

Bay Area Air Quality Management District
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APPROVED MINUTES

Summary of Board of Directors
Community and Public Health Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 20, 2020

This meeting was conducted under procedures authorized by executive order N-29-20 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom. Members of the committee participated by teleconference.

1. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

Community and Public Health Committee (Committee) Chairperson, Shirlee Zane, called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Chairperson Shirlee Zane; Vice Chairperson Mark Ross; and Directors Teresa Barrett, John Gioia, Scott Haggerty, Davina Hurt, Liz Kniss, Nate Miley, and Brad Wagenknecht.

Absent: Director David Canepa.

Also Present: Board Chair Rod Sinks.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 5, 2020

Public Comments

No requests received.

Committee Comments

None.

Committee Action

Director Wagenknecht made a motion, seconded by Director Kniss, to **approve** the Minutes of March 5, 2020; and the motion carried by the following vote of the Committee:

AYES: Barrett, Gioia, Hurt, Kniss, Miley, Sinks, Ross, Wagenknecht, Zane.
NOES: None.
ABSTAIN: None.
ABSENT: Canepa, Haggerty.

3. RECENT STUDIES ON COVID-19 AND PARTICULATE MATTER (PM)

Greg Nudd, Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer of Policy, introduced Dr. Judith Cutino, Health Officer, who gave the staff presentation *Recent Studies on COVID-19 and PM*, including: overview; COVID-19 background; uncertainty in the case fatality rate; reading preprint studies; Harvard study; virus ribonucleic acid found on PM; and potential implications.

NOTED PRESENT: Director Haggerty was noted present at 2:42 p.m.

Public Comments

Public comments were given by Jed Holtzman, 350 Bay Area; and Gladwyn D'Souza, Belmont resident.

Committee Comments

The Committee and staff discussed whether similar studies are being conducted; how long it may take until scientific consensus is established and whether that process may be accelerated; the need to be cautious of incorrect and unvetted information, and which are the most reliable sources regarding this subject; how Bay Area levels of PM compare with the federal standard for the annual average exposure, and what kinds of incidents would significantly increase Bay Area levels of PM; the status of Aclima's Bay Area air quality data; whether the Air District has seen increases of emission levels in the Bay Area due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and whether cases of COVID-19 have increased at the Port of Oakland, refineries, or manufacturing sites.

Committee Action

None; receive and file.

4. AIR DISTRICT EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE TELEWORKING

Wayne Kino, Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer of Operations, introduced Kristine Roselius, Acting Communications Officer, who gave the staff presentation *Air District Efforts to Encourage Teleworking*, including: Spare the Air (STA) 2020 campaign; STA employer program; and telecommute pledge and policy.

Public Comments

Public comments were given by Jed Holtzman, 350 Bay Area; Gladwyn D'Souza, Belmont resident; and Stephanie Anderson.

Committee Comments

The Committee and staff discussed requirements of the STA and Bay Area Commuter Benefits programs, the feasibility of increasing their leniency to allow more participation, and the suggestion of working with various environmental justice groups to promote these programs; whether an increase in outreach to smaller employers is necessary; the suggestion of identifying incentives for those who cannot work remotely; the request that Air District staff give a future presentation regarding how the Bay Area Commuter Benefits program might be transitioned to a remote work/telecommute program; the observation that bicycle riding is increasing, and the suggestion that the Air District monitors that trend and continues to encourage biking; the public's fears about using transit and carpooling during the COVID-19 pandemic; the suggestion of targeting those who are considered essential workers (and cannot work remotely) for the 2020 STA campaign; the request for promotional materials that can be given to chambers of commerce and mayors' conferences; and the suggestion that the Air District holds a public webinar regarding remote work and commuter benefits.

Committee Action

None; receive and file.

5. CONTRA COSTA COUNTY GREEN AND HEALTHY HOMES INITIATIVE

Mr. Nudd introduced Axum Teferra, Environmental Planner, who gave the staff presentation *Contra Costa County Green and Healthy Homes Initiative*, including: Contra Costa Green and Healthy Homes initiative; program components; alignment with Air District goals; and next steps. Michael Kent of the Contra Costa County Department of Public Health also spoke.

Public Comments

Public comments were given by Gladwyn D'Souza, Belmont resident.

Committee Comments

The Committee and staff discussed funding sources that Contra Costa County has procured for this initiative; the types of medical professionals that are involved in this initiative; the methodology of data collection, which may be useful and replicable in other counties, and the suggestion that other counties should be approached to join this initiative; and the suggestion that Contra Costa County partner with the American Lung Association on this initiative.

Committee Action

None; receive and file.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA MATTERS

No requests received.

7. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Director Kniss urged all people to get tested for COVID-19.

8. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, September 17, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., via webcast, pursuant to procedures authorized by Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

/s/ Marcy Hiratzka
Marcy Hiratzka
Clerk of the Boards