

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

Policy, Grants, and Technology Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 18, 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:** 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; Vice Chair González; Director Ken Carlson and Noelia Corzo.

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

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 (San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, 500 County Center, 5th Floor, Redwood City, CA 94063): Director Ray Mueller.

Present, In-Person Satellite Location (City of San Bruno, 567 El Camino Real, Room 138, San Bruno, CA 94066): Director Rico E. Medina.

Absent: Directors Brian Colbert, Joelle Gallagher, and Mark Salinas.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

CONSENT CALENDAR (ITEMS 3 – 4)

3. **Approval of the Draft Minutes of the Policy, Grants, and Technology Committee Meeting of December 17, 2025**

The Committee considered approving the Draft Minutes of the Policy, Grants, and Technology Committee Meeting of December 17, 2025.

4. **Authorization to Participate in the Climate Heat Impact Response Program**

The Committee considered recommending that the Board of Directors (i) authorize the Air District's acceptance of Climate Heat Impact Response Program funds and participation in the program, and (ii) authorize the Executive Officer/APCO to enter into all necessary agreements to accept, obligate, and expend these funds.

Public Comments

No requests received.

Committee Comments

None.

Committee Action

Director Carlson made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair González, to **approve** Consent Calendar Items 3 – 4; and the motion **carried** by the following vote of the Committee:

AYES: Abe-Koga, Carlson, Corzo, González, Medina, Mueller, Tam, Veenker.
NOES: None.
ABSTAIN: None.
ABSENT: Colbet, Gallagher, Salinas.

ACTION ITEMS

5. **2026 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM AND STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

Alan Abbs, Legislative Officer, gave the staff presentation *2026 Legislative Platform and State and Federal Legislative Updates*, including: abbreviations; recommended actions; recommended action #2 (State and Federal legislation); proposed 2026 Legislative Platform – State Budget, State legislation, Federal legislation and regulatory activity; State legislative updates – 2026 Legislative Session, Board-approved-position bills: Senate Bill (SB) 222 (Wiener), Assembly Bill (AB) 907 (Chen), Air District staff recommendations: AB 1777 (Garcia), additional bills for discussion; Federal legislative updates – Air District staff recommendations: House of Representatives (H.R.) 161 (Griffith-R-VA-9), H.R. 4214 (Allen-R-GA-12), H.R. 4218 (Carter-R-GA-1), H.R. 6387 (Evans-R-CO-8) **Note: Mr. Abbs pulled this bill for consideration during his presentation**; H.R. 6409 (Pfluger-R-TC-11), additional bills for discussion; and recap of recommended actions.

Public Comments

Public comments were given by Roger Lin, Center for Biological Diversity.

Committee Comments

The Committee and Air District staff discussed whether any climate superfunds have been introduced during the 2025 California Legislative Session thus far; how environmental regulation is currently being viewed by policymakers at the State: manufacturing facilities; and concerns regarding the US Environmental Protection Agency's recent rescission of the 2009 Greenhouse Gas Endangerment Finding, and the request for a chart that can explain to the full Board the endangerment finding process.

Committee Action

Vice Chair Gonzalez made a motion, seconded by Director Carlson, to recommend the Board (i) **adopt** the proposed 2026 Legislative Platform, and (ii) **adopt** positions on the following 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 Committee:

AYES: Abe-Koga, Carlson, Corzo, González, Medina, Mueller, Tam, Veenker.
NOES: None.
ABSTAIN: None.
ABSENT: Colbet, Gallagher, Salinas.

6. **REPORT ON TRANSPORTATION FUND FOR CLEAN AIR PROJECTS EXPENDITURES AND EFFECTIVENESS FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING 2025**

Dr. Minda Berbeco, Manager Strategic Incentives Division Manager, gave the staff presentation *Report on Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) Projects Expenditures and Effectiveness for Fiscal Year Ending 2025*, including: recommended action; TFCA; cost effectiveness; considerations for cost effectiveness limits; summary of project and program results; expenditures of project category; effectiveness and emissions reductions; next steps; and recommended action.

Public Comments

No requests received.

Committee Comments

The Committee and Air District staff discussed which criteria pollutants are the most difficult to remove from the air; whether the State has considered raising the \$4 surcharge on motor vehicles; why “commuter benefits and enhanced mobile source inspections” are the smallest expenditure by project category; and the current maximum amount that participants can receive from the Air District’s Vehicle Buy Back Program, and the suggestion of publishing data that shows how many vehicles have been retired by the program.

Committee Action

Director Carlson made a motion, seconded by Director Corzo, to recommend that the Board **adopt** a determination that the Transportation Fund for Clean Air Projects 60% Fund expenditures were effective in improving air quality in Fiscal Year Ending 2025; and the motion **carried** by the following vote of the Committee:

AYES: Abe-Koga, Carlson, Corzo, González, Medina, Mueller, Tam, Veenker.
NOES: None.
ABSTAIN: None.
ABSENT: Colbet, Gallagher, Salinas.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

7. DATA CENTER OVERVIEW AND CONSIDERATIONS

Jamesine Rogers Gibson, Senior Advanced Projects Advisor, and Alan Abbs, Legislative Officer, gave the staff presentation *Data Center Overview and Considerations*, including: overview of data centers; types of data centers; siting considerations; data centers in the Bay Area; rapid growth in data center power demand; air pollution and back-up generation; infrastructure and ratepayer impacts; permitting and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for data centers; and recent legislative activities.

Dr. Joshua Lappen, Air District Consultant and Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Keough School of Global Affairs at the University of Notre Dame, gave the presentation *Data Center Power - Grid Interactions and Backup Power*, including: outline; data centers and the grid; data center power usage; relevant entities; electric rate impacts; electrification goal impacts; other potential grid impacts; data center backup power; diesel backup impacts; mitigation approaches; backup power technologies; batter backup; and crafting solutions.

Public Comments

Public comments were given by Meya Saenz Zagar, Center for Biological Diversity; Roger Lin, Center for Biological Diversity; Ellina Yin, Dreaming Collaborative; Dr. Stephen Rosenblum, Palo Alto resident; Nina Robertson, Earthjustice; Joey Richardson, San Jose resident; Rich Saunders, San Jose resident; and Masheika Allgood.

Committee Comments

The Committee and Air District staff discussed the challenges regarding predicting power demand, and concerns of overbuilding; benefits of municipally-owned utility companies versus investor-owned utility companies, regarding power demand for data centers; whether policy makers are considered relevant entities (regarding this issue), and what other stakeholders might be considered relevant entities; entities involved in grid-scale battery storage; material variation in electricity consumption at data centers; concerns about and feasibility of battery backup as a revenue source; and how to measure health (short and long-term) impacts, based on the amount of data in data centers.

Committee Action

No action taken.

OTHER BUSINESS

8. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA MATTERS

No requests received.

9. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Vice Chair González thanked the Air District for its social media campaign on the Winter Spare the Air program, saying he appreciated the consistent messaging he has seen.

10. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, March 18, 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 Policy, Grants, and Technology Committee and the public may attend at any of those in-person locations, and members of the public may also attend virtually via webcast.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

/s/ Marcy Hiratzka
Marcy Hiratzka
Clerk of the Boards