

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

Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, March 4, 2026

APPROVED MINUTES

This meeting was webcast, and a video recording is available on the website of the Bay Area Air District at www.baaqmd.gov/bodagendas

CALL TO ORDER

1. **Opening Comments:** Board of Directors (Board) Chairperson, Lynda Hopkins, 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, CA, 94105): Chairperson Lynda Hopkins; Vice Chairperson Vicki Veenker; and Directors Dionne Adams, Ken Carlson, Brian Colbert, Juan González III, Tyrone Jue, Bilal Mahmood, Gabe Quinto, Linda Sell, Shamann Walton, and Steve Young.

Present, In-Person Satellite Location (Office of Santa Clara County, 70 W. Hedding St, 10th Floor Conference Room, San Jose, CA 95110): Directors Margaret Abe-Koga and Otto Lee.

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

Present, In-Person Satellite Location (San Mateo County Board of Supervisors' Office, 5th Floor, 500 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063): Directors Noelia Corzo, Rico E. Medina, and Ray Mueller.

Present, In-Person Satellite Location (Santa Rosa Junior College Campus, Doyle Library, Room 148, 1501 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95401): Director Brian Barnacle.

Present, In-Person Satellite Location (Office of Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia, Conference Room, 11780 San Pablo Ave., Suite D, El Cerrito, CA 94530): Director John Gioia.

Present, In-Person Satellite Location (Office of Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert, Scott Haggerty House, 4501 Pleasanton Avenue, Pleasanton, CA 94566): Director David Haubert.

Absent: Directors Monica Brown, Joelle Gallagher, and Mark Salinas.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

CLOSED SESSION (ITEMS 3 – 5) (10:07 a.m.)

Public Comments

Regarding Item 5, public comments were given by Geraldina Grunbaum, a former Air District employee who provided comments in her personal capacity.

3. **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL RE ANTICIPATED LITIGATION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS 54956.9(a) AND (d)(2)**

Pursuant to Government Code Sections 54956.9(a), (d)(2) and ©(3), the Board of Directors met in Closed Session with Legal Counsel to discuss significant exposure to litigation: claim of Ronald Rice.

Reportable Action: Alexandra Kamel, Senior Assistant Counsel, announced that there was nothing to report.

4. **PUBLIC EMPLOYEE EVALUATION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957(b)(1)**

Title: Executive Officer/APCO

Reportable Action: Ms. Kamel announced that there was nothing to report.

5. **CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957.6**

Agency Designated Representatives:

Laura A. Izon, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo

Hyacinth Hinojosa, Deputy Executive Officer of Finance and Administration

Lisa Baker, Director of Human Resources

Employee Organization: BAAQMD Employees Association

Reportable Action: Ms. Kamel reported that direction was provided to staff.

OPEN SESSION (11:00 a.m.)

NOTED PRESENT: Director Corzo was noted present at 10:08 am.

6. **SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY**

Chair Hopkins welcomed the following new employees: Dr. Azimeh Zare Harofteh, Air Quality Engineer II in the Assessment, Inventory, and Modeling Division; Martina Morelli, Air Quality Specialist I in the Compliance & Enforcement Division; Sarah Raskin, Staff Specialist I, in the

Administrative Resources Division; Isha Oliver, Air Quality Engineer I in the Engineering Division; and Dr. Harold Rickenbacker, Air Quality Specialist in the Compliance & Enforcement Division.

CONSENT CALENDAR (ITEMS 7 – 21)

7. Approval of the Draft Minutes of the Board of Directors Special/Retreat Meeting of January 28, 2026
8. Approval of the Draft Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of February 4, 2026
9. Board Communications Received from February 4, 2026, through March 3, 2026
10. Personnel Out-of-State Business Travel Report for January 2026
11. Notices of Violations Issued and Settlements in Excess of \$10,000 in the Month of January 2026
12. Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Second Quarter Financial Report, Ending December 31, 2025
13. Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Second Quarter Reporting of Payments for Routine and Recurring Goods/Services Expenses and Contracts Executed under Delegated Authority
14. Authorization to Amend Software Development and Maintenance Contracts for Permitting and Compliance Systems
15. Authorization to Participate in the Climate Heat Impact Response Program
16. Public Hearing to Adopt Determination of Effectiveness of Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) Project Expenditures for Fiscal Year Ending 2025
17. Report of the Community Advisory Council (CAC) Special Meeting of January 23, 2026
18. Report of the Stationary Source Committee Meeting of February 11, 2026
19. Report of the Community Equity, Health, and Justice Committee Meeting of February 11, 2026
20. Report of the Policy, Grants, and Technology Committee Meeting of February 18, 2026
21. Report of the Finance and Administration Committee Meeting of February 18, 2026

Public Comments

No requests received.

Board Comments

None.

Board Action

Director González made a motion, seconded by Director Young, to approve Consent Calendar Items 7 through 21, inclusive; and the motion **carried** by the following vote of the Board:

AYES:	Abe-Koga, Adams, Barnacle, Carlson, Colbert, Corzo, Gioia, González, Haubert, Hopkins, Jue, Lee, Mahmood, Medina, Mueller, Quinto, Sell, Tam, Veenker, Walton, Young.
ABSTAIN:	None.
NOES:	None.
ABSENT:	Brown, Gallagher, Salinas.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

22. COMMUNITY PRIORITIES FOR RULE DEVELOPMENT

Note: Members of the Community Advisory Council joined the Board of Directors for discussion of this agenda items pursuant to Section 54952.2©(4) of the Ralph M. Brown Act, Cal. Gov't Code § 54952.2©(4), which authorizes a majority of the Council members to discuss matters within the Council's jurisdiction as part of the agenda at an open and noticed meeting of the Board of Directors. This item was to be presented at the January 28, 2026, Board of Directors Special / Retreat Meeting, but the meeting concluded prior to its presentation. It was updated with additional information.

The Board of Directors and participating members of the Air District's Community Advisory Council discussed current rule development activities that are derived from community priorities and Assembly Bill (AB) 617 Community Emission Reduction Plans. This included a discussion on current and planned community-focused rulemakings and community efforts for the flaring minimization and dust rulemaking projects, which are both major concerns in environmental justice communities. The Board of Directors and participating members of the Community Advisory Council also discussed methods to effectively incorporate community lived experience and priorities into current rulemaking and planning for future rulemaking.

The following CAC members attended this portion of the meeting: Sejal Babaria, Dominique Brooks, William Goodwin, Arieann Harrison, Patrick Messac, Cynthia Prieto-Diaz, Ken Szutu, Azjargal Tsogtsaikhan, and Latasha Washington.

Bradley Cole, Manager in the Regulatory Development Division, gave the staff presentation *Community Priorities for Rule Development*, including: overview; Strategic Plan goals and strategies; how rules fit in; prioritization criteria; (planned) community-focused rule development; minimize flaring (Rules 12-11 and 12-12); potential flaring amendment concepts; current flaring public engagement; fugitive dust (Rules 6-1 and 6-6); fugitive dust targeted sites; current dust effort public engagement; and ensuring rule development reflects community concerns and input.

Public Comments

Public comments were given by Mark Williams, Jr., Environmental Justice League (EJL); Tyler Szeto, Earthjustice; Collen Fitzgerald, Earthjustice; Katrina Tomas, Earthjustice; Jan Warren, Interfaith Climate Action Network of Contra Costa County; Todd Osterberg, Chevron; Kathy Kerrdige, Benicia resident; Kaitlin Alcontin, Communities for a Better Environment; Ashia Ajani, Sierra Club; Gary Hughes, Biofuelwatch; Maurissa Brown, The Greenlining Institute; and Arieann Harrison, San Francisco resident.

Board Comments

The Board and Air District staff discussed the request that the City of Benicia and communities of Crockett and Rodeo be included to the Air District's list of communities of concern regarding flaring incidents; the demarcation between emergency and non-emergency flaring, whether flaring is a safety measure, concerns from flares appearing as fires, whether the Air District also prioritizes flaring at non-refinery facilities, and public outreach efforts by the Air District regarding flaring incidents; the request for a future presentation on the Air District's current rules regarding fugitive dust from construction sites; the entities (target audience) that the Air District considers to ensure

that rule development reflects community input, and the suggestion that the Air District's CAC be involved in providing input as well; the opinion that reducing visible pollution would help the Air District strengthen public trust; the request for clarity on whether Notices of Violation are being issued in response to violations at concrete batch plants; whether there are examples of Air District rule amendments that resulted from community pushback; the belief that there is a lack of Air District inspectors and enforcement for the amount of permitted facilities in the Air District's jurisdiction; the desire for the Board to receive a status update on policy development for socioeconomic analyses in Air District rulemaking, and the hope that this policy development does not slow down the Air District's rulemaking process; the current status of the Air District's \$900,000 fine issued to Chevron (in December 2025) for failing to properly monitor air pollution emissions at its refinery in Richmond; the perception that some Air District rules are difficult to enforce; proactive versus reactive rulemakings; the desire for Air District rules that combine multiple requirements, and challenges with that approach; the belief that there is a representation disparity at Air District meetings between industry and environmental activists; concerns regarding the potential rehabilitation phase of the Permanente Quarry, located in the South Bay, and the desire for Air District public outreach and monitoring of those operations; the desire for more stringent air quality standards in overburdened communities; the desire for mechanisms for small businesses; whether the Air District tracks the effectiveness of their adopted rules and reports them back to the communities; the suggestion that future Air District rules require third-party source testing; and the desire for lived experience to drive the Air District's decision making.

Board Action

No action taken.

ACTION ITEM

23. 2026 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM AND CONSIDERATION OF STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Due to the shortage of time, Chair Hopkins waived the presentation (*2026 Legislative Platform and Consideration of State and Federal Legislation*) that was to have been presented by Alan Abbs, Legislative Officer.

Public Comments

Public comments were given by Maurissa Brown, The Greenlining Institute.

Board Comments

The Board and Air District staff discussed one Board member's hesitation to vote on this matter without hearing the staff presentation.

Board Action

Director González made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Veenker, to do the following:

- 1) adopt the proposed 2026 Legislative Platform, and
- 2) adopt the following positions on pending state and federal legislative bills:

State Legislation:

- Support Assembly Bill 1777 (Garcia)

Federal Legislation:

- Oppose House of Representatives Bill 161 (Griffith-R-VA-9)
- Oppose House of Representatives Bill 4214 (Allen-R-GA-12)
- Oppose House of Representatives Bill 4218 (Carter-R-GA-1)
- Oppose House of Representatives Bill 6409 (Pfluger-R-TX-11)

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

AYES: Adams, Carlson, Colbert, Corzo, Gioia, González, Hopkins, Jue, Medina, Quinto, Sell, Tam, Veenker, Young.

NOES:None.

ABSTAIN: Haubert.

ABSENT: Abe-Koga, Barnacle, Brown, Gallagher, Lee, Mahmood, Mueller, Salinas, Walton.

OTHER BUSINESS

24. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA MATTERS

Public comments were given by Gerard Manning.

25. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Directors González and Haubert expressed their gratitude for the Air District's ongoing messaging to the public regarding the impacts of woodsmoke.

Director Adams gave her opinion that public outreach regarding the Air District's Community Benefits Fund is effective. She encouraged Air District staff to present on this topic at city council meetings of eligible jurisdictions.

Director Quinto announced that in early February, he attended the California Foundation on the Environment and the Economy's (CFEE) Conference on Energy and Climate in Napa, where he met Lauren Sanchez, Chair of the California Air Resources Board, and had discussions regarding possibility of losing local industry and potential impacts.

Director Sell said that she was impressed with the Air District's focus on environmental justice and inclusion.

26. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER / Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO)

Dr. Philip M. Fine, Executive Officer / APCO, announced the following:

- **MRC Penalty**
 - On February 18, the joint enforcement case we brought against Martinez Refining Company – together with the Contra Costa District Attorney’s Office – reached a final resolution: a final judgment was signed by Judge Reyes securing a \$10 million civil penalty assessment and compelling MRC to come into compliance during startup and shutdown operations. In total, 163 notices of violation are addressed by this penalty, including the November 2022 spent catalyst release incident.

- **Items Coming up at Committee this Month**
 - 3/11 – Community Equity, Health, and Justice Committee**
 - Final Draft Community Emissions Reduction Plan for East Oakland
 - Community Advisory Council’s Compliance and Enforcement Recommendations
 - CalEnviroScreen Updates

 - 3/18 – Policy, Grants, and Technology Committee**
 - State Legislative Updates
 - Update on Bay Area Regional Climate Action Plan

 - 3/18 – Finance and Administration Committee**
 - Proposed Fiscal year 2026-2027 Budget and Fee Regulation Amendments

27. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

Chair Hopkins announced that on February 11, 2026, the Alameda County Mayors’ Conference reappointed Director Mark Salinas to the Air District’s Board of Directors for another two-year term, from April 13, 2026 to April 13, 2028.

28. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in-person at the Bay Area Metro Center and at satellite locations as may be specified on the meeting agenda using a remote teleconferencing link. Members of the Board of Directors and the public may attend at any of those in-person locations, and members of the public may also attend virtually via webcast.

29. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

/s/ Marcy Hiratzka
 Marcy Hiratzka
 Clerk of the Boards