**A B 617 Community Air Protection Program**

**Minutes of the Steering Committee Meeting**

**ECRM Community Education Center**

**El Centro, California**

**May 22nd, 2019**

**Co-chairs: Matt Dessert; Luis Olmedo**

**Facilitator: Amy Ramos**

1. **Attendance:**

**Matt Dessert,** Imperial County Air Pollution Control District; **Virginia Mendoza,** Imperial County Transportation Commission; **Sergio Cabañas,** El Centro/Heber Corridor; **Michael Moore,** El Centro/Heber Corridor; **Diana Garcia Ruiz,** Heber Community Corridor; **Christian Salgado,** City of Calexico resident; **John Hernandez,** Community Corridor; **Rene Felix,** Calexico Corridor; **Mary Salazar,** Calexico Corridor**; Mercedes Martínez,** El Centro/Calexico Corridor; **Jose Luis Celaya,** Heber Corridor; **Mireya Diaz,** El Centro Corridor

1. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

**Luis Olmedo** said they had the minimum of 8 members to establish a quorum and asked for a motion to commence the meeting.

**Sergio Cabañas** made a motion to commence the meeting, **Christian Salgado** seconded the motion and they proceeded with the meeting.

**Luis Olmedo** welcomed everyone and reminded the group to use the name tents to indicate they have a comment by standing them to the side, and bringing them down once their question or comment has been addressed.

**Amy Ramos** welcomed and thanked everyone for taking time from their agendas to attend the meeting. She said this would be a meeting on which they would be discussing many things that are relevant to where to their communities. Therefore, she asked for everyone to attend to the topics at hand and really be present at this meeting. She indicated that they had a packed agenda and said they were trying to get through as much as they can in order to be responsive to what the community needs. She pointed out the materials given in their package for the meeting and gave some references and instructions with regards to it. She also mentioned that the meeting was being streamed live on Face Book by other communities and asked if they were ok with that and to show their consent by showing hands. Since the majority showed hands the life streaming went on.

1. **Public Comment Period**

**Ray Askins** said it would be a good idea to also post this meeting at Mexiccalilimpia.org

**Luis Olmedo** mentioned they did not have minutes to present from the May 8th meeting as they were going to present those minutes as well as today’s at the next meeting to be held on June 12th.

1. **Action Items**

No action items were presented or addressed at this meeting.

1. **Presentations / Questions and Answers**

**Draft Community Air Monitoring Plan; Emily Weissenberg, Ramboll**

**Sergio Cabañas** asked because of the recommendation of regulatory monitors be used, if this is something that they are going to consider in the first phase of this process or if it is something to be addressed on the second phase.

**Emily Weissenberg** said that because they are already up and running and they have the data available to them, they can actually incorporate it on the go. She added there is no additional monitory cost involve in that so it really is a matter of pulling the data and looking at it with a critical eye.

**An Attendee** said she would like to know if they were going to be able to get historical air quality data.

**Emily Weissenberg** said it would depend on where the data is coming from. She added that for the regulatory monitors, the EPA makes that historical data readily available. As for the community monitors, she said that might not be the case at this time. However, she also mentioned she would be talking about a platform the Air Resources Board is working on, and that might be a feature of it.

**Luis Olmedo** said they collect and have that data and that it can be made available upon request.

**Ray Askins** made the observation that the regulatory monitor said to be in Calexico in her presentation is actually in Mexicali at COBACH.

**Emily Weissenberg** apologized and said she had meant Mexicali.

**Ray Askins** said there should be more air monitors placed along the Mexican border since the vehicles idling at the line waiting to get across are a major source of air pollution for the Imperial and Mexicali Valleys.

**Christian Salgado** said as far as defining monitoring objectives, if they should also consider measuring for other pollutants such as nitrogen oxide (NOx) or volatile organic compounds.

**An Attendee** asked if they have enough staff to monitor each one of the proposed new monitoring sites. She also asked if these community monitors are actually going to be producing data that is going to benefit the community and if this plan would actually be cost effective.

**Luis Olmedo** said that this plan in his opinion has been indeed cost effective and that as they move forward they would all be able to see that through the results they get from it.

**Matt Dessert** said they count with enough budget, manpower and value to move forward with this air monitoring plan.

**Amy Ramos** reminded the committee members that elements 12, 13 and 14 of this plan due specify developing a process for evaluating effectiveness and that those are going to be things that get defined by the committee.

**An Attendee** asked if using the Dylos sensors was a decision still to be made.

**Emily Weissenberg** said Dylos is the model they are proposing for now, but that obviously the steering committee feedback would be important to make a final decision.

**Christian Salgado** asked once they receive the information based on the particulate matter, how it is going to be translated in and understandable way to the community as far as the sources as well as the kinds of pollution impacting the community.

**Emily Weissenberg** said one of the things she was alluding to and has been discussed at these meetings is speciation monitoring or source attribution and so maybe getting more information on that matter might be useful information.

**Luis Olmedo** stated that what is important is that these 14 elements that form a part of this plan are applicable to any kind of monitoring that is low cost sensor technology.

**Interactive Monitoring Mapping Activity; Christian Torres, CCV**

An interactive monitoring mapping activity took place in order to follow up on the suggested monitoring sites and the CSC’s suggestions.

**Virginia Mendoza** said with regards to the border area that the configuration and the cues were going to be changed on the Mexicali side soon and they should take that into consideration.

**Diana Garcia** asked if all the monitors are going to be the same height.

**Christian Torres** said they have to comply with siting criteria, that one of the first siting criteria is that they have to be at certain height off the ground, and that their monitors are all different heights. He also mentioned that some of them are located at a first story roof on houses or schools, and some of them are on second or third story roofs, and that the height a monitor is placed at also depends on the siting criteria for each specific site. He added that they also have to make sure the monitors have a safe access to them, and that safety considerations are included in the document given to them to review last week.

**Diana Garcia** asked if there is a possibility of having monitors are a ground level in order to obtain more accurate emissions data.

**Christian Torres** explained that the main factor that would impact the quality of the data is the radius distance from the source of emissions, and not the height.

**Thomas Brinkerhoff** added that these community monitors have to follow certain parameters and characteristics along with proven standards that work with those low cost community sensors in order to get accurate data. However, he said there are other avenues that they could also explore and that was part of what they were doing at the moment through this exercise, and all feedback from the steering committee, community members and the public was welcome.

**Matt Dessert** mentioned that mobile monitoring at a ground level is something they are interested in, and that they should fully address that in their siting criteria in the monitoring plan, and those comments should be echoed in the minutes in order to follow up and act out on that. He also mentioned that all comments made at these meetings are taken into consideration. He added that they have to look at toxics in and around the New River for the city of Calexico.

**An Attendee** said that looking at the consensus of this committee of the concentration of monitors in Calexico, she is depending on the 2 agencies heading this committee to provide that technical data in order to make sure she is making an informed decision.

**Christian Torres** said it is smart to monitor near the border because everyone has given input that the border is one of their main concerns in the Calexico community and it is a good way to track the change and see what the results of their emissions reduction program are. He also mentioned that if they can show improvement through this program, they will be able to ask for more funding and will become the leaders in the state out of the first 10 communities selected for this program.

**Rene Felix** said he did not understand why the Calexico East Port of Entry had not been considered within the corridor since it is his understanding that the land around it belongs to the County and its vehicle burden of heavy trucks per day is very high. He added that in his opinion it was very important to be able to monitor that area because there are also wind currents from east to west, which definitely transport vehicle emissions from that port of entry. Thus, he asked for this port of entry to be included as a monitoring site for this project.

**Luis Olmedo** thanked **Rene Felix** for his comment and mentioned that this had been an annual process of submitting nominations. He said that what he is asking for could be addressed through a new nomination, which he added is actively open at this time, and that if he is not mistaken, the Air Districts have until June 30th to submit their next nomination to the state. Therefore, he said his comment would be taken into consideration for this purpose.

**Amy Ramos** asked **Christian Torres** to present the rest of the slides showing the proposed locations for the monitors, and that in the interest of time, a vote on this matter would be take place at their next meeting, once the members had had the chance to take this information with them and review it at their own time.

**Luis Olmedo** mentioned that all of the information provided at these meetings can be found at the Air Resources Board website as well as at the website that the Imperial County has put together for this specific program.

**Amy Ramos** asked everyone to continue submitting their comments and questions using the *post it papers* provided to them for this purpose as they are developing a Frequent Asked Questions document through which answers will be provided at the next meeting.

**Mireya Diaz** suggested having an interactive map available online as it would be very helpful for her.

**John Sample** asked if they were going to be able to monitor air quality conditions after natural disasters such as forest fires.

**Matt Dessert** explained that this expanded network should add more integrity to that type of disaster scenario.

**Christian Salgado** mentioned she had come across some information that had led her to believe that the Senate had not made the AB 617 budget a priority and asked if anyone could expand on that matter as well as to point out a way for them to support making this budget a priority.

**Luis Olmedo** said it was their due diligence to consider how to respond to that. He also explained that those negotiations on the budget were still happening and it would be their best interest that funding will continue to be there.

**Matt Dessert** added that they could come up with a letter of support and have it signed by this steering committee.

1. **Agency Updates**

**Christian Torres** informed that as part of their packet for this meeting, they had included a draft table of strategies for emissions reduction in the bay area for them to review and use as reference as the types of strategies that they can start working on through this committee.

**Gil Rebollar from** **Air Pollution Control District** asked members who had not done so to turn in their completed survey on mobile and stationary sources given out several meetings ago. He also asked those who needed to submit their W9 Forms to also do so as soon as possible. He said they could give them to **Belen**, **Thomas** or **Matt.**

**Ryan Atencio from CARB** said that the Air Grants Program guidelines were out at the time of the meeting so he had brought some draft copies in English and Spanish for whoever would be interested on checking them out.

1. **Agenda Topics for Next Meeting**

**Matt Dessert** mentioned they would address their budget again at the next meeting. He also said they were going to be answering their questions submitted on paper to **Amy Ramos**.

**Amy Ramos** reminded the group that as a committee they were going to arrive at a consensus as to where they want to place those monitors.

**Luis Olmedo** mentioned they were going to have 2 interactive workshop like community meetings on June 19th.

1. **Closing Remarks / Adjournment**

**Luis Olmedo** asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Aide Fulton** made the motion to adjourn the meeting, and it was seconded by **Mary Salazar.**

**Meeting Adjourned.**