

**AB 617 Community Air Protection Program  
Minutes of the Steering Committee Meeting  
Heber Community Center  
Heber, CA.  
August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**Chair of Meeting: Matt Dessert (Alternate: Reyes Romero)**

**Facilitator: Amy Ramos & Daniela Flores of Harder Co.**

**I. Attendance**

**Luis Olmedo**, Comité Civico del Valle; **Mercedes Martínez**, Community Corridor; **Rene Felix**, Community Corridor; **Mireya Diaz**, Community Corridor; **Kristian Salgado**, Community Corridor; **Blake Plourd**, Community Corridor; **Sergio Cabañas**, Community Corridor; **Michael Moore**, Community Corridor; **Mark Baza**, Community Corridor; **Aide Fulton**, Community Corridor; **Mary Salazar**, Community Corridor; **John Hernandez**, Community Corridor

**Alternates:** Reyes Romero; Christian Torres; Chris Gomez; Bob Fisher; Rosa Guerrero; Sandra Mendivil; Michael Moore

**II. Welcome and Opening Remarks by CSC Members**

**Daniela Flores** thanked everyone for their attendance and she also thanked the Heber Community Center for hosting them for this meeting. She invited attendees to grab some food and gave a few housekeeping indications. She also mentioned that the committee would vote on the Community Air Monitoring Plan and reminded them that this is a plan that will evolve as it is implemented as every 6 months it would be revised to see if changes need to be made.

**Reyes Romero** said he wanted to recognize the effort everyone makes to attend these meetings after their busy days. He mentioned their agenda included great presentations he was sure they would find interesting. He also informed that **Matt Dessert** could not attend this meeting because he had another County event to attend, but that he would be presiding this meeting on his behalf.

**Luis Olmedo** said he was happy to see how the alternate roles have been playing out in order to reach quorum at every meeting and he welcomed back those who were not able to attend the previous meeting.

**III. Public Comment Period**

**Belen Leon** mentioned that Grace Smith School in Calipatria had started being a part of the Air Quality Filtration System Project. She said it was a \$244,000.00 project in Imperial County, which will also include other schools within the corridor. She also mentioned that the project would last 5 years and that the filtration systems would be changed twice every year.

**Johnny on wheels** said he was saddened with the news that our forests are dying and being burned, and he suggested to keep planting trees because without air it is going to be tough for everyone to live in this valley.

**Reyes Romero** said that was a great comment and added that one of the control measures that they are taking through the Community Emissions Reduction Program is precisely planting trees.

**Kristian Salgado** asked with regards to the Air Filtration System Project if the Clean Air Trust Fund was being used for that project.

**Belen Leon** said the way Grace Smith School was funded was by a sanction given to one of the sources, which was for a \$150,000.00 put towards that project and the difference was paid by the Air Pollution Control District under the Clean Air Fund. She explained this fund is a fund they have made up of any fees that the District collects, which can be used for projects.

**Kristian Salgado** asked how they decide which projects are funded through that trust fund.

**Belen Leon** explained that in the case of Grace Smith School, the project was funded because the violator was in the same area as the school.

**Johnny on wheels** asked what the amount in that fund was.

**Reyes Romero** said he could not give the exact amount there was in that fund at that time, but that their office had that data and they were welcome to call and ask.

**An Attendee** asked what they were filtering or preventing for the kids to breathe in that school.

**Reyes Romero** said that as far as he knew, they were filtering particle matter such as PM 2.5 and PM 10.

**Luis Olmedo** said it was great to see the level of transparency in moving these violation dollars into projects. He also said he wanted to point out that years ago there were some concerns about how the Air Resources Board were managing their funds, and that through the Assembly Bill 1071 passed by **Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia**, now at least 50% of those dollars are invested in disadvantaged communities.

**Ray Askins** asked if any considerations had been made with regards to the types of sensors suggested by the National Border Patrol Council for the air monitoring plan through a letter given to the committee.

**Reyes Romero** said they were evaluating the information on the letter, and that the respond they give to this would be included on their next Q & A report. He also mentioned they have plans to purchase mobile monitoring units, which will monitor for toxics. However, he said it has not been decided where these units would be located.

#### **IV. Approval of Minutes**

**Reyes Romero** said he hoped everyone had had the chance to review the minutes from July 24<sup>th</sup>. There was a motion and a second to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

#### **V. Presentations / Questions and Answers**

##### **Update on Community Emissions Reduction Program (CERP); Alec from Ramboll**

**Luis Olmedo** asked where they are compared to other Community Emissions Reduction Programs in other Air Districts and if the Air Resources Board had made any comments as to whether or not their program is going in the right direction.

**Alec** mentioned that as they were coming up and drafting strategies they were referring to other draft Community Emissions Reduction Programs.

**Dave Salardino from CARB** mentioned there are 6 other communities that are developing Community Emissions Reduction Programs, and that each community steering committee is doing things differently according to the specific needs each community has. He said the Air Resources Board is providing comments on all the Community Emissions

Reduction Programs and that the Community Emissions Reduction Program this steering committee is developing are going towards the requirements that are in the blueprint for this community corridor.

**Luis Olmedo** asked if they were looking into technologies, filtration systems and regulations for industrial sources. He said he would like to have a dialogue on emissions credited to the permits and what else can be done to those facilities.

**Belen Leon** explained that the Community Emissions Reduction program was divided into two phases; tier one encompassing the more attainable projects that can be done with the funding they currently have, and tier two encompassing research as to what kind of technologies and regulations can be used for these sources. She also mentioned that these would be open for dialogue when the time comes.

**Reyes Romero** mentioned that one important component for any plan to be successful is to make it realistic. Therefore, they have to tailor this plan to the needs of their communities.

**Mireya Diaz** said she would like to see the budget broken down into the specific amounts for each project along with a time line for each one as well. She added that she would also love to see projects that are attainable and of benefit for the communities.

**Kristian Salgado** said she would like to find out more about how emission reduction credits work as well as the conservation management practices.

**Reyes Romero** said they would try to schedule presentations on those topics in following meetings.

**Mark Baza** asked if they had an estimate on how much a community greening project would cost.

**Alec** said he did not have a specific number at the time, but that it was something they would definitely look into. He also mentioned that one of the things the District would be looking out for is outside source funding through incentive programs in order to supplement the funding they already have.

**Aide Fulton** said it was important to find out what Parks and Recreation is currently doing in the city so they do not duplicate efforts.

**John Hernandez** said he wanted to make a comment related to the equity in the planning of not only the limited dollars they have to work with, but also the equity on the different projects that they are proposing as well as in the communities along the corridor, and he said that in order to do so, they need to identify the polluters.

#### **AB 617 Indoor Air Filtration Project Survey – Results; Harder & Company**

**Thomas Brinkerhoff** said he wanted to point out that when they did this exercise during the previous meeting there was a desire to see other data points available that they can get from other partners and local agencies such as looking at the absentees or perhaps the respiratory illnesses numbers amongst the student population in these various schools and they were going to be exploring that so that they can provide those details so that along with the input from the committee members they can target the schools that are the most impacted in their corridor.

**Bob Fisher** said he thought this was a good first step, but that it was entirely based on perceptions without any science behind it. Therefore, he added that it would be a good idea to do some monitoring in order to gather some data to make a better a decision as to where to spend the money they have available for this project.

#### **VI. Action Item**

#### **The CSC to Take Action on Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP)**

**Thomas Brinkerhoff** said this program had been in development with the input from this committee and collaboration from the Air Resources Board, the Air Pollution Control District and Comite Civico since the beginning of this year and that now they are at a point where they have to make a final decision to approve these documents and get ready to take the next steps, which would be deciding strategically on where to put these first low cost community monitors in their corridor and plan this out in order to get that first 50% up and running within their first 6 months and that milestone.

**John Hernandez** said he would like to make a motion to approve this with the modification of making Washington School one of the top ten priority locations for an air monitoring station.

**Mark Baza** seconded the motion.

**Mireya Diaz** said she was in agreement with **Mr. Hernandez**. However, she mentioned she did not like the way it was approached during this meeting. She added that she thinks this could have been brought up at previous meetings where they also discussed this Community Air Monitoring Plan.

**Reyes Romero** said he did not think this plan could be approved with conditions. However, he mentioned they could consider this school for the next round of implementing monitoring stations.

**Luis Olmedo** asked why this approval would not be conditional given that it is a draft. He said he was asking this because sometimes he has to run the meeting and he would like to know how to handle a similar situation in the future if that were the case.

**Reyes Romero** responded saying that they had been working on this plan for over 6 or 7 months, and the locations for these monitors was granted by this committee. Yet, he pointed out that this school had not been considered before. However, he said he had no problem with voting on this motion, which was seconded by another member of the committee as long as the committee agreed on this.

**Matt Dessert** mentioned that taking action like this with a condition opens the door to future conditions being brought in, and he thinks this would concern their representatives from the California Air Resources Board going forward. He suggested including another item in a future agenda to re-prioritize those school sites given that it is a draft document.

**An Attendee** said he thought what they should move on and second was the approval of this document as is, and that any issues with regards to locating a monitor at Washington School should be addressed separately.

**John Hernandez** withdrew his motion.

**Reyes Romero** asked for a motion to approve the Community Air Monitoring Plan.

**An Attendee** made that motion; it was seconded, voted on and approved.

## **VII. Discussion Item(s)**

### **Tours on Sources within AB 617 Community Corridor**

**Thomas Brinkerhoff** said that based on some discussions with the committee as well as with Comite Civico del Valle, they had decided to set up perhaps one or two tours of various sources within the corridor. He said they wanted to have a dialogue as to how they could set this up so that they could schedule it in a convenient, effective, and efficient way. Therefore, he said the room was now open for discussion and suggestions for sources or facilities they could tour.

He added they were hoping to schedule these tours once the weather cools down, probably during the months of October or November.

**Mark Baza** said he would like to recommend the intersection of Dannenberg Rd. and Dogwood Ave.

**Reyes Romero** asked everyone to please give suggestions as to the dates and time schedules that would work out for them.

**Luis Olmedo** suggested November 1 and 2 or a little prior to that, which is when Comite Civico is going to have their Annual Leadership Summit. He said their summit is going to have a big focus on AB 617, and he also mentioned they were just getting started, but that they are going to send an invite to everyone once everything is planned and set for this Summit.

**Reyes Romero** asked members of the committee to raise their hand if they were interested in participating on the tour. The majority seemed to be interested in participating.

**Thomas Brinkerhoff** said they would work together with their partners to see how they could execute this. He said they would have further discussions on this at future meetings in order to pick a date and go from there.

#### **VIII. Agency Updates**

**Thomas Brinkerhoff** said the Air Pollution Control District had just confirmed a date for a parking lot paving project at the Calexico Unified School District. He said a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony would take place on Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. At 9:00 AM in the facilities of the Calexico Unified School District on Andrade Ave., and that they would be sending invitations for all the Committee members to attend. He said he hoped to see a lot of them there as they brought this project to them as a vote for potentially funding up to 50% of the cost associated with this project with their future upcoming AB 617 funds. He also announced they are planning together with the California Air Resources Board having a workshop with their Board and this committee on the Community Emissions Reduction Program in November. He said they were looking at having this potentially at Imperial Valley College Student Center probably on November 6<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup>. He said they would bring this item for a vote in two weeks.

**An Attendee** said Comite Civico was hosting a Research Fair at the Imperial Valley Mall on September 7<sup>th</sup>. From 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM. He said they would be passing a flyer to committee members in order for them to attend and invite other people to attend as well. He also reminded them about their Annual Environmental Summit to be held at IVC on November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Ryan Atencio from CARB** said he is with the group that administers the AB 617 Air Grants, and that with regards to a question asked earlier about the grants, he would like to explain that the Air Grants are a part of AB 617. He said community based organizations can apply for them. He added they are for groups to become involved in the 617 implementation process, and they are specific guidelines as to how this should be done including participating on these meetings or projects that help the steering committee in terms of the blueprint that CARB put out such as technical assistance. He said the application window was currently open and that they could not answer any specific questions due to the competitive nature of the grants, but he encouraged them to check those out online.

#### **IX. Topics for Next Meeting**

**Thomas Brinkerhoff** said they would probably have a comprehensive update on any last remaining elements or items of concern within the Community Emissions Reduction Program. He also mentioned that they would be sending a calculator tool via e-mail between this meeting and the following one so they can manipulate and calculate the amount of projects they can do with the limited amount of resources that they would be getting through this program. He also said the agenda should include an initial discussion on which locations should be prioritized for the deployment of low cost community monitor sensors within the first 6 months.

**X. Closing Remarks**

**Kristian Salgado** asked if the APCD website could be linked to the County's Air District page.

**Gil Rebolgar** said they would look into it.

**Rene Félix** said that as a member of the corridor, representing the city of Calexico, he would like to have one of these meetings held at the city of Calexico.

**Reyes Romero** said he would like to congratulate them for the approval of the Community Air Monitoring Plan, and that he would hope to see everyone again on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Meeting Adjourned.**