

**AB 617 Community Air Protection Program
Minutes of the Steering Committee Meeting
Heber Community Center
January 16th, 2018**

Co – Chairs: Luis Olmedo; Matt Dessert

Facilitator: Scott Weaver of Ramboll

I. Attendance

Reyes Romero, Imperial Valley Air Pollution Control District; **Matt Dessert**, Air Pollution Control District; **Luis Olmedo**, Comite Civico del Valle; **Juan Cruz**, Community Corridor; **Diego Gamboa**, Community Corridor; **Aide Fulton**, Community Corridor; **Mireya Diaz**, Community Corridor; **Bob Fischer**, alternate for **Diahna Garcia**, Community Corridor; **John Hernandez**, Community Corridor; **Sergio Cabañas**, Community Corridor; **Mark Baza**, Imperial County Transportation Commission; **Mersedes Martinez**, Community Corridor; **Blake Plourd**, Community Corridor; **Mary Salazar**, Community Corridor; **Kristian Salgado**, Community Corridor; **Dora Alvarez**, Community Corridor; **Jose Celaya**, Community Corridor.

Alternates at the meeting: Ivette Hererra, Sandra Medivil

II. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Matt Dessert welcomed everyone and mentioned that as **Luis Olmedo** and himself had been further discussing the Bylaws that will help regulate the way these meetings are carried out, they had decided to alternate being the designated co-chair for each meeting.

Luis Olmedo said that just as **Matt Dessert** had stated, they would be rotating the chairmanship. He also welcomed everyone in attendance.

III. Public / Community Members Comment Period

Ray Askins mentioned that if they were interested on what is going on in Mexicali in terms of air pollution, they could log into MexicaliLimpio.org.

Alex Diaz said he had been to the previous meeting and he thinks this committee is doing a really good job. However, he also mentioned that they should focus more on finding solutions and being more creative in doing so rather than just focusing on pointing out the issues.

Matt Dessert responded that part of their work is a little historical on education and that there are specific phases of this project, which will in fact address that in a very fast time table.

Bob Fischer said they could talk about the pollution that comes from Mexicali, but they have no control over it. Therefore, he said they should focus on what they can do on their own communities.

Matt Dessert said there is interest focused on the border region and that what can and cannot be done about this issue is good discussion as part of the educational experience process. He also reminded everyone that they are a part of this committee as individual voices for the community.

Mersedes Martinez mentioned she and her alternate had taken the time to meet with **Matt Dessert** and other members of the Air Pollution Control District in order to educate themselves on the issues at hand, and she exhorted everyone to do the same as this would help everyone to be on the same page sharing common knowledge and common language so that they are all ready to move forward with this program.

Blake Plourd thanked the co-chairs for getting out an agenda packet with a little more depth to it. He said it was nice to be able to review it before the meeting and he hoped that this would speed things along.

Mary Salazar said there must be something that can be done to prevent or to lower the impact of emissions coming from Mexicali, and that they should address that Issue.

Kristian Salgado said she was very glad to have received e-mails with pertinent information prior to the meeting and that she had found them very helpful.

IV. Approval of Minutes from Prior Meeting

Matt Dessert informed this was the time to make any comments or requests regarding the December Minutes. Otherwise, he said they would be looking for a motion to approve the minutes and they would be taking their first vote on adopting these minutes as being accepted.

John Hernandez made a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Sergio Cabañas seconded the motion.

Matt Dessert stated the approval of the minutes after a unanimous vote by the steering committee.

V. Action Items

Steering Committee to take Action on Setting Regular Dates of CSC Meetings (Attachment: 2019 Meeting Calendar)

Matt Dessert went over the calendar and explained that this calendar can be amended or changed as needed. He then asked for a motion to approve the year 2019 calendar of meetings.

Bob Fischer made a motion to approve the calendar.

Blake Plourd seconded the motion.

Matt Dessert stated the unanimous approval for the calendar of meetings for 2019.

VI. Information

Updated Glossary

Matt Dessert mentioned they had started this project with a glossary of terms and words provided to them by the state and that as they are learning more about this area of special work, they are building their own local steering committee glossary. He then asked for any comments or suggestions regarding this glossary.

Gil Rebolgar said that as they could see in the glossary, they noted the date on which they provided the updates and that they would keep on doing this to avoid confusion. He added that they are working on translating the glossary to also be able to provide it in Spanish.

Corridor Stationary Source List

Matt Dessert mentioned that this is a list that has been worked with the California Air Resources Board in Sacramento of all the stationary sources in the corridor that are registered or permitted through the Air Pollution Control District. He added that a map on which these sources will be shown is being developed and he hoped to have it ready by the next meeting as well as posted on their website by the same time. He also mentioned that the state of California is not only providing these funds through legislation to support this project, but it is also providing significant support behind the scenes and they are very appreciative of that.

John Hernandez asked if this list was provided by the state or by the county.

Thomas Brinkerhoff said this list comes from the Air District as it is maintained through their data base. He also pointed out that on the far left of this list you can find the source type.

Matt Dessert also mentioned that the list comes from the local Air Pollution Control District, but they work in conjunction with the California Air Resources Board as they oversee their programs and make sure that they are meeting the standards or benchmarks. He added that this list does not only include facilities within the corridor, but it also includes facilities that are just on the border of it. He also stated that those facilities are taken into consideration in the makeup of this committee.

Bylaw / Charter Update

Matt Dessert informed they are having ongoing discussions with Comitè Civico on this and they will have a document ready to be presented at their next month's Board meeting. He said the two co-chairs and the agencies that are involved are working in putting that document together as smart and workable as possible.

Luis Olmedo said they are working on this with the Air District and that there are also other governance such as the Brown Act as well as other governance within the county that also apply and their ultimate goal is to put themselves in a position where we can draw both resources and expeditiously implement solutions for the issues at hand.

John Hernandez stated that even though under the Brown Act they are required to receive pertinent information 72 hours prior to their meetings, he thinks that the members of this committee should be given more time to review and weigh in on the bylaws and the recommendations before they take an action on that.

Matt Dessert said his point was well taken and that they could make that available. He also took this opportunity to invite everyone to contact Comitè Civico if they had any questions about their role and their story in the community as well as the IVAN air monitoring network that they have put in place.

VII. Presentations / Questions and Answers

Anthropogenic vs. Non-Anthropogenic Sources; Emily, Ramboll

Matt Dessert explained that PM 10 or dust particles are a problem in this region and raise health concerns. The Imperial Valley, he added is located in the middle of the desert and some of that desert is accessible to humans for recreation causing a disturbance made by human activities and therefore, creating an anthropogenic source. In contrast, he also explained that non-anthropogenic sources refer to open areas that are not disturbed by human activities.

Kristian Salgado mentioned that the Salton Sea was manmade and now it has become one of the largest issues when it comes to sand storms. Therefore she said that there is not a really clean cut to differentiate anthropogenic from non-anthropogenic sources.

Matt Dessert said there is a back and forth discussion on this matter. However, he explained that when it comes to law enforcement, the legal hardness of whose responsibility it is comes through. He said they need to move beyond that and make the best effort forward trying to be as successful as can be. He added that the Salton Sea is not in the corridor and that some say it is manmade, and some say it was an accident. However, he also stated that the water transfers that are reducing the flows and water efficiencies throughout the United States, which are driving this, without a doubt, are a part of man's activity.

An Attendee asked if they should be wearing protection as they are going about their day when they travel out, or if it is something that does not really help.

Matt Dessert said that everybody's health concerns are different, but that without a doubt there is a crossover for asthma, allergies, among other conditions in our community. He also said that as part of this program they have to look at what they can do to reduce emissions as well as educate people as to raise a higher level awareness in order to reduce exposure to pollution. He finished explaining that in particular cases such as in the case of dust storms or wild fires, it would be recommended to wear particle masks and make them available to the people that need it.

Luis Olmedo added that there has been an enormous effort for years to reach out to communities making information on air quality levels available to them in order to prevent long exposure to unhealthy air.

Air Quality View; Emily Gorrie, California Air Resources Board

Ray Askins asked if she could explain what fence line means.

Emily Gorrie explained this gets back to some of the industries that are in communities for AB 617. She further explained that some of the communities are interested in placing air monitors near the borders to those facilities to see and kind of reconcile any emissions from those facilities.

John Hernandez said although he sees this as a great effort and a great tool, he also understands that these different monitoring systems that are out there are using different types of monitors and regulatory monitors meet environmental protection standards. Therefore, it is his understanding that in order to also regulate to these standards the California Air Resources Board needs to either match or exceed the US EPA standards and regulatory monitors and make them low cost to be put out to the community to be able to access them community wide.

Emily Gorrie explained that there are low cost sensors that are being put out there, but that this is not necessarily directly related to regulations. She further explained that they are looking for a way to provide some sort of quality information to people at the lowest cost possible. She added that in AQ View they want to include all of these different quality sensors, but they also want to do it in a meaningful way making people understand that there is a difference between regulatory and community monitoring information.

An Attendee said she thinks this is a good and useful tool in educating people on air quality.

Mark Baza said that he noticed on the presentation they presented short, mid, and long term recommendations and that is something that they as a committee will be coming up with as far the data or actions that they want to support for the communities in Imperial County.

Matt Dessert stated that what they are working on is going to replicate what the state is doing on an overall map, and that they are going to work on the Imperial Valley portion of that map. He also said with regards to the non-regulatory

monitors, that they are looked as an outreach educational component to better tell the story of what is going on in these neighborhoods are a granular level. He also said this can send alerts to them to go out and take a look at the activities that are going on for permit review or even enforcement actions.

Luis Olmedo said that the very unique thing about AB 617 is that it actually puts money on the table to make some recommendations and leverage resources to be able to tackle those emissions sources through a variety of interventions or strategies.

Mersedes Martinez asked with regards to the data that is being collected to then be placed on the website, if CARB would have access to that information first hand or if they were relying on those entities to report that data themselves. She also asked what the time frame in reporting would be.

Emily Gorrie responded that at this point they are relying on those entities to report the data themselves. She also said that they were hoping for real time as well as having updates of data every hour.

Kristian Salgado asked if AQ View is going to include all the communities with air monitoring systems established.

Emily Gorrie said that for July 1st, she did not have an answer for that. However, she said that over time, any communities that want to provide their data can do so and they would be happy to post it on their website as they want to be a repository for all of these activities that are occurring throughout the state.

APCD Regulatory Monitoring

There were no questions or comments after his presentation

Agricultural Miscellaneous Burning in Imperial County; Emanuel Sanchez, Air Pollution Control District

An Attendee asked what determines if an agricultural field applies for the Emission Reduction Credits Program.

Emmanuel Sanchez said that it is up the farmer to decide to be a part of this program. He also explained the through this program farmers get credit for PM 10, NOX, among other reduction emissions. He added they also have what they have special burn fields, which are fields located near sensitive receptors. He explained that for those fields to be burned they charge an extra fee and they send an inspector to make sure the smoke rises up avoiding any impact in that sensitive neighborhood.

VIII. Agenda Topics for Next Meeting / Time of meeting / Closing Remarks

Juan Cruz suggested for the reminding items of this meeting to be moved to the next meeting's agenda since they were getting to the 2 hour mark of this meeting and some of them might have other commitments to attend to.

Luis Olmedo said this was a good opportunity to consider how to move forward with these meetings in order for them to make up and continue to meet their goals as where they should be now. Therefore, he proposed having more meetings.

Matt Dessert said that their next scheduled meeting was on February 13th, but that in order to expedite and finish their activities for the night, they needed to pick a meeting time in two weeks. He suggested Wednesday, January 30th. There was consensus for having the next meeting from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM on that date.

Luis Olmedo said he was looking forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned