

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

September 22, 2025, 5:30 P.M

1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

The Richmond – North Richmond – San Pablo Community Emissions Reduction Plan Community Steering Committee (CSC or Committee) Co-Lead Nancy Aguirre called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM.

Present: Co-Lead Nancy Aguirre, Co-Lead Dr. Omoniyi Omotoso, Co-Lead Marisol Cantó, Y’Anad Burrell, Suzanne Coffee, Shaun Cotten, Bryana Gastelum, Michelle Gomez Garcia, Martha Gruelle, Kerry Guerin, Lizbeth Ibarra, Jessica Range, Simren Sandhu, Dave Severy, Derebew Shankute, Samir Shrestha, Althea Skinner, Ariel Xi, Beverly Dynes, Emily Warming (non-voting), BK White (non-voting), Sandra Castaneda (non-voting)

Absent: Luna Angulo-Castro, Jeffrey Kilbreth, and Joseph Koscinski

Also Present: Air District Staff: Ayah Hassan, Erika Trinidad, Grace Leung, Karissa White, Nina Garde, Joelle Toney, Craig Dittmann, Laura Cackette, Marcia Raymond, Mausam Jamwal, Bradley Cole, Chad White, David Joe, Wendy Goodfriend, Arsenio Makata

Contra Costa Health: Jeff Geiger

Interpreter: Tony Mejia

Acterra staff

The Meeting Agenda, procedures and Meeting Goals were reviewed by Co-Lead Nancy Aguirre. Laura Cackette of the Bay Area Air District reviewed the timeline for the 2025 Agenda Planning Schedule, where the process is now and the timing of next steps into early 2026

Committee Comment

None

Committee Action

None; receive and file.

Public Comments

None

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM AUGUST 25TH, 2025 (ACTION ITEM)

00:08:50

The Committee approved the Meeting Minutes for August 28th, 2025, with a roll-call vote. Co-Lead Dr. Omoniyi Omotoso made a motion, seconded by Committee member Ariel Xi. The motion carried by the following vote of the Committee:

AYES: Co-Lead Dr. Omoniyi Omotoso, Co-Lead Nancy Aguirre, Co-Lead Marisol Cantú, Y'anad Burrell, Suzanne Coffee, Shaun Cotten, Beverly Dynes, Bryana Gastelum, Michelle Gomez Garcia, Martha Gruelle, Kerry Guerin, Lizbeth Ibarra, Jessica Range, Simren Sandhu, Dave Severy, Derebew Shankute, Samir Shrestha, Althea Skinner, Ariel Xi

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Luna Angulo-Castro, Jeffrey Kilbreth, and Joseph Koscinski

Committee Comment

None

Committee Action

None; receive and file.

Public Comments

None

3. CSC LIAISONS REPORT-OUT

00:11:45

Committee Co-Lead Nancy Aguirre moderated.

Committee member and Refinery Communities Bimonthly Meetings (RCBM) Group Liaison BK White reported out on the Group's last meeting, held on August 19; he also mentioned the next meeting of the RCBM was scheduled for October 21, 2025. Liaison White discussed Valero's hydrogen systems, saying that the refinery did not know that its streams contained sufficient impurities to trigger reporting requirements, and violations had extended as far back as 2003. A joint prosecution by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the State's Attorney General has resulted in a fine of \$82 million and a global resolution, meaning the fines are not apportioned to each of the individual violations. The bulk of the fine will go to the affected communities. The resolution also requires Valero to route its hydrogen systems into emission control equipment and train its operators on the Air District's regulatory requirements.

Committee member and Refinery Technical Working Group (RTWG) Liaison Kerry Guerin reported on the Group's second meeting, held on August 27. She reported that the Group reviewed slides and was among those providing feedback to the Air District for a series of outreach meetings being planned for the first quarter of 2026. She stressed that in the best case, even a series of meetings could only reach a small number of people in the community, while a large number of people are interested in knowing about flaring and how it affects their health. She suggested that the CSC consider calling for District-wide notifications of flaring events, instead of the current "patchwork" approach. Liaison Guerin also mentioned that an update to the Flaring Rule was expected in Q1 2026 with a public meeting scheduled for Q2 2026. The next RTWG meeting is scheduled for October 29.

Rule 11- 18

Committee member and Liaison Lizbeth Ibarra reported that Rule 11-18 Engagement Recommendations were beginning to be implemented as well as Rule Amendments recommended by the Air District that create a process that allows the CSC to manage and respond to public comment and questions. Liaison Ibarra further reported that the Air District had released the amendments to Rule 11-18 and is seeking public comment until Monday, October 13, at 5:00 PM. A public workshop is being held on October 2, 2025; a virtual option will be offered. Liaison BK White and Lizbeth Ibarra will be meeting with Air District staff on September 25 to discuss how to include accessibility and understandability related to Rule 11-18 and HR8 materials. An update will be provided at next month's CSC meeting but if there are any urgent developments, the Liaisons will share those with the Committee members by email.

Committee member and Legal Enforcement Working Group Liaison Shaun Cotton reported that the Group had not yet held its first meeting. He reviewed the Purpose and Approach of the Group

as being to support development of enforcement-related materials for PTCA and the Air District's Strategic Plan; he further reviewed the Group's Scope of Work, which includes:

- New Enforcement Policy
- Revised Violation Investigation Form & Inspector Training
- Enforcement Town Hall Policy

The Group's first kickoff meeting will be in person on October 22 and after that will meet every second and fourth Wednesday of each month, for some period into the future.

Committee Comments

Committee member Ariel Xi asked how many working groups does the CSC have and what are they? Co-Lead Nancy Aguirre replied that there are currently two subcommittees – Just Transition and Next Steps, which feeds into Community Benefit. There are liaisons to four Working Groups – Refinery Communities Bimonthly Meeting Group, the Refinery Technical Working Group, Rule 11-18, and the Legal Enforcement Working Group.

Laura Cackette of the Air District further clarified that Just Transition and Community Benefit are Standing, or Ad Hoc, Committees, which is all there can be at one time, while the four working groups are more regional – not necessarily addressing issues unique to Richmond-North Richmond-San Pablo, but that are of concern across a wider area. The CSC Liaisons attend and represent the PTCA's interests in that regional space.

Committee Action

None; receive and file.

Public Comments

None

4. YEAR 1 ANNUAL REPORT OVERVIEW

00:22:30

Laura Cackette of the Air District presented an overview of the Year 1 Annual Report that is now in the final stages of preparation. Her presentation touched on each of the key components of the document, starting with a review of the Implementation and Reporting requirements called out in the PTCA Plan, that include a requirement that the Air District and the CSC co-develop an annual Implementation Plan, and submit an annual report to CARB each October. CARB's Blueprint 2.0 guidelines require that each of the 139 actions across 31 strategies and nine focus areas identified in the Richmond-North Richmond-San Pablo CERP be reviewed in detail.

Ms. Cackette discussed the methodology that has been used to categorize actions for the Year 1 Report. For example, relating to Implementation, each action is categorized as being:

- In Progress
- Ongoing
- Completed
- Not Yet Started

Lead Implementers are identified for each action (e.g., CARB, City of Richmond, City of San Pablo, Contra Costa County, etc.) and CSC Priority for Engagement is determined using the Spectrum of Public Participation framework:

- Inform
- Consult
- Involve
- Collaborate

Ms. Cackette presented a summary table that showed two-thirds of the actions (69) are now underway (In Progress, Ongoing, or Completed) and 36 actions changed from Not Yet Started to In Progress during the Year 1 reporting period. Ms. Cackette went on to say that 55 actions had been called out for Implementation during Year 1, of which 16 were identified as priority actions for CSC Engagement, and all 16 are now In Progress or Ongoing.

During the previous CSC meeting on August 25, Ms. Cackette asked for input from Committee members on topics such as Key Accomplishments, Lessons Learned and Opportunities. She discussed several changes made to the Year I Report based on CSC feedback. Ms. Cackette then went on to review and summarize other Year 1 Report topics such as:

- Key Accomplishments: Air District and CSC-Led Implementation
- Key Accomplishments: Partner-Led Implementation
- Incentives and Emissions Benefits
- Compliance and Enforcement Activity
- Emissions Management Report (EMR)

Ms. Cackette informed the CSC that the Year 1 Report would be presented to the Air District Board of Directors Community Equity Health and Justice (CEHJ) Committee on October 8. Copies of the Final Report will be emailed to CSC members and posted to the Air District website. The Air District will then submit the Year 1 Report to CARB. In coming months, reflections on accomplishments, lessons learned, and opportunities will be used to guide development of the Year 2 Implementation Plan.

(Breakout Discussion Activity; 00:40:35)

Committee Comment

Committee member Y'Anad Burrell stated that there were lots of questions relating to the slides and asked when Committee members would have input on that. Ms. Cackette replied that the purpose of the Breakout Activity was to discuss the Year 1 Report. She reviewed the Breakout Discussion Activity questions:

- Did we miss anything important?
- Is there anything that could be emphasized more?
- Did anything not resonate or didn't quite fit?
- Did anything surprise you or stand out?

And:

- Could anything be made easier to understand or more community friendly about the Annual Report presentation?

(Breakout Activity Report-Out; 00:59:30)

Co-Lead Marisol Cantú reported out for the online breakout group. The questions that stood out for the group revolved around process, timeline, and access to the Report – being sure that CSC voices were heard before the Report is presented to CEHJ. The group also discussed impacts from industry and others, and the possibility of setting up a dashboard that expands on the current activity tracker, where the public and CSC members could navigate through all of the actions and see the progress being made. Another question: who audits these types of reports? Other questions were asked regarding the school districts and the air filtration systems.

Co-Lead Nancy Aguirre reported out for the breakout group that met in the Granada Conference Room. She said that group's discussion was similar to the online group's, then continued that the group was interested in seeing links to the plan for all of the strategies, and having the schools pinpointed. Questions were asked about who and how people received money, and the group felt more detail was needed to spell out key lessons learned so the people can see how and where the Air District is going. It was felt that more graphics would help and more clarifying information was needed to show how certain results or numbers were arrived at. The group agreed that if a number was given that there needed to be a comparison made to another number so it was clear what change had occurred.

Committee Action

None; receive and file.

Public Comments

None

[Break (10 minutes); 01:02:45]

5. REGULATORY DEVELOPMENT – UPDATE ON RULES IN THE PTCA PLAN

01:03:20

Bradley Cole of the Air District provided an overview of the Air District’s Rule Development process. Various agencies are responsible for regulating air pollution sources at the federal, state, and the local level, which is the Air District’s responsibility. There is overlap between the agencies, but the Air District has its own jurisdiction, and it is the primary authority for regulating stationary sources of air pollution within that jurisdiction. The Air District’s Rule Development program is a core tool to protect public health and improve air quality.

The Air District proposes new and amended regulations to the Air District Board of Directors for consideration and adoption. Once adopted, the new/ amended rules are implemented and enforced as part of the Air District’s operations. Once a specific issue or source has been identified, the process for developing a new regulation is broken into different phases or steps:

- Initial Steps, which can include internal scoping, assessing the District's understanding of the issue, conducting technical assessments and beginning stakeholder engagement.
- Draft Steps include drafting regulatory language, conducting public workshops, receiving comments and evaluating impacts.
- Final Steps involve proposing regulatory language, conducting impacts analyses, receiving and responding to comments, and conducting a public hearing for Board consideration and approval.

Rules (actions) currently in process related to the PTCA Plan include:

- C&I (Commercial & Industrial Sources) 1.1 - Fugitive Dust; Rules 6-1 and 6-6
- C&I 4.5 - Metal Recycling; Rule 6-4
- FR (Fuel Refining) 2.6 - Flaring; Rules 12-11 and 12-12
- FR 4.1 - Reduction of Risk from Toxics at Existing Facilities; Rule 11-18
- FR 3.13 - Refinery Fenceline Air Monitoring Rule Development; Rule 12-15
- H (Health) 2.5 - Wood-burning; Regulation 5 and Rule 6-3

Most of the Rules are still at the “conceptual” or draft steps stage. However, the proposed amendments relating to Wood-burning – Regulation 5: Open Burning, and Regulation 6: Particulate Matter, Rule 3: Wood-Burning Devices (Rule 6-3) have been out for public comment and are scheduled to go to the Air Board for approval on October 1; if approved they will become effective that date.

Mr. Cole then reviewed Rule Development priorities over the next 18 months. A new priority – Permit Efficiencies – has been elevated to the top because of its recognized relevance and

benefits to AB617 and PTCA. He also stressed the importance of staying in close communication with the RTWG Liaisons and other CSC members, making sure they are well informed and up to date when they go into meetings.

Laura Cackette then recapped the CSC's selected levels of engagement relating to Rules activities, which are guided by the IAP2 framework (i.e., informed/consulted/involved). presented an overview of the CSC Engagement Selections for Rules. The level currently selected by the CSC are:

- C&I 1.1 (Fugitive Dust) – Consulted
- C&I 4.5 (Metal Recycling) – Consulted
- FR 2.6 (Flaring) – Consulted
- H 2.5 (Wood burning) – Consulted
- FR 4.1 (Rule 11-18) – Involved
- FR 3.13 (Fenceline Monitoring) – Engagement via RTWG

Committee Comment

Co-Lead Nancy Aguirre reviewed the questions intended to guide discussion:

1. Are expectations being met; if not, what is missing?
 - a. Based on CSC-selected engagement levels?
 - b. Given Air District engagement to date?
2. For CSC involved level of engagement, is the liaison role effective?

Committee member Ariel Xi asked how are engagement levels decided? Do different groups decide? Co-Lead Marisol Cantó, Co-lead, replied that last year CSC members ranked the level of engagement. Meetings were held within the CSC, with Air District staff, and surveys were collected. The CSC came to conclusions together in a robust process that she hoped would continue to be used. Co-Lead Cantó continued that while many were consulted, there was not a feedback loop. In her opinion “We did not engage fully.” She suggested possibly changing the framework, adding a database or tracker to keep track of all the moving parts, and provide a feedback loop for the “consulted” category.

Committee member Jessica Range commented that she thought “consulted” meant that at some point a draft rule would be brought to the Committee, seeking the CSC's input. Using the Wood burning Rule as an example, she mentioned that several workshops and public meetings were held, and that CSC members should not need to attend those meetings to learn how the rule was being developed. Co-Lead Cantó added that there are rules and limitations on compensation, making it difficult for Committee members to be compensated for attending workshops and meetings they are required to attend; she expressed a need for clarification of compensation policies. Continuing, Co-Lead Cantó asked whether the Committee could get away from periodic briefings on many topics at one meeting by having subgroups, perhaps two or three CSC members interested in a particular topic, be briefed or consulted in more detail by Air District

staff. “How can we move ‘consulted’ to something that works for everybody?”

Co-Lead Nancy Aguirre commented that she had the same idea as Committee member Range as to what “consulted” meant, believing that to be consulted, the Committee would have a voice, and she felt a feedback loop was missing.

Committee member Suzanne Coffee asked if there was a place for people to learn about CSC involvement, AB617, and the Path to Clean Air. She felt that the Air District knew what the CSC was doing but that information was not easy for the public and the wider community to find. “We are in a vacuum.” “There is no presence of all the work we have done.” During the following discussion among Air District staff and Committee members there was general agreement that the website is heavy on documents but lacks other information on CSC activities and results. It was suggested that a dashboard and possibly social media would help. Committee member Shaun Cotten suggested that the CSC should have its own URL. Co-Lead Aguirre stated that creating a website for CSC is in the work plan. Co-Lead Cantó commented that environmental justice updates are not effective because CSC members are not reading them, suggesting that the newsletters be improved with images and colors. The comment was made that it was difficult to make some things happen but “if we can do more on our own, we could get more information out.”

Committee member Y’Anad Burrell asked if there was a press release for a new Air District CIO? An Air District staff said there had been an announcement but press releases generally aren’t done for directors. She has – or is supposed to have -- upcoming meetings scheduled with CSC members.

Committee member Suzanne Coffee commented that the new CIO attended the Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council with Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia but no one mentioned the work CSC does. Committee member Coffee stated that it is important that Air District staff give recognition to CSC work in public. Co-Lead Aguirre recommended that the Committee be informed of the CIO’s and Air District meetings in the PTCA area. During Year 2 it will be important to connect the dots and create the community centered conversation.

Karissa White of the Air District mentioned that Diana Ruiz (Air District) shared an email with CSC members of the CIO’s upcoming meetings for September and she (Karissa) and Nina Garde (also Air District) would share further updates with Committee members.

Laura Cackette commented that CSC meetings have liaison updates and suggested that meetings also include updates from the Just Transition and Community Benefit Standing Committees.

Co-Lead Dr. Omoniyi Omotoso felt that making sure the community is aware of the Committee’s work is the biggest concern. Committee member Suzanne Coffee thought that as the CSC grew it would continue to bring in the community as a forum where they can speak.

Laura Cackette informed the committee that the Air District posts updates on LinkedIn and to

follow the Air District or her on LinkedIn to receive notifications.

Committee member Y'Anad Burrell announced that she (and Committee member BK White as an alternate) had been selected as liaisons to the CARB Air Protection Consultation Group.

Committee Action

None; receive and file.

Public Comments

None

6. NEXT MEETING DETAILS

01:40:05

Next meeting is October 27th, 5:30 to 7:30 PM

Karissa White reminded everyone to turn in September hours by Friday, October 3.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

01:41:05

Co-Lead Dr. Omoniyi Omotoso and Committee member Ariel Xi attended an event at the RYSE Center on Just Transition and how AB617 could be used to empower communities; Committee member BK White was a panelist.

Co-Lead Nancy Aguirre acknowledged Latino Heritage Month.

Meeting was adjourned by Nancy Aguirre at 7:26 PM

Minutes prepared by Acterra