




air pollution control district
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Agenda Item: F-5
Agenda Date: May 19, 2022
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Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No

Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board

FROM: Aeron Arlin Genet, Air Pollution Control Officer 

CONTACT: Lorena Saldana, Executive Assistant/Board Clerk, (805) 979-8282

SUBJECT: Minutes of the June 30, 2021 South Central Coast BCC Meeting

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file the attached minutes from the June 30, 2021 meeting of the South Central Coast Basinwide Control Council (BCC).

DISCUSSION:

The Health and Safety Code (Section 40900) requires that each air basin, which is comprised of two or more air pollution control districts, establish a Basinwide Air Pollution Control Council. This council is intended to promote coordination of air pollution control efforts throughout the air basin. The council receives reports on rule development and planning efforts, the anticipated effect of state and federal actions, and other issues of interest.

The South Central Coast BCC typically meets quarterly and consists of one Board Member, appointed by the Air Pollution Control Board, from each of the following Districts: San Luis Obispo County, Santa Barbara County and Ventura County. As you may recall, Director Paula Perotte was appointed by your Board to represent Santa Barbara County on this Council in 2020 and reappointed through 2022. Director Holly Sierra was appointed as the alternate member of the BCC through 2022.

The attached minutes summarize the June 30, 2021 South Central Coast Basinwide Control Council meeting. We provide such minutes to your Board after their approval. The BCC approved the meeting minutes at their March 24, 2022 meeting.

ATTACHMENT:

A. June 30, 2021 BCC Meeting Minutes

Aeron Arlin Genet, Air Pollution Control Officer

ATTACHMENT A

Basinwide Control Council Meeting Minutes June 30, 2021

May 19, 2022

Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District
Board of Directors

260 San Antonio Road, Suite A
Santa Barbara, California 93110

SOUTH CENTRAL COAST BASINWIDE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL COUNCIL

Santa Barbara County APCD, 260 N. San Antonio Rd. Suite A, Santa Barbara, CA, 93110

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Gary Willey, APCO
San Luis Obispo County APCD

Dr. Laki Tisopulos, APCO
Ventura County APCD

Aeron Arlin Genet, APCO
Santa Barbara County APCD

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dawn Ortiz Legg, Chair
Supervisor, District 3
San Luis Obispo County

Lynn Edmonds, Vice Chair
Council Member, City of Fillmore
Ventura County

Paula Perotte
Mayor, City of Goleta
Santa Barbara County

MEETING MINUTES

June 30, 2021

Meeting Commenced at 9:00 a.m.

Present

Council Members: Lynn Edmonds, Paula Perotte, and Jimmy Paulding (alternate for Dawn Ortiz Legg)

Staff: Gary Willey, Dr. Laki Tisopulos, Aeron Arlin Genet, and Andy Mutziger.

1. Approval of Minutes of March 25, 2021

A motion was made by Ms. Perotte, seconded by Ms. Edmonds that the minutes be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 2 - Perotte, Edmonds

Noes: 0 - None

Abstain: 0 - None

Absent: 1 - Ortiz Legg

2. Public Comment Period

This is the time set for public comments on items not on the agenda. Vice Chair Lynn Edmonds opened the floor to public comment with no response.

3. Update on Ventura County APCD's BARCT Rule Development (AB 617) (Tisopulos)

Dr. Tisopulos provided an update on the rule development effort at VCAPCD to develop BARCT regulations required by AB 617. AB 617 was adopted into law approximately three years ago with the primary objective of assisting the disadvantaged, low-income environmental justice communities and improving their quality of life. One requirement is to have a thorough review of the existing regulations, pick up those that have not been updated, and introduce the BARCT standards. The APC

Board adjusted the District's BARCT cost-effectiveness thresholds in 2019 for ROCs to \$30,000 per ton and NOx to \$39,000 per ton. Six rules were identified: gas turbine, boilers & process heaters, crude oil & ROC liquids, bulk loading, flare, and fugitive components. Four of these rules have already been adopted and amended; the two remaining ones are the flare and fugitive components rules. The District has to develop the flare and fugitive components rules within the next year, year and a half and the requirement of AB 617 to have adopted and implemented those particular regulations by 2023 will be fulfilled.

Ms. Perotte asked for an explanation of the flare rule. Dr. Tisopulos stated that flares are pollution control and emergency devices that are being utilized by quite a few oil and gas facilities. When these facilities produce excess gas that they cannot process, that gas has to be sent through the flare to combust the gas and convert it from methane to CO₂. VCAPCD does not currently have a flare rule, but there are technologies that can be used to reduce emissions from the flaring process. He stated that landfills also use these flares because they produce a lot of methane, so the rule would be applicable to them as well.

4. SLO County APCD Handbook Updates & CEQA Guidance on GHG Threshold (Willey)

Mr. Mutziger, Planning/Monitoring/Grants Manager, provided an update on SLOCAPCD's CEQA review process and how things have been modified to adjust to an existing threshold for greenhouse gasses. Mr. Mutziger introduced the council to the new SLOCAPCD's CEQA website which is organized to help answer questions on air quality rules and regulations for state, federal, and local jurisdictions and the AEP's CEQA Handbook Appendix G for air quality and GHGs.

Mr. Mutziger then discussed SLOCAPCD's 2021 Interim CEQA Greenhouse Gas Guidance. With the passage of SB 32, SLOCAPCD's AB-32 Bright-Line threshold and the efficiency threshold are no longer defensible because in 2015, the California Supreme Court issued an opinion on the Newhall Ranch court case which determined that AB 32 based thresholds derived from a gap analysis are invalid for projects with a planning horizon beyond 2020. Since SLOCAPCD's Bright-Line and service population are not applicable, their interim guidance document has some suggestions on what projects can do in lieu of having a threshold. The Newhall Ranch case confirmed that if a project is consistent with a qualified climate action plan (CAP), it is an acceptable approach for meeting CEQA requirements.

Mr. Paulding stated that the City of Arroyo Grande has a CAP that is not qualified and asked if Mr. Mutziger could please outline if the other jurisdictions are planning on going through the CAP process, or why would they want to do that, and how would that help the City of Arroyo Grande meet their goals. Mr. Mutziger answered that they worked with other jurisdictions to develop CAPs for AB 32 that had good emission reduction options within them, but they needed to be updated to be consistent with SB 32. SLOCAPCD reached out to 3C Energy to see if they would be interested in working with SLOCAPCD on a regional CAP. It was of interest to them, but it is not on their current priority list. Mr. Paulding asked if there are funding sources to help jurisdictions update CAPs. Mr. Mutziger stated that there are funding sources like SGC. SLOCAPCD is interested in working with CARB to create a steady funding stream to help jurisdictions secure funds to do CAP updates.

Mr. Mutziger detailed the options available, such as a No-net increase, an updated threshold that is defensible, on-site and off-site mitigation measures, carbon offsets through the registries, or North America and international offsets. The main crux of this issue is that all of these offsets for CEQA need to be consistent with the CARB registry or equivalent and are real, additional, quantifiable, permanent, verifiable, and enforceable.

Mr. Mutziger then discussed the greenhouse gas inventory project that SLOCAPCD recently completed. The project was a partnership with 3CE (Community Choice Aggregate), AMBAG, and SLOCOG to fund

the inventory update for their eight jurisdictions and identify where they were at with meeting the 2020 AB 32 target (with 2005 as the baseline year).

Mr. Paulding asked if Paso Robles was the jurisdiction that was unable to meet the 15% below 2005 in 2018 AMBAG inventory reduction target, what factored into these reductions, and if SLOCAPCD attributing it to 3CE. Mr. Mutziger confirmed that Paso Robles did not meet the target. Paso Robles has quite a lot of industry and there are some nuances with these inventories. One nuance is that when 3CE and PGE are providing information about gas or electricity emissions, they face privacy issues. At the jurisdiction level, there is a lot of masking that is taking place at the industry setting. It's unclear how accurate the 7% (below 2005 in 2018 AMBAG inventory) is for Paso Robles because of that potential masking.

Mr. Paulding asked if, from a high-level standpoint, they are trying to develop or ascertain what changes were made at an individual jurisdiction level to get those reduction targets, what Mr. Mutziger would generally attribute it to. Mr. Mutziger showed a slide with the inventory on a county-wide basis. The bar graph showed the 2005 inventory and all the sectors (residential, commercial/industrial, transportation, solid waste, and wastewater) that have emissions associated with them. He stated the sector contributing the most to the emission reductions was transportation. In reality, 2/3 of the reductions came from residential and commercial/industry energy use. These county-wide graphs are the cleanest data set that they have because masking is not required at a regional level.

On the transportation side, they are working with CALeVIP to help electrify transportation in the south-central coast and securing the necessary infrastructure to meet the needs of EV drivers by 2025. There will be another big jump in EV infrastructure later on to meet the 5,000,000 EV target by 2030. Mr. Mutziger stated that on the energy side of things, the natural gas is where the emissions are coming from today, so that's an area that they need to focus on to help to minimize energy emissions.

Mr. Mutziger stated that San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara are fortunate to be working with 3CE, one of the most progressive CCAs that are out there. 3CE is looking at building their own clean energy, and as a result, they are going to be able to reach 100% renewable energy by 2030, which is 15 years ahead of the time frame that the state is asking for.

Mr. Mutziger discussed the next steps for climate action planning and what they might be doing. He mentioned that they will probably not be pursuing CAP updates. In lieu of CAP updates, they see that ICLEI is a group that provides ClearPath, which AMBAG uses to load all of the inventories in and keep track of everything and do forecasting on what the inventories might look like in the future. ICLEI has committed to providing each jurisdiction (with a 2018 or newer inventory), an example of five impact actions that they can take to reduce their impact significantly. They may try and see if there is some common ground of actions that they implement for all of the jurisdictions. He then discussed strategies being used by Iowa City that compared the "business-as-usual" forecast to the combined impact of three high-impact reduction strategies if they were to be implemented. Ms. Genet asked what these three high-impact strategies are and Mr. Mutziger responded that the three strategies are moving to net-zero, helping with housing affordability, and energy and retrofit improvements. They are really excited to see what comes out of ICLEI's evaluation and then, eventually bundle some of those measures together and work with their jurisdictions to adopt them in lieu of having an actual CAP.

SLOCAPCD is also interested in looking at a CEQA threshold update since net-zero is difficult to attain. If they can develop the threshold and make it defensible and based on substantial evidence, then the jurisdictions can adopt it and use it for meeting CEQA requirements and CEQA streamlining. Sacramento has an SB 32 compliant threshold because they closed the gap by using a best management practices (BMP) approach. One of the BMPs that Sacramento has for larger projects is

to not use natural gas since it is a big factor in emissions. SLOAPCD is also working on improving the infrastructure for EVs beyond what CALGreen is requiring. SLOCAPCD is moving forward with a GHG threshold update and they have general support from their jurisdictions. SLOCAPCD is also thinking about moving forward with an RFP to do a Bright-Line and BMP threshold because they feel that it would be good to provide both options. They will ask that the jurisdictions do a cost-comparison between Bright-Line and BMP so that they can make an educated decision on which one might work best for them. Mr. Mutziger felt that the most cost-effective approach would be the BMP, but it would require not pursuing natural gas in their jurisdictions.

Mr. Paulding asked if this would be coming before the SLOCAPCD Board next year. Mr. Willey answered yes, they will likely do a presentation on Bright-Line and BMP as it develops further on down the line. Mr. Paulding asked what would hold up bringing this issue before the Board sooner than later. Mr. Willey responded that they are still looking at the different tactics right now and working with the jurisdictions individually, so it's not quite firmed up all the way yet.

Mr. Mutziger then discussed seeking qualified offsets. They have been working with a regional group (with Ventura County, Santa Barbara County, and San Luis Obispo County representatives) for about a year, identifying offset mitigation options. They put together an application for a grant to develop a local carbon offset market here, and they were not successful. The District was beat out by Sydney, Australia. They are now trying to work with locals to identify projects that could feed into offsets that would be qualified. The City of San Luis Obispo has a qualified CAP and has projects that are going through right now that are inconsistent with the CAP and will need offsets. They are investigating a program called Climate Forward as a possible offset solution, which provides future mitigation units. Those offsets would still be meeting a qualifying requirement from the climate action reserve. There is a project going into Climate Forward that would provide 1,000,000 units of offsets, so there are options that are California-based. They are hoping to also load offsets into Climate Forward and other platforms that are locally generated. They don't want all the money going out internationally and outside of their region.

Dr. Tisopulos commented that all counties are different, but that the County of Ventura amended their general plan last year with a major overhaul. One of the control measures that they ended up adopting had to do with banning the use of natural gas in new developments. It doesn't apply to existing units, but all future units will have to rely on electricity, which he felt was a very progressive measure for the county to have adopted. They have moved in that direction and they have a number of other control measures that apply to the production of oil and natural gas in order to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions impacts of those operations.

5. Clean Air Room Pilot Program by Santa Barbara County APCD (Arlin Genet)

Ms. Arlin Genet talked about a new program that was just approved by SBCAPCD's Board at their June 17th meeting. The Clean Air Rooms pilot project is testing the waters to see just how effective they are with increasing the utilization of clean air rooms in response to smoke impacts from wildfires. With wildfires occurring round the clock, they want to ensure residents are aware of the local air quality information and how to be prepared to respond when conditions are bad. Particulate matter is the number one concern as it relates to wildfire smoke. On warmer days, in addition to high PMs, the region may also experience high ozone levels, and that's when they've seen ozone exceedances within the last year (during wildfire impact times). PM10 and fine PM2.5 are the biggest concerns. Sensitive groups are most vulnerable (children, elderly, pregnant women) as well as anyone that has compromised cardiac and respiratory conditions like asthma. Ms. Arlin Genet mentioned that she has been involved in a few conversations at the CAPCOA level with public health experts in trying to better assess the long-term effects from wildfire smoke. The District's top strategy is to recommend that people stay indoors as much as possible during these wildfires, but found that it was tough for

residents during the COVID pandemic. Not all indoor environments are equal because people may not be aware of indoor pollution sources that can contribute to increased particulate matter inside.

SBCAPCD developed a series of infographics in English and Spanish that they used and promoted to increase awareness and understanding of a clean indoor environment and what people can do to proactively take steps. The goal with this program is to increase awareness county-wide of the importance of clean air rooms. With this pilot project, they targeted the City of Guadalupe and Casmalia, disadvantaged communities that were identified using CalEnviroScreen 4.0 (currently being reviewed by OEHHA and CARB). Many individuals living in Guadalupe work outdoors as farmworkers and are exposed to high pollutant levels when local conditions are impacted by smoke from wildfires. CALOSHA has a regulation that requires farmers to provide the N95 masks to all of their workers when the air quality index (AQI) exceeds 150, and this applies to all employers with staff that work outdoors (including air districts and cities).

The Clean Air Rooms pilot project calls for the allocation of air purifiers to residents within the community. After obtaining Board approval, SBCAPCD moved forward with purchasing in-home, single room air purifiers that meet CARB's specifications. They want the devices to be energy-star rated so that it doesn't put a huge demand on the electricity use for residences. The purifiers will be provided to residents at no cost. The District is planning a one-day community event in the City of Guadalupe to distribute the air purifiers and District staff will be responsible for verifying residency (with a utility bill or some other form of identification). To better reach Spanish and Mixteco-speaking residents, the District is working with Los Promotores, as well as MICOP (the organization that focuses on communication with the Mixteco community). The City of Guadalupe is also celebrating their 75th anniversary as a city and will be hosting an "Open Streets" event in August. The District will attend to promote the air purifier giveaway program. Ms. Arlin Genet will use the "Open Streets" event to carry out the message of where residents can get their air quality data, how they can stay informed, stress the importance of staying indoors when being impacted by wildfires, and how to create a clean air room.

The infographics that were created highlight what other sources of pollution residents might have in their home and details how residents can make their own HEPA filters using duct tape, a 20" x 20" air filter (MERV rating 13 or higher) and a 20" x 20" box fan. Home Depot sells DIY purifier kits for about \$60, so that's something to keep in mind if they want to expand the number of clean air rooms in their homes.

Mr. Willey asked if SBCAPCD had replacement filter provisions in their program. Ms. Genet stated that they included three sets of filters in the request for proposal; however this requirement resulted in many proposals exceeding the funding available for this pilot project. With limited funding, the District will be purchasing the base air purifier unit that typically comes with one replacement filter. They want to make sure that they purchase devices that individuals can easily get filter replacements for.

Mr. Paulding commended Ms. Arlin Genet for the great work, especially identifying Guadalupe as the primary recipient of those air purifiers, as it is a great way to focus those resources, knowing that they can't provide that to everybody. Mr. Paulding asked Mr. Willey if there is any thought of providing a similar program since Oceano is their most disadvantaged community. He realizes that there is a funding component of \$100,000 from the District, but if they can expand the program to SLO County, it would be amazing. Mr. Willey answered that they will certainly look into it, especially by watching Ms. Arlin Genet's program and seeing how it progresses. He feels it would be great for their community down in Nipomo and Oceano to have those filters, especially since they can filter out the dust pollution as well.

Mr. Paulding asked Ms. Arlin Genet if the funds came from a grant from the County. Ms. Genet stated that the funds came from the SBCAPCD's Clean Air Fund, which are tied directly to the amount of NOV settlements that exceed budgeted amount each year. They anticipated having \$100,000 available to add to this program, with a combination of \$50,000 from the Clean Air Fund and \$50,000 from their operating reserves.

Dr. Tisopulos asked for confirmation that the budget for the program was \$100,000 for those 1,000 filtration devices and Ms. Genet stated that he was correct. Dr. Tisopulos asked if she thought that this would be enough. Ms. Genet stated that Bay Area AQMD was handing out 100 Winix filters to individuals who were living in RVs, so she asked her staff to contact Bay Area to determine the rate and specifications secured by the BAAQMD. Through the RFP process the District will identify the best suited manufacturer and the best purchase price to ensure efficient use of public funds. Mr. Mutziger asked if there was any prospect of CARB working with Districts to try to help this project to be more of a community-based program. Ms. Arlin Genet stated that CARB is very interested in and excited about this project, but funding is limited. At the State level, they are more focused on community-based centers that are large, like HVACs at schools, libraries, senior centers, etc. She doesn't think that they are willing to open up the program yet for residential application.

6. Update on CALeVIP and Other Incentive Programs (Tisopulos/Arlin Genet/Willey)

Dr. Tisopulos discussed the CALeVIP program. The objective of the program was to enhance and expand the electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the three-county area and create a reliable EV corridor for those who are traversing from southern California to northern California and back and also to facilitate the improved penetration of electric vehicles into our fleet. The three agencies worked together to submit a proposal to CEC and secured \$7.1 million dollars in grants. They leveraged this money with another \$6-7 million dollars of that came from the air pollution districts and other local partners, for a total of \$12-13 million dollars to invest in this three-county area. These funds will enable them to purchase quite a few fast charging and level two chargers. One of the requirements of the program is that 50% of that investment is invested in low-income, disadvantaged communities. The program is structured to give different incentives: 1) covering a percentage of the cost or a certain dollar amount, 2) differing contributions for level two chargers and fast chargers, and 3) higher contributions when chargers are installed in an EJ community. VCAPCD has the Center for Sustainable Energy (CSE) administering the programs for them and on May 11, 2021, the District approved an implementation service agreement with CEC. He is sure that Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo will be entering into similar agreements, if they haven't done so already. CSE is informing the District that they are ready to launch this program on July 27th; it's going to be a popular program and funds will go fast. A webinar will be held on July 15th for interested applicants (local cities, jurisdictions, private entities, etc.) Participants will need to register in order to participate and registration starts July 1st. Dr. Tisopulos asked for help in spreading the word to local cities or business entities that would like to apply to this program, participate in the webinar, and submit a proposal. The South Central Coast CALeVIP project website is already available and has details regarding the program. The District will provide the council with updates periodically as this program is unfolding.

Ms. Arlin Genet stated that SBCAPCD is working on a news release that is going to be sent out to their media list and Board members. These programs are first-come, first-served and a lot of times, when they are launched, all of the funds can be earmarked within that same day. Ms. Arlin Genet doesn't know if it will be the case for them, but she wants anyone who is interested in this to be prepared and ready to go with their application.

Mr. Willey stated that they have a similar situation. SLOAPCD also partnered with their San Luis Council of Governments to pick up additional funds. Dr. Tisopulos stated that the chart that Mr.

Mutziger presented in terms of GHG emissions shrinking considerably may become a reality if they are successful with programs like this. Mr. Willey agreed and said that this program would help.

Ms. Arlin Genet mentioned that the City of Goleta has the very first mobile solar recharging station in the county. Ms. Perotte said the "Beam" mobile solar charging station will be complete this summer. Mr. Willey asked how the station works. Ms. Perotte answered that it is mobile, quite heavy, and requires a large vehicle to move it around. They hope that it can stay in one location, but it can, in an emergency, be towed somewhere else. The station is above ground, two cars can go in at one time, and it's a solar with battery unit.

Mr. Paulding mentioned to Mr. Willey that they had had a staff report that talked about looking at strapping chargers to light poles because of the LED electrical conversion, there would be additional electrical capacity, that it seemed like this would be a way to create a low-cost approach for folks. Mr. Paulding asked if this something that they are all collaborating on and are there any updates on the technical feasibility of this project. Mr. Mutziger answered that they have talked to SLOCOG and they have identified a company that is doing this and they are based out of Los Angeles. It is a prospect of level two chargers that can be secured with this CALeVIP program, so it's really a matter of the people interested in doing these projects to work with the eligible vendors to get applications in.

One thing Mr. Mutziger would like to point out is that they reached out a vendor to see what CALeVIP looks from their perspective. The vendor works with the jurisdictions, gives them a spreadsheet, and ask for the authority to apply on the jurisdiction's behalf since staff don't have time. This gives the vendor the opportunity to have a front-loaded application ready to go when it is time to submit since funds are depleted rapidly. Dr. Tisopulos concurred with the comments from Ms. Arlin Genet, Mr. Willey, and Mr. Mutziger regarding how fast this particular program moves.

Districts are excited after hearing some of the initiatives coming from the Governor's office regarding electrifying the state by 2030-2035 and from the Biden administration regarding the funding that will be included in each Districts' respective budgets. There will be a continuation of these investments and funds, allowing them to see a dramatic shift in the fleet makeup of vehicles and the corresponding GHG emissions.

7. Update on State Budget and AB 8 Renewal Efforts (Arlin Genet/Tisopulos)

Ms. Arlin Genet provided an update regarding the state budget. The Senate and the Assembly and voted to approve the budget that was then forwarded on to the governor (SB 129). Programs like 617 implementation and incentives, FARMER (grant program for farm equipment), and the prescribed burn funds have not been included in this budget and will be picked up at a later date. They are hopeful these programs will be addressed within this legislative session, although they are not sure when. Programs that were approved for GGRF funds are the CVRP and the Clean Cars for All Program. The other programs that she mentioned earlier were not earmarked for GGRF funds at this time. As far as the infrastructure that was discussed earlier, the Governor's office did approve over \$778 million for transportation, technology, and fuels. They earmarked over \$400,000,000 for incentives for vehicles in addition to the CVRP and Clean Cars for All, so there is obviously a lot of focus on transportation. The other bad news for them is that they elected to hold off on the reauthorization of the Carl Moyer program this year. It will be picked up next year or the year after. The program will sunset on December 30, 2023, so they do have a few more years, but they also don't want to jeopardize this program from being in existence.

Dr. Tisopulos stated that there are a lot of investments on the electrification side, which are very important, but they are a little disappointed. Some of the programs that they rely on as local agencies, like the FARMER program, Carl Moyer, that were not funded directly. He is cautiously

optimistic that the Governor's office will eventually fund those programs, but it is very frustrating when Sacramento is flush with cash and they cannot reach an agreement in funding. They will be following closely and updating the council as they learn more about the budget.

Mr. Willey said that the lobbies are pretty strong for those these widely successful programs and he feels good about the chances of them being funded.

8. Other Business/Confirm Next Meeting Date and Format

No other business was discussed. The next Zoom meeting was scheduled for September 23, 2021.

9. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:50 a.m.