**AB 617 Community Air Protection Program**

**Minutes of the Steering Committee Meeting**

**ECRM Community Education Center**

**El Centro, California**

**May 8th, 2019**

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

**Facilitators: Amy Ramos; Daniela Flores**

1. **Attendance**

**Matt Dessert,** Air Pollution Control District; **Luis Olmedo,** Comite Civico del Valle; **Aide Fulton,** El Centro corridor; **Mark Baza,** community corridor; **Blake Plourd,** El Centro/Heber corridor; **Mireya Diaz,** El Centro corridor; **Bob Fischer,** alternate member and Diahna Garcia Ruiz; **Michael Moore,** Heber corridor; **Sergio Cabañas,** El Centro/Heber corridor;  **Rosa Guerrero,** alternate for **Mersedes Martinez,** community corridor; **John Hernandez,** community corridor; **Mary Salazar,** Calexico corridor; **Sandra Mendivil,** Calexico corridor and alternate for **Mireya Diaz;**

**Alternates: Reyes Romero, Sandra Mendivil;**

1. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

**Matt Desert** welcomed everyone and said they had a full agenda; he acknowledged their new facilitator, **Amy Ramos** and indicated they would continue with the agenda items for this meeting after opening remarks by **Luis Olmedo.**

**Luis Olmedo** also welcomed everyone in attendance as well as the new facilitator, **Amy Ramos.** He mentioned he had been to Sacramento and that had noticed there is a lot of momentum around binational work in terms of the economy and investment as well as to how the Free Trade Agreement is benefitting their communities.

**Amy Ramos** introduced herself and **Daniela Flores** as facilitators for these meetings and gave some instructions as to how they were going to conduct the meeting.

1. **Public Comment Period**

**Aide Fulton** mentioned that World Asthma Day would be celebrated through the month of May, and asked everyone to mention the efforts of AB 617 if approached by the media asking about air quality issues.

**Blake Plourd** made a couple comments on the emissions inventory and source attributions from the prior meeting. He said he believed there was some bias on the presented data.

**Mary Salazar** said she agreed with **Blake Plourd.** She also commented that there had been news about people dying due to respiratory issues caused by pollution in Mexico. She said this was a concern for her since Mexico and the US share the same air shed. She added she wondered why these kinds of news are not heard in the US.

**Follow Up Discussion on Emissions Inventory and Source Attribution; Tom Olson and Victoria from CARB**

**Tom Olson** made some remarks regarding **Blake Plourd**’s concerns about the sensor data compared to what is in the inventory. He explained that the PM data that they were presenting was from the 2012 PM State Implementation Plan and that initially, there is a temporal difference between the inventory, which is based on more resent data vs. the data that was collected from 2012 and the years prior. However, he said there is continuing monitoring effort at the location of concern. He added that it is difficult to take very specific locations of PM data and then map it out the impacting source for that particular location, but you can generally see transportation.

**Victoria** added that they are in the process of checking the data, ensuring that the numbers are accurate. She also said they would like to come back and present a final inventory because what they had presented were draft numbers. She concluded saying they would have an update at a later date.

**Matt Dessert** commented that presentations intended to be presented at these meetings need to be sent with more time to the co-chairs so they can review them in order to make sure that they are presented in a way that is understood as well as accurate.

**Victoria** was asked how they have gotten their numbers for their inventory, and she explained that their inventory numbers come from different sources. If it is a stationary source, she explained they work with the district to get the permits; they then look at activity levels for 2017 and factor that in. For area wide sources, she said they had worked with their modeling personnel and had been able to project emissions for 2017. For on road and off road data, they took vehicle miles traveled and then they were able to allocate those onto the roads and provide final numbers. She pointed out that all of their work is still under draft mode and that they were in the process of checking their data and said they would be able to provide final numbers at the next meeting.

**Tom Olson** was asked if any IVAN monitors would be collocated with the APCD or CARB particulate monitors. He said he did not know at that time, and that it would have to be discussed with the district.

**Matt Dessert** added that collocation subject is under discussion between Comite Civico del Valle and the Air Pollution Control District not only on these monitors, but also on some additional activity with the state of California.

**Tom Olson** was asked if the IVAN network samples on the same 6 day schedule as the CARB or APCD equipment. He explained that the IVAN is a real time PM network, which means that as the sensor collects it, they report that data out. The CARB and APCD equipment is on a 6 day schedule to allow time to collect the sample, take the sample to the lab, have it analyzed, and process results. He added that it is collecting a lot more information than just PM 2.5 or PM 10 count that can be done in real time.

**John Sample** asked when they were going to start talking about solutions and planting trees in order to create oxygen. He mentioned that the president of Mexico had agreed to plant a million trees in his term, and he said he would like to see a hundred thousand of them planted along the border to stop their smog from coming into the US environment.

**Ray Askins** mentioned there are organizations that have the wealth and the manpower to grow trees and develop programs for people to participate and plant trees systematically. He also mentioned he grows trees in his backyard and gives out a thousand trees a year.

**Aide Fulton** mentioned that the Department of Parks and Recreation are planting over 500 hundred trees in Imperial County so there are some efforts being done. She also mentioned they should look into what trees are being planted because some kinds of trees may cause allergies to people.

**Amy Ramos** asked what the process is for engaging and putting together the technical advisory group discussed at the prior meeting.

**Matt Dessert** said that Mr. Olmedo and himself had discussed contacting 4 committee members of the 15 primaries to form this advisory committee, and their alternates would also then serve as alternates for this advisory committee.

**Luis Olmedo** mentioned that through this committee they would cover the need for more meetings in order to meet the deadlines ahead of them as well as helping them workshop a lot of the technical aspects that need to be addressed.

1. **Approval of Minutes from Prior Meeting**

**Sergio Cabañas** made a motion to approve the minutes**;** the motion was seconded by **Mike Baza.** After some amendments to the minutes were requested and noted, the committee members were called to a vote to the approval of the minutes as amended, and the minutes for April 10th were approved unanimously.

1. **Informational Items**

**CSC Stipend for Primary and Alternate Members**

**Matt Dessert** informed that they had been successful in passing their bylaws approved by the Board of Supervisors and that with it, there is a stipend approved for each primary and alternate member to be paid for participating in the meetings. He said they have some housekeeping to take care of primarily filling out some tax forms such as the w-9 form as well as some other forms.

**Thomas Brinkerhoff** from the Air Pollution Control District informed that for those members that will be accepting this stipend, they need to have their W-9 form filled out and submitted to them as soon as possible. He asked those members who would not be accepting this stipend to please let them know so they can have that information on their records.

**Framework and Locations of Community Air Monitors; Comite Civico del Valle**

A map with the framework and location of community air monitors was presented by a member of Comite Civico del Valle.

**Ray Askins** asked what kind of monitors they were using.

**The CCV member** said they were using Dylos monitors just as the one installed in his house. He explained that this monitors allow for technology updates to be done later on.

**Amy Ramos** said that if anyone had any questions, comments or suggestions as to where to locate those monitors, they could write them on the post its provided to them for that purpose, and that someone would pass around and collect them to be taken into consideration.

**Matt Dessert** mentioned that they plan on embedding these monitors along the border to improve their data base. He explained that even though these monitors are not regulatory monitors, they do fill in the gaps in order to better define what is happening in the outlined areas away from the regulatory monitors.

**Blake Plourd** asked what the proposed funding source was for putting in these additional monitors.

**Matt Dessert** said that funding source for those monitors would be the AB 617 funds.

**Blake Plourd** asked how that funding would be administered, who would be responsible for installing the meters, and if this was something this group would vote on in order to allocate the funds.

**Matt Dessert** said that this committee will be participating in the design, the budget and the layout of everything. He added that the Air District has the autonomy to make these decisions; but that they were committed to their partnership with the environmental justice group Comite Civico del Valle and that the funding to pay for these additional monitors is all coming from the state of California and at this time, from the AB 617 area, and from the budget process through this steering committee.

**Luis Olmedo** said with regards to the budget that the Air District had originally submitted a 4 million dollars budget, but that the Air Resources Board requested more detail on that. He added that nobody really knows what the true cost of succeeding in this program is going to be; he said they were all actually learning in this process, and they were now looking at real numbers for the development and implementation of this program and that they were seeing that they are already under budget. He also said that is why it is important to continue to communicate with the Air Resources Board. He also mentioned that all of them know that they have a daytime population and it is important to bring light to that daytime population and elevating to Sacramento so they become aware of the reality they are facing in their communities.

**Mark Baza** said that he knows that everybody is a supporter of having monitors along the border, but that he wanted to highlight that anything within 60 feet buffer of the border is under the jurisdiction of the International Boundary and Water Commission, which represents a challenge.

**Matt Dessert** said they are well aware of that and it has been taken into consideration.

**Community Air Monitoring Plan Update**

**Matt Dessert** presented a two year budget cycle for the 2 million to the Community Steering Committee. He explained this was a draft for them to review, and that they would address it again at the next meeting after everyone had had the chance to review it.

**John Hernandez** asked if they had an estimate as to how much it would cost to install and maintain a community monitor for two years.

**Matt Dessert** said that breakdown in detail would be there as they get into the monitoring section. He added that the Air District, Comite Civico del Valle and the California Air Resources Board are working together in order to design the best additional mobile monitors and will bring that information back to the committee.

**Community Emissions Reduction Program Update**

**Matt Dessert** explained that this committee is in charge of administering this 2 million dollar budget to do projects. He also mentioned that they had tentatively been awarded an additional 8 million dollars for projects once they are done with the current 2 year cycle of organizing themselves. He added that they are trying to smartly get ahead on these projects in order to have in a cue and order a strategy for the state of California and others that are watching this process to see they can handle these funds in a smart accurate way. Having said this, he presented the community benefit projects:

**Agricultural Burn Policy #234 & CUSD Parking Lot Paving Project – Estimated Emission Reductions**

**Matt Dessert** described the projects to the committee and mentioned they already have some money to do these kinds of projects. He also informed that after having it discussed with **Luis Olmedo,** they had agreed to come to the committee and start asking to leverage the Air Pollution Control District’s moneys and the 617 future 8 million dollar money in doing these projects. He explained this is a grant type of an activity and oversight, and that the more they could partner with other agencies, and the more they could leverage their money, the better performance and results they would get. He said that what they are talking about is paying for this project if they are successful at getting approved by the board of supervisors by the Air Pollution Control District and have the AB 617 committee reimburse half of that when the 8 million dollar fund comes in. He explained that what they were being presented with was a draft and that they would have the opportunity to address both projects in more detail at the next meeting.

1. **Action Items**

**Designate number of AB 617 public workshops for June 19, 2019.**

**Thomas Brinkerhoff** asked for input as to whether they should have one or two public workshops sessions on June 19th and what time frame should be. He informed they had the ECRMC Community Education Center available all day on that date. As part of this workshop, he explained they would have different discussion tables on topics that they had covered on past meetings and up to the present with the presence of representatives from Comite Civco del Valle, the Air Resources Board, and the Air Pollution Control District.

**Mark Baza** suggested having one of the meetings at their usual schedule from 5:30 to 7:30 in the evening, and having an early afternoon meeting as well.

**Blake Plourd** suggested having just one meeting in order to limit expenses and make a better use of the funds they count with.

**Bob Fischer** said to be in agreement with **Blake Plourd,** and suggested doing more community outreach activities through local media in order to raise awareness and have more participation in this public process. He added that they should consider ways to reach older people that are not too savvy at using technology and surfing the web.

**Gil Rebollar** mentioned they had a good relationship with the local newspapers and that they do inform them of the work and efforts being done through the AB 617 Community Air Protection Program by this committee. He also mentioned having contacts with the local agency on aging and the senior population through which he conveys information. However he said he was always open to suggestions on how to improve their messaging.

**Mireya Diaz** asked if the two meetings would be focusing on exactly the same topics on two different schedules and if so, she said it would be nice to have an earlier one in order to reach younger people such as students as well as the stay at home moms.

**Matt Dessert** said he agreed with her, and suggested having one meeting from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM, and another one at the conventional time from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM.

**Amy Ramos** called for a vote on this subject. Majority voted for two meetings on June 19th, and she indicated that logistics, times and locations would be informed once they have decided on them.

1. **Presentations / Questions and Answers**

**DPR Pesticide Presentation**

**An Attendee** mentioned that according to the presentation, once a pesticide was proven to be a health risk, DPR was given 2 years to implement measures to reduce the risks, and she asked why it would take 2 years.

**The Speaker** explained this was due to the fact that it has to follow a formal regulatory process. He mentioned there are several procedures that are set by the office of administrative law that have to be followed. However, he also mentioned that it does not necessarily have to take that long. Depending on the type of action to be taken, it can be done within a few weeks, but it could also take up to 2 years.

**John Hernandez** asked if the California Tracking website gets their information on pesticide use from DPR.

**The Speaker** said it does. He also mentioned there are a few other websites that give information on pesticide use such as the Department of Public Health, but even though they provide information obtained from DPR, they use information that is some years behind.

**John Hernandez** asked if there are any known pesticides banned in the US that are currently being used in Mexico in a close proximity with the US border, which could drift to the US.

**The Speaker** explained that there is no way to actually know what is currently being used in Mexico since they do not have access to their information.

**John Hernandez** asked if they hire additional staff when they do seasonal monitoring.

**The Speaker** said it all depends on the study. He explained that the study he mentioned on his presentation was under the California Budget Act of 2016. He added that for studies conducted by their department they usually contract with the county or they hire their own staff.

**Amy Ramos** asked the group to write any questions or comments down in order to follow up on them.

**Imperial County Agricultural Commissioner Pesticide Presentation**

**Ray Askins** asked if they have any information of the use and impact of chlorpyrifus in the Imperial County.

**The Speaker** said that chlorpyrifus is currently a hot topic in the news. She also said that on that date, CALEPA had a press release saying their taking action to ban this product in California. She said as far as the impacts to the county that the pesticide should be used according to the label and the site conditions that apply as well as following the special permit conditions for the use of it.

1. **Agenda Topics for Next Meeting / Time and Location of Meeting**

**Thomas Brinkerhoff** said they would address the community air monitoring plan. He said they hoped to have an updated draft of the plan to review during the next meeting. He also mentioned they will have an interactive map exercise to determine the locations for additional community air monitors, and that they would also have a more detailed budget for the community air monitoring plan to be presented at the next meeting to be held on May 22nd.

1. **Closing Remarks / Adjournment**

**An Attendee** suggested having an open forum type of workshop for the next 2 meetings to be held on June 19th.

**Matt Dessert** thanked everyone for attending this meeting, and said he will see everybody again on May 22nd at the same venue at 5:30 PM for their next meeting.

**Meeting adjourned**