



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE ADVISORY GROUP FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mark Ambrowitz
Dan McGirney, SoCal Gas
Andy Silva, San Bernardino County
Mark Taylor, Board Member Consultant (*Rutherford*)
Ben Wong
Jose Luis Zavola

SOUTH COAST AQMD STAFF:

Derrick Alatorre, Deputy Executive Officer
Philip Fine, Deputy Executive Officer
Terrence Mann, Deputy Executive Officer
Fabian Wesson, Assistant Deputy Executive Officer
Teresa Barrera, Senior Deputy District Counsel
Lisa Tanaka O'Malley, Senior Public Affairs Manager
Victor Yip, Senior Enforcement Manager
Scott Epstein, Program Supervisor

Anthony Tang, Information Technology Supervisor
Ricardo Rivera, Senior Staff Specialist
Van Doan, Air Quality Specialist
Elaine-Joy Hills, Air Quality Specialist
Alicia Rodriguez, Senior Public Information Specialist
Jeanette Short, Senior Public Information Specialist
Paul Wright, Senior Information Technology Specialist
Daniei Brown, Career Development Intern

Agenda Item #1 - Call to Order/Opening Remarks

Ms. Lisa Tanaka O'Malley called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. and 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 June Meeting Minutes/Review of Follow-Up/Action Items

Supervisor Janice Rutherford called for approval of the June 12, 2020 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

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

Supervisor Rutherford stated that there were no follow-up or action items, which was confirmed by Ms. Tanaka O'Malley.

Agenda Item #4 – Emissions Reductions and Air Quality Impacts from COVID-19 Pandemic Response

Dr. Scott Epstein provided information on data using various indicators to estimate the changes in emissions and the impacts on regional air quality.

Supervisor Rutherford referenced slide #4 and asked how naturally-occurring air quality challenges influence air quality. Dr. Epstein replied that naturally-occurring volatile organic compounds (VOC), such as emissions from vegetation, react in the atmosphere in the same way as VOC's emitted by humans and affect ozone and particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) concentrations. Although those VOC's cannot be reduced, attainment goals could be met by reducing human emissions. Supervisor Rutherford stated that due to the South Coast Air Basin's (SCAB) geography, poor air quality is present even without emission sources presented on the slide. Dr. Epstein replied that several factors contribute to air pollution, including warm temperature, sunlight, geography, and high emissions. There are 17 million people living in the SCAB contributing to the high level of emissions, particularly from fossil fuel combustion for transportation of people and goods. Furthermore, the SCAB is surrounded by mountains and prevailing wind from the coast pushes emissions inland and traps them there.

Ms. Rita Loof referenced slide #7 and asked for clarification on the last purple line on the timeline. Dr. Epstein replied that it represented very unhealthy air quality.

Supervisor Rutherford referenced slide #13 and inquired about the average nitrogen oxide (NO_x) and ozone levels used in graphs versus the maximum PM_{2.5} levels. Dr. Epstein indicated that NO_x levels shown in the graph are used as a surrogate for emissions because its concentrations are not high enough to pose a health problem; therefore, not driving the air quality index. The graph for NO_x shows how the

levels have trended. On the other hand, PM_{2.5} and ozone are more relevant since they drive the air quality index, so the maximum levels were used.

Mr. David Rothbart commented that based on the models, the NO_x levels decreased while the ozone levels didn't and asked if the increase in VOC levels complicated the chemistry, resulting in the increased ozone levels. Dr. Epstein replied that the results were consistent with the expectations; however, more VOC data is needed. Mr. Rothbart stated that attainment is difficult to achieve, and this was a great way to validate the models. Dr. Epstein indicated that these experiments are valuable for validating models like these and the regional modeling group is working with California Air Resources Board (CARB) on a coronavirus disease (COVID) emissions inventory and models. Mr. Rothbart suggested to consider the VOC emissions from hand sanitizer. Dr. Epstein replied that hand sanitizer may not be a dominant emission source, but could be an example of how certain categories have increased significantly.

Ms. Loof summarized that media showed air quality was good due to the stay-at-home order. It appeared to be valid in the first few weeks; however, air quality issues are still present. Dr. Epstein stated that the media was not wrong in stating that there was good air quality at the beginning. There were some articles showing empty freeways and very clean air, and it was easy to draw that connection. Realistically, the connection is more complicated and was likely due to meteorology. In the early days, there were increased rainfall and frequent wind events that improved the air quality and when those events subsided, the poor air quality returned.

Mr. John DeWitt asked if there are any cost and emissions reductions analyses. Dr. Philip Fine replied that when a rule or plan is in development, the cost-effectiveness and benefits are carefully assessed to determine the costs incurred by industry. It is also included in the rule making process for CARB and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). After the rules have passed, many have tried to obtain compliance cost data from industry, but were unsuccessful. However, the overall cost and benefits are analyzed for various regulatory measures and are included in the Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP).

***Action item:** Provide links for past cost-effectiveness analyses.*

Agenda Item #5 – Environmental Justice Updates

Ms. Fabian Wesson and Ms. Alicia Rodriguez presented on Environmental Justice outreach efforts, including updates on the Environmental Justice Community Partnership.

Ms. Loof asked why the Inter-Agency Task Force staff directory is confidential. Ms. Wesson replied that the staff directory may include private cellular phone numbers, intended for internal use only.

***Action item:** Provide a link to register for the 6th Annual Environmental Justice Conference.*

Supervisor V. Manuel Perez stated that in working with the Assembly Bill (AB) 617 environmental justice groups in the Coachella Valley and with staff, struggles regarding governance and the process were found. Supervisor Perez stated that it is important to provide updates and allow for others to make recommendations. They are interested in having a governance structure, which follows the Brown Act. He further stated that he might not agree with it, but believed that it is important to provide the facts, listen and understand why they would like to move in that direction. They could decide for themselves

and present it to the Governing Board (GB). Ms. Wesson replied that there have been three charter working group meetings regarding the Brown Act. At the last meeting, the charter working group voted to not include the Brown Act and will present its recommendation to the Community Steering Committee (CSC) at the next meeting on August 26, 2020. There has been an open and transparent process, which allowed for the groups to provide input and recommendations.

Ms. Rodriguez stated that there is an Environmental Justice Community Partnership Advisory Council that advises staff on Environmental Justice Conference, Clean Air Program for Elementary Students (C.A.P.E.S), and other community programs. The members of the advisory council are from all four counties and new members are invited to participate.

Ms. Loof expressed support for Supervisor Perez's comments and indicated that the LGSBA advisory group previously faced a similar issue and needed clarification on the process to provide recommendations as a group. Ms. Loof asked if the charter working groups are considered an advisory committee and if they would fall under the Brown Act. Ms. Wesson replied that a committee must be appointed by the GB to fall under the Brown Act. Ms. Teresa Barrera stated that the Brown Act does not apply at this time.

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

No comments.

Agenda Item #7 - Other Business

None.

Agenda Item #8- Public Comment

None.

Agenda Item #9 – Next Meeting Date

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

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:44 p.m.