

Bay Area Air Quality Management District
375 Beale Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94105

DRAFT MINUTES

Richmond – No. Richmond – San Pablo Community Emissions Reduction Plan Community Steering Committee

March 24, 2025, 5:30 P.M

1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

The Richmond – No. Richmond – San Pablo Community Emissions Reduction Plan Community Steering Committee (CSC or Committee) Co-Chair Nancy Aguirre called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

Present: Co-Chair Dr. Omoniyi Omotoso, Co-Chair Nancy Aguirre, Co-Chair Marisol Cantó, Luna Angulo-Castro, Y'ana Burrell, Suzanne Coffee, Shaun Cotten, Beverly Dynes, Bryana Gastelum, Michelle Gomez Garcia, Martha Gruelle, Kerry Guerin, Lizbeth Ibarra, Jeffrey Kilbreth, Jessica Range, Simren Sandhu, Dave Severy, Derebew Shankute, Samir Shrestha, Althea Skinner, Heidi Swillinger, Franklin Ungo, Ariel Xi, Hakim Johnson (non-voting), Emily Warming (non-voting), BK White (non-voting)

Absent: Sandra Castandea-Marquez (non-voting)

Also Present: Air District Staff, Allison Kirk, Chad White, Diana Ruiz, Grace Leung, Janet Carrasco, Joe Lapka, Karissa White, Laura Cackette, Nina Garde, Robert Cave, Samuel Garcia; MIG staff, Joey Nielsen; Interpreter, Norma Herrera; Members of the Public, Andrea Bailey, Anna Morgan, CF, Danny

2. PUBLIC MEETING PROCEDURE

Public Comments

None.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF February 24, 2025

00:07:30

The Committee reviewed the meeting agenda and approved the February 24, 2025, Meeting Minutes with a roll-call vote.

Committee Comments

Committee member Derebew Shankute asked if the new committee members should be voting on this agenda item since the March CSC meeting was their first official meeting.

Co-chair Nancy Aguirre let Derebew and the rest of the new members know that they could abstain or skip the vote for the vote on the February meeting minutes. Nancy mentioned that going forward all new members would be voting on the meeting minutes.

Staff Comments

None.

Committee Action

Committee member Jessica Range made a motion, seconded by Co-chair Dr. Omotoso, to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2025, meeting. The motion carried by the following vote of the Committee:

AYES: Co-Chair Dr. Omoniyi Omotoso, Co-Chair Nancy Aguirre, Co-Chair Marisol Cantú, Luna Angulo-Castro, Y’anad Burrell, Suzanne Coffee, Michelle Gomez Garcia, Lizbeth Ibarra, Jeffrey Kilbreth, Jessica Range, Simren Sandhu, Dave Severy, Heidi Swillinger, Franklin Ungu

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: Shaun Cotten, Beverly Dynes, Bryana Gastelum, Martha Gruelle, Kerry Guerin, Derebew Shankute, Samir Shrestha, Althea Skinner, Ariel Xi

ABSENT: None.

Public Comments

None.

4. **RECRUITMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATE**

00:11:57

The Path to Clean Air Steering Committee and the public received an update from Co-Lead Dr. Omotoso regarding the recruitment ad hoc committee’s role now that the CSC has accepted new members.

Committee Comment

None.

Committee Action

None; receive and file.

Public Comments

None.

5. **STANDING COMMITTEES INTRODUCTION**

00:13:37

The Committee received an overview from Co-chair Nancy Aguirre introducing the Just Transition and Community Benefits Policy Standing Committees and asking for volunteers and interested members.

Committee Comment

Co-chair Nancy Aguirre asked the committee for any volunteers to facilitate or support the Just Transition Steering Committee.

Committee member Derebew Shankute mentioned that he had been reading more about the Just Transition initiatives and was interested in supporting, but that he didn't know if he qualified to facilitate the committee.

Committee member Luna Angulo offered to support the Just Transition Committee or facilitate.

Committee member Samir Shrestha offered to facilitate or help to support the Just Transition Committee.

Committee member Lizbeth Ibarra offered to help support the Just Transition Committee.

Committee member Bryana Gastelum offered to support the Just Transition Committee.

Committee member Simren Sandhu offered to support the Just Transition Committee.

Committee member Michelle Gomez Garcia offered to support the Just Transition Committee.

Co-chair Marisol Cantu let the committee know that she was interested in supporting or playing a liaison role as a co-lead to support the Just Transition Standing Committee. She asked to confirm that Samir and Luna would serve as the 2 standing committee facilitators.

Committee members Luna Angulo and Samir Shrestha confirmed that they would serve as co-facilitators for the Just Transition Committee.

Committee member Ariel Xi asked if they were allowed to support for more than just one standing committee?

Co-chair Nancy Aguirre confirmed that committee members could support more than one committee at a time, but that they could only help facilitate one committee.

Committee member Ariel Xi offered to support the Just Transition Standing Committee.

Committee member Shaun Cotten offered to support the Just Transition Committee.

Committee member Y'anad Burrell asked to confirm that the committee member's comments in the chat were being captured.

Co-chair Nancy Aguirre asked the committee for any volunteers to facilitate or support the Community Benefits Policy Steering Committee.

Co-chair Marisol Cantu reiterated that there were current buckets of money allocated to the larger Richmond/San Pablo community from different settlements. She emphasized how there were funds available and a blueprint to move the community benefits initiative forward, but that there were certain criteria that had to be met to ensure the initiatives are supportive of the community.

Co-chair Nancy Aguirre let the group know that she planned to support the Community Benefits Policy Standing Committee.

Committee member Suzanne Coffee offered to support the Community Benefits Policy Standing Committee.

Committee member Heidi Swillinger offered to support the Community Benefits Policy Standing Committee.

Committee member Jessica Range offered to support the Community Benefits Policy Standing Committee.

Committee member Kerry Guerin offered to support the Community Benefits Policy Standing Committee.

Committee member Beverly Dynes offered to support the Community Benefits Policy Standing Committee.

Committee member Althea Skinner offered to support the Community Benefits Policy Standing Committee.

Committee member Dave Severy offered to support the Community Benefits Policy Standing Committee.

Committee member Y'anad Burrell offered to serve as a co-facilitator for the Community Benefits Policy Standing Committee.

Committee member Hakim Johnson offered to support the Community Benefits Policy Standing Committee.

Committee member Jessica Range mentioned that the committees seemed rather large and it had been difficult to find a time to get that many people together outside of working hours. She expressed some concern about accomplishing the amount of work that was needed on each committee with such a large group.

Co-chair Nancy Aguirre mentioned that more people on the committees meant more people able to do the work that was needed and that was a positive factor for the size of the committees.

Committee member Jeffrey Kilbreth asked if people might be unclear of all the tasks that would need to be done by each committee. He asked if the group would be working with the Air District to figure out the guidelines for distributing the funding and applications, and if that would involve working with the City of Richmond and San Pablo to ensure they are all coordinated and informed on what is going on. He mentioned that he didn't feel like the committee needed 10 people to do the job and questioned if there was enough work.

Co-chair Nancy Aguirre reflected on past perspectives where the CSC felt like there weren't enough hands or time to do the work they wanted to do. She emphasized how she felt that a larger group would be better able to complete the work that needed to be done. She also expressed how the actions and sub-actions have already been identified in the Plan.

Co-chair Marisol Cantu agreed that larger groups might be more difficult to accommodate with everyone's schedules, but that the work could be moved around to different members depending on availability. She considered how the larger groups could increase the amount of engagement for all CSC members. She mentioned that there may not be times that the two committees could identify that would work for everyone. Marisol expressed how the co-facilitators would be in charge of creating the Action Plans. She also mentioned that specifically for the Community Benefits Policy committee there was a lot of work that needed to be done engaging with the City entities and community and ensuring alignment with the Chevron Action Plan.

Co-chair Nancy Aguirre asked one more time for an additional co-lead for the Community Benefits Policy Standing Committee.

Public Comment

None.

Committee Action

None; receive and file.

6. **COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT OVERVIEW AND RELATED CERP ACTIONS**

00:53:02

The Path to Clean Air Steering Committee and the public received a presentation from Air District Staff Joseph Palmer and Grace Leung on Compliance and Enforcement and the related CERP actions.

Committee Comment

Committee member Shaun Cotten let the committee know that many, including himself, didn't know that you could report a facility because of a smell and asked for an example type of smell that people should be asking for. He asked about informational materials or other resources that could be shared.

Air District Staff Joseph Palmer let Shaun and the committee know that any smell could be reported and let the group know that there were stickers placed on gas stations that let you know what number you can call to report smells or other issues. He reflected that increasing awareness of the report tools and the Air District overall was a goal.

Committee member Derebew Shankute asked if the Air District does any investigations into the source of any smells reported to ensure the facility is making improvements to reduce the exposure to smells. He asked what practical investigations are done other than noticing.

Air District Grace Leung let Derebew and the committee know that inspectors do patrols around areas they are assigned to in addition to routine investigations. Anytime they find emissions from the facility they work directly with the facility to ensure compliance.

Committee member Kerry Guerin asked about compliance and verification inspections and asked for confirmation if all flaring events were recorded or only the ones under the self-reporting threshold under Rule 12.

Air District Staff Grace Leung mentioned that inspectors follow up on all flaring events.

Co-chair Marisol Cantu asked about the internal collaboration and the reports that the Air District pulls and if they go to the local unions.

Air District Staff Joseph Palmer let the group know that the District has members who are in collaboration directly with the unions at a higher level, but that there were also data points that go to the Air District to inform the inspectors.

Air District Staff Grace Leung elaborated and mentioned that inspectors work directly with operators on site.

Co-chair Nancy Aguirre thanked the committee members for all their input and asked that any additional questions or comments be sent to the co-leads to respond to after the meeting.

Committee Action

None; receive and file.

Public Comments

None.

7. **PERSPECTIVES FROM CSC MEMBERS**

01:17:57

The Path to Clean Air Steering Committee and the public received a presentation from CSC members BK White and Hakim Johnson on their perspectives of being on the committee.

Committee Comment

None.

Committee Action

None; receive and file.

Public Comments

None.

8. **LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION**

01:24:31

The Path to Clean Air Steering Committee held a large group discussion to identify opportunities for future engagement opportunities to inform the C&E CERP action implementation process.

Committee Comment

Committee member Jeffrey Kilbreth asked for clarification on whether compliance to engineering was responsible for exploring facilities with no emissions inventor data or where the data was obviously inadequate. He provided Sims Metal as an example facility that doesn't show up in the data.

Air District Staff Joseph Palmer informed the committee that there was a team that goes out and collects data. He mentioned that the CSC could start at the data being reported and identify possible issues that could lead to inspections.

Co-chair Marisol Cantu asked about the public health risk that is being incorporated into inspections. She asked if the Air District was collaborating with Contra Costa Health or if they can expand on how they are quantifying public health risk.

Air District Staff Joseph Palmer mentioned that he did not have the specific health/risk assessment criteria at his disposal and would have to follow up.

Committee member Althea Skinner asked what a Title V Facility was.

Air District Staff Joseph Palmer informed the committee that a Title V facility was regarded as a "major" source.

Air District Staff Grace Leung provided additional resources for Title V facility: <https://www.baaqmd.gov/en/permits/major-facility-review-title-v/title-v-applicability-criteria>

Co-chair Marisol Cantu asked a follow up question if Contra Costa Health reviewed the public health risk assessment, or if there would be more collaboration with them?

Air District Staff Joseph Palmer said he didn't believe the health risk assessment was associated with Contra Costa Health.

Committee member Derebew Shankute asked for clarification on the changes to equipment and equipment malfunctions points outlined.

Air District Staff Grace Leung mentioned that any facility could not change their existing equipment without submitting a permit application to the Air District and if an inspector came across changed equipment they would issue a notice.

Co-chair Marisol Cantu mentioned an important part of the plan was collaboration with Contra Costa Health, so disappointed that they are not involved.

Committee member Emily Warming mentioned that she was with Contra Costa Health so she could take Marisol's question back.

Committee member Hakim Johnson asked how the committee and the Air District would work to collaborate with the smaller businesses that might be impacted by the different implementation actions.

Air District Staff Joseph Palmer mentioned that the small business inventory of emissions was helpful to have a better understanding of what other smaller businesses might be emitting.

Committee member Jessica Range uplifted the first idea on partners to collaborate with on enforcement and mentioned that several committee members would be interested in collaborating.

Air District Staff Joseph Palmer asked the committee to identify more specific actions and examples that they would want support on.

Committee member Ariel Xi asked for more information on how the Air District promotes the compliant line. She mentioned that they seemed to be relying on the number of complaints, so the hotline needed to be promoted.

Air District Staff Joseph Palmer let the committee know that there were some efforts such as stickers at the gas stations mentioned earlier, but that increasing awareness was an identified action item.

Committee member Ariel Xi mentioned that increasing awareness of the hotline should be uplifted because she did not know about it before the meeting and would assume that many community members also don't know about the phone number.

Committee member Shaun Cotten mentioned that where he lived had a higher concentration of emitting facilities, so he asked about any criteria for an elevated risk or high concentration.

Air District Staff Joseph Palmer let the group know that the District was currently looking at that issue, but that they don't currently consider multiple sources in a small area.

Committee member Shaun Cotten mentioned that having information at schools, churches, and other neighborhood entities would be helpful to increase awareness.

Committee member Althea Skinner mentioned that she agreed with the targeted enforcement focus and the need to better promote the compliant line. She also mentioned that from a health perspective a cumulative impact mattered so there should be some weight given to areas facing emissions from multiple sources.

Co-chair Marisol Cantu mentioned that there could be an app or some more accessible way for people to report smells. She uplifted the importance that the CSC members put on outreach and increasing awareness.

Committee Action

None; receive and file.

Public Comments

A member of the public asked about the flaring reported to the district and mentioned that those were documented in 12.11 – 401. He also followed up on Jeff's comment on smaller facilities inventory and specifically responded to the Sims Metal example that Jeff discussed earlier in the meeting.

9. REFINERY CORRIDOR OVERVIEW AND WORK

01:49:50

The Path to Clean Air Steering Committee and the public received a presentation from CSC members BK White and Air District Staff Brian Butler on the refinery corridor and work being done.

Committee Comment

None.

Committee Action

None; receive and file.

Public Comments

None.

10. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

01:58:45

The April CSC meeting will be hybrid on April 28, 2024, at 5:30pm. The on-site location will be 4114 Lakeside Dr, Richmond CA 94806 and a zoom link will be provided to the public and on the BAAQMD website for those who wish to join virtually.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA MATTERS

01:59:33

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.3, Members of the public who wish to speak on matters not on the agenda for the meeting will have two minutes each to address the Committee.

Public Comment

None.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee meeting was adjourned by Co-Chair Nancy Aguirre at 7:31 pm.

Minutes prepared by MIG, Inc., Consultants