Bay Area Air District
Bay Area Metro Center
1st Floor Yerba Buena Room
375 Beale Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Community Advisory Council Meeting
Thursday, May 21, 2026

APPROVED MINUTES

This meeting was webcast, and a video recording is available on the website of the Bay Area Air 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 in-person meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present, In Person: (Bay Area Metro Center, 375 Beale Street, Yerba Buena Room, San Francisco, CA, 94105): Co-Chairperson William Goodwin; and Council Members Sejal Babaria, Dominique Brooks, Adriana Fernandez-Arriaga, Ms. Margaret Gordon, Cynthia Prieto-Diaz, Dominick Ramirez, Saidy Reyes Mazariegos, Kevin G. Ruano Hernandez, Violet Saena, Harsheet Subedi, and Ken Szutu.

Participated Remotely, via Zoom via Section 54953.8.3 of the Ralph M. Brown Act Open Meeting Act (Cal. Gov't Code § 54953.8.3). Remote presence does not count for quorum, but votes are counted for all action items): Co-Chairperson Latasha Washington; and Council Member Azjargal Tsogtsaikhan.

Absent: Co-Chairperson Patrick Messac; and Council Members Arieann Harrison, and Jeff Sanchez.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA MATTERS

Public comments were given by Masheika Allgood, Center for Biological Diversity; Ellina Yin; and Roger Lin, Center for Biological Diversity.

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

Arsenio Mataka, Deputy Executive Officer for Equity & Community Programs, announced the following:

- **Bay REPAIR Program (Reinvesting Penalties for Air Improvement and Resilience):** The Air District is halfway through our application solicitation process for the Local Community Benefits Fund Round 1—the grant deadline for Benicia Catalyst Grants passed on May 1, and the grant deadline for all other grants across Benicia, Richmond and surrounding communities closes on May 29. The Air District will convene technical and community reviewers to score the grant applications over summer 2026.
- **Update on Water Heater Appliance Rule at May 6 Board meeting:** The Board of Directors discussed the status of the development of amendments to the Air District's water heater rule. As you may know, the Board adopted amendments to both the water heater rule, Rule 9-6, and the furnace rule, Rule 9-4, in March 2023. The adopted amendments would phase out natural gas-fueled water heaters and furnaces over time. The Board also instructed staff to provide updates to them two years before the requirements compliance dates.
- **Legislative News:** The Governor released the May revisions to next year's state budget on May 14, and we are reviewing it to determine the impacts on the AB 617 program, as well as incentives such as Clean Cars 4 All.

Council Comments

Council Member Ms. Margaret Gordon expressed her belief that the Air District's Permitting process is unclear and cumbersome.

CONSENT CALENDAR (ITEMS 4 – 5)

4. **APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 19, 2026**

The Council considered approving the Draft Minutes of the Community Advisory Council meeting of March 19, 2026.

5. **EXTENSION OF COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS' TERMS ENDING IN FALL 2026**

The Council considered recommending to the Board of Directors that the Board extend the terms of Co-Chair Patrick Messac, Council member Sejal Babaria, and Council member Dominick Ramirez, from September 4, 2026, to December 3, 2027, and extending the end of the term of Council member Cynthia Prieto-Diaz from November 6, 2026, to December 3, 2027 to align these four seats' terms with current Community Advisory Council members serving 2-year terms.

Public Comments on Items 4 – 5

No requests received.

Council Comments on Items 4 – 5

The Council and staff discussed whether individuals under consideration for the vote should recuse themselves from voting; and whether quorum and voting thresholds will still be met for approval of the motion when affected individuals abstain from voting on their own appointments.

NOTED PRESENT: Council Member Ruano Hernandez was noted present at 6:33 p.m.

Council Action on Items 4 – 5

Council Member Reyes Mazariegos made a motion, seconded by Council Member Gordon, to **approve** the Consent Calendar, Items 4 through 5, inclusive; and the motion **carried** by the following vote of the Council:

AYES:	Brooks, Fernandez-Arriaga, Goodwin, Gordon, Reyes Mazariegos, Saena, Subedi, Szutu, Tsogtsaikhan, Washington.
NOES:	None.
ABSTAIN:	None.
ABSENT:	Messac, Sanchez, Harrison
RECUSED:	Babaria, Prieto-Diaz, Ramirez, Ruano Hernandez

Motion Approved.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

6. **RULES 6-1 AND 6-6: PREVIEW OF UPCOMING DRAFT AMENDMENTS**

NOTED PRESENT: Council Member Saena was noted present at 6:36 p.m.

Eric Lara, Senior Air Quality Specialist in the Regulatory Development Division, gave the staff presentation *Rules 6-1 and 6-6: Preview of Upcoming Draft Amendments*, including: abbreviations; outline; who develops air quality regulations; what other regulations are relevant besides air quality; rule development and public engagement; why are we amending the rule; current dust effort public engagement; main sites of concern; issues of concern; complaint and violation history; particulate matter (PM) emissions in the Bay Area; number of potentially impacted sites; categories for upcoming staff recommendations; focus on material handling and movement; focus on site controls; focus on tracking and accountability; fenceline air monitoring; potential improvements to reduce dust; examples of activities and controls; compliance options for controls at all sites; additional focus areas for dust control; addressing Council recommendations; and timeline and next steps.

Public Comments

Public comments were given by Tyler Szeto, Earth Justice.

Council Comments

The Council and staff discussed whether amendments to Regulation 6, Rules 1 and 6 would include asbestos; potential sources of fugitive dust in San Jose that the Air District may need to regulate; a request for a geographic mapping of complaints across the nine Bay Area counties, including the proximity of complainant locations to the alleged source; which authority regulates the activities of the Oakland Bulk and Oversized Coal Terminal and piles of dirt and cement in West Oakland; the minimum number of air monitors required; the distance between the property line from the monitor and polluting facility; whether the community is invited to provide input on where the monitors should be located; precluding smaller facilities from circumventing regulatory intent; the desire for enforcement mechanisms and inspection prioritization for unpermitted sources operating in violation of Air District regulations; concerns regarding soil contamination; the processing time associated with registering a new facility with the Air District, and fines for failing to do so properly; whether there is interagency collaboration between the Air District and other California air districts or regulatory agencies for the purpose of sharing best practices; whether the Air District utilizes video monitors in areas with stockpiles and other sources of fugitive dust; factors that may account for Alameda County having significantly more complaints than Contra Costa County, but fewer resulting Notices of Violation; the desire for a formal follow-up step in the Air District's complaint system procedure, to inform complainants of investigation outcomes and case resolution; the desire for the community's input earlier in the Air District's rulemaking process; offsite impacts; best management practices; the request for a list of enforceable actions over which the Air District has authority; which entities are required to implement dust control plans; whether the Air District applies industry-specific regulatory requirements across different sectors; what mechanisms are in place to verify that fugitive dust emissions are being effectively mitigated; the suggestion of exercising discretion in the use of water for fugitive dust control measures, particularly given current drought conditions; whether the Council is being engaged to assist the Air District to identify the most appropriate locations for new air monitoring stations; the Council's desire for being able to bring impactful recommendations to the Board; the manner in which public input on these regulations is being solicited; whether clear guidance on how residents' documentation may be used when investigating complaints will be established; and the tools used by Air District inspectors to determine fugitive dust.

Council Actions

No action taken.

THE COUNCIL RECESSED AT 7:57 P.M, AND RESUMED AT 8:08 P.M.

OTHER BUSINESS

7. GOVERNANCE AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATE

Council Member Ruano Hernandez, a Co-Chair for the Council's Governance Ad Hoc Committee, reported that the Council's Governance Ad Hoc Committee has met four times since April 2026, and has been making proposed edits to the Council's charter

(sections regarding membership, leadership, ad hoc committees, and agenda settings). The Governance Ad Hoc Committee plans to bring proposed edits to the Charter before the Council in July 2026 and then hold a public comment period.

Public Comments

No requests received.

Council Comments

None.

Council Action

No action taken.

8. **ACTION PLAN AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Action Plan Ad Hoc Committee Co-Chairs, Council Members Brooks and Szutu, explained that, to inform the Ad Hoc Committee's work, Council members were asked to provide input on the following questions about local environmental justice updates and community concerns:

- *What are the most significant air quality or environmental justice concerns in your communities?*
- *What are the biggest gaps in Air District response, communication, or enforcement?*
- *What actions or changes would most effectively address these issues?*

Public Comments

No requests received.

Council Comments

In response to the bulleted quesitons above, Council Members responded with the following:

- *What are the most significant air quality or environmental justice concerns in your communities?*
    - extreme heat in Contra Costa County and insufficient tree canopy coverage to adequately protect communities
    - sea level rise adaptation and the desire for solutions integrated with air quality considerations
    - strategies for reducing reliance on fossil fuels should include measures to support workforce needs and ensure an equitable transition for affected workers and communities

    - proximity of new residential developments to industrial areas raises important land use and public health considerations
    - multiple recent discoveries of unauthorized radiological materials at the former Hunters Point Naval Shipyard in Bayview-Hunters Point
    - community advocates are monitoring potential pollution sources such as San José Mineta International Airport, junk yards, tire shops, and former gas station sites; however, there is limited public access to the associated monitoring data
    - Rodeo's Bayo Vista housing is exposed to multiple pollution sources and funding equity is a major issue. Residents want to see more initiatives like the People's Air Grant because they often struggle to secure funding for local air quality concerns (inequitable distribution of grant funding across the geographic area)
    - environmental and public health impacts posed by data centers (in Santa Clara County)
    - desire for increased enforcement, fines, and additional monitoring at Chevron's Richmond refinery

- *What are the biggest gaps in Air District response, communication, or enforcement?*
    - desire for a status update on the Air District's investigation of the fire that occurred in March 2026 at the Radius Recycling facility in Oakland
    - concerns regarding the perceived disconnect between resident experiences and agency response
    - desire for a formal follow-up step in the Air District's complaint system procedure, to inform complainants of investigation outcomes and case resolution
    - Bay Area communities that are not designated as AB 617 communities feel excluded from funding opportunities, community capacity-building resources, and meaningful engagement and support from the Air District
    - concerns of a perceived lack of communication and community engagement from the Air District in general
    - belief that expanding the allotted time of three minutes to Council Members (at Council meetings) would support the Council's desire for meaningful dialogue discussion, engagement, and collaboration between agency staff and Council Members

- *What actions or changes would most effectively address these issues?*
    - allow the Council to assist the Air District develop its Public Participation Plan
    - hold Council meetings in various disadvantaged Bay Area communities (and additional town hall-style meetings) to engage with the community more effectively. Allow the Council Members help identify locations in their communities
    - the Air District develops an improved process for investigating and processing odor complaints

- the Air District considers partnering with the organizations affiliated with individual Council members to strengthen community engagement and outreach in communities, especially outside of AB 617-designated areas
- the Air District identifies the top air pollution community concerns in each of the nine Bay Area counties, and makes a better effort to agendize issues that public wishes to discuss
- the Air District considers providing technical assistance to municipalities to support updates to local zoning regulations that better address air quality and public health considerations

Council Action

No action taken.

9. **COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

Council Member Ruano Hernandez reported that he attended a meeting of the Community-Led Environmental Air Research (CLEAR) project, in Bayview-Hunters Point. This is a localized, participatory science initiative that empowers local residents, often high school-aged youth, to monitor hyper-local air pollution, educate the public on environmental health, and advocate for actionable clean air policies. He thanked the Air District for sending its Community Air Quality Investigations Mobile Air Monitoring Van to the event.

Co-Chair Goodwin gave a status update on the East Contra Costa Healthy Homes Collaborative – a home electrification and retrofit initiative in Antioch and Pittsburg. He asked, after the Air District awards project grants, whether it conducts any follow-up with awardees to evaluate the findings, outcomes, and benefits achieved upon project completion.

Council Member Fernandez-Arriaga announced that the Climate Ready Ambassadors of North San Mateo County were a selected grantee for Cycle 2 of the James Cary Smith Community Grant Program, and the second cohort of the Climate Ready Ambassadors just graduated. A new cohort will begin in the Fall of 2026.

Council Member Tsogtsaikhan announced the following:

- The Global Commission on Healthy Indoor Air recently launched a new global framework to establish universal indoor air quality standards
- The California Air Resources Board (CARB) awarded Aclima a contract to execute the Statewide Mobile Monitoring Initiative, mapping block-by-block air quality in 64 designated communities in California, and the data is forthcoming
- She requested that environmental and public health impacts posed by data centers (in Santa Clara County) are agendized for a future Council meeting

Council Member Szutu announced that on May 9, James Cary Smith Community Grant Program grantee, Citizen Air Monitoring Network, celebrated the newest graduates of

their Clean Air Ambassador program. This is a growing network of local clean air advocates working to advance community driven air monitoring and environmental health protections in the communities of Vallejo, Crockett, and Rodeo.

Council Member Saena urged everyone to support and follow the efforts of Brightline Defense, an environmental justice nonprofit, that has been advocating to ensure the state's official mapping tool, CalEnviroScreen 5.0, accurately reflects the needs of under-resourced Bay Area communities.

10. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 6:00 p.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 Community Advisory Council 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 9:20 p.m.

/S/ Marcy Hiratzka
Marcy Hiratzka
Clerk of the Boards