

# Clean Air Fund Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

## June 2, 2009

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.
- II. Approve summary of the July 28, 2008 meeting: Ms. Kobayashi moved and Mr. Kromka seconded approval. The Committee approved the summary without any changes.
- III. Public Comment: There was no public comment.
- IV. Staff Report: The Clean Air Fund permanent endowment is approximately \$650,000. The Ventura County Community Foundation Endowment funds are professionally managed in a diversified portfolio, which lost about 16 percent for the previous year.

Available funds for projects is about \$200,000, which includes \$150,000 set aside for the Ventura County Fire Department Burn Building Training center, which was approved in 2001/2002 but never built. An additional \$30,000 for funding grants will become available in October, based on the 5 percent of the permanent endowment allowed for projects each year.

V. Old Business:

1. Elect Vice Chairman: Robert Poole was nominated to be Vice Chairman by Ms. Neiswender, and seconded by Mr. King and elected unanimously.
2. Lawn Mower Trade-In Program: Mr. Cowen reported that the Lawn Mower Trade-In Program was still active, and over 550 electric lawn mower vouchers had been issued since the program began in late 2006. Since only \$19,000 remained from the original Clean Air Fund and Air Resources Board grants, staff requested an additional \$50,000 to fund the program through next year. This funding would also be used as matching funds in a request for up to \$50,000 from the Air Resources Boards AB 118 Air Quality Improvement Program, which is a competitive solicitation. Ms. Kobayashi moved, Ms. Neiswender seconded and the committee unanimously approved this funding request.

VI. New Business:

Proposed Project: UC Davis Fumigant Emission Reduction Project

Dr. Husein Ajwa from UC Davis' Department of Plant Sciences proposed a project requesting that \$30,000 be used to transfer technology developed by the university to reduce soil fumigant emissions from the growing of strawberries. Research performed by UC Davis from 2002 through 2004 demonstrated the effectiveness of Virtually Impermeable Films (VIF) to reduce fumigant emissions at strawberry fields. These films or tarps are used to cover the fields to trap the soil fumigant necessary for pre-plant control of soil pests and

diseases. If impermeable tarps are used, then less fumigant is needed to treat the soil prior to the planting of the strawberries.

Dr. Husein Ajwa's proposed project will involve collecting tarp samples from both the manufacturer and strawberry growers' fields and measuring the retention and permeability of the VIF tarps in the field and in the laboratory. This data analysis will be used to demonstrate to local strawberry growers the advantage of using VIF tarps over high density polyethylene (HDPE) tarps. VIF may be used to meet DPR requirements to cap or reduce fumigant emissions, or decrease buffer zones.

Ms. Annika Forester, the local representative of The California Strawberry Commission and Mr. John Krist, Ventura County Farm Bureau Executive Officer, volunteered to assist UC Davis in promoting this project objective for growers to implement this new technology. The following local growers have volunteered to test 3 to 5 acres each for this demonstration program: Glenn Hasegawa, Andy Hooper, Hector Gutierrez, Steve Ishibashi, Mike Ferro, John Dullam, Juan Hernandez, Jose Perez, and Victor Lopez. In addition, Guardian Agro Plastics will donate up to 50 acres of VIF tarps for this project.

Mr. Bayman moved and Mr. Kromka seconded the motion to fund \$30,000 for this UC Davis project. The committee unanimously approved funding of this project.

VII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m..

Prepared by:

Stan Cowen, Air Pollution Control District Staff

Date: June 2, 2009

		Lawn Mower Trade-In Grant Program			UC Davis Fumigant Emission Reduction Project		
Member	Attendance *	Moved	Second	Vote *	Moved	Second	Vote
Bayman	P			Y	X		Y
Forsythe	AE						
King	P			Y			Y
Kobayashi	P	X		Y			Y
Kromka	P			Y		X	Y
Montoya	A						
Neiswender	P		X	Y			Y
Poole	P			Y			Y
Stubblefield	A						

Attendance - P(present),A(absent),E(excused)

\*\*Vote - Y(yes), N(no), A(abstain)

APCD Staff:

Mike Villegas  
 Stan Cowen

Guests:

John Krist, Ventura County Farm Bureau  
 Annika Forrester, California Strawberry Commission  
 Dr. Husein Ajwa, UC Davis  
 Hector Gutierrez, Otilio Farms, LLC  
 John Dullam, Mandalay Berry Farms