

**AB 617 Community Air Protection Program  
Minutes of the Steering Committee Meeting  
ECRMC Community Education Center  
El Centro, CA  
September 11, 2019**

**Chair of Meeting:** Christian Torres (Alternate)

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

**I. Attendance:**

**Primary:** Mercedes Martinez, Community Corridor; Matt Dessert, Air Pollution Control District; Mireya Diaz, Community Corridor; Kristian Salgado, Community Corridor; Blake Plourd, Community Corridor; Sergio Cabañas, Community Corridor; Aide Munguia Fulton, Community Corridor; Mary Salazar, Community Corridor; John Hernandez, Community Corridor; Jose Celaya, Community Corridor; Diahna Garcia Ruiz, Community Corridor

**Alternates:** Reyes Romero; Rosa Guerrero; Christian Torres; Sandra Mendivil; Michael Moore; Irene García; Juan Villa; Diego Gamboa

**Absent:** Luis Olmedo, Bob Fischer, Rene Felix, Tomas Oliva, Chris Gomez Wong, Steven Snow, Mark Baza, Virginia Mendoza, Irene Garcia, Paul Monarrez

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

**Amy Ramos** welcomed everyone in attendance. She mentioned that at the beginning of the meetings they will now pledge allegiance to the flag. She invited everyone to give a minute of silence to remember the fallen in the 9/11 attacks. She then invited everyone to grab some dinner and pointed out the restrooms and the emergency exits. She pointed out they have interpreting services available for those who needed it. She reminds everyone that the meeting is a safe space and that everyone is empowered to share and ask questions even though if the scope of them is outside the agenda. She commented they've made a handout for votes and motions as a guide for committee members, she said that they will practice this 3 times today. She mentioned that people commented that the votes should be completed via roll call and that they will now call your name and ask for your vote at the time.

**The co-chair** welcomed everyone and said they will be bringing back the CAMP vote from the last meeting. He mentioned that it's a procedural vote that they have to go through and that it will be explained later.

**Matt Dessert** welcomed everyone and added that all the discussion they've had since the last meeting has been heard of and will be talked about later in the agenda. He said there is some concern on how they run their meetings and that him and **Luis Olmedo** have agreed that the co-chairs will be stepping away and not participate in votes, motions or actions because some of these might directly involve business and financial activities related to the APCD or Comité Civico. He confirmed that they will be doing roll call votes on specific agenda action items. He indicated that things that aren't on the agenda shouldn't take roll call votes, but if it happens in the discussion they should be surveyed. He said that he discussed with **Luis Olmedo** how they would manage future discussions inside the group and that CCV will handle them.

**Blake Plourd** commented that the CERP wasn't touched on properly in the last meeting. He said that he had a chance to read the whole document and that it provided a number of comments that were well received. He

added that it's important to have that document dialed in so they can get a unified stance to achieve the goal of bringing in funding for projects and reduce air pollution.

**Mireya Diaz** seconded what **Blake Plourd** said. She said the goals in the document are not only realistic but also very obtainable.

**Kristian Salgado** mentioned that there needs to be a better system on making comments on the drafts as its very confusing at the moment. She said that her comments were published and shared with everybody and she wondered if other people that commented can have theirs published as well. She added she is thankful that they've added the procedure chart because the last public meeting was not conducted properly.

**An attendee** wanted some clarification on whether there will be comments that they will be going over today that aren't part of the packet.

**Matt Dessert** confirmed that those comments were received after the Brown Act notification period but that they will be coming to the packet.

**Mary Salazar** mentioned that she has been educating herself ever since she joined this committee and that she joined a case study for people that want to see if they have any metals in their bodies. She said that she has mercury exposure and that her family might be exposed as well. She commented that she appreciates what everyone is doing in the committee because she would've never found out about this.

**Amy Ramos** thanked **Mary Salazar** for her comment.

### III. Public Comment

**Pete Rodriguez** thanked everyone for what they are doing but that in their social media posts they don't seem to be pictured as a team working together and suggested that if they want to have more buy-in with the general public that that needs to change.

**Ray Askins** commented that he keeps hearing that the budget is coming up for review but he hasn't seen anything about this budget and would like to see what it consists of. He also said there should be more transparency on what the filtration systems used in classrooms cannot do because there are some gasses that are lethal and cannot be filtered.

**Astrid Calderas** added to **Ray Askin's** comment and said that there are different projects taking place across the border that have been very successful with low-cost air quality monitoring including a new project where 200 residents participate in purifying the outdoor air. She said that these projects have been successful at reducing the toxic gasses in the air. She invited everyone to these meetings so that they can be familiarized with what can be implemented in AB 617. She mentioned that things should be sped up in AB 617 because the vulnerable communities cannot wait that long.

**Amy Ramos** reminded everyone who shared something to fill out the comment card at the end of the meeting.

### IV. Approval of Minutes for August 14<sup>th</sup>.

**An attendee** said that the minutes have been attached to this agenda and have been approved by the members of the committee.

**Mersedes Martinez** seconded the motion.

The **co-chair** said that they will now attempt the first roll call vote. He indicates that the co-chairs will not take part in this vote. He then proceeds to start the roll call.

The motion passed and the minutes are approved.

## V. Presentations / Questions and Answers

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

**Kristian Salgado** asked if they will have an opportunity to see some of the comments that were given on the last update from the CERP.

**Alec from Ramboll** said that they circulated a word document of the draft CERP which included the CARB comments as well as how they are addressed in the draft.

**Kristian Salgado** commented that she preferred when the comments were its own separate document as it was easier to cross-reference. She suggested that appendix H should be added.

**Alec from Ramboll** noted **Kristian Salgado's** comments.

**Blake Plourd** asked if they would have a chance to address some of the other comments because he thinks 1 day to review the comments isn't sufficient.

**Alec from Ramboll** indicated that the plan is to vote during that meeting but that if the committee would like more time to review that that's something that could be discussed.

**Amy Ramos** reminded the committee members that they can put forth a motion to table the CERP for a future meeting if they feel necessary.

**Matt Dessert** commented that as an official co-chair they cannot make motions but they can make recommendations. He said that the co-chairs recommend tabling this item until a later date so that they can make the best document possible based on the number of calls, written comments, and emails that they received.

**An attendee** mentioned that this presentation is agenda number 4 and the CERP is number 5. He asked whether this presentation is done and are they moving to the CERP.

**Amy Ramos** answered that APCD and CCV continued to receive feedback even after sending out the draft. She suggested that they prefer to have a dialogue about the CERP at that moment because since they are recommending to table it when it comes up on the agenda it cannot be discussed.

**Aide Fulton** said that she feels they are not given enough options on the monitors they want to place. She commented that the plan of AB 617 was to be consistent with IVAN network and that these will be very costly when that money could be used to buy other sensors that have been proven to be more effective. She pointed out that one option could be diversification of the sensors like the Purple Air Sensors that work well in dry arid areas like Imperial County. She added that these sensors can correlate well with the stationary monitors, the website is easily accessible and can be located anywhere. She pointed out that one possible issue is that the data goes through Purple Air's website while the IVAN monitor data goes through the civic comity.

The co-chair commented that if **Aide** wanted to talk about the technology of the monitors they could speak afterward.

**Alec from Ramboll** said that **Aide's** comment was pertinent to the community monitoring plan and that even though they will be voting on it tonight it's important to note that an ongoing discussion will be the supplementing monitoring. He added that the diversification of monitors can be a part of that discussion.

**Thomas Oliva** commented that the data that will be collected from any of the monitors that are part of the CAMP will be going through the AQView platform that the state is developing and that all the data will be accessible to the public for transparency.

**Diahna Garcia** wanted more clarification on why are comments being accepted after the set date. She commented that this will only drag things even more and that she's wasting her time doing her comments as she is supposed to.

**Matt Dessert** acknowledged that it is frustrating. He commented that it is not unusual to postpone or move things back and that it is necessary so they can take all these comments and create the best possible document. He said that these things happen in bigger agency meetings when creating larger legal documents. He said that they do appreciate the time everyone puts into this.

**Mercedes Martinez** commented that the indoor filtration project survey failed at taking into account everyone's expertise. She said that A or B questions lead to the survey being biased and that it should be readdressed.

**Matt Dessert** said that sometimes the comments come in combined with specific CAMP, CERP or survey related activities. He mentioned that some of the comments were over concern with the time constraints with the interactive survey. He commented that the survey was done as an example of how to do future surveys.

**Amy Ramos** added that CERP was asking for feedback in terms of the number of schools for the filtration system. She commented that no decision has been made and they will come back with additional information.

**Kristian Salgado** mentioned that it would be a good addition to have a technical advisory group. She added that it would also be a good idea to seek further technical guidance from engineering experts.

**Matt Dessert** answered that the co-chairs have discussed this topic. He recommended that they should add a technical advisory group.

**Kristian Salgado** mentioned that they could bring in experts from other states that are more in the forefronts on this topic.

**Matt Dessert** said that they could look at bringing additional experts. He commented that this is key with these monitors. He added that when representing jurisdiction, it is important to take a step aside when allocating funds to make sure it's fair, equitable and going in the right direction.

**Mireya Diaz** showed her support for the work being done by the committee and the community. She commented that the survey was a great baseline. She said she found it surprising that the community wasn't prioritizing what the committee was prioritizing. She mentioned that they value the input of the community.

**John Hernandez** commented that the technical experts are what Ramboll is supposed to bring to the table and working alongside CARB. He mentioned that he thinks Ramboll is meeting with the Air District. He said that they should have better communication with them so that they can know when these meetings are happening.

**Matt Dessert** said that there are in fact meetings between CCV, the Air District, and Ramboll every week. He commented that every school in the corridor would qualify for an indoor air filtration system. He mentioned that they do have limited funding and they will probably not be able to cover all the schools in the first year and that's why the survey worked properly because they realized how powerful these decisions are. He said that the additional comments and taking a second look at the CERP are necessary given how big and costly of a project this is and that they are always trying to make the best decisions.

## VI. Discussions Items

### Vote Proposal on the Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP)

**Blake Plourd** asked if it was possible to make amendments to an item that was brought prior to voting.

**Amy Ramos** said that it is possible. She explained that the procedure for this would be that a committee member would have to bring forth a motion to amend and then this would be seconded and finally go through the vote with the amended version.

**Blake Plourd** asked as an example to his previous question if changing the order of the monitors was allowed under the Brown Act.

**Amy Ramos** indicated that it is allowed but it would have to be voted and amended.

**Matt Dessert** clarified that the locations of the monitors aren't set in stone in the CAMP from the last meeting, only the number of monitors and the system used is talked about. He said that the PM10 modeling plan in the IVAN hasn't been brought forward for the mobile monitors in the new river and that it's still in discussion between the Air District and CCV. He indicated that there are budget concerns with this and that bringing forth the budget information is at the forefront of **Luis Olmedo** and his conversations.

**John Hernandez** made a motion to approve the CAMP as presented.

**Blake Plourd** seconded the motion.

**The co-chair** opened the discussion.

**John Hernandez** wanted further clarification on what happened with **Kristian Salgado's** comments that weren't shared with everyone in the last meeting. He asked if those comments were reviewed and decided on. He added that what they received that day was the same as the last meeting plus **Kristian Salgado's** comments and wanted to understand what happened.

**The co-chair** answered the comments weren't shared because some miscommunication happened in the last meeting. He mentioned that **Kristian Salgado's** comments were accepted before the deadline, APCD gave these comments to Ramboll so that they could add them to the document but that there was a misstep communicating that to the committee. He commented that this is the reason that this is being brought back to a vote to the committee.

**Mireya Diaz** was unsure of what action they were voting on.

**The co-chair** explained that they need to do the CAMP vote that was taken in Heber because **Kristian Salgado's** comments weren't addressed.

**Kristian Salgado** asked how often the document will be up for review since it's a living document.

The co-chair said that it was every six months.

**Kristian Salgado** suggested making that as clear as possible. She also suggested submitting comments via their website instead of having to call the Air District.

**Aide Fulton** asked if today's vote would include the Dylo's.

The co-chair said that today's vote would be what's inside the monitoring plan including community monitors with the Dylo's incorporated into them. He added that this could be brought back into the discussion in six months.

**Alec from Ramboll** clarified that the six-month provision applies specifically to new community monitors. He added to **Kristian Salgado's** comment and said that now that the steering committee has had time to see the responses provided they will now vote on the updates to the plan per the responses.

The co-chair called for a roll-call vote to approve the CAMP as is.

The motion carried.

#### **Vote to Table the Community Emissions Reductions Program (CERP)**

The co-chair said there is a recommendation to table the item to a special meeting.

**John Hernandez** made a motion to table the item.

**Blake Plourd** seconded the motion.

The co-chair called for a roll-call vote to table the CERP as is for a special meeting at a later date

The motion carries.

#### **VII. Agency Updates**

**Matt Dessert** said that they will broaden the tours for the 617 steering committee so they can see the monitors in the Grace Smith school because they are optimistic these projects will be important to their work.

**Miguel Hernández from Comité Civico del Valle** extended an invitation to everyone to their environmental health leadership summit on November 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> at Imperial Valley College in the science building.

#### **VIII. Agenda Topics for Next Meeting**

The co-chair said that it's possible these might change because of the table vote. He said CAMP implementations would still be a topic but the CERP would not be because of the table.

**Matt Dessert** said they will schedule a special 1-hour meeting to handle the action item vote for the CERP that was tabled that night. He mentioned that September 25<sup>th</sup> was the tentative date for the CERP meeting. He added that the final day to add comments on the CERP will be September the 16<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm. He added that the CERP meeting does not have a location yet but they will notify everyone including the public.

**John Hernandez** asked why can't they receive **Kristian Salgado's** previous comments If they already have them so everyone can read through them.

**Matt Dessert** answered that it would be a violation of the Brown Act.

#### **IX. Closing Remarks / Adjournment**

**Kristian Salgado** asked if APCD could let everyone know about the international meetings that are happening.

**Belen Leon** answered that the next day there will be an AOTF meeting in Mexicali at UABC from 11 am to 2 pm. She added that the next one will be in December and that they meet every 2 to 3 months and they alternate between Mexicali and Calexico. She said that anyone that's interested could contact her for more information.

**Mireya Diaz** commented that it's very important for everyone to be patient with each other when people disagree. She said that she is there to learn and appreciates everyone's comments. She wants to encourage everyone and that this is a learning process and encourages them to call the offices or send them an email if anyone has more questions.

**Aide Fulton** commented that she ran out of time inviting people to this meeting but wanted advice on how to approach people that can represent the school district so that they can talk about the needs of the schools.

**John Hernandez** said that he would like a budget update in the future.

**An attendee** let everyone know the city of Calexico is interested in participating and helping this committee. She said that they've offered their culture center so they can have meetings there.

**The co-chair** thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and for being patient with the roll-call votes.

**Meeting Adjourned.**