

VENTURA COUNTY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT  
CLEAN AIR FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
April 27, 2022  
MINUTES

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:08 p.m.

Present

Sam Anderson  
Amanda Fagan  
Ron Merkord  
Gene Rubin  
Michael Stubblefield

Kent Bullard  
Marvin King  
Kimberly Rivers  
David Sell

Excused

John Kromka

District Staff

Victor Briones  
Tyler Harris  
Danny McQuillan

Ali Ghasemi  
Stephanie Lapeyre-Montrose

Public

Roxanne Beigell-Coryell  
Jason Hughes  
Tim Lawson

Ray Gutierrez  
Ben Knauer  
Audrey McMahon

II. Approval of Minutes from April 15, 2021

Marvin King moved to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2021, Clean Air Fund Advisory Committee Meeting. Kimberly Rivers seconded the motion. The Committee voted 8 yes and 1 abstention.

III. Public Comment

Ben Knauer from Knauer Pianos made a public comment. He presented a potential project involving filling tires with air to increase tire pressure on gas vehicles. Ben Knauer states that this could save up to 0.5% to 5% on wasted gas compared to vehicles with low tire pressure. His idea is to go to parking lots where many gas powered vehicles are located and offering to fill up tires with air to increase tire pressure. He asks the committee for both confirmation that this idea could result in emissions reductions as well as potential funding for this project.

Mike Stubblefield poses two questions for Ben Knauer. First, how would he acquire approval to conduct such an activity in parking lots. Second, how would he handle liability insurance for this because people may blame him for future problems with their vehicles.

Ben responded that he has already started a corporation and would acquire insurance. He has also consulted with legal counsel regarding this proposal. He has already been given approval from one shopping center already. However, this shopping center is in Agora Hills which is outside of Ventura County. He plans to ask other shopping centers in Ventura County as well. He states all he would need is verbal approval from drivers to fill their tires.

The Committee stated that Mr. Knauer should submit a project proposal so the Committee can discuss this project further.

#### IV. Staff Report

Ali Ghasemi provided a staff report. Mr. Ghasemi stated that the incentive program has about \$8 to \$9 million to provide to businesses in the county to reduce emissions. The air quality has also improved greatly. In 2021 all of the monitoring sites indicated that the District was below the 8-hour ozone standard. Last month the Air Pollution Control Board (Board) approved about \$2.3 million to replace old farm equipment which will reduce ozone precursors by 25 tons per year, diesel particulate matter by 1.7 tons per year, and greenhouse gases by 272 metric tons per year. Applications are also open for new staff for the incentives division. The District also recently applied for Carl Moyer State reserve funds in the amount of \$500,000 to replace lawn and garden equipment (commercial only). The 2020 air quality data shows increase pollution due to wildfire events. The District office is currently open with staff telecommuting 2 days per week.

#### V. Old Business: Review of Clean Air Fund Finances

Danny McQuillan provided a brief presentation on the history of the Clean Air Fund and the current endowment. The current fund balance is about \$693,000 in assets and \$37,000 in available balance.

#### VI. New Business

##### **Elect Clean Air Fund Advisory Committee Chair and Vice Chair**

Marvin King made a motion that the Committee appoint Kent Bullard as chair of the Committee. Kimberly Rivers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Kent Bullard made a motion that the Committee appoint Ron Merkord as vice chair of the Committee. Mike Stubblefield seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Project Proposals**

### Lake Casitas Municipal Water District project to replace riding mowers with battery electric.

Tim Lawson with Lake Casitas Municipal Water District requests funds to replace 3 gas powered mowers with 2 electric mowers. Tim elected to withdraw his proposal in anticipation of potential funds the District may receive from CARB for the Carl Moyer program to replace lawn and garden equipment.

Kent Bullard made a motion that the Committee postpone making a determination on the Lake Casitas Municipal Water District project as proposed. Ron Merkord seconded the motion. The Committee voted 8 yes. The motion passed.

### CSU Channel Islands project to replace a gasoline powered mower with battery electric.

Roxanne Beigell-Coryell, a sustainability and energy coordinator from CSU Channel Islands, provided a presentation for their project proposal to help fund an electric mower for the campus. Jason Hughes, the landscape manager from CSU Channel Islands was also present. The campus currently utilizes 5 diesel and 4 gas-powered mowers. The proposal includes replacing one of their gas mowers to an electric mower. The requested funds for this project is about \$26,000.

Kent Bullard made a motion that the Committee postpone making a determination on the CSU Channel Islands project as proposed. Ron Merkord seconded the motion. The Committee voted 6 yes and 2 no. The motion passed.

### City of Port Hueneme project to replace combustion landscaping equipment with battery electric.

Audrey McMahon and Ray Gutierrez who are with the landscape division for the City of Port Hueneme provided a presentation for their project proposal. Their proposed project includes replacing gas powered landscape equipment with the following battery-powered replacement equipment: two Husqvarna 325iLK string trimmers, one Husqvarna 530iPT5 pole saw, one Husqvarna T540iXP chainsaw, one Husqvarna LK edger attachment, six Husqvarna BLi300 batteries, four Husqvarna QC500 battery chargers, one EGO 21" flagship SP mower G3 10 AH; and, two EGO G3 10.0 AH batteries.

Marvin King made a motion that the Committee recommend to the Air Pollution Control Board to approve one-third of the requested funding for the City of Port Hueneme project or \$5,850. The Committee voted 7 yes and 1 no. The motion passed.

VII. Adjournment

Having no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:21 p.m.

Prepared by:

Holly Galbreath

Air Pollution Control District Staff