

Bay Area Air Quality Management District
Southeast Community Centers
1550 Evans Avenue
Alex Pitcher Pavilion Room
San Francisco, CA 94124

Board of Directors Special Meeting / Retreat
Wednesday, January 31, 2024

APPROVED MINUTES

Note: Audio recordings of the meeting are available on the website of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District at www.baaqmd.gov/bodagendas

CALL TO ORDER

1. **Opening Comments:** Board of Directors (Board) Chairperson Davina Hurt, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. This meeting was held in person, with no remote teleconferencing locations offered.

Roll Call:

Present: Chairperson Davina Hurt; Vice Chairperson Lynda Hopkins; and Directors Brian Barnacle, John J. Bauters, Ken Carlson, Joelle Gallagher, John Gioia, Juan Gonzalez, David Haubert, Tyrone Jue, Sergio Lopez, Otto Lee, Ray Mueller, Katie Rice, Mark Ross, Vicki Veenker, Shamann Walton, and Steve Young.

Absent: Directors Margaret Abe-Koga, Noelia Corzo, Erin Hannigan, David Hudson, and Nate Miley.

I. MORNING SESSION

2. **EVERY BREATH WE TAKE: SHAPING THE AIR DISTRICT FOR THE FUTURE**

A. Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

Chair Davina Hurt acknowledged the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone, the original inhabitants of the land on which this Board Retreat was held.

B. Bayview Hunters Point Welcome and Community History

The Board of Directors received a welcome from a community youth representative of Bayview Hunters Point, Dominick Ramirez, who was introduced by Director Shamann Walton. Mr. Ramirez gave remarks on the historical and cultural significance of Bayview Hunters Point. As

an intern at Marie Harrison Community Foundation and a senior at Kipp San Francisco College Prep, Mr. Ramirez is a youth Environmental Justice (EJ) leader in the local community.

NOTED PRESENT: Directors Carlson and Jue were noted present at 10:14 a.m.

C. 2024 Vision and Journey

The Board of Directors heard opening remarks by Chair Hurt on the vision and journey for 2024.

D. Regional Planning at a Moment of Transition

Kate Gordon, former Senior Advisor to U.S. Energy Secretary, Jennifer Granholm, and former Director of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, provided a presentation to the Board of Directors on the future of regional, state and federal environmental leadership at a time of economic, energy, and geopolitical transition.

E. Assembly Bill (AB) 617 Community Air Protection Program Reimagined - Clean Air Successes and Challenges

i. Community Voices of AB 617

The Board of Directors viewed a brief video produced by the California Air Resources Board, entitled "Community Air Protection Program Blueprint 2.0 Listening Workshops Community Voices

ii. Panel Discussion of Bay Area AB 617 Community Steering Committee Representatives

Community representatives from the Air District's four AB 617 communities participated in a discussion on clean air successes and challenges. Marcia Raymond, Acting Deputy Executive Officer of Equity and Community Programs and Suma Peesapati, Environmental Justice and Community Engagement Officer, moderated. Arieann Harrison from Bayview Hunters Point/ Southeastern San Francisco, Nancy Aguirre from Richmond-North Richmond-San Pablo, Mykela Patton from East Oakland, and Richard Grow from West Oakland, discussed community-level challenges, community priorities, proven real-world solutions, opportunities for strategic pivots, and thoughtful recommendations for Air District staff.

NOTED PRESENT: Director Mueller was noted present at 11:19 a.m.

Public Comments on Morning Session Items

Public comments were given by Ms. Margaret Gordon, West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project (WOEIP); Tonia Randell, Marie Harrison Community Foundation; Ken Szutu, Citizen Air Monitoring Network of Vallejo; and Dani Solakian.

Board Comments on Morning Session Items

Regarding Item 2.D, the Board and staff discussed high voltage transmission lines; the status California Environmental Quality Act reform; ways in which State and education systems can work together regarding the future energy infrastructure workforce and just transition (meeting climate goals by ensuring that all communities, workers, and social groups are brought along in the pivot to a net-zero future); the fact that climate does not respect municipal boundaries, and the concept of multi-municipality and regional partnerships to address this issue; and ways in which Board members can advocate for transmission and distributive generation.

Regarding Item 2.E.ii, the Board and staff discussed appreciation for the Community Advisory Council holding Air District staff accountable and advocating for improved practices, and for the increased focus on Air District engagement with community organizations over the past several years; the importance of the community's desire for meaningful data that is easy to understand; ways that the Air District can build trust with the AB 617 Community Emissions Reduction Plan and Community Action Plan Steering Committees; and appreciation for the Community Advisory Council's grace to the Board, as the relationship between the two entities develops.

The Board recessed at 12:21 and resumed the meeting at 12:38.

II. WORKING LUNCH

3. THE AIR WE BREATHE: TRENDS AND TRADITIONS IN AIR QUALITY REGULATION

A. The Air District's 2023 Accomplishments and the Outlook for 2024

The Board of Directors received a presentation from Dr. Philip M. Fine, Executive Officer/APCO on the Air District's 2023 accomplishments and the outlook for 2024.

B. Executive Team Highlights Current and New Initiatives for the Upcoming Year(s)

The Board of Directors received a presentation on the Executive Team's highlights on current and new initiatives for the upcoming year(s) from Alexander Crockett, General Counsel; Gregory Nudd, Deputy Executive Officer of Science and Policy; Hyacinth Hinojosa, Deputy Executive Officer of Finance and Administration; John Chiladakis, Chief Technology Officer; Marcia Raymond, Acting Deputy Executive Officer of Equity and Community Programs; Meredith Bauer, Deputy Executive Officer of Engineering and Compliance; and Viet Tran, Deputy Executive Officer of Public Affairs.

C. Community Advisory Council (CAC)'s Environmental Justice Action Planning

Vernice Miller-Travis of The Metropolitan Group, along with CAC Co-Chairs Latasha Washington and Kevin Jefferson, provided an overview of the development process for the EJ Action Plan. The presentation covered the work of the CAC's EJ Policy Ad Hoc Committee and the creation of the EJ Priorities, which will serve as a foundational guide for both the EJ Action Plan and the Strategic Plan.

Public Comments on Working Lunch Session Items

Public comments were given by Ms. Margaret Gordon, WOEIP.

Board Comments on Working Lunch Session Items

Regarding Item 3.C, the Board and staff discussed whether the Air District's current engagement methods (with EJ organizations) can will achieve the nine proposed/requested EJ priorities, and the desired implementation timeline for the EJ priorities; and the distinction between EJ and Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion work, and the encouragement of the Air District's work in both areas, despite vitriol toward DE&I initiatives in other states.

The Board recessed at 2:00pm and resumed the meeting at 2:05pm.

III. AFTERNOON SESSION

4. AIR DISTRICT'S 5-YEAR AIR QUALITY STRATEGIC PLAN WORKSHOP

A. The Importance of Long-Term Thinking

Rachel Hatch, Chief Operating Officer of Institute for the Future (a nonprofit with a track record of ten-year forecasting), provided a presentation to the Board of Directors, regarding the importance of long-term thinking while priming deliberations on strategic plan development.

B. Strategic Plan Development

The Board of Directors received an interactive presentation from BluePoint Planning, the Air District's strategic planning consultant, who, together with Vernice Miller-Travis of the Metropolitan Group, presented an overview of the Air District's strategic planning process, a review of the input gathered from staff and external stakeholders, and an outline of next steps. Board members were invited to give input on proposed language for the Air District's goals and vision statement.

Public Comments on Afternoon Session Items

Public comments were given by Bob Tuck, Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association; and Ms. Margaret Gordon, WOEIP.

Board Comments on Afternoon Session Items

None, other than input that was captured by BluePoint Planning during Item 4B.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA MATTERS

Public comments were given by Brian Schmidt, Menlo Spark; Nancy Aguirre, Richmond-North Richmond-San Pablo Community Emissions Reduction Plan Steering Committee; Ken Szutu, Citizen Air Monitoring Network of Vallejo; and Kalyan Godden, Benicia resident.

6. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

7. SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

A. Recognition of Interim Chief Operating Officer, Sharon Landers

Dr. Fine and the Board thanked Ms. Landers for her service as Interim Executive Officer/Air Pollution Control Officer, and then as Interim Chief Operating Officer.

B. Recognition of former Board of Director, Myrna Melgar

Chair Hurt stated that Supervisor Melgar had announced her resignation from the Air District's Board at the end of the 2023 calendar year, and thanked her for her service.

C. Recognition of former Board of Directors Chair John J. Bauters

Chair Hurt read the certificate of recognition that captured the work of Director Bauters while he served as the Air District's Board Chairperson from May 2022 to January 2024.

Public comments were given by Jed Holtzman, Rocky Mountain Institute; Ken Szutu, Citizen Air Monitoring Network of Vallejo; Laura Feinstein, San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association; John McKenna, Menlo Park resident; and Dr. Stephen Rosenblum, Palo Alto resident.

8. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., at 375 Beale Street, San Francisco, CA 94105. The meeting will be in-person for the Board of Directors members and members of the public will be able to either join in-person or via webcast.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

/s/ Marcy Hiratzka
Marcy Hiratzka
Clerk of the Boards