

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

November 10, 2025, 5:00 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 5:03 P.M.

Present: Co-Lead Nancy Aguirre, Co-Lead Dr. Omoniyi Omotoso, Co-Lead Marisol Cantó, Y’Anad Burrell, Shaun Cotten, Beverly Dynes, Bryana Gastelum, Jeffrey Kilbreth, Joseph Koscinski, Jessica Range, Simren Sandhu, Dave Severy, Derebew Shankute, Samir Shrestha, Althea Skinner, Ariel Xi, BK White (non-voting), Sandra Castaneda (non-voting)

Absent: Luna Angulo-Castro, Suzanne Coffee, Michelle Gomez Garcia, Martha Gruelle, Kerry Guerin, Lizbeth Ibarra, Emily Warming (non-voting)

Also Present: Air District and Air Board Staff: Diana Ruiz, Ayah Hassan, Mausam Jamwal, Karissa White, Nina Garde, Joelle Toney, Marcia Raymond, Erika Trinidad, Grace Leung, Alicia Parker, Chad White, Emi Wang, Laura Cackette, Joseph Palmer, Azibuike Akaba

Member

of the Public: Justin Sah

Interpreter: Tony Mejia

Acterra staff

Co-Lead Dr. Omoniyi Omotoso welcomed the Committee members to the special meeting, which was called because there were time-sensitive issues that needed to be discussed by the entire committee. The two action items on the agenda to be reviewed and voted on:

- Just Transition Principles

- Community Benefits Standing Committee to the Air District's Community Investments Office (CIO) concerning Public Comment on Guidelines

Committee Comment

None

Committee Action

None; receive and file.

Public Comments

None

**2. JUST TRANSITION PRINCIPLES DISCUSSION AND VOTE (ACTION ITEM)**

00:07:55

Committee member and Just Transition Standing Committee Co-Facilitator Shaun Cotten reviewed the Just Transition meeting goals as being:

- Finalize and vote on the Just Transition Principles and Criteria as they relate to the Air District legal approaches, and
- Facilitate the CSC's engagement in implementing action items that are part of FR Strategy 1 (Move Towards a Just Transition)

Co-Facilitator Cotten briefly reviewed the Standing Committee's work over the past several months that has led to nine Just Transition Principles:

1. Safeguard Community Health and the Environment Across Generations
2. Transition Workers to Clean, Green, Just Jobs
3. Invest in Communities Impacted by Extraction
4. Strengthen Enforcement, Refinery Safety, and Government Accountability
5. Fund Just and Community-Led Clean Energy and Resilient Infrastructure
6. Align Deep Democracy and Community-Driven Governance with Living Systems
7. Prioritize Reparations, Toxic Cleanup, and Ecosystem Restoration
8. Uplift Culture, Ceremony, Intersectionality, and Leadership from Frontline Communities
9. Advance Transportation Justice and Build Walkable, Bikeable, Transit-Rich Communities

Co-Facilitator Cotten then recommended the Committee approve the Just Transition Principles.

Committee Comment

Co-Lead Dr. Omoniyi Omotoso thanked the Standing Committee members for their work and then reminded Committee members that the Principles are a living document that can be revisited and revised. He then asked for questions and comments.

Co-Lead Marisol Cantó stated that she wanted to honor all the work the Standing Committee had done to incorporate comments from the CSC, noting that this is the first AB617 committee out of nineteen to recognize and prioritize Just Transition as a goal. Co-Lead Nancy Aguirre also offered her thanks to the Standing Committee for its work.

Co-Lead Cantó then made a motion to approve the Just Transition Principles and Co-Lead Aguirre seconded the motion. Beverly Dynes was present but no response at 00:16:15 when name called during roll call. The motion carried by the following vote:

**AYES:** Co-Lead Nancy Aguirre, Co-Lead Marisol Cantó, Co-Lead Dr. Omoniyi Omotoso, Y'Anad Burrell, Shaun Cotten, Bryana Gastelum, Jeffrey Kilbreth, Joseph Kosciński, Simren Sandhu, Dave Severy, Derebew Shankute, Samir Shrestha, Althea Skinner, Ariel Xi

**ABSTAIN:** None

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** Luna Angulo-Castro, Suzanne Coffee, Michelle Gomez Garcia, Martha Gruelle, Kerry Guerin, Lizbeth Ibarra

#### Committee Comment

None

#### Committee Action

None; receive and file.

#### Public Comments

None

### **3. COMMUNITY BENEFITS STANDING COMMITTEE LETTER FOR THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS OFFICE'S PUBLIC COMMENT ON GUIDELINES - DISCUSSION AND VOTE (ACTION ITEM)**

00:17:45

Committee Co-Lead and Community Benefits Standing Committee (CBSC) Co-Facilitator Dr. Omoniyi Omotoso introduced the topic and then turned it over to Committee member and

CBSC Co-Facilitator Y'Anad Burrell to review CBSC actions and goals, which are to provide input to Air District's CIO regarding community benefit initiatives in the PTCA area.

Co-Facilitator Burrell discussed the CBSC's Research Work-team activities, which included researching how existing community benefit initiatives incorporated environmental justice principles and reflected on how Just Transition Principles could be applied to all CSC work to meet the goals of the PTCA Plan, and how CIO's draft guidelines for the New Local Community Investment Fund (Fund) related to those goals. The 30-day public comment period ends on November 25 and the CBSC is submitting a public comment letter recommending:

- Applications should demonstrate how they meet one or more CSC Just Transition Principles
- There should be a broader focus on holistic community resilience
- Prioritize proven strategies based on community experience
- Center the most impacted communities, addressing equity, providing technical support and reducing administrative burdens for grantees
- CSC participation in grant review process

Co-Facilitator Burrell requested that the CSC approve the CBSC's letter to the CIO.

#### Committee Comment

Co-Lead Dr. Omotoso facilitated questions and comments.

Committee member Jeffrey Kilbreth asked whether CSC members agree with the Air District's approach of awarding large, multi-project grants. Co-Facilitator Burrell responded that individuals can submit their own letters to the CIO during the comment period, and that she intended to do so because the same issue was top of mind to her as well, in part because the draft conditions (grants of \$10 to \$40 million, with periods up to five years) limits the number of organizations qualified to apply.

Committee member Derebew Shankute noted that the letter to the CIO was recommending that applications address one or more Just Transition Principles, but he then asked whether there was a mechanism to ensure a grant actually implemented what was promised to the community? Is there a way for the Committee for others to check? Dr. Omotoso responded that the letter contains no mechanisms but asks for continued participation in the process, not just during review and selection, but after, during implementation, to ensure accountability.

Committee and CBSC member Althea Skinner noted that the letter is recommending that applications address one or more of the Just Transition Principles, which is not currently part of the Air District's guidelines. She agrees that there should be an ongoing commitment to implementation. Addressing Committee member Kilbreth's concern over the size of the grants, she noted that grant maximums were different – up to \$40 million for Benicia but a

smaller maximum up to \$15 million for the Richmond/San Pablo area. She stated she and others on the CBSC Research Team feel there is value in multiple players coming together to create integrated, holistic programs. It is important that both seed grants and larger grants are open to community-based organizations who are closest to the needs of the frontline communities.

Committee member Shaun Cotten asked whether there was any indication that CBSC's would have an impact on the Air District so that the recommended changes would be made? Dr. Omotoso replied that there is no way of knowing at this point; the fact that the CSC is sending the letter carries weight.

Co-Lead and CBSC member Marisol Cantó observed that it can be difficult to write a document that everyone agrees with. She will be writing her own letter and attending any CIO presentations in the community to ask more questions and hear what community members are saying and she encouraged everyone to do the same. She agreed with others that a letter coming from the CSC, representing an underserved community, would be powerful. Coming from the CSC, the letter will also be shared with the Air District's Board of Directors and with others, such as [Contra Costa County Supervisor] John Gioia. She encouraged everyone to make lots of public comments.

Emi Wang, Community Investments Officer for the Air District agreed that comments, input and feedback from impacted community members is taken very seriously by the Air District.

Committee member Joseph Koscinski noted that the letter contained two placeholders for principals that he wanted to be sure were filled before the letter was sent. Dr. Omotoso replied that the CBSC wanted to be sure the letter was approved by the CSC before replacing the placeholders.

Committee and CBSC member Althea Skinner clarified the differences between the three versions of the letter that had been sent out to Committee members, with the track changes version including both comments received from CSC members and edits/changes made as a result of having made a close reading of the Air District's draft guidelines that had not previously been available when the first draft of the letter was prepared.

Committee and CBSC member Althea Skinner made a motion to approve the letter, seconded by Co-Lead Nancy Aguirre. The motion carried by the following vote:

**AYES:** Co-Lead Nancy Aguirre, Co-Lead Marisol Cantó, Co-Lead Dr. Omoniyi Omotoso, Y'Anad Burrell, Shaun Cotten, Beverly Dynes, Bryana Gastelum, Jeffrey Kilbreth, Joseph Koscinski, Simren Sandhu, Dave Severy, Derebew Shankute, Samir Shrestha, Althea Skinner, Ariel Xi

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** Luna Angulo-Castro, Suzanne Coffee, Michelle Gomez Garcia, Martha Gruelle, Kerry Guerin, Lizbeth Ibarra

Committee Action

None; receive and file.

Public Comments

None

**4. NEXT STEPS/MEETING DETAILS**

00:45:40

Co-Lead Dr. Omotoso announced the next meeting will be held on-site at Richmond HQE on Monday, December 8, 2025, from 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Committee Comment

Committee Action

None; receive and file.

Public Comments

None

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEM MATTERS AND MEETING CLOSE-OUT**

00:46:00

Public Comments

None

Meeting adjourned by Co-Lead Dr. Omotoso at 5:50 PM

Minutes prepared by Acterra