coast AQMD region. However, they don't measure emission reductions for specific projects. Mr. LaMarr asked if air monitoring data indicates overall emission reductions. Ms. Gomez replied yes.

Mr. Alatorre asked for an explanation as to why the results are for fiscal year (FY) 2016-17 and not 2018-19. Ms. Gomez explained that the reports are for the previous fiscal year because of the time required to collect, analyze, and report the data.

Mr. Paul Avila asked if the cities and counties have total latitude on how to spend the funds they receive. Ms. Gomez stated that the funds have to be spent in any of the 11 listed categories related to mobile emission reductions.

Mr. LaMarr referenced the slide on financial summary and commented that Los Angeles County received the most funding. Ms. Gomez stated that the funding was based on population.

Chair Benoit stated that cities also receive funding based on population.

Mr. LaMarr asked if any of the funds will be used for AB 617 implementation. Ms. Gomez responded the funds could be used for AB 617 implementation if the projects fall within any of the 11 listed categories and if that is how the local government chooses to use their allocation.

Mr. Rothbart referenced the slide on program summary and commented that the nitrogen oxide (NOx) reduction accounted for 1/3 of the total emissions reduced. Mr. Rothbart asked why this program is not State Implementation Plan (SIP) approved. Ms. Gomez responded that this program is not SIP-approved because some projects are claimed in other projects, so they can't be double counted and others are part of Rule 2202 implementation.

Ms. Rachelle Arizmendi referenced the slide on the history of emissions reduced and asked how the emission reductions for previous years compare to FY 2016-17 if the revised methodology was used. Ms. Gomez responded that the results would likely be similar.

Mr. Rodriguez referenced the slide on the history of emissions reduced and asked if the amount of emissions reduced for FY 2016-17 would be the new norm. Ms. Gomez replied yes. Mr. Rodriguez referenced slide #14 on project implementation and asked what 61% of projects quantified meant. Ms. Gomez stated that local governments are encouraged to apply the funds towards quantifiable projects that obtain emission reductions, and the 61% typically stays the same.

Chair Benoit asked if the project categories were set up legislatively. Ms. Gomez replied yes.

Mr. Avila asked why results from the Winfrey methodology are no longer precise. Ms. Gomez explained that the emission factors changed over time, but the methodology was not updated to reflect that change.

Ms. LaVaughn Daniel asked how the cost-effectiveness of \$25.37 per pound of emissions reduced compares to other South Coast AQMD programs. Mr. Lane Garcia responded that a comparison of different programs were not completed. Mr. Garcia stated that the guidance from the legislation is to achieve approximately \$10 per pound of emissions reduced; however, that's not a requirement.

Mr. Rodriguez referenced slide #11 on the financial summary and asked if the remaining undesignated funds of \$8.4 million is for all four counties. Ms. Gomez replied yes. Mr. Rodriguez asked, if there is a list of cost-effective projects that could be used as a guide. Ms. Gomez indicated there is a list of projects and its respective cost-effectiveness included in the AB 2766 annual report, available on the South Coast AQMD website. Mr. Rodriguez asked if the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) reviewed any of those projects and provided its recommendations. Ms. Gomez stated that during the AB 2766 training courses, staff highlights the preferred projects.

Agenda Item #6 – Public Nuisance

Ms. Nancy Feldman provided an overview on public nuisance enforcement.

Mr. Avila asked for clarification on what a considerable number of persons is. Ms. Feldman responded that it could not be clarified as it is not a legal standard. This is only a general guideline for enforcement purposes, which could be modified when necessary.

Mr. Rothbart asked if there are complaint response guidelines. Ms. Feldman stated yes.

Mr. La Marr asked how inspectors are able to verify the problem with six different complainants if inspectors are unable to solicit complaints. Ms. Feldman stated that inspectors do not go door to door to solicit complaints; however, they are notified when complaints are reported to South Coast AQMD.

Mr. Avila asked if complaints regarding homeless people are reported to South Coast AQMD. Ms. Feldman replied no, those are reported to the city.

Mr. Rothbart asked if there is a threshold where complaints are not investigated. Ms. Feldman responded that all complaints reported to South Coast AQMD are investigated. Mr. Rothbart suggested that businesses should be notified if there is a complaint against them. Ms. Feldman stated that as part of the complaint investigation, the businesses are typically inspected or notified.

Mr. Geoffrey Blake asked if the leak at the Aliso Canyon Natural Gas Storage Facility is from a tank. Ms. Feldman responded the leak was from an underground gas well.

Mr. LaMar asked if the Notice of Violation (NOV) issued was for violating Rule 402 for four months. Ms. Feldman replied yes, only one NOV was issued.

Mr. Rothbart asked what actions follow a NOV if a facility continues to be in violation. Ms. Feldman stated that a petition for an Order for Abatement is filed with the South Coast AQMD Hearing Board against facilities with ongoing issues.

Agenda Item #7 –Monthly Report on Small Business Assistance Activities

No comments.

Agenda Item #8 - Other Business

Mr. LaMarr asked if funds are still available in the Dry Cleaner Grant Program and what machines are qualified. Ms. Wesson replied yes and stated that Mr. Ricardo Rivera will contact Mr. LaMarr.

Action item: Provide information regarding Dry Cleaner Grant Program.

Mr. Avila requested a presentation on the Cap-and-Trade program.

Action item: Agendize a presentation on the Cap-and-Trade program.

Mr. John DeWitt asked for the number of remaining pending permit applications.

Action item: Provide information regarding permit backlog reduction.

Agenda Item #9 - Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item #10 – Next Meeting Date

The next regular Local Government & Small Business Assistance Advisory Group meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 19, 2019 at 11:30 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m.