

VENTURA COUNTY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
March 27, 2018
MINUTES

Chair Sara Head convened the meeting at approximately 7:30 p.m.

I. Director's Report

Mike Villegas, Air Pollution Control Officer, gave a presentation on the District's response to the Thomas Fire. Since the District has switched from filter-based monitors to beta attenuation monitors, PM_{2.5} data (which represents smoke and ash) is available with only one-hour delay. Instead of waiting three or six days to collect and weigh filters, the BAM monitors provide near real-time data that can be posted on the EPA's AIRNOW website. In addition, staff can now update our air quality advisories on our website remotely on weekends. One program improvement that will be added in the future is Spanish translation to provide critical information more widely.

Besides the monitoring of the fire impacts, the District did some additional air pollution monitoring by deploying SUMMA canisters to take grab samples near Sulfur Mountain. Complaints were received from citizens in that area based on the heavy odor coming from burning oil seeps. These canisters were used to capture gaseous emissions focusing on BTEX (Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene, and Xylene). The highest reading showed Benzene levels at 5 ppb from these burning seeps. California's OEHHA (Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment) has established a short term acute exposure standard at 8 ppb for a one-hour average. However, since the public is being exposed for a week or two, there was concern that a one-hour average would not adequately represent the true exposure. Fortunately, the federal ATSDR (Agency for Toxic Substances and Diseases Registry) provided an intermediate term exposure limit of 6 ppb based on an exposure duration of 14 to 364 days.

Additional sampling of PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) from the burning seeps was requested by citizen groups. This involved using a conditioned high-volume filter sampler, which was borrowed from the South Coast AQMD, and the samples were analyzed by a lab in North Carolina. These samplers were located on a balcony at the Thomas Aquinas College near Santa Paula, and run for 24 hours. Fortunately, the fire was no longer burning in this area during the sampling since brush fires may emit PAHs, and it would be impossible to separate the PAH emissions from the seeps versus those coming from the brush fire. The SCAQMD staff performed a Health Risk Assessment on the risk from PAH emissions in the area. The non-cancer exposure level was low at 0.2 compared to the exposure level of 1.0. The cancer risk was determined to be 37 parts per million based on a 6-month exposure assumption. Although this level exceeds the short-term District significance threshold level of 10 per million, the much shorter exposure level of one or two weeks lessens the health concern of PAH emissions from burning seeps.

II. Call to Order

Chair Sara Head called the meeting to order at approximately 7:35 p.m.

III. Roll Call

Present

Ed Carloni

Randy Chapman

Ron Fazzolare

Sara Head

Keith Moore

Steve Colome

Hugh McTernan

Paul Meehan

Richard Nick

Michael Hughes

Absent

Joan Burns (excused)

Kim Lim (excused)

Alice Sterling (excused)

Thomas Lucas

Steven Wolfson (excused)

Martin Hernandez

Staff

Mike Villegas

Stan Cowen

Public

None

Representing

IV. Minutes

There were no corrections or comments on both the minutes from meetings on February 28, 2017 and September 19, 2017. Both minutes were approved by the Committee unanimously.

V. Committee Comment

There were no Committee comments.

VI. Public Comment

There were no public members present.

VIII. Election of Officers

Ms. Head stated the first meeting each year has a standing agenda item to elect the committee chair and vice-chair for that year. She requested nominations. Sara Head was nominated to

serve as chair for another year. Ms. Head called for a vote and she was elected unanimously. Ms. Head stated she appreciated the vote of confidence from the Committee.

Ms. Head requested nominations for vice-chair. Mr. Meehan stated he is the current vice chair and would be willing to do it again. Ms. Head called for a vote and Mr. Meehan was elected unanimously.

VIII. Old Business

There was no Old Business.

IX. New Business

Mr. Villegas provided comprehensive information on the proposed amendments to Rule 42, Permit Fees, which is a proposed 2 percent increase in annual permit renewal fees. Currently, 37 percent of the District revenue comes from permit fees, which is moving closer to the air district average of 50 percent. The other main contributors to district revenue are DMV fees (37 percent) and the EPA grant (13 percent). Other sources of revenue include fines, state subvention, and source test observation fees. The proposed 2 percent increase is less than the current consumer price index (CPI) of 2.9 percent. The proposed increase is less than CPI because staff salaries, which are the largest expense, have only increased by 1.5 percent per year. This proposal will mean a \$12 annual increase for most of the District's permit holders who pay the minimum annual permit renewal fee amount.

Mr. Villegas shared a chart of the District's operating fund balance projections from Fiscal Years 16-17 through Years 20-21. The chart shows that once the new building is refurbished in 2019, the fund balance is projected to remain in the 4 to 6 month range of operating expense policy set by the Board. The current fund balance is approximately \$9.5 million, but the District will spend \$5.3 million during the next year or two to refurbish the office building purchased by the District last year and to replace legacy software (DOS based) that is used to track permits, emission inventories, and compliance records. The software project is estimated to cost less than \$200,000 based only on implementation costs since this proprietary software developed by Santa Barbara County APCD was provided to our District free of charge. Building refurbishments currently undergoing plan and permit reviews include earthquake retrofits, a new elevator, lighting, and office/lab retrofits. The resulting fund balance of \$4.2 million will be within the range set by Board policy of 4 to 6 months operating expense (\$2.9 to \$4.4 million), and the extra cushion is needed to provide the District with the ability to more easily adapt to budget emergencies. The current federal administration has proposed cutting EPA's budget by about 30 percent, including a 30 percent hit to our EPA grant, or about \$300,000. Although Congress did restore EPA's original budget until September 30, 2018, this budgetary issue may arise again.

Having the District own its building should save the District about \$300,000 per year in annual expense since there will be no rent expenses, which are currently at \$500,000 per year. The total

cost (purchase plus renovation) of \$10.7 million is comparable to other similar size buildings in the county. The District has a current tenant in the building (a kidney dialysis center) with a lease until 2023, which will cover the current operating expenses including maintenance, landscaping, utilities, and janitorial services.

Mr. Villegas stated that he strives to manage the District in a very fiscally conservative manner. Cost cutting measures include reducing the personnel count from 64 down in 2002 when he started as APCO to 49 or 48. Based on the current uncertainty with regards to the federal budget, our program could be severely impacted. Cost savings in salaries is occurring because of the time required to hire replacements for recently retired personnel. New revenue sources include a \$142,000 grant from the Air Resources Board to implement AB 617 (Community Air Protection Program) and another state grant worth \$20,000 to implement new emission inventory requirements.

The proposal to amend Rule 42 was moved by Mr. Hughes and seconded by Mr. Meehan. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend the proposal to the Board for adoption.

XI. Adjournment

Having no further business, the chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Prepared by:

Stan Cowen
Air Pollution Control District Staff

Advisory Committee – Attendance & Voting Record

Date: March 27, 2018

	Attendance *				Revisions to Rule 42, Permit Fees		
					Moved	Second	Vote**
Member							
Joan Burns	E						
Ed Carloni	P						Y
Randy Chapman	P						Y
Steve Colome	P						Y
Ron Fazzolare	P						Y
Michael Hughes	P				X		Y
Sara Head	P						Y
Martin Hernandez	P						Y
Kim Lim	E						
Thomas Lucas	A						
Hugh McTernan	P						Y
Paul Meehan	P					X	Y
Keith Moore	P						Y
Richard Nick	P						Y
Alice Sterling	E						
Steven Wolfson	E						