

**ANTELOPE VALLEY AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT  
DISTRICT  
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 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  
Newton Chelette, Public Member  
Howard Harris, Los Angeles County  
Ron Hawkins, Los Angeles County

Board Members Absent:

Eric Ohlsen, City of Palmdale

**CALL TO ORDER 10:00 A.M.**

Chair **CRIST** called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Chair **CRIST** asked Board Member **HARRIS** 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 six **AYES** votes by Board Members, **MARVIN CRIST, KEN MANN, AUSTIN BISHOP, NEWTON CHELETTE, HOWARD HARRIS**, and **RON HAWKINS** with Board Member **ERIC OHLSEN** absent, on the Consent Calendar, as follows:

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

Approved Minutes from Regular Governing Board Meeting of February 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.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

The following consent items were acted upon by the Board at one time without discussion. Board Member **AUSTIN BISHOP** recused himself from this item due to conflicts of interest and left the room prior to consideration of the item. Upon motion by Board Member **MANN**, seconded by Board Member **HARRIS**, and carried by the following roll call vote, with five **AYES** votes by Board Members, **MARVIN CRIST**, **KEN MANN**, **NEWTON CHELETTE**, **HOWARD HARRIS**, and **RON HAWKINS** with Board Member **ERIC OHLSEN** absent and Board Member **AUSTIN BISHOP** recused, on the Consent Calendar, as follows:

**Agenda Item #4 – Approve payments to City of Lancaster in the amount of \$328,317.47 for FY26 Quarter 2 expenditures. Find that the California Environmental Quality Act does not apply to this item.**

Presenter: Barbara Lods, Executive Director/APCO.

**Approved** payments to City of Lancaster in the amount of \$328,317.47 for FY26 Quarter 2 expenditures. Find that the California Environmental Quality Act does not apply to this item.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

DEFERRED ITEMS

PRESENTATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

**Agenda Item #5 – 1) Award up to \$405,500 in Mobile Source Emission Reductions Program (AB 2766) funds to the Antelope Valley Fair Association (AV Fair) for the replacement of gasoline-powered small off-road equipment with zero-emission electric equipment, or similar zero-emission equipment that achieves comparable emission reductions; 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.

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

**HARRIS**, seconded by Board Member **MANN**, as approved by the following roll call vote, with six **AYES** votes by Board Members, **MARVIN CRIST, KEN MANN, AUSTIN BISHOP, NEWTON CHELETTE, HOWARD HARRIS, and RON HAWKINS** with Board Member **ERIC OHLSEN** absent, the Board, 1) **Awarded** up to \$405,500 in Mobile Source Emission Reductions Program (AB 2766) funds to the Antelope Valley Fair Association (AV Fair) for the replacement of gasoline-powered small off-road equipment with zero-emission electric equipment, or similar zero-emission equipment that achieves comparable emission reductions; 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 #6 – 1) Award up to \$198,000 in Mobile Source Emission Reductions Program (AB 2766) funds to the Antelope Valley Fair Association (AV Fair) for the replacement of an older diesel boom lift with new, cleaner 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.

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 **HAWKINS**, as approved by the following roll call vote, with six **AYES** votes by Board Members, **MARVIN CRIST, KEN MANN, AUSTIN BISHOP, NEWTON CHELETTE, HOWARD HARRIS, and RON HAWKINS** with Board Member **ERIC OHLSEN** absent, the Board, 1) **Awarded** up to \$198,000 in Mobile Source Emission Reductions Program (AB 2766) funds to the Antelope Valley Fair Association (AV Fair) for the replacement of an older diesel boom lift with new, cleaner 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 #7 – 1) Award an amount not to exceed \$13,500 in Carl Moyer Program funds to Barosh Enterprises to replace an older gasoline utility terrain vehicle (UTV) with a zero-emission UTV; 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 **BISHOP**, seconded by Board Member **HAWKINS**, as approved by the following roll call vote, with six **AYES** votes by Board Members, **MARVIN CRIST, KEN MANN, AUSTIN BISHOP, NEWTON CHELETTE, HOWARD HARRIS, and RON HAWKINS** with Board Member **ERIC OHLSEN** absent, the Board, 1) **Awarded** an amount not to exceed \$13,500 in Carl Moyer Program funds to Barosh Enterprises to replace an older gasoline utility terrain vehicle (UTV) with a zero-emission UTV; 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.

**Agenda Item #8 – 1) Award an amount not to exceed \$310,000 of Community Air Protection Program funds to Irene Villegas dba Villegas Ranch to replace older diesel agricultural equipment with new, cleaner technology; 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 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 **BISHOP**, seconded by Board Member **HARRIS**, as approved by the following roll call vote, with six **AYES** votes by Board Members, **MARVIN CRIST, KEN MANN, AUSTIN BISHOP, NEWTON CHELETTE, HOWARD HARRIS, and RON HAWKINS** with Board Member **ERIC OHLSEN** absent, the Board, 1) **Awarded** an amount not to exceed \$310,000 of Community Air Protection Program funds to Irene Villegas dba Villegas Ranch to replace older diesel agricultural equipment with new, cleaner technology; 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 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 #9 - 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 #10 Reports:**

**Governing Board Counsel –**

- Reminded Board Members to complete their Form 700s before April 1st.

**Executive Director/APCO –**

- FY25 Financial audit is now complete and the Financial Audit team will be presenting at the April Governing Board Meeting.
- California Air Resources Board (CARB) completed an unannounced inspection of the Palmdale and Lancaster Waste Management Landfills, praised the two landfills on being two of the best landfills in California
- AVAQMD’s Cannabis plans and diligence in inspections has been noticed as the Golden standard.

**Staff – No Report**

- No report.

**Agenda Item #11 - Board Member Reports and Suggestions for Future Agenda Items.**

- Board Member AUSTIN BISHOP shared the Sodium Ion batteries are beginning to come into fruition locally with, BYD.

**Agenda Item #12 - Adjourn to Regular Governing Board Meeting of Tuesday, April 21, 2026.**

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m. to the next regularly scheduled Governing Board Meeting of Tuesday, April 21, 2026.

**ACTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD  
APPROVED**

Upon motion by **NEWTON CHELETTE** and seconded by **AUSTIN BISHOP**, as  
Approved by the following vote:

**Ayes: 7 - CRIST, MANN, BETTENCOURT, BISHOP, CHELETTE, HARRIS, HAWKINS**

**Noes:**

**Absent:**

**Abstain:**

**ADRIANNA CASTANEDA, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**

**BY *Adrianna Castañeda***

**Dated: April 21, 2026**