

Bay Area Air Quality Management District
375 Beale Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 749-5073

Policy, Grants, and Technology Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 19, 2025

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:** Policy, Grants, and Technology Committee (Committee) Chairperson, Vicki Veenker, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Roll Call:

Present, In-Person (Bay Area Metro Center (375 Beale Street, 1st Floor Board Room, San Francisco, California, 94105): Committee Chairperson Vicki Veenker; and Vice Chairperson Juan González III.

Present, In-Person Satellite Location (Alameda County Board of Supervisors District 3, Office of Supervisor Lena Tam, 101 Callan Avenue, Suite #103, San Leandro, CA 94577): Director Lena Tam.

Present, In-Person Satellite Location (Napa County Administration Building, 1195 Third Street, Suite 310, Crystal Conference Room, Napa, CA 94559): Director Joelle Gallagher.

Present, In-Person Satellite Location (Office of Contra Costa County Supervisor Ken Carlson, 2255 Contra Costa Blvd., Suite 202, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523): Director Ken Carlson.

Present, In-Person Satellite Location (San Mateo County 3rd District Office, 270 Capistrano Road, Suite 6, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019): Director Sergio Lopez and Ray Mueller.

Present, In-Person Satellite Location (Office of Santa Clara County Supervisor Otto Lee, 70 W Hedding Street, East Wing, 10th Floor, San Jose, CA 95110): Director Otto Lee.

Absent: Directors Margaret Abe-Koga, David Haubert, and Rico E. Medina.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

CONSENT CALENDAR

3. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE POLICY, GRANTS, AND TECHNOLOGY SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 26, 2025

Public Comments

No requests received.

Committee Comments

None.

Committee Action

Vice Chair González made a motion, seconded by Director Lee, to **approve** the Draft Minutes of the Policy, Grants, and Technology Special Committee Meeting of February 26, 2025; and the motion **carried** by the following vote of the Committee:

AYES: Carlson, Gallagher, González, Lee, Lopez, Mueller, Tam, Veenker.
NOES: None.
ABSTAIN: None.
ABSENT: Abe-Koga, Haubert, Medina.

ACTION ITEM

4. STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Alan Abbs, Legislative Officer, gave the staff presentation *State Legislative Updates*, including: action requested; outline; Air District co-sponsored bills: Assembly Bill (AB) 14 Hart and Senate Bill (SB) 282 (Wiener); Board-approved position bills: AB 546 (Caloza) and AB 907 (Chen); additional bills of interest: AB 339 (Ortega), AB 1226 (Essayli), AB 1368 (Wallis), SB 712 (Grove); additional bills for brief discussion; and recap of action requested.

Public Comments

Public comments were given by Patrick Messac, Air District Community Advisory Council (CAC) member; and Dr. Stephen Rosenblum, Palo Alto resident.

Committee Comments

The Committee and staff discussed the following:

Regarding AB 1226 (Essayli) - Air quality: wildland vegetation management burning: permits: exemption: the option of adopting a position of “oppose unless amended” and the desire for a sunset provision; the request that this issue be discussed with the full Board; the desire to refrain from decoupling prescribed burning with associated health impacts, which can be transported to other communities by the wind; whether this bill excludes farm burning; concerns regarding air districts being characterized as “barriers” to prescribed burning, and the frequency of the Air

District's meetings with fire agencies and burn managers; and the belief that the Air District should not refrain from taking a position on a bill that would reduce the Air District's authority.

Regarding AB 339 (Ortega) - Local public employee organizations: notice requirements: The Board and staff discussed whether the Air District's bargaining units have a right of notification when the Air District contracts out certain positions, and notice that is currently required.

Regarding AB 306 (Schultz) - Building regulations: state building standards: The Board and staff discussed exemptions within this bill.

Regarding AB 1280 (Garcia) – Energy (California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank financing climate catalyst projects that enable the decarbonization of industrial facilities' use of heat and power, including, industrial heat pump and thermal energy storage projects): Chair Veenker expressed interest in learning more about this bill.

Committee Action

Director Mueller made a motion, seconded by Director Lopez, to recommend that the Board **adopt** the position of "Oppose Unless Amended" for AB 1226 (Essayli): air quality; wildland vegetation management burning: permits: exemption, with amendments that include a sunset date provision of 3 to 5 years and the bill will only apply to wildland vegetation management burning.

The motion **DID NOT CARRY** by the following vote of the Committee, due to the fact that a majority of 11 Committee members (6) did not vote in favor:

AYES: Carlson, González, Lee, Lopez, Mueller.
NOES: Gallagher, Tam, Veenker.
ABSTAIN: None.
ABSENT: Abe-Koga, Haubert, Medina.

Then, Vice Chair González made a motion, seconded by Director Mueller, to recommend that the Committee sends AB 1226 (Essayli): Air quality; wildland vegetation management burning: permits: exemption to the full Board for a discussion and consideration with no recommendation, also requesting that the Board be made aware of the failed motion on record in Item 4 of the Draft Minutes of the Policy, Grants, and Technology Committee Meeting of March 19, 2025, due to the fact that a majority of 11 Committee members (6) did not vote in favor.

The motion **carried** by the following vote of the Committee:

AYES: Carlson, González, Lee, Lopez, Mueller, Tam.
NOES: Gallagher, Veenker.
ABSTAIN: None.
ABSENT: Abe-Koga, Haubert, Medina.

Then, Director González made a motion, seconded by Director Carlson, to recommend that the Board **adopt** the following positions on current legislation:

1. Oppose AB 339 (Ortega) – Local public employee organizations: notice requirements
2. Oppose AB 1368 (Wallis) – Smog check: exemption
3. Oppose SB 712 (Grove) – Smog check: exemption

The motion **carried** by the following vote of the Committee:

AYES: Carlson, Gallagher, González, Lee, Lopez, Mueller, Tam, Veenker.
NOES: None.
ABSTAIN: None.
ABSENT: Abe-Koga, Haubert, Medina.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5. UPDATE ON INTERSTATE 580 TRUCK ACCESS STUDY

Cameron Oakes, Deputy District Director of Caltrans District 4, gave the presentation *Update on Interstate 580 (I-580) Truck Access Study*, including: outline; I-580 truck ban history; I-580 truck ban creates inequity; update of I-580 truck access study; technical analysis and forecasting; Air District's work progress; Racial Equity Assessment Report; public and stakeholder engagement; study partners and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC); study timeline and schedule; and next steps.

Public Comments

Public comments were given by Patric Messac, CAC member.

Committee Comments

The Committee and staff discussed the surprise of several Board members who were not aware of this ban; I-880 average daily truck traffic (the number of trucks); the desire for more stringent emission controls so that trucks may be cleaner in the future; anticipated pushback if truck traffic was redirected from the Port of Oakland and warehouses adjacent to I-880; the importance of considering all socioeconomic indicators of health of those living the Oakland/San Leandro area (air quality differences versus other factors); and, were the ban to be lifted, the anticipated number of trucks would use the route, and potential traffic changes.

Committee Action

No action taken.

6. UPDATE ON THE BAY AREA REGIONAL CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (BARCAP) INITIATIVE

Monte DiPalma, Senior Air Quality Engineer, gave the staff presentation *Update on the Bay Area Regional Climate Action Plan Initiative*, including: outline; BARCAP initiative; goals of the BARCAP initiative; Advisory Work Group for BARCAP; plan development and engagement; Bay Area's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; draft GHG inventory – BARCAP region; transportation; residential and commercial buildings; electricity generation (power); waste and materials management; agricultural/natural and working lands; and BARCAP next steps.

Public Comments

No requests received.

Committee Comments

The Committee and staff discussed the fact that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) provided a separate climate planning grant to Santa Clara County, and appreciation for the 2022 greenhouse gas inventory for the BARCAP region.

Committee Action

No action taken.

7. OVERVIEW OF AIR DISTRICT'S HEAVY-DUTY EQUIPMENT GRANT PROGRAMS AND SUMMARY OF RESULTS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024

Alona Davis, Strategic Incentives Manager, and Adriana Kolev, Senior Staff Specialist, gave the staff presentation *2024 Annual Report on Heavy-Duty Equipment Grants*, including: background – heavy-duty equipment grants, primary funding sources, project types, cost-effectiveness, priority areas, Strategic Plan; 2024 project summary – contracted projects and emissions reduced; 2024 highlight - greatest emissions reduced, most cost-effective, zero-emission (ZE) funding, priority communities; 2024 program summary; Strategic Plan – improving grant implementation and new programs and tools.

Public Comments

No requests received.

Committee Comments

The Committee and staff discussed the amount of pollution emitted by a single diesel truck per day; whether the public should be more concerned about the health impacts from Particulate Matter (PM)₁₀ or PM_{2.5}; whether road weight of vehicles and subsequent road repair is incorporated in the Air District's cost benefit analysis calculations; and whether the Air District plans to build a new grants management system or customize an existing system.

Committee Action

No action taken.

8. STATUS OF THE CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD (CARB) CLEAN AIR ACT WAIVER REQUESTS

Mr. Abbs gave the staff presentation *Status of the California Air Resources Board Clean Air Act Waiver Requests*, including: CARB Clean Air Act waivers and authorizations; what is the Congressional Review Act (CRA); how does the CRA work; proposed congressional disapprovals (US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA)); and does the CRA impact the California waivers?

Public Comments

No requests received.

Committee Comments

The Committee and staff discussed the CRA's lookback provision; whether certain US EPA determinations would be subject to the CRA; next steps, were the Clean Air Act waivers to be invalidated, which entity would decide whether the approach that is taken is the correct one.

Committee Action

No action taken.

OTHER BUSINESS

9. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA MATTERS

No requests received

10. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

11. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at 375 Beale Street, San Francisco, CA 94105. The meeting will be in-person for the Policy, Grants, and Technology Committee members and members of the public will be able to either join in-person or via webcast.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

/s/ Marcy Hiratzka
Marcy Hiratzka
Clerk of the Boards