

Bay Area Air Quality Management District
Board of Directors Special Meeting and Retreat

Wednesday, January 29, 2025

Cal State University Maritime Academy
200 Maritime Academy Drive
The Market Place, 2nd Floor, Compass Room
Vallejo, CA 94590

APPROVED MINUTES

This meeting was webcast, and a video recording is 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 10:05 a.m.

Roll Call:

Present, In-Person (Cal State University Maritime Academy, 200 Maritime Academy Drive, The Market Place, 2nd Floor, Compass Room, Vallejo, CA 94590): Chairperson Davina Hurt; Vice Chair Hopkins; and Directors Dionne Adams, Monica Brown, Ken Carlson, Joelle Gallagher, John Gioia, Juan González III, David Haubert, Sergio Lopez, Ray Mueller, Gabe Quinto, Mark Salinas, Lena Tam, Vicki Veenker, Shamann Walton, and Steve Young.

Absent: Directors Margaret Abe-Koga, Brian Barnacle, Brian Colbert, Noelia Corzo, Tyrone Jue, and Otto Lee.

2. **WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

Chair Hurt welcomed attendees, including members of the public, stakeholders, Air District staff, and Board members, to the Board's Annual Retreat.

- I. **MORNING SESSION**

3. **INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

Chair Hurt acknowledged the unceded ancestral homeland of the Patwin people, the original inhabitants of the land on which the Board Retreat was held.

4. **COMMUNITY WELCOME**

LaDonna Williams, Programs Director of All Positives Possible, was asked to formally welcome attendees to the City of Vallejo. A short video that captured the activities, challenges, and successes of Vallejo activists' was shown.

NOTED PRESENT: Director Mueller was noted present at 10:13 a.m.; Director Gallagher was noted present at 10:19 a.m.; and Director Lopez was noted present at 10:32 a.m.

At this time, Chair Hurt made the following announcements:

- On January 7, 2025, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors reappointed Supervisor Lynda Hopkins to the Air District's Board for a new term from January 6, 2025 to January 6, 2029.
- On January 9, 2025, the Contra Costa County Mayors' Conference appointed Pittsburg Vice Mayor, Dionne Adams, to the Air District's Board for a term from January 9, 2025 to January 9, 2027.
- On January 7, 2025, the Solano County Board of Supervisors appointed Supervisor Monica Brown to the Air District's Board for a term from January 7, 2025 to January 7, 2029.
- On January 14, 2025, the Marin County Board of Supervisors appointed Supervisor Brian Colbert to the Air District's Board for a term from January 14, 2025 to January 14, 2029.
- On January 14, 2025, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors appointed Supervisor Lena Tam to the Air District's Board for a term from January 14, 2025 to January 14, 2029.

5. **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER / AIR POLLUTION CONTROL OFFICER (APCO) (OUT OF ORDER, ITEM 11)**

Dr. Philip M. Fine, Executive Officer/APCO, announced that the Air District has undergone a name and logo change, both of which were launched on January 21, 2025. This was done in an attempt to modernize the Air District's image and strengthen the Air District's connection to its communities. A detailed explanation for the rebranding can be found [here](#).

6. **FINANCE CLIMATE INNOVATIONS (ITEM 5)**

A. Overview of Climate Tech Finance

Areana Flores, Senior Staff Specialist, and Tamara Kohne, Supervising Staff Specialist, from the Air District's Technology Implementation Office, gave the staff presentation *Overview of Climate Tech Finance Program*, including: outline; Climate Tech Finance program; what is climate tech and examples; driving forces behind climate tech; program overview; program impact; case studies; marketing; and opportunities.

B. Panel Discussion 1 – Driving Climate Innovation: The Role of Capital and Government Action in a Sustainable Transition

This panel consisted of the following individuals: Derrick Tang, Deputy Director of Venture Capital at California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank

(Ibank); Elias Van Sickle, Cofounder of Switch Maritime; Emily Abraham, Director of Legislative and Community Affairs at San Francisco Chamber of Commerce; George McDaniel, Chief Climate Tech Finance/Nor-Cal Financial Development Corporation; and Lauren Faber O'Connor, Partner/Lowercarbon Capital.

The panel discussed the ways in which climate tech is driving the transition to a sustainable economy, highlighting investment trends, opportunities, challenges in the sector, the role of public and private financing, innovative funding mechanisms like loan guarantees, and the strategies needed to scale impactful technologies.

NOTED PRESENT: Director González was noted present at 10:53 a.m., and Director Haubert was noted present at 11:04 a.m.

C. Board Question and Answer Session

The Board, panelists, and staff discussed sources of monies that the Air District has invested into the Climate Tech Finance program; the manner in which Air District staff that work on this program are funded in the Air District's budget and whether increasing staff for this program would impact other regulatory areas of work that are already behind; whether the Bay Area Clean Air Foundation is tied to this program; whether ocean-going vessels (harbor craft) will eventually be fueled by hydrogen; whether petroleum-free asphalt is already on the market; how much climate tech financing relies on federal dollars; the role of government in capital allocation; risk mitigation; whether the Air District is exploring or prioritizing investments in adaptation that can have synergistic co-benefits (versus focusing on greenhouse gases (GHG) and woodsmoke mitigation measures); the hope for long-term viability of this program; Canada's patent filings related to climate change mitigation and adaptation technologies; the hope for progressive changes in the demographics regarding entrepreneur representation; public sector procurement; concerns about whether the Air District allocates taxpayer dollars for innovation initiatives, and whether the Air District is using fees from permitted facilities to support this program; the manner in which the Air District is involved with the program's loan guarantee process; concerns about whether the Air District should be sanctioning new climate technologies, even if the technologies provide general social benefits; and potential jobs that can be created by advancing these technologies, and whether the Air District can expedite deployment to market.

D. Public Comment

Public comments were given by Patrick Messac; Sarah Chen-Small, Communities for a Better Environment; Kathy Kerridge, Benicia resident; and Dr. Kerby Lynch.

The Board recessed at 12:37 p.m. and resumed the meeting at 12:47 p.m.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA MATTERS (ITEM 9)**

Public comments were given by Lonnie Mason, First Generation Environmental Health & Economic Development; Janniece Murray, All Positives Possible; Yvonne Williams; Mark Williams, Jr., Environmental Justice League; Mark Williams, Sr., Environmental Justice League; Francisco Orellana, Environmental Justice League; Camika Robinson, Environmental Justice League; Rob Reason, Touro University; Liat Meitzenheimer, Fresh Air Vallejo; Louis Michael, Vallejo resident; Ashleigh Cofield, Vallejo resident; Celina Perez, First Chance Vallejo; Josh Sonnonfeld, Blue Green Alliance; JeAnn McDougald, Black Women Organized for Political Action; Mondrell Butler, Pittsburg resident; Jared Butler, Pittsburg resident; Josaih Butler, Pittsburg resident; Michael Randall, Pittsburg resident; Latressa Wilson-Alford, Black Women Organized for Political Action; Kadeem Cypress, Vallejo resident; and P. Anthony Thomas, Vallejo resident.

II. **AFTERNOON SESSION**

8. **SHARING A JUST TRANSITION (ITEM 6)**

A. Introduction to a Just Transition

Arsenio Mataka, Deputy Executive Officer of Equity and Community Programs, gave the staff presentation *Ensuring an Equitable Just Transition for Frontline Communities and Workers*, including: Just Transition and the Path to Clean Air.

B. Panel Discussion 2 – Ensuring an Equitable Just Transition for Frontline Communities and Workers

This panel consisted of the following individuals: Dr. Mijin Cha, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies Department at UC Santa Cruz; Marisol Cantú, educator and Co-Lead of the Richmond Area Path to Clean Air Community Steering Committee; Christine Cordero, Co-Executive Director for Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN); Nick Plurkowski, President of United Steelworkers Local 5; and Tim Carmichael, President and CEO of the California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance (CEEB).

The panel discussed what it means to achieve a Just Transition from a fossil fuel dependent society to a clean, renewable energy future, focusing on lessons learned, critical partnerships needed, and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

C. Board Question and Answer Session

The Board, panelists, and staff discussed the work of the Green Empowerment Zone, which provides cities participating in the Northern Waterfront Economic Development Initiative with incentives to create sustainable, green economy jobs to replace those being lost at four Bay Area oil refineries in Contra Costa County; equity concerns regarding the financial impacts of transitioning to decarbonization; the need for continuous public education about anticipated compliance requirements; the importance of involving union workers into this conversation so as to reduce the potential impact to their jobs (what are the

types of jobs that they currently have and what trainings will they need to make the transition as smooth as possible); appreciation for the report published by the Contra Costa Refinery Transition Partnership entitled “California Contra Costa Refinery Transition Partnership Report and Policy Recommendations”; what Just Transition looks like to environmental justice (EJ) communities; challenges that result from varying definitions of ‘Just Transition’ by different entities; the belief that current industrial jobs should not be eliminated until it is known what the new jobs will be needed; the hope that jurisdictions and agencies that receive funding spend those funds in new ways to accommodate Just Transition; the importance of building trust between opposing stakeholders; and the importance of building economic impact studies into the Air District’s work.

D. Public Comment

Public comments were given by Chuck Leonard, Plumbers & Steamfitters Local Union 342.

The Board recessed at 2:59 p.m. and resumed the meeting at 3:13 p.m.

9. COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS (ITEM 7)

A. Community Investments Office

Mr. Mataka gave the staff presentation *Community Investments*, including: background; alignment with the Air District’s 2024-2029 Strategic Plan; Community Investments Office; and Community Investments Office actions from January to May 2025.

B. Panel Discussion 3 – Investing in Community Wellness and Prosperity

This panel consisted of the following individuals: Chynell Freeman, Resilient Community Associate Planner, for Transformative Climate Communities; Daniel Saver, Deputy Executive Director of Housing and Energy for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission; Doria Robinson, Executive Director of Urban Tilth; and Juan Reynoso, Program Officer for the California Wellness Foundation.

The panel discussed funding programs from the philanthropic, non-profit, and government sectors targeting underserved communities, and shared best practices and lessons learned in funding and implementing effective initiatives to promote equity and healthy communities.

C. Board Questions and Answer Session

The Board, panelists, and staff discussed the desire to see the acceleration of Valero Refining Company penalty funds returned to the local community to finance projects that will reduce air pollution exposure and mitigate air pollution impacts in areas surrounding the Benicia refinery; the request for a map to show where the incidents have occurred within the entire Air District’s jurisdiction; whether there are case studies that best inform how to engage with community

(which methods are most effective); and (to the panel) how often grants seem to be awarded to local government agencies.

D. Public Comments

Public comments were given by Robert Brown; Xóchitl Cortez, Frontline Catalysts; Dr. Kerby Lynch; and Patrick Messac.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

10. CLOSING REMARKS AND OTHER BUSINESS (ITEM 8)

Chair Hurts thanked those who contributed to developing and preparing this event.

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (ITEM 10)

Director Veenker asked the Air District to agendize the Climate Tech Finance program's fee sharing agreement with California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank at a future Board meeting.

12. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

In addition to wishing everyone a happy Lunar New Year, Chair Hurt reported that on February 4, 2025, she will be participating in a panel discussion hosted by KALW Radio's Climate reporter, Mary Catherine O'Connor, regarding climate action in an uncertain environment.

13. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, February 5, 2025, 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.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

/s/ Marcy Hiratzka
Marcy Hiratzka
Clerk of the Boards