



## **NOTICE AND AGENDA**

### **VENTURA COUNTY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

#### **Regular Meeting of the STANDING COMMITTEE**

**April 9, 2024 at 1:30 PM or immediately following the Air Pollution Control Board Meeting**

**County Government Center, Hall of Administration  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA. 93009  
Atlantic Conference Room, Main Plaza Floor**

The Ventura County Air Pollution Control Board Standing Committee will meet to discuss the following matters related to the operations of the District. The meeting will be held in-person at the date, time and place indicated above.

Persons who require accommodation for any audio, visual or other disability in order to review an agenda, or to participate in a meeting, per the American Disabilities Act (ADA), may obtain assistance by requesting such accommodation in writing addressed to the Air Pollution Control Officer, 4567 Telephone Road, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Ventura, CA 93003 or telephonically by calling (805) 303-4013. Any such request for accommodation should be made at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting for which assistance is requested.

All agenda reports and supporting data, including those filed in accordance with Government Code Section 54957.5 (b) (1) and (2) will be available and attached with each associated agenda item, when received, at the following website:

[www.vcapcd.org/agendas.htm#Standing\\_Committee](http://www.vcapcd.org/agendas.htm#Standing_Committee)

### **AGENDA**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.
2. Public comment - time set aside for citizen presentations regarding Air Pollution Control District matters not on the agenda.
3. Approval of April 11, 2023 Standing Committee Meeting Summary.
4. Approval of the Proposed Budget for FY2024-2025.
5. Confirm the next regular meeting for May 14, 2024, at 1:30 PM or immediately following the regular meeting of the Air Pollution Control Board.
6. Adjourn the meeting.



**VENTURA COUNTY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**  
**Standing Committee Regular Meeting**  
**April 9, 2024**  
**Meeting Summary**

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1. Chair Vianey Lopez convened the meeting at approximately 2:21 p.m. Vice Chair Dr. Martha McQueen-Legohn, Supervisor Jeff Gorell and City Councilmember Albert Mendez were present. Also present were Assistant County Counsel Jaclyn Smith, Air Pollution Control Officer Ali Ghasemi, Nancy Mendoza and Resa Albert of APCD Staff.
2. There were no public comments.
3. The approval of the April 11, 2023 Meeting Summary was moved by Supervisor Gorell, seconded by Vice Chair Dr. McQueen-Legohn, received and filed.
4. The Proposed Budget for FY2024-2025 was presented by Mr. Ali Ghasemi, Air Pollution Control Officer before the committee.

Highlights of the FY2024-2025 Proposed Budget:

- APCD has two (2) distinct budget funds: the Operating budget governed by fund 0700 and the Pass-through grants budget governed by fund.0701. The purpose of the budget is to cover the cost of the District. The District's organizational chart consists of : Fiscal and Admin Division that handle HR matters, capital outlay and outreach; the Information system provides tools for our job, Engineering does the permitting of facilities; Planning creates plan and strategy to meet the federal and state requirements. Then, develops rules and provides incentives for mobile sources to reduce emissions so it can meet the standards. Compliance enforces the rules and regulations as well as the permit conditions. Monitoring reports the air quality it monitors to achieve the standards.
- The Total Net Cost is \$563,380 that includes contingency of \$300,000, Property Improvements of \$30,000 and Operating Net Cost of \$233,380. The Total Grants Budget Fund available in FY2024-25 is \$15M that includes prior year remaining funds.

Discussion:

Supervisor Jeff Gorell - There's some level of M&A involved. I know there's like 2% to 3% management and administration of the grant.

APCO Ali Ghasemi - It's up to 12%.

Supervisor Jeff Gorell - So, you can keep that for M&A. So, it's pass through but not entirely. Some of it can be used to underwrite the administration.

APCO Ali Ghasemi - That's correct, that's correct. What I meant was it doesn't even cover the cost of the staff that they have to do this job. But they are. It depends like how much it is about like 12%. There are some but they are less. Is it? Or they are.

APCD Staff Nancy Mendoza - Some of them does not have any administration.

APCO Ali Ghasemi - We have about \$50 million in incentive program this coming year that we're going to actually allocate. And at the same time, out of these 15 million, we have only four full time FTE. Actually, we haven't even hired yet one of them. So, there's only three existing.

- The \$233,380 Operating Net Cost necessary for operational efficiency is used as one- time expenditures, mostly for fleet vehicles and outdated program equipment, software programming fees and re-designing of the District website.
- In comparison, the FY2024-2025 Proposed Expenditures is down by \$105,800 with the FY2023-2024 Adopted Budget such as the S&EB decreased to \$19,500, Services & Supplies up by \$196,860 such as the up out cash value being reported, but the Fixed assets is down by \$283,170 due to almost completed renovation of the building. Hence, the proposed Budget Appropriations are as follows: 19.80% Services & Supplies, 5.20% Fixed Assets and 75.00% Salaries & Benefits.

Discussion:

Vice Chair Dr. Martha McQueen-Legohn - The percentages on the pie chart are those percentages customary 75% for salaries?

APCO Ali Ghasemi - No. We always calculate how much we are spending on the budget because they may increase. Expenses and Fixed assets may change. But usually, majority is for salaries, but numbers may vary. The percentage is around the same range.

Supervisor Jeff Gorell - Well, I think you answered her question, but I thought your question was like compared to other, other similar districts, is this generally what one would be customary for the expenditures?

APCO Ali Ghasemi - Usually, salary and benefits. Majority of the district is going to take majority of the budget.

Supervisor Jeff Gorell - As it is for most government

APCO Ali Ghasemi - Exactly

- In the Transportation Program & Emission Projects, \$55,000 is allotted to VCTC County wide Traffic Modeling and Ride-Share Programs while \$2 M is for various pass-through projects to lower mobile-sourced emissions.

Discussion: (residential lawn and garden Incentive funding)

APCO Ali Ghasemi – We have funds for commercial lawn and garden equipment, but this are for big contractors. We are going to put a residential lawn and garden incentive I'm planning to allocate about half a million. That's going to give us more emission reduction.

Vice Chair Dr. Martha McQueen-Legohn - It's allowed to do the residential, is that allowed?

APCO Ali Ghasemi – Yes. This is for mobile source emissions. This is the DMV money that we can use for mobile sources.

- The closure of two (2) Oil and Gas facilities offset by AB617 implementation funds and interest earnings resulted to a total decrease of \$95,370 comparing the FY2024-2025 Proposed Revenue as against FY2023-2024 Adopted Budget. Also, it will reduce revenue from stationary permits by approximately \$244,000. Actually, the stationary permit fees are not fully covering the cost to operate program. But the revenue from DMV fees are stable paying for all motor vehicle related costs. Thus, the Proposed Operating Revenue is 15.88% DMV fees, 2.20% State Subvention, 31.33% permits, 1.90% Fines, 14.60% Federal Grants, 10.16 % Misc Income and 3.93% other fees.

Discussion: (closure of oil platforms)

APCO Ali Ghasemi - The good news is I'm above the required fund balance. But at the same time, I would like to close the gap between the

revenue and expenditure, which I'm hoping by 2026 it will happen, even though I'm going to lose some of the facilities, like one power plant and two platforms.

Supervisor Jeff Gorell - Those are projected shutdowns that may or may not happen because of, for example, at Mandalay Bay, I could see the legislature, PUC and the governor extending another year or two.

APCO Ali Ghasemi - Mandalay Bay is closed.

Supervisor Jeff Gorell: Oh, I'm referring to Ormond beach generating station. Because of just the need, like they did with the nuclear power plant at San Onofre. The other one. But, anyway, it's just projected.

APCO Ali Ghasemi - Yes. That's correct. Like Ormond beach, it is giving us \$250,000 a year.

APCO Ali Ghasemi concluded that the district is financially stable. The net cost is mostly fixed. Current fund balance is above targeted level. But I'm hoping that next, next year I'm going to come to you and increase one of my pollutants (CO emission) because it has been by mistake. It hasn't been changed for the past 20 years. It has remained as \$10.

Vice Chair Dr. Martha McQueen-Legohn - Is that based on, have you done a full evaluation of the fees, or is that the only one that hasn't changed?

APCO Ali Ghasemi: Yes. We noticed when we were working on the PPM standard. We realized the CO emission has been \$10 for ages. We need to consult with Jaclyn as the state law is limiting the increase to 13% max.

The committee concluded that this was a well-thought, reasonable budget proposal and a good presentation.

5. The proposed budget was moved by Vice Chair Dr. McQueen-Legohn, seconded by member Mendez and unanimously recommended by the committee to be forwarded to the full Board for consideration and approval.
6. The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.
7. Chair Vianey Lopez adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:48 pm.