Bay Area Air Quality Management District

Community Advisory Council Meeting
Thursday, September 18, 2025

Juntos Fruitvale - Unity Auditorium
3357 International Boulevard
Oakland, CA 94601

APPROVED MINUTES

This meeting was webcast, and a video recording is available on the website of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District at https://www.baaqmd.gov/en/about-the-air-district/community-advisory-council/agendasreports

1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

The meeting Facilitator, Randolph Belle of Randolph Belle, Artist (RBA) Creative, called the Community Advisory Council (Council) in-person meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present, In Person: (Juntos Fruitvale - Unity Auditorium, 3357 International Boulevard, Oakland, CA 94601): Council Co-Chairpersons John Kevin Jefferson and Ken Szutu; and Council Members Dr. Juan Aguilera, Sejal Babaria, Ms. Margaret Gordon, Patrick Messac, Cynthia Prieto-Diaz, and Dr. Jeff Ritterman.

Participated Remotely, via Zoom via Assembly Bill (AB) 2449 (remote presence does not count for quorum, but votes are counted for all action items): Council Co-Chair Mayra Pelagio; and Council Members William Goodwin, Kevin G. Ruano Hernandez, Latasha Washington. (just cause).

Absent: Council Members Arieann Harrison, Dominick Ramirez, and Violet Saena.

At this time, Arsenio Mataka, Deputy Executive Officer for Equity & Community Programs, announced that Rio Molina has stepped down from the Council pursuant to the Council's charter. Staff note: Section 1.14.1 (Absenteeism) of the Council's charter states, *"Staff will inform a member that they have lost their seat on the CAC after three meetings are missed."*

2. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA MATTERS

Public comments were given by Antwon Cloird, Richmond resident.

3. **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER / AIR POLLUTION CONTROL OFFICER (APCO)**

On behalf of Dr. Philip M. Fine, Executive Officer / APCO, Mr. Mataka, reported the following:

- Welcome to inaugural Environmental Justice Law Fellow, Adrian Wong, who started at the Air District on August 25, 2025. Mr. Mataka invited Alexander Crockett, General Counsel, to introduce Mr. Wong, who will be working with both the Legal and Environmental Justice Divisions.
- Welcome to Jamal Jackson, Senior Staff Specialist in the Air District's new Civil Rights Office. Mr. Jackson has been working at the Air District since January 13, 2025.
- Welcome to Emi Wang, Director of the Air District's new Community Investment Office. Ms. Wang has been working at the Air District since August 25, 2025.
- An update on the outcome of this year's legislative session regarding AB 617 funding. In a tough budget year, AB 617 funding was zeroed out in May, but last week, through a lot of hard work by community members and the Air District, it was ultimately preserved. Air Districts will get $45 million statewide to implement the CERP process; a small drop from last year's $50 million. Community air incentive grants dropped from $195 million to $50 million. Most importantly, for the first time, a bill has passed the Legislature and now sitting before the Governor that establishes a continuous $250 million annual appropriation for AB 617.
- The Air District Board of Directors approved allocating $4 million in funding to support home and school air filtration programs in Bay Area communities. $1.3 million was authorized for upgrades in public schools in Richmond, North Richmond, San Pablo and Tara Hills, $1.7 million to expand air filtration upgrades in schools in Bayview-Hunters Point. An additional $1 million was allocated to the Air Filtration Program.
- In July, the Air District expanded the Vehicle Buy Back Program; the program is increasing the incentive amount from $1,500 to $2,000 per vehicle and including vehicles that are model year 2000 and older. To be considered your vehicle must:
    1. Be currently registered as operable and be in operating condition
    2. Have been registered as operable in the Bay Area for the past 2 years
    3. Pass a Smog Check if within 60 days of a required Smog Check
- As of August 19, the Air District is now accepting applications for the Clean Cars for All program. This program provides grants for income-qualified Bay Area residents to retire their older car and replace it with a plug-in hybrid, battery, or hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicle, or a pre-paid card to use for public transit and purchase e-bikes. This is important because a lot people think EVs are out of reach for them. This program can provide up to $12,000 in funding and we also added a $5,000 plus up to help residents with disabilities. So please spread the word.
- The Air District has been piloting the new Targeted Inspection Program in Bayview Hunters Point to modernize the inspection program by advancing environmental justice. As part of this effort, the Air District increased inspections in Bayview Hunters Point, focusing on 43 facilities identified by the AB 617 Community Steering Committee subcommittee. Of these inspections, two resulted in Notices

of Violation. The Air District also successfully completed two weekend inspections, at a wastewater treatment facility and an autobody shop. The Air District is also applying a new method for setting inspection priorities, which considers factors such as compliance history, emissions inventory, and other priority indicators. Using this approach, 33 additional facilities were inspected, resulting in seven Notices of Violation.

— Interstate-580 Truck Access Study: For decades, trucks have been banned from an 8.7-mile stretch of I-580, diverting them through overburdened communities along I-880. Caltrans, in partnership with the Air District and City of Oakland, is studying the potential impacts of lifting this ban on health, safety, and traffic. This study was a strategy in the AB 617 West Oakland Community Emission Reduction Program. Caltrans will be presenting on this project at the Board's Policy, Grants, and Technology Committee meeting on October 15.

Public Comments

No requests received.

Council Comments

The Council and staff discussed desire for Ms. Wang and Mr. Jackson,as new Air District staff, to take as many toxic tours in Bay Area disadvantaged communities as soon as possible; whether the funding of new Air District staff relates to federal cutbacks; desire for the Council Members to have more frequent and direct interactions with the Air District's Board of Directors; concerns regarding the staff presentation *Permitting Strategies and Fiscal Year Ending 2026 Mid-Year Staffing and Budget Adjustment*, which was given at the Board's September 10, 2025 Special meeting; the desire for additional data on the number of permit applications that were approved, cancelled, withdrawn, and denied within a given time period; and concerns regarding state lawmakers' negotiations that could pay up to $200 million to Valero to maintain the Benicia operations, whether the proposed bailout prioritizes BACT, and whether the existing infrastructure at the Benicia refinery will be audited.

Council Action

No action taken.

CONSENT CALENDAR

4. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING OF JULY 17, 2025

Public Comments

No requests received.

Council Comments

Regarding Item 4, *Approval of the Draft Minutes of the Community Advisory Council Special / Retreat Meeting of May 16 and May 17, 2025,* Council Member Goodwin stated that his name was erroneously listed as having made the motion to approve the minutes, when he abstained on that vote. The Clerk thanked him for this correction and said that she would revise the minutes to reflect this change, for the record.

Council Action

Council Member Goodwin made a motion, seconded by Council Member Gordon, to **approve** the Draft Minutes of the Community Advisory Council Meeting of July 17, 2025, as amended; and the motion **carried** by the following vote of the Council:

AYES:	Aguilera, Goodwin, Jefferson, Messac, Pelagio, Prieto-Diaz, Ritterman, Ruano Hernandez, Szutu, Washington.
NOES:	None.
ABSTAIN:	Gordon.
ABSENT:	Babaria, Harrison, Ramirez, Saena.

Motion Approved.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5. **BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STANDING COMMITTEES MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

Amy Smith, Senior Staff Specialist, gave the staff presentation, *Board of Directors and Standing Committees Meeting Highlights,* including: overview; role in providing recommendations; align Community Advisory Council with Board of Directors activities; Air District website: home screen; Board and committee meetings and materials; members of the Board of Directors; Community Equity, Health, and Justice Committee; Stationary Source Committee; Policy, Grants, and Technology (PGTC) Committee; Finance and Administration Committee; Board and standing committee meetings at a glance; key highlights: Board meetings (May, June, July), Community Equity, Health, and Justice Committee (CEHJC) (March, April, May), Stationary Source Committee meetings (May, June, July), PGTC meetings (June, July); aligning Community Advisory Council agenda with Board actions; and Council agenda and Board recommendations.

Public Comments

Public comments were given by Antwon Cloird, Richmond resident.

Council Comments

The Council and staff discussed desire for the Council Members to have more frequent and direct interactions with the Air District's Board of Directors, so that the Council may

make recommendations to the Board, and whether an ad hoc committee is needed to address these concerns; the desire for a better balance between daytime and evening meetings at which the Council and Board can have joint discussions on policy, programs and legislation related to environmental justice and community priorities, and the request that the Board provides a response to the Council, by the Council's November meeting, as to how this will be achieved; the suggestion that the Board forms a committee to solely address air monitoring trends, projections, and lessons learned; the desire for more frequent community engagement (Air District staff coming to disadvantaged communities to speak with the residents); the belief that staff sometimes diminishes the community's voice and ignores questions and comments from the community; the desire for more frequent Air District social media posts regarding equity issues in disadvantaged communities; the status of the Council's request for a Board Liaison, and whether the Council can find out which Board members might be interested in the position; whether a Council Member may attend Air District Board and committee meetings using the "Other CAC Member Activities" $1,000 stipend stated in § 1.2.3 of the Council's *Meeting Compensation and Expense Reimbursement Policy,* and then report back to the Council; the request for written summaries of the Board meetings, as well as meetings of the four AB 617 Community Steering Committees, for the Council; the suggestion of requiring a *minimum* number of public comments during the Air District's rulemaking process; how to subscribe to editions of the Air District's *Air Currents* newsletter, which covers Air District activities as well as other air quality issues of interest to industry, government agencies, and the general public; the desire that upcoming Council agenda items be made into action items (not informational items) that get sent to the Board's CEHJC for consideration (i.e.: the Council's Compliance and Enforcement Ad Hoc Committee will deliver a final report and recommendations to the Council in November 2025, listing potential benefits to disadvantaged communities, and the Compliance and Enforcement Ad Hoc Committee could recommend that the CEHJC formally accept it); and concerns regarding the current practice of Air District staff being involved in finalizing materials (providing input) on what moves forward, in addition to the Council's Co-Chairs.

Council Actions

No action taken.

THE COUNCIL RECESSED AT 8:08 P.M., AND RESUMED AT 8:21 P.M.

6. LEGISLATIVE PROCESS AND TIMELINE FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION OF PENDING LEGISLATION

Viet Tran, Deputy Executive Officer, Public Affairs, gave the staff presentation, *Legislative Process and Timeline for Board Consideration of Pending Legislation,* including: California legislative process; preparation for legislative year; and during the legislative year: how a bill becomes a law, developing Board positions on bills, Council participation in the legislative process, definitions of "2-Year" bill and "Gut and Amend" bill, PGTC Committee legislative agenda items, timing considerations.

Public Comments

No requests received.

Council Comments

The Council and Air District staff discussed whether the Board's former "Legislative Committee" was absorbed into the Board's current "Policy, Grants, and Technology Committee"; the process by which the Air District partners with legislators to champion bills that the Air District wishes to sponsor; the process by which the Air District partners with other agencies to support and oppose bills; the desire for a process in which the Council co-develops policy with the PGTC; whether the Air District has a central resource that lists Board legislative recommendations; the suggestion that the Board considers and adopts a formal position on Senate Bill (SB) 404 (Caballero) - hazardous materials: metal shredding facilities, and why the Air District did not take a position on this bill when the Air District partnered with the Alameda County District Attorney to take enforcement actions against Radius Recycling, formerly Schnitzer Steel; which staff members prioritize the issues upon which the Air District invests its energy; in what capacity Council Members may rally support for legislation (as themselves, versus as Council Members); whether the Council may draft potential legislation with a legislator and recommend it to the PGTC; the feasibility of the Council spending time prioritizing policy items at its November meeting, and then sending a formal recommendation to the PGTC; and lobbyists hired by the Air District.

Council Actions

No action taken.

OTHER BUSINESS

7. COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATE

Co-Chair Szutu gave a status update of the Compliance and Enforcement Ad Hoc Committee, which included the following:

- The Bay Area Air Quality Management District ordered Vallejo concrete facility Crown Hill Materials to cease operations for running a concrete batch plant without the required air quality permit. This outcome demonstrates effective collaboration between community members, the Council, and staff from multiple divisions of the Air District. This case has been a good exercise of the "One Air District" approach. We are awaiting laboratory results from collected samples. The current NOV is based on a lack of permit; the next step is examining permitting processes, especially the interaction between conditional permitting and enforcement. This area could become the focus of a future Ad Hoc effort.
- The Council's responsibility extends beyond solving a single community issue; we are tasked with providing recommendations to the Board and the Air District to better protect public health across all nine Bay Area counties. We recognize the

need to take stock of what this ad hoc committee has accomplished and to identify lessons learned. At the Council's November meeting, we will deliver a final report and recommendations, including recommendations based on our experience, and potential benefits these recommendations will bring to the District, Council, and communities.

Public Comments

No requests received.

Council Comments

None.

8. MEMBERS SELECTION AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATE

Lisa Flores, Environmental Justice Staff Specialist II, submitted the following report:

- The Community Advisory Council Members Selection Ad Hoc Committee has met twice (on April 15 to review and provide edits to the outreach plan, and on July 31 to outline the selection criteria and review process.)
- We had a great response to the outreach, receiving 68 applications in total from both new applicants and existing Council Members.
- The Ad Hoc Committee held its third meeting on September 17 and will confer again to finalize the new candidate slate.

Public Comments

No requests received.

Council Comments

None.

9. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Babaria reiterated two requests that she made during the discussion of Items 5 and 6:

1) the desire for a better balance between daytime and evening meetings at which the Council and Board can have joint discussions on policy, programs and legislation related to environmental justice and community priorities, and the request that the Board provides a response to the Council, by the Council's November meeting, as to how this will be achieved; and
2) the feasibility of the Council spending time prioritizing policy items (legislative platform) at its November meeting, and then sending a formal recommendation to the PGTC.

Council Member Messac thanked staff for utilizing the new discussion format after each presentation, allowing more discussion between staff and Council members. He reiterated his request that the Board consider and adopt a formal position on Senate Bill (SB) 404 (Caballero) - hazardous materials: metal shredding facilities, as it pertains to Radius Recycling. He also suggested making this a case study.

10. **TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at 375 Beale St. The meeting will be in-person for the Community Advisory Council members and members of the public will be able to either join in-person or via webcast.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

/S/ Marcy Hiratzka
Marcy Hiratzka
Clerk of the Boards