



San Diego County  
**Air Pollution  
Control District**

**AB 617 Portside Community Steering Committee  
Meeting Agenda + Notes**

**4/23/2024**

**5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

**[Click here for meeting materials](#)**

**Meeting Objectives**

- Provide feedback on draft Portside Community Steering Committee outreach materials prepared by San Diego County Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD) staff
- Receive update from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) on the funding levels for Community Air Protection Program under the State's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2024- 2025
- Receive update on the SDAPCD's budget for Fiscal Year 2024- 2025
- Vote on a proposed letter from Environmental Health Coalition (EHC) to the Office of the Governor regarding the California State budget cuts to heavy duty zero-emission transition funding and Community Air Protection Program
- Learn about the Port of San Diego's grant application to for the EPA Clean Ports funding opportunity

**Action Items**

- [Approval of 3/26/2024 meeting notes and 4/23/24 agenda](#)
- [Approval of State Budget Letter to the Office of the Governor with minor edits and updated citations](#)

**Agenda**

- I. Welcoming Remarks** (Ana Cuevas-Flores and Chuy Flores, Co-Facilitators) **5:00 pm**
- a. Review Meeting Objectives & Agenda
  - b. Roll call Community Steering Committee (CSC) members
  - c. General Updates
    - i. The Facilitation team welcomed the newest member of the Portside CSC, **David Ramos**. David is a life-long resident of Logan Heights and will serve as a community representative on the Portside CSC.
    - ii. The Facilitation team welcomed the San Diego County of Air Pollution Control District's (SDAPCD) new team member, **David Flores**, who will be on the Environmental Justice team.
    - iii. The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) shared that they now have project management responsibility for the Harbor Drive 2.0 Project, which was transferred from Caltrans. The new contact person will be **Andrea Hoff** ([Andrea.Hoff@sandag.org](mailto:Andrea.Hoff@sandag.org)) moving forward.
    - iv. The Port of San Diego shared that they have an active survey for inquiry, the [Employee Workforce Development Survey](#), to better understand the needs of the community regarding workforce development around zero emission technologies and infrastructure.
    - v. *\*NEW\** The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is currently looking for nominations to serve on its AB 617 Program Evaluation Design Team. The AB 617 Program Evaluation of First Year Communities will assess the overall impacts of the program through process, results, strengths and challenges. A Design Team will be established of up to 11 members, one



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from each CSC (at least 6 out of the 11 members will be from CSCs). The Design Team will help arrive at consensus on goals and objectives of the evaluation that will feed into the development of draft evaluation framework. Please reach out to Nicole Bruns, [nicole.bruns@arb.ca.gov](mailto:nicole.bruns@arb.ca.gov), if you are interested and/or have any questions!

- II. Approval of 3/26/2024 Meeting Notes and tonight's agenda** **5:15 pm**
- a. MOTION to approve 3/26/2024 meeting notes and 4/23/24 agenda by **Jack Monger**.
    - i. Seconded by **Maritza Garcia**.
    - ii. Motion passed unanimously.
- III. Discussion: Draft Portside CSC Outreach Materials (SDAPCD)** **5:20 pm**
- a. The San Diego County of Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD) presented draft Portside Community Steering Committee outreach materials prepared by SDAPCD staff and collected feedback from the committee.
  - b. Questions and comments
    - i. **Vanessa Contreras** commented that the materials looked a little busy and not easy to read.
    - ii. **Mariela Rodriguez** suggested adding some language that says, "Join Us" and simplifying some of the information on the flyer.
    - iii. **Nick Paul** suggested adding more context to some of the terms such as air quality given that community members are not always familiar with the terms.
    - iv. **Janice Luna Reynoso** emphasized that the "why" is important and stating why community members should get involved. Janice also suggested getting artists involved.
    - v. **Maritza Garcia** agreed that addressing the why is important and that this should be the focus of the door hanger. Also adding stories about members using the resources to bridge the trust and knowledge gap.
    - vi. **Silvia Calzada** commented that the flyer should focus on the why, what, and who.
    - vii. **Nick Paul** commented that the businesses in the Portside might be an audience to reach and a tailored flyer can be made for this audience.
- IV. Update: California State Budget for FY 24-25 (CARB)** **5:30 pm**
- a. [Presentation Link](#)
  - b. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) provided an update on the funding levels for Community Air Protection Program under the State's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.
  - c. Questions and comments
    - i. **John Alvarado** commented that he would like to receive more information on the community air grants and how they can potentially support a project they have in the works.
- V. Update: SDPACD Budget for FY 24-25 (SDAPCD)** **5:35 pm**
- a. [Presentation Link](#)
  - b. SDPACD staff provided an update on SDPACD's budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and answered questions from the group.
  - c. Questions and comments



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- i. **Josephine Talamantez** commented on a concern regarding movement with staff possibly straining the Office of Environmental Justice.
  - (A) **Stephanie Nicholas** added that there is no change in staffing but rather just recategorized for budget purposes.
- ii. **Phil Gibbons** asked if the budget deficit at the state level is affecting the APCD's budget.
  - (A) **Stephanie Nicholas** responded that not yet and the budget is based on the projections they had so if there any changes at the state level that will most likely impact their budget.
- iii. **Phil Gibbons** asked if the AB 617 budget includes encumbered funds or is ready to be allocated.
  - (A) **Stephanie Nicholas** responded that the budget is not encumbered yet and they project to have that money at the start of next fiscal year.
  - (B) **Domingo Vigil** added the APCD has not seen the impacts of the state budget deficit but the current funding for AB 617 is not sufficient at the state level.
- iv. **Maritza Garcia** asked if there should be any concerns about moving money from the general fund.
  - (A) **Stephanie Nicholas** responded that in the past they have used the general fund to cover some operating costs and this year they are planning to not do that but the impact of moving money from this fund varies.

**VI. Action Item: State Budget Letter to the Office of the Governor (EHC)**

**5:50 pm**

- a. [Link to Draft Letter](#)
- b. The Environmental Health Coalition (EHC) provided an overview of the proposed letter drafted by EHC to the Office of the Governor regarding the California State budget cuts to heavy duty zero-emission transition funding and Community Air Protection Program.
- c. Motion to approve the proposed letter with the following revisions: updating the links and references, mentioning the Otay-Mesa border crossing, and beginning the letter expressing gratitude for the Governor by **Tim Garrett**.
  - i. Seconded by **Jack Monger**.
  - ii. Motion passed unanimously.
- d. Questions and comments
  - i. **Dr. Yoon** suggested data references could be improved a little bit by adding more scientific data such as referencing the CalEnvironScreen.
  - ii. **Phil Gibbons** agreed with Dr. Yoon that the references could be strengthened and can include references such as the Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP). Phil asked how much the budget will be reduced.
    - (A) **Nick Paul** responded that the specific amount is unknown, but the general ask is to continue funding.
  - iii. **Phil Gibbons** commented that the goal is to maintain and preserve as much of the budget as possible.
  - iv. **Jack Monger** flagged that the page 2 footnote link does not work.
    - (A) **Nick Paul** added that the link is for a page on APCD's website on the Indirect Source Rule (ISR) framework and the link will need to be fixed.



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- v. **Tim Garrett** commented that if the CERP references the same information as the Indirect Source Rule then he recommends just referencing the CERP instead of the ISR.
- vi. A member of the public asked when the letter would be available for the public and if there is an ask for local community-based organizations to sign on.
  - (A) **Chuy Flores** responded that this letter is for the steering committee to consider and submit.
- vii. **Phil Gibbons** asked if, on page 2 of the letter, Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) is a precursor to pollution.
  - (A) **David Sodeman** responded that NOx is a precursor to particulate pollution.
  - (B) **Jack Monger** appreciated EHC for putting this letter together and noted concerns referencing the ISR.
- viii. **Tim Garrett** suggested that the committee vote on the letter with the changed amendments given the time sensitive item.
- ix. **Andrea Hoff** suggested mentioning the Otay-Mesa border crossing as well as beginning the letter expressing gratitude towards the Governor for his work.

**VII. Presentation: EPA Clean Ports Grant Application (Port of San Diego)**

**6:30 pm**

- a. [Presentation Link](#)
- b. The Port of San Diego presented on the Port's grant application for the EPA Clean Ports funding opportunity. The Port will follow up with a letter of support for the Portside Steering Committee to consider and vote on.
- c. Questions and comments
  - i. **Andrea Hoff** commented agreement that this is a great funding opportunity for the Port to go after and offered support.
  - ii. **John Alvarado** thanked Phil on behalf of Good Neighbor Project for the work they are doing and going after funding.
  - iii. **Keith Corry** commented that the city would be happy to support this letter and offered support as needed.
  - iv. **Mike Watt** commented that APCD is also supportive and stands ready to help the Port as needed.

**VIII. Public Comments (Chuy Flores, Co-Facilitator)**

**6:45 pm**

- a. **Andrea Hoff** announced that the Port along with SANDAG will be presenting to the Barrio Logan Community Planning Group on May 22<sup>nd</sup> regarding an update on the Harbor 2.0 Vest Street Bridge.
- b. **Nick Paul** asked if the APCD and/or Port can provide an update regarding a memorandum of understanding (MOU) addressing pollution in the port side.
  - i. **Domingo Vigil** responded that APCD can bring an update back to the group.

**6:55 pm**

**7:00 pm**

**IX. Closing Remarks**

**X. Adjourn**

*The next scheduled meeting is scheduled for 05/28/2024 tentatively in-person in Barrio Logan.*