

**ANTELOPE VALLEY AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 21 2026
ANTELOPE VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY
DISTRICT OFFICE
LANCASTER, CA**

Minutes

Board Members Present:

Marvin Crist, *Chair*, City of Lancaster
Ken Mann, *Vice Chair*, City of Lancaster
Austin Bishop, City of Palmdale
Laura Bettencourt, City of Palmdale
Newton Chelette, Public Member
Howard Harris, Los Angeles County
Ron Hawkins, Los Angeles County

Board Members Absent:

CALL TO ORDER 10:00 A.M.

Chair **CRIST** called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Chair **CRIST** asked Board Member **BETTENCOURT** to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair **CRIST** called for roll call, roll call was taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair **CRIST** 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 **BISHOP**, and carried by the following roll call vote, with seven **AYES** votes by Board Members, **MARVIN CRIST, KEN MANN, AUSTIN BISHOP, LAURA BETTENCOURT, NEWTON CHELETTE, HOWARD HARRIS, and RON HAWKINS** on the Consent Calendar, as follows:

Agenda Item #1 – Approve Minutes from Regular Governing Board Meeting of March 17, 2026. Find that the California Environmental Quality Act does not apply to this item.

Approved Minutes from Regular Governing Board Meeting of March 17, 2026.

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

Minutes

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.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

DEFERRED ITEMS

PRESENTATIONS

A. Recognition of Board Service.

- Barbara Lods, Executive Director/APCO presented Chair CRIST with a letter of appreciation for his service to the AVAQMD Governing Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Agenda Item #4 – The annual financial audit for Fiscal Year 2024-25 is complete and presented for review and to receive and file.

Presenter: Jonathan Abadesco, representative from C.J. Brown and Company.

Chair CRIST opened the public hearing. Jonathan Abadesco presented background information and answered questions from the Board. Chair Crist called for public comment, no public comment was made in person, or electronically, being none, Chair CRIST closed the public hearing. Upon motion by Board Member **HAWKINS**, seconded by Board Member **HARRIS**, and carried by the following roll call vote, with seven **AYES** votes by Board Members, **MARVIN CRIST, KEN MANN, LAURA BETTENCOURT, AUSTIN BISHOP, NEWTON CHELETTE, HOWARD HARRIS and RON HAWKINS**, the Board, Received and filed the annual financial audit for Fiscal Year 2024-25, which audit is complete and presented for review.

Agenda Item #5 – 1) Approve an award not to exceed \$48,522 in Carl Moyer Program funds to Boething Treeland Farms for the replacement of an older diesel tractor with new, cleaner 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 agreements, approved as to legal form by the Office of District Counsel; and 4) Find that this item is not a project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Presenter: Julie McKeehan, Grants Analyst.

Chair CRIST opened the public hearing. Julie McKeehan, Grants Analyst, presented background information and answered questions from the Board. Chair Crist called for public comment, no public comment was made in person, or electronically, being none, Chair CRIST closed the public hearing. After group discussion and upon motion by member **CHELETTE**, seconded by Board Member **BETTENCOURT**, as approved by the following roll call vote, with seven **AYES** votes by Board Members, **MARVIN CRIST, KEN MANN, LAURA BETTENCOURT, AUSTIN BISHOP, NEWTON CHELETTE, HOWARD HARRIS, and RON HAWKINS**, the Board, 1) **Approved** an award not to

exceed \$48,522 in Carl Moyer Program funds to Boething Treeland Farms for the replacement of an older diesel tractor with new, cleaner 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 agreements, approved as to legal form by the Office of District Counsel; and 4) **Find** that this item is not a project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

CLOSED SESSION

Agenda Item #6 - 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 #7 Reports:

Governing Board Counsel –

- No report.

Executive Director/APCO –

- No report.

Staff – No Report

- No report.

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

- No report.

Agenda Item #9 - Adjourn to Regular Governing Board Meeting of Tuesday, May 19, 2026.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m. to the next regularly scheduled Governing Board Meeting of Tuesday, May 19, 2026.

**ACTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
APPROVED**

Upon motion by **NEWTON CHELETTE** and seconded by **RON HAWKINS**, as Approved by the following vote:

Ayes: 4 - MANN, CHELETTE, HARRIS, HAWKINS

Noes:

Absent: 3 – BISHOP, HUGHES-LESLIE, OHLSEN

Abstain:

ADRIANNA CASTANEDA, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

BY *Adrianna Castañeda*

Dated: May 19, 2026