

**AB 617 Community Air Protection Program
Minutes of the Steering Committee Meeting
ECRMC Community Education center
El Centro, California
July 10th, 2019**

Co-chairs: Matt Dessert; Luis Olmedo

Facilitators: Amy Ramos and Daniela Flores from Harder Co.

I. Attendance:

Matt Dessert, Air Pollution Control District; **Luis Olmedo**, Comite Civico del Valle; **Mersedes Martinez**, Community Corridor; **Diahna Garcia Ruiz**, Community Corridor; **Rene Felix**, Calexico Corridor; **Mireya Diaz**, Community Corridor; **Kristian Salgado**, Community Corridor; **Blake Plourd**, Community Corridor; **Aide Fulton**, Community Corridor; **Virginia Mendoza**, Community Corridor; **Diego Gamboa**, Community Corridor; **Irene Garcia**, Community Corridor; **Paul Monarrez**, Community Corridor; **Mark Baza**, community Corridor; **John Hernandez**, Community Corridor; **Mary Salazar**, Community Corridor.

Alternates: Michael Moore; Reyes Romero; Christian Torres; Rosa Guerrero, Bob Fischer; Sandra Mendivil; Chris Gomez Wong; Steven Snow.

II. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Daniela Flores welcomed everyone in attendance, went over a few housekeeping items and pointed out they have interpreting services provided for those who would like to take advantage of that. She thanked the committee members for their commitment of being at the meeting. She also indicated that if any of the members would not be able to make it to any of the committee meetings, it is important to let APCD know ahead of time so they can make sure that their alternate will fill in their sit for that meeting.

Luis Olmedo thanked the members as well as the alternates of this committee for being and participating at the meeting. He also mentioned he is very pleased that this process has been moving forward and seeing they have come a long way, he encouraged the members to continue participating and pointing out anything they might miss.

Matt Dessert also thanked everyone for being at the meeting. He added that they were also interested in hearing public comments as well as those from the members of the committee. He informed the funding has arrived from the state of California in the amount of 2 million dollars to organize and structure themselves in order to put together the early monitoring program. He also informed they have met their monitoring installation deadline of July 1st, and that CCV had installed a *Dylos* monitor on top of the El Centro Air Pollution Control District's office, which will always be there for calibration, exposure and teaching purposes. He added that they would be bringing a more formalized budget most likely at the next meeting. He finished pointing out that the success of the IVAN network is what has put them so far ahead in this activity.

Michael Moore asked if it was possible to get engineering assistance from somebody to compliment the final locations for the monitors to be installed in order to make sure they cover any gaps there may be.

Matt Dessert replied saying they are looking at those monitoring locations from the Air District's stand point and that they are in communication with the state of California on that. He added that CCV has its own private engineering and consultant's background, also. He also mentioned that the PM 2.5 and PM 10 off of the desert area west of the corridor due to off road activities are of concern as well as other windblown dust from south of the border both affecting their corridor.

Luis Olmedo mentioned that in addition to identifying these sites, they have to make sure each site is the adequate location, it meets safety measures, that there is access to power, that it is meeting the siting criteria set for by the regulatory agencies, etc. Therefore, he said there would be ongoing technical support both from the Air Resources Board as well as from the local air district. He added that there are mobile regulatory monitors and equipment that will be managed and operated by the Air District, which is part of the plan. He also mentioned what is going to be measured is yet to be decided by the committee.

Mary Salazar said it was her understanding that the city of Calexico was going to be asking one of the board members to speak at one of the Planning Commission meetings for this month, and asked if anybody from the city of Calexico had contacted **Matt Dessert** for this purpose.

Matt Dessert said they had not. He asked her to contact him through his office with details as to venue, date, time, etc.

III. Public Comment Period

Luis Olmedo explained they had designated 15 minutes for public comment and that each participant would have 3 minutes to state any comment, suggestion or question they may have.

Daniela added that they could also fill out the comment cards made available to them at the registration table at any time during this meeting and submit them to any of the facilitators if they did not want to speak at this time or if their comment would go beyond the three minutes.

Luis Olmedo mentioned that these questions would be included and answered on the Q & A format, which would be posted on their website.

There were no public comments at this time so they moved on to the next item in the agenda.

IV. Approval of Minutes from June 12th

Luis Olmedo asked the members of the committee to state any comments or suggestions regarding the minutes at this time prior from him asking for a motion to approve them. Since there were no comments, he asked for a motion for approval of the minutes.

Mark Baza made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by **Rene Felix**, the motion was voted on by the committee with a unanimous vote for its approval. The minutes were approved.

V. Presentations / Questions and Answers

Update on Draft Community Air Monitoring Plan and Draft Community Emissions Reduction Program; Ramboll

An Attendee asked who would be tracking the progress and the goals for this plan and program.

Emily Weissinger from Ramboll said that was for them to define in the plan. She added that they want to issue an annual report on goals and targets progress and for this purpose they would have to decide if this would be in charge of the District, the Steering Committee, or a combination of both.

Dylos Monitor Training Introduction; CCV

Aide Fulton mentioned that she saw protection boxes around the *Dylos* sensors and asked if all of them need to have this enclosure.

Christian Torres said this enclosure is weather proof so it allows for them to keep the *Dylos* sensors safe from wind events since they are placed on rooftops just as the regulatory sensors are. He also explained they do this so that they do not have to do a lot of modifications to the hosting sites because if they did, they would have to go through a lot of permitting and legal paperwork with a lot of agencies. He finished stating that the enclosure is a cost they have already factored into the monitoring.

Daniela asked how the steering committee members should sign up if they want to get the training.

Christian Torres said they could get in contact with **Gil Rebollar** from APCD, himself or any of the staff from CCV. He said he also has the steering committee members contact information and he could send an invite with dates and venues for their consideration. He added that before getting to the next presentation by IQ Air, he would like to mention that they had worked on similar programs with them before and asked **Luis Olmedo** if he could share a little bit of his experience with that.

Reyes Romero asked if there were any low cost monitors for measuring ozone available on the market and if so, he asked if there were any plans to install some of these low cost monitors.

Luis Olmedo said there are low cost sensors for measuring ozone. He said he believed that they had 16 of those sensors from an Australian company operating locally, which the south coast had lent to them. He explained they did not see an ability to be able to integrate them long term partially because they are still under an experimental phase and they presented difficulty accessing data.

Reyes Romero said it was important to consider measuring ozone because during the summer there is transport of ozone from Mexicali that needs to be measured.

Indoor Air Filtration Projects for Schools in Corridor

John Hernandez asked what IQ Air's funding source is and how much it is willing to invest on this community corridor. He also mentioned that as a part of their mix of collaboration the Imperial Irrigation District and the Southern California Gas Company should be included on this mix among others. He asked about the contract length period and what it runs for the schools.

Nancy Dinella from IQ Air responded that the contract is typically a 5 year service contract, which facilitates installation, training and filter changing regularly.

An Attendee suggested including the health care industry as well as public health agencies as part of their partners on these projects.

Aide Fulton asked what the results were on their pilot program for the schools in Seeley and Niland.

Nancy from IQ Air said so far they had not installed, yet. However, she said installation had been approved by the California Air Resources Board for the Grace Smith School in Nyland and should be installed in the following two weeks, depending on technician's availability. She said she had no results to share about the school in Sealy as they had already submitted applications to the California Air Resources Board, but they were still waiting on final results on that.

Aide Fulton asked besides the SAP funding for schools to go after, what other funding opportunities there are for schools to pursue.

Nancy from IQ Air said they are currently working with the Air Pollution Control District on looking for other opportunities of funding. She pointed out all the applications are done through IQ Air and require the approval of the California Air Resources Board. She also mentioned the contract is usually for five years after which she starts working on getting a renewal so schools can continue having this air filter service.

Matt Dessert stated that the funding mechanism at Grace School is a 100% Air Pollution Control District. He said it is the first one, it has taken the District over 6 months to get the contracting and the legal language put together between the School District and the County of Imperial. He added he is optimistic that after having gone through this process for the first time, the process for following schools will go faster. He added the funding mechanism both at the Air Pollution Control District as well as at the California Air Resources Board are penalties and fines.

Michael Moore asked as far as the history of IQ Air, how long it has been around.

Nancy from IQ Air stated they have been around since the S. She mentioned they have worked significantly with South Coast Air Quality Management District on a one on one basis from IQ Air North America to South Coast. However, she said the foundation to help schools was formed 2 years ago and they work directly with their Environmental Justice partners and the Air District.

Mersedes Martinez asked what the length of time for installation is.

Nancy from IQ Air said it depends on the school size, but that an elementary school can normally be done in half a day, and a middle school or a high school in a little longer than that. She said that they can normally do it within no more than a day. She mentioned in San Ysidro they did 6 elementary schools, a middle school and a high school in 4 days.

Thomas Brinkerhoff pointed out that in their meeting packets they had put together a list of schools within the corridor and asked the committee members to look this list over and see if there are any schools that they might have overlooked and also give comments as to which schools should be prioritized in order to efficiently target the funds they have received for this program.

VI. Action Items

CSC to take action on Early Emissions Reduction Project

Luis Olmedo said this item had been brought to the table several times, and that has been asked is that they bring in a Community Emissions Reduction Project out of Calexico; one that may be an example of future similar type of projects. He asked for the committee to vote on an Early Emissions Reduction Project for the Calexico School Unified District, which is a parking lot paving project. He mentioned they had had previously sent these documents to them for their review. He explained that they are asking the committee members to bring this project into the partnership within the Corridor. He stated that currently the investment that the Air Pollution Control District is making in this project is \$406,000.00 and they are requesting that at the time the Air District receives emission reduction funds, their \$406,000.00 be reimbursed as part of the emissions reduction program corridor investment.

Matt Dessert asked for a motion to approve this.

Mersedes Martinez made a motion to approve this request.

Mark Baza seconded the motion.

John Hernandez said he was against this motion because it seems premature to use this Ab 617 funding for this project, when they as the AB 617 Community Steering Committee had not made a decision as to where their funding is going to be focused on. He also mentioned it was his understanding that there is something called Rule 310 within the Air Pollution Control District, which has funds, and through which parking lots have been financed in the past.

Matt Dessert said that through the Rule 310 process they had just received a request for a parking lot at the library in Calipatria, which they are processing as well as one for the Dessert Museum in Ocotillo. He said they are focusing on public services and public facilities, specifically schools. He stated that as co-chair of this committee and as an Air Pollution Control District Officer administering these grants he would be asking for 100% funding from AB 617 for school parking lot paving projects within this corridor so that the limited amount of money that the Air Pollution Control District has can also go outside this corridor and do this good news projects in the surrounding communities of the entire Imperial Valley. He also mentioned that they are moving forward together with Comite Civico in locating 2 Dyls monitors measuring PM 2.5 and PM 10 at the Quechan Indian Tribe and those costs will be incurred by the Air Pollution Control District.

Mireya Diaz said she understood **Mr. Hernandez'** concerns, but that she was on board with the Early Emissions Reduction Project in Calexico and the reimbursement of funds to the Air Pollution Control District because in her opinion it is an excellent way to actually see some action behind what they are doing through this committee.

Diahna Garcia Ruiz said School District funds are very restrictive so for them to be helping a district like this in her opinion is great.

Aide Fulton asked what triggered this project and if the District is going to follow up on the results in order to report them back to the committee.

Matt Dessert mentioned there was a full profile on this project in their meeting agenda packets that might answer some of her questions. As far as what triggered the project, he said CCV played an indirect role by asking what was being done with the funds on these reserve accounts, which have been structured and set up. Then, the Air Pollution Control District went out and started looking for projects that would benefit their local schools rather than others.

Chris Wong said he was 100% in favor of this.

An Attendee said it was his understanding they do not have funding as a committee, yet. Therefore, he asked if in this motion they could make it clear that if for some reason the committee does not receive this funding, it is not an expectation for the Air Pollution Control District to actually be reimbursed so the committee will not be affected by this in the future.

Luis Olmedo said that all the questions and concerns are appreciated and duly noted. Then, after explaining this will not affect the committee, he asked to vote on this motion. The Committee voted and the motion carried with a majority of votes.

Additional CSC Meetings in July and / or August in order to meet deadline of submitting the Community Emissions Reduction Program to CARB by October 1st, 2019

Thomas Brinkerhoff went over the time line for the objectives they want to achieve in the next 2 months so they could understand the need for having additional meetings. He said their suggestion was having an additional meeting in July on the 24th or the 31st depending on what would work best for the majority. He said they were hoping to bring a complete version of the Community Air Monitoring Plan for the committee to review on that meeting. He added that in August they would be turning their attention to the development and finalization of the Community Emissions Reduction

Program. Therefore, he explained they would like to add a meeting at the end of August as well in order to meet this goal. He said they could vote on this and pull it back if necessary.

Belen Leon asked for the committee members to vote on the suggested dates for the month of July. After voting, it was decided to have this additional meeting on July 24th.

Luis Olmedo asked the committee members to vote on having an additional meeting on August 28th. After voting on this, it was also decided to have this meeting on August 28th.

VII. Agencies Updates

Matt Dessert informed they were going to start working with CCV to install 2 Dylos monitors to add to the IVAN network at the Quechan Indian Tribe located at the border of Arizona and California. He said this would be funded by the Air Pollution Control District.

Luis Olmedo mentioned they had had 2 AB 617 public workshops in June. He said he wanted to take this opportunity to thank those committee members who attended these workshops. He also said he wanted to thank the California Air Resources Board, CALEPA, and all the agencies that were a part of this. He said he had gotten good feedback from attendees and he thought the presentations were great.

Daniela pointed out that Harder Co. had included a handout on their agenda packets with the results from a poll on which the committee had voted for the top 25 locations for the Community Air Monitoring Plan. In addition to this, she explained that Harder Co. had conducted a survey during the week of the public workshop in order to narrow down those 25 locations to 15. She said this was something that could be revisited, but that it was very important for them to review.

Ryan Atencio from the California Air Resources Board said he wanted to remind everybody that there is a part of AB 617 that gives resources to communities through the Community Air Grants Program. He informed new guidelines and solicitation application was recently released and that he had left hard copies of those documents on the registration table for those interested. He also said that if they had any questions they could contact the Air Resources Board.

An Attendee also informed there was a teleconference the following day from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM pacific time to answer any questions. He stated after that time they cannot really answer any questions on the application process because it is a competitive grant process. He said that application is open for 90 days, until September 30th.

VIII. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Belen Leon said that some of the agenda items for the next meeting were proposed on the time line they had reviewed earlier during the meeting. She said for the next meeting to be held on July 24th they were going to take action on the monitoring plan, there is going to be an update on the community emission reduction plan and a border update as well. She also said presentations would probably be added to the agenda, but for the time being, those three were the main topics for the next meeting.

IX. Closing Remarks

Luis Olmedo said he wanted to thank their facilitators for making sure they stay on track.

Michael Moore suggested for items on which they have to vote to be moved up on the agenda at future meetings in order to allow more time for discussion on those items.

Mireya Diaz suggested inviting IQ Air again at future meetings in order to follow up on their pilot indoor air filtration projects for schools.

Aide Fulton said she would like to thank the people from the public for attending these meetings. She said that when they participate and ask questions they are supporting their decisions.

Luis Olmedo said he wanted to encourage participants at these meetings to continue showing up and being a part of this process. He also reminded the members of the committee to let them know in advance if they were going to absent so that they are not penalized for an unexcused absence. With this, he wrapped up the meeting and said he hoped to see everybody on July 24th.

Meeting Adjourned.