

**ABC 617 Community Air Protection Program
Minutes of the Steering Committee Meeting
Heber Community center
December 17th, 2018**

Co – Chairs: Luis Olmedo; Matt Dessert

Facilitator: Scott Weaver of Ramboll

I. Attendance

Reyes Romero, Imperial County Air Pollution Control District, and alternate co-chair for **Matt Dessert**; **Luis Olmedo**, Comite Civico del Valle; **Sergio Cabañas**, Community Corridor; **John Hernandez**, Community Corridor; **Mireya Diaz**, Community Corridor; **Diahna Garcia Ruiz**, Community Corridor; **Juan Cruz**, Community Corridor; **Mark Baza**, Imperial County Transportation Commission, Community Corridor; **Blake Plourd**, Community Corridor; **Kristian Salgado**, Community Corridor; **Mersedes Martínez**, Regional Medical Center, Community Corridor; **Rosa Guerrero**, alternate for **Mersedes Martínez**; **Jose Celaya**, Community Corridor; **Aide Fulton**, Community Corridor.

ARB Representatives:

Dave Salardino, Tom Olsen, Andrea Juarez, Ivy Osornio, Veronica Eady

Community:

Bob Fischer, Kay Pricola, Colab, Diego Gamboa, Tyler Salcido, Humberto Lugo, Emily Weissinger, Edie Harmon, Thomas Brinkerhoff, Belen Leon, Ray Kellner, Michael Moore, Ray Askins, Miguel Hernandez, Alex Solis, Sergio Valenzuela, Brea Mohamed, Tomas Olivas, Miguel A. Coronel, Esther Bejarano, Gil Rebollar

II. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Matt Dessert welcomed everyone in attendance and apologized for having to leave because he was not feeling well. He said his sit would be filled in by his alternate **Reyes Romero**.

Luis Olmedo also welcomed everyone, made some remarks on how traffic affects air pollution, and said he hopes this advisory and everyone who participates at these meetings would share their ideas as to how to prevent these as well as other kinds emissions in their communities.

Reyes Romero introduced himself as the Assistant Air Pollution Control Officer as well as the alternate Co-chair for **Matt Dessert**. He welcomed everyone this meeting and said he hoped a lot of things would get done throughout the meeting.

III. Public Comment Period

Ray Askins asked what the reason for excluding Mexicali from this group was even though Mexicali represents more than 50% of the population of Imperial County.

Reyes Romero explained that this project that they are working on is for a specific corridor, which exclusively includes El Centro, Heber, and Calexico. He added there are other avenues through which they are indeed working with Mexicali, but not under this specific project.

IV. Approval of Minutes from Prior Meeting

Scott Weaver asked if there were any comments or suggestions to be noted on the November Minutes. There were not any comments or suggestions on the minutes.

John Hernandez made a motion to approve the minutes.

Diahna Garcia Ruiz seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

V. Action Items

Reyes Romero took action on Steering Committee Roster / Primary and Alternates. After having gone over this and having everyone at the table, they proceeded with the meeting.

VI. Information

Discussion on Draft Bylaws / Charter

Scott Weaver mentioned it was his understanding that the co-chairs are still working on a revised draft of the Bylaws and the Charter, which will be brought back for the Steering Committee's consideration at the January meeting.

Luis Olmedo mentioned that the bylaws provided a general framework because this advisory is still under the umbrella of Imperial County and that once it is approved by the co-chairs, it will be brought to the advisory.

Glossary

Reyes Romero said a glossary was included as part of their package given at this meeting. He also said he would like to express that the glossary is a living document and that there are still a lot of terms that can be added and defined to it, and that they were going to be added as necessary.

Humberto Lugo asked if the glossary would be available for the participants as well as to the Steering Committee.

Scott Weaver said he believed it had been posted.

An Attendee from APCD said they can obtain it directly from the CARB website as it is a public document. He also said that if they provided him with their contact information, he could send a copy. He added that it was available in English and Spanish as well.

AB 617 Blueprint

Scott Weaver explained that the Air Resources Board had prepared a significant document called the AB 617 Blueprint. He said this document explains the AB 617 Program, what the different elements of the program are, and how the different Air Districts around the states are to undertake developing their plans in accordance with AB 617. He mentioned there were copies available for the public and the Steering Committee reference both in English and Spanish.

An Attendee from CARB mentioned he believed that along with the blueprint there were multiple attachments, which they could also find in the CARB website.

Scott Weaver added that the Air Resources Board website has a very robust website for the AB 617 Program that includes copies of the blueprint as well as a large number of other documents, which you might find of interest to this project as this process unfolds.

VII. Presentations / Questions and Answers

14 Element Air Monitoring; Ivy Osorio, CARB

Reyes Romero asked if when they refer to the community, they are referring to Imperial County in general or just the corridor under this phase of this project.

Scott Weaver said they are referring only to the corridor of El Centro, Heber, and Calexico.

Luis Olmedo added that although they are looking at a corridor, the boundaries of that corridor may be affected by other sources that are not within the corridor. He also said that how to look at that fact could be an item for discussion.

Aide Fulton mentioned that one of the concerns that she sees and hears from the community is basically the fact that they do not have information about the air quality or where to find it. Therefore, she added that the first thing she would like to look into is getting more awareness to the people in general.

Mireya Diaz said that one of the concerns the their community has been talking about for a long time is dust and smoke in in the air right after harvest season is done as well as the haze that comes from the feeding lots, and that those should be topics they should be addressing.

John Hernandez said he would really like to know what is contained in these emissions because different pollutants impact people differently and trigger different things. He also mentioned he would like to have a better understanding of the quality of the monitoring within community monitors as well as regulatory monitors as far as what to do with the data they provide.

An Attendee mentioned they had done air quality related studies at the border crossings and that they know that they have serious congestion that has raised air quality concerns at the border crossings as well as at the highways leading their side of the border primarily at the Calexico West Port of Entry.

Sergio Cabañas said that not until they evaluate the other side of the border will they be able to get realistic numbers as far as what is coming in. He added he thought it was important to work with the Mexican government on doing some monitoring so that they would have data to compare.

An Attendee also mentioned it might be useful for the community to understand what is included in the State Implementation Plan that APCD has. He added that it was important to educate people on what areas are under nonattainment.

Reyes Romero suggested having a presentation on the State Implementation Plans during the next meeting.

Mireya Diaz mentioned it is important for them to focus and remember that it is a community effort, and that she understands the concerns with their neighbors to the south, but that they really have to be accountable for what they have control of doing. She said she thinks it is very important for this committee to focus on understanding what is in the air and what is what they really want to tackle.

An Attending also suggested focusing on the components of the pollution so that they have a clear idea on what they want to focus their energy on.

Luis Olmedo mentioned it is going to be very important to have a complete inventory of the sources in and out of the corridor, which are influencing the corridor. He added that it would be a good idea to come up with a variety of strategies to promote engagement and participation and facilitate the sharing of ideas among the group.

Kay Pricola mentioned that it would be beneficial to address the components of air pollution as well as sharing information from the community monitors that you have had in place for some time as to what has been increasing or decreasing.

Luis Olmedo said that making that information available will definitely be a part of this process. He added that there would be a presentation on the IVAN Network as part of the agenda for this meeting.

An Attendee also said that when looking at pollutants to evaluate it is important to provide references to document what that information is so that there is a historical record.

Source Attribution; Tom Olsen, CARB

An Attendee asked if this presentation would be made available to them.

Tom Olsen said it would be.

Mersedes Martinez asked if these resources and technology has also been used elsewhere.

Tom Olsen said these methods had all been used in various places. He added that in fact, they have been used in the State Implementation Plan for Imperial County, and that all of the information regarding this is available to the public.

An Attendee asked how much of this specific analysis is available for the area of this project now, and how much additional data and analysis is going to be needed to be done by this Steering Committee.

Tom Olsen said that in terms of the air quality data that is currently available, the EPA has their AQS data mark and has been collecting information from the monitors in place along the corridor for a good amount of time. As far as additional data, he explained that the concerns expressed in this forum will drive the monitoring plan that will collect the data that will be used to further analyze the needs of this community.

Reyes Romero mentioned that they are currently working with the State California Air Resources Board to put together an inventory specifically for this corridor, and that the sources would be identified on a map. He also said that all of this information would be made available to the public. He added that one of the purposes of this committee was to get people educated on air quality issues and programs, and that over time; everyone will get more familiarized with all the topics at hand.

Scott Weaver explained that the State Implementation Plans to which they have been referring to during the meeting are the District's Plan for attaining national ambient air quality standards for criteria pollutants.

Luis Olmedo added that this is only their second meeting and that as they move along with the program they will have a better understanding of what is expected from this committee. He also mentioned that they have an aggressive timeline to meet and that it is important for all to be aware of this and also to be familiar with the schedule for things to be done.

Belen Leon mentioned that they have to submit the monitoring plan by February, and that by the month of June, they have to submit a lot more elements. However, she also mentioned that they would present the specific schedule for all of this at the next meeting.

Luis Olmedo said that the goal of the AB 617 program is to address emissions and how sources are affecting fence lines close to the source in order to come up with strategies to tackle the problem. He said it is a very comprehensive program and that since they are in a very unique area, it will take very unique approaches in order to be able to address the concerns at hand.

Bob Fischer said there was a wind profiler operating at the Calexico East Port of Entry for years, which had to be taken down, but that this would be a real good tool for determining direction and wind speed.

Tom Olsen said he would be happy to talk to him as to how that could fall into the air monitoring plan.

Scott Weaver mentioned that there is quite a bit of information including a technical paper on the Air Resources Board website concerning the source attribution methods for those who were interested in getting more detailed information on this topic.

Incentive Funding; Thomas Brinkerhoff, APCD

Luis Olmedo mentioned that it would probably be helpful to share with the committee members that in the 2017 /2018 budget there was somewhere in the range of 250 to 270 million dollars and that the majority of that money went to 3 air districts including the bay area, the south coast, and the San Joaquin Valley. He added that Imperial received 500 thousand out of that range of dollars that were available. He also said that for the 2018 /2019 budget there are another 245 million dollars available, and that if they were successful, they would be competing for those dollars. Therefore, he said they needed to be aware of the need for them to be a very loud voice in order to get a fair share of the money available and meet the goal this committee is after.

Mireya Diaz asked if they had specific expertise in order to request these funds with the language and any other requirements in order to be able to compete successfully at a state level. She insisted on simplifying the language in their presentations in order for them to really grasp that bigger picture.

Diahna Garcia Ruiz said that in her opinion the fact that they are not allowing them to take into consideration the emissions from Mexicali was very unfair.

Luis Olmedo mentioned that the Air Resources Board has committed to working towards developing a border affairs office to help coordinate efforts to address those kinds of issues. He also added that Mexicali recognizes the issues and they really have a genuine interest to get involved.

An Attendee said that awareness is very important especially with some of the cultural activities that happen south of the border such as tire burning and fireworks at the end of the year because some of the people who practice these activities are not aware of the harm these can cause on their health as well as the environment.

BARCT Schedule Update; Reyes Romero, APCD

There were no questions or comments raised after this presentation.

Existing Community Monitoring; Comite Civico del Valle

Mireya Diaz asked how many regulatory monitors there are in the county and who is monitoring that data.

The CCV representative informed there are 5 regulatory monitoring stations in the county.

Reyes Romero said the Air District is in charge of monitoring that data. He also added that they have one monitor in Calexico, one in El Centro, one in Brawley, one in Westmoreland, and one in Niland.

Mireya Diaz asked how the data differs from community monitoring to regulatory monitoring, and how often quality controls are done.

The CCV representative explained that the data on community monitors is not to regulatory standards because their implementation is different and they are considered qualified low cost sensors, but they have been validated by scientists at South Coast Air Management District. He also said that quality data checks are done both automatically, when the data is transferred to their server, as well as periodically by the staff assigned for this purpose. He also mentioned that the variances on the monitoring readings depend on their locations, and that the community monitors have a lower radius of detection than regulatory monitors do.

Reyes Romero added that the main difference between these two types of monitors is the quality of the data because the regulatory monitors are more sophisticated. He also explained that the regulatory monitors provide general information as a whole region, and the community monitors offer information more at a neighborhood level.

A committee member asked if they were familiar with the different types of non-regulatory monitors available.

The CCV representative said that there are currently more types of sensors in the market than there was when the IVAN network was deployed, and that there are different companies that offer different options in the market today, which are also currently operating in different areas.

Aide Fulton asked what the community monitors measure.

The CCV representative said they currently measure PM 2.5 and PM 10 exclusively.

Luis Olmedo added that the information from the community monitoring network should be looked at as complimentary reliable data.

Reyes Romero asked how many community monitors operate on the corridor.

The CCV representative said around 10 or 11.

Sergio Cabañas asked what the margin of error is on the community monitors compared to the regulatory ones.

The CCV representative explained that when the monitors were calibrated and collocated compared to other low cost sensors available, the one being used on these monitors were the closest in reading compared to the regulatory monitors.

Esther Bejarano explained that the IVAN monitoring network gives the different schools a better idea of the air quality in their neighborhood because they can obtain data from monitors that are closer to their perimeter.

VIII. Agenda Topics for Next Meeting / Tentative Dates and Time

Belen Leon mentioned that the topics considered for the next meeting would be a presentation on the State Implementation Plan by APCD, an AQ view presentation from CARB, source attribution methods, components of pollution, and she added that a worktable to better understand how monitoring networks work should also be considered.

Reyes Romero added that they might also include a presentation of the Air Quality Plan, which they have to have ready by the month of June.

Scott Weaver said they also have to include a review of the Bylaws and the Charter, as well.

Belen Leon mentioned that tentative dates for the next meeting were January 15th or 16th, and that they would notify everyone ahead of time on the final date, schedule and venue.

An Attendee said it would be a good idea to have more information on those 5 monitors managed by APCD so that they have a better understanding of the ambient national air quality standards.

IX. Closing Remarks / Adjournment

An Attendee said she would like for everyone attending these meetings to receive any information regarding the topics to be discussed at the next meeting well in advance so that they come better prepared to address such topics.

Reyes Romero said that one of the goals of this committee was to educate ourselves on topics regarding air quality, but that another very important goal is to develop an air quality plan. He said he wanted to ask for their patience and reminded everyone that their input as to what to do to reduce emissions in order to improve air quality is a key to the development and success of this program.

Luis Olmedo referred everyone to **Alex Solis** in case they wanted to find out more on AB 617 Community Air Protection Program. He also mentioned that the moment they approve the Bylaws, they will obey by the Brown Act.

Scott Weaver thanked everyone for their endurance and their contribution this evening on what he thought was a very productive meeting.

Meeting Adjourned

