

Bay Area Air Quality Management District
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APPROVED MINUTES

Summary of Board of Directors
Community Equity, Health & Justice Committee Meeting
Thursday, March 4, 2021

This meeting was conducted under procedures authorized by executive order N-29-20 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom. Members of the committee participated by teleconference.

1. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

Community Equity, Health & Justice Committee (Committee) Co-Chairperson, Davina Hurt, called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

Present: Co-Chairpersons Davina Hurt and Tyrone Jue; and Directors John Bauters, Rich Constantine, John Gioia, Carole Groom, Katie Rice, and Brad Wagenknecht.

Absent: Vice Chair Nate Miley; and Directors Shamann Walton, and Lori Wilson.

Also Present: None.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 19, 2021

Public Comments

No requests received.

Committee Comments

None.

Committee Action

Director Constantine made a motion, seconded by Director Groom, to **approve** the Minutes of February 19, 2021; and the motion carried by the following vote of the Committee:

AYES: Bauters, Constantine, Gioia, Groom, Hurt, Jue, Rice, Wagenknecht.
NOES: None.
ABSTAIN: None.
ABSENT: Miley, Walton, Wilson.

3. PROCESS FOR DIVERSIFYING COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

Chair Hurt stated that “Community Perspectives” has been a standing item on this Committee’s meeting agendas. Veronica Eady, Senior Deputy Executive Officer of Policy & Equity, explained that the Air District would like to invite communities that are not currently building AB 617 capacity, nor currently have a presence at Air District Board meetings. She asked the Committee to discuss how the Air District might create a list of such communities and consider a process to select community representatives to give perspectives to the Committee on environmental justice work across the Bay Area.

Public Comments

Public comments were given by Jed Holtzman, 350 Bay Area; and Charles Reed, West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project (WOEIP).

Committee Comments

The Committee and staff discussed whether the Air District is trying to identify unaffiliated community citizens or organizations; the potential size of the Community Advisory Council that the Air District has yet to establish; the request that the Board’s Legislative Committee prioritizes legislation that would change the composition of the Board, creating a voting seat for a member of the environmental justice community; Air District staff’s preferred method of identifying the community speakers; the suggestion of arranging a different community speaker for each Committee agenda; the request that speakers giving their community perspective be able to have a dialogue with Board members and staff during their presentation; concerns that a community leader’s presentation may not capture or represent *all* experiences of the members of a given community, and the suggestion of hearing from multiple speakers per community presentation; whether the speakers could be compensated for their time, financially; and whether those who are identified to present their community perspectives will first be vetted by Air District staff.

Committee Action

None; receive and file.

4. DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF DRAFT COMMUNITY EQUITY, HEALTH & JUSTICE COMMITTEE 2021 WORK PLAN

Ms. Eady introduced Greg Nudd, Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer of Policy, who gave the staff presentation *Discussion and Review of Draft Community Equity, Health & Justice Committee 2021 Work Plan*, including: requested Board action; outline; process for developing the Plan; ongoing and upcoming Assembly Bill (AB) 617 work; Community Advisory Council; development of District-wide equity plan; transparent and equitable funding; and feedback requested/prompt.

Public Comments

Public comments were given by Jed Holtzman, 350 Bay Area; Charles Reed, WOEIP; and LaDonna Williams, All Positives Possible.

Committee Comments

The Committee and staff discussed the request to prioritize the establishment of the Community Advisory Council and a request to have community lead its development, versus Air District staff; the suggestion of engaging with unhoused individuals in disadvantaged communities to learn from their experiences with poor air quality; whether any of the monies from Air District fines and penalties will be allocated to the Community Benefit Fund (which is still under development), when the Community Benefit Fund will be launched, the request that the Community Benefit Fund be established with a baseline funding amount from the Air District and how to accelerate that process; the structure and status of a racial equity tool for use in improving Air District programs; how the Air District plans to engage with communities regarding the proposed 2021 Community Equity, Health & Justice Committee Work Plan; the need for AB 617 toolkits for prospective communities who have yet to begin building AB 617 capacity; the Air District's current distribution of funding based on community and race, and the anticipated timeline for prefunding opportunities; and whether committee members have priority preferences from the proposed items in the Draft 2021 Work Plan.

The consensus of the committee members present was to direct Air District staff to create a budget for the Community Benefit Fund.

Committee Action

None; receive and file.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA MATTERS

Public comments were given by Oscar Garcia, Richmond resident; Charles Reed, WOEIP; and LaDonna Williams, All Positives Possible.

6. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Director Rice announced that, due to a standing scheduling conflict, she has decided to withdraw from the Community Equity, Health & Justice Committee. She thanked Co-Chairs Hurt and Jue and Air District staff for shaping the activities of this committee.

Director Gioia requested that the names of all individuals participating in virtual Air District committee and Board meetings be listed at the meetings in the future. Co-Chair Jue added that the members of the public are not required to disclose their names or affiliations.

In his capacity as a Board member of the Alameda County Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, Director Bauters reported that congressional investigators have found toxic heavy metals in many baby food brands, according to a February 4, 2021 report from the House of Representatives

Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy Committee on Oversight and Reform. The investigators examined a range of cereals, purees, and juices. A copy of the report can be found at: <https://oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2021-02-04%20ECP%20Baby%20Food%20Staff%20Report.pdf>. The new Presidential administration is seeking independent testing of products by Plum Organics, Sprout Organic Foods, and Walmart's Parent's Choice.

7. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 9:30 a.m., via webcast, pursuant to procedures authorized by Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

/S/ Marcy Hiratzka

Marcy Hiratzka
Clerk of the Boards