ANTELOPE VALLEY AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 19 2026
ANTELOPE VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY
DISTRICT OFFICE
LANCASTER, CA

Minutes

Board Members Present:
Ken Mann, *Vice Chair,* City of Lancaster
Newton Chelette, Public Member
Howard Harris, Los Angeles County
Ron Hawkins, Los Angeles County
Board Members Absent:
Austin Bishop, City of Palmdale
Eric Ohlsen, City of Palmdale
Lauren Hughes-Leslie, City of Lancaster

CALL TO ORDER 10:00 A.M.

Acting Chair **MANN** called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Acting Chair **MANN** asked Board Member **HAWKINS** to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Acting Chair **MANN** called for roll call, roll call was taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Acting Chair **MANN** called for **PUBLIC COMMENT**. At this time, no public comment was made in person, or electronically, moved to **CONSENT CALENDAR**.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The following consent items were acted upon by the Board at one time without discussion. Upon motion by Board Member **CHELETTE**, seconded by Board Member **HAWKINS**, and carried by the following roll call vote, with four **AYES** votes by Board Members, **KEN MANN, NEWTON CHELETTE, HOWARD HARRIS,** and **RON HAWKINS with Board Members AUSTIN BISHOP, LAUREN HUGHES-LESLIE,** and **ERIC OHLSEN** absent, on the Consent Calendar, as follows:

Agenda Item #1 – Approve Minutes from Regular Governing Board Meeting of April 21, 2026. Find that the California Environmental Quality Act does not apply to this item.

Approved Minutes from Regular Governing Board Meeting of April 21, 2026.

Agenda Item #2 – Monthly Grant Funding Summary. Receive and file. Find that the California Environmental Quality Act does not apply to this item.

Received and Filed Monthly Grant Funding Summary.

Agenda Item #3 – Monthly Activity Report. Receive and file.
Presenter: Barbara Lods, Executive Director/APCO.

Received and Filed Monthly Activity Report.

Agenda Item #4 – 1) Authorize the acceptance of Community Air Protection (CAP) Funds; 2) Accept the terms and conditions for the funds; 3) Authorize the Executive Director and staff to execute the agreement, approved as to legal form, and to negotiate and execute agreements for eligible projects; and 4) Find that the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) does not apply to this item.
Presenter: Barbara Lods, Executive Director/APCO.

1) **Authorized** the acceptance of Community Air Protection (CAP) Funds; 2) **Accepted** the terms and conditions for the funds; 3) **Authorized** the Executive Director and staff to execute the agreement, approved as to legal form, and to negotiate and execute agreements for eligible projects; and 4) **Find** that the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) does not apply to this item.

Agenda Item #5 – Receive and file the Financial Report. This Preliminary Financial Report is provided to the Governing Board for information concerning the fiscal status of the District at March 31, 2026.
Presenter: Barbara Lods, Executive Director/APCO.

Received and filed the Financial Report. This Preliminary Financial Report is provided to the Governing Board for information concerning the fiscal status of the District at March 31, 2026.

Agenda Item #6– 1) Allocate an amount not to exceed $40,000 of Mobile Source Emission Reduction Program (AB 923) funds to continue the District's Residential Lawn and Garden Exchange Program; 2) Authorize the Executive Director/APCO the option to change the funding source if warranted or if other applicable sources become available; 3) Authorize the Executive Director/APCO and staff to negotiate target time frames and technical project details and execute agreements, approved as to legal form by Special Counsel to the Governing Board; and 4) Find that the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) does not apply to this item.
Presenter: Barbara Lods, Executive Director/APCO.
1) **Allocated** an amount not to exceed $40,000 of Mobile Source Emission Reduction Program (AB 923) funds to continue the District's Residential Lawn and Garden Exchange Program; 2) **Authorized** the Executive Director/APCO the option to change the funding source if warranted or if other applicable sources become available; 3) **Authorized** the Executive Director/APCO and staff to negotiate target time frames and technical project details and execute agreements, approved as to legal form by Special Counsel to the Governing Board; and 4) **Find** that the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) does not apply to this item.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

DEFERRED ITEMS

PRESENTATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

Agenda Item #7 – 1) Award up to $79,184 in Carl Moyer Program and Mobile Source Emission Reductions Program (AB 2766) funds to the City of Lancaster (City) for the replacement of older gasoline-powered utility terrain vehicles (UTVs) with zero-emission technology; 2) Authorize the Executive Director the option to adjust the funding source if warranted or if other applicable funding sources become available; 3) Authorize the Executive Director and staff to negotiate target time frames and technical project details and to execute an agreement, approved as to legal form by the Office of District Counsel; and 4) Find that the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) does not apply to this item.

Presenter: Julie McKeehan, Grants Analyst.

Acting Chair MANN opened the public hearing. Julie McKeehan presented background information and answered questions from the Board. Acting Chair Mann called for public comment, no public comment was made in person, or electronically, being none, Acting Chair **Mann** closed the public hearing. Upon motion by Board Member **CHELETTE**, seconded by Board Member **HAWKINS**, and carried by the following roll call vote, with four **AYES** votes by Board Members, **KEN MANN, NEWTON CHELETTE, HOWARD HARRIS,** and **RON HAWKINS with Board Members AUSTIN BISHOP, LAUREN HUGHES-LESLIE,** and **ERIC OHLSEN** absent, the Board, 1) **Awarded** up to $79,184 in Carl Moyer Program and Mobile Source Emission Reductions Program (AB 2766) funds to the City of Lancaster (City) for the replacement of older gasoline-powered utility terrain vehicles (UTVs) with zero-emission technology; 2) **Authorized** the Executive Director the option to adjust the funding source if warranted or if other applicable funding sources become available; 3) **Authorized** the Executive Director and staff to negotiate target time frames and technical project details and to execute an agreement, approved as to legal form by the Office of District Counsel; and 4) **Find** that the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) does not apply to this item.

Agenda Item #8 – 1) Award an amount not to exceed $12,500 in Carl Moyer Program funds to David Clayton located in Leona Valley, for the replacement of an older diesel tractor with new, cleaner diesel technology; 2) Authorize the Executive Director/APCO the option to change the funding source if warranted or if other applicable funding sources become available; 3) Authorize the Executive Director/APCO and staff to negotiate target time frames and technical project details and execute an agreement, approved as to legal form by Special Counsel to the Governing Board; and 4) Find that this item is not a project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Presenter: Julie McKeehan, Grants Analyst.

Acting Chair MANN opened the public hearing. Julie McKeehan, Grants Analyst, presented background information and answered questions from the Board. Acting Chair MANN called for public comment, no public comment was made in person, or electronically, being none, Acting Chair MANN closed the public hearing. After group discussion and upon motion by member **HARRIS**, seconded by Board Member **HAWKINS**, as approved by the following roll call vote, , with four **AYES** votes by Board Members, **KEN MANN,**

NEWTON CHELETTE, HOWARD HARRIS, and **RON HAWKINS with Board Members AUSTIN BISHOP, LAUREN HUGHES-LESLIE,** and **ERIC OHLSEN** absent, the Board , 1) **Awarded** an amount not to exceed $12,500 in Carl Moyer Program funds to David Clayton located in Leona Valley, for the replacement of an older diesel tractor with new, cleaner diesel technology; 2) **Authorized** the Executive Director/APCO the option to change the funding source if warranted or if other applicable funding sources become available; 3) **Authorized** the Executive Director/APCO and staff to negotiate target time frames and technical project details and execute an agreement, approved as to legal form by Special Counsel to the Governing Board; and 4) **Find** that this item is not a project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Agenda Item #9 – Designate two (2) members of the Governing Board and one (1) additional staff member, Adrianna Castaneda, as authorized check signers for the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District. Currently two (2) staff members, Barbara Lods and Jason Mentry are authorized signers. Find that the California Environmental Quality Act does not apply to this item.

Presenter: Barbara Lods, Executive Director/APCO.

Acting Chair MANN opened the public hearing. Barbara Lods, Executive Director/APCO, presented background information and answered questions from the Board. Acting Chair MANN called for public comment, no public comment was made in person, or electronically, being none, Acting Chair MANN closed the public hearing. After group discussion and upon motion by member **HAWKINS**, seconded by Board Member **HARRIS**, as approved by the following roll call vote, , with four **AYES** votes by Board Members, **KEN MANN, NEWTON CHELETTE, HOWARD HARRIS,** and **RON HAWKINS with Board Members AUSTIN BISHOP, LAUREN HUGHES-LESLIE,** and **ERIC OHLSEN** absent, the Board **Designated** two (2) members of the Governing Board, **KENN MANN and NEWTON CHELETTE,** and one (1) additional staff member, Adrianna Castaneda, as authorized check signers for the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District. Currently two (2) staff members, Barbara Lods and Jason Mentry are authorized signers. **Find** that the California Environmental Quality Act does not apply to this item.

Agenda Item #10 – Conduct Public Hearing to consider the proposed AVAQMD Budget for FY 2026-27: 1). Open public hearing; 2). Receive staff report, 3). Receive public testimony, 4). Find that the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) does not apply to this item.; 5). Continue to the meeting of June 16, 2026, for adoption.

Presenter: Barbara Lods, Executive Director/APCO.

Acting Chair MANN opened the public hearing. Barbara Lods, Executive Director/APCO, presented proposed budget and answered questions from the Board. Acting Chair MANN called for public comment, no public comment was made in person, or electronically, being none, Acting Chair MANN continued to the meeting of June 16, 2026.

CLOSED SESSION

Agenda Item #11 - CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL PENDING LITIGATION Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District v. United States Environmental Protection Agency, et al. 9th Cir. Case No. 23-1614.

Closed session was not held; no reports or updates.

Agenda Item #12 Reports:

Governing Board Counsel –

- No report.

Executive Director/APCO –

- The Governing Board was presented with options regarding the election of the Governing Board Chairman, including whether to hold an election at an upcoming meeting or defer the matter until the December 2026 Governing Board meeting, consistent with the Board's normal election schedule. The decision was made to defer the election to an upcoming meeting.

Staff – No Report

- No report.

Agenda Item #8 - Board Member Reports and Suggestions for Future Agenda Items.

- Member Chelette expressed concerns regarding Board Member attendance. Vice Chair Mann asked for review of absences over the past year and a report to be brought back for Governing Board review. Vice Chair Mann also requested record of attendance to be kept so Board business and direction will continue to without interruption.

Agenda Item #9 - Adjourn to Regular Governing Board Meeting of Tuesday, June 16, 2026.
Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m. to the next regularly scheduled Governing Board Meeting of Tuesday, June 16, 2026.

ACTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
APPROVED

Upon motion by **HOWARD HARRIS** and seconded by **RON HAWKINS**, as Approved by the following vote:

Ayes: 4 - MANN, CHELETTE, HARRIS, HAWKINS
Noes:
Absent: 1 – BISHOP
Abstain: 2 – HUGHES-LESLIE, OHLSEN

ADRIANNA CASTANEDA, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
BY Adrianna Castañeda
Dated: June 16, 2026