ANTELOPE VALLEY AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 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
Lauren Hughes-Leslie, City of Lancaster
Eric Ohlsen, City of Palmdale
Board Members Absent:
Austin Bishop, City of Palmdale

CALL TO ORDER 10:00 A.M.

Acting Chair **MANN** called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Acting Chair **MANN** asked Board Member **OHLSEN** 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 **OHLSEN**, seconded by Board Member **HUGHES-LESLIE**, and carried by the following roll call vote, with six **AYES** votes by Board Members, **KEN MANN, NEWTON CHELETTE, HOWARD HARRIS, RON HAWKINS, LAUREN HUGHES-LESLIE** and **ERIC OHLSEN with Board Member AUSTIN BISHOP** absent, on the Consent Calendar, as follows:

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.

<u>Agenda Item #4 – This Preliminary Financial Report is provided to the Governing Board for information concerning the fiscal status of the District at April 30, 2026.</u>
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 April 30, 2026.

<u>Agenda Item #5 – Reappoint Newton Chelette as the Public Member on the Governing Board of the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District (AVAQMD) for a two-year term.</u>
Presenter: Barbara Lods, Executive Director/APCO.

Reappointed Newton Chelette as the Public Member on the Governing Board of the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District (AVAQMD) for a two-year term.

<u>Agenda Item #6– 1) Authorize the acceptance of AB 197 Emission Inventory District Grant Program Funding; 2) Accept the terms and conditions for the funds; 3) Authorize the Executive Director/APCO and staff to execute the agreement, approved as to legal form and carry out related activities to meet the requirements of AB 197; and 4) Find that this item is not a project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.</u>
Presenter: Barbara Lods, Executive Director/APCO.

1) **Authorized** the acceptance of AB 197 Emission Inventory District Grant Program Funding; 2) **Accepted** the terms and conditions for the funds; 3) **Authorized** the Executive Director/APCO and staff to execute the agreement, approved as to legal form and carry out related activities to meet the requirements of AB 197; and 4) **Find** that this item is not a project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

<u>Agenda Item #7– Ratify employee longevity recognition based on combined years of service provided to Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District (AVAQMD) and the City of Lancaster (COL).</u>
Presenter: Barbara Lods, Executive Director/APCO.

Received and Filed Ratify employee longevity recognition based on combined years of service provided to Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District (AVAQMD) and the City of Lancaster (COL).

<u>Agenda Item #8– Update Exhibit A, SCOPE OF MATERIALS AND SERVICES staffing table, as referenced in the agreement between Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District and the City of Lancaster.</u>
Presenter: Barbara Lods, Executive Director/APCO.

Received and Filed Update Exhibit A, SCOPE OF MATERIALS AND SERVICES staffing table, as referenced in the agreement between Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District and the City of Lancaster.

<u>CONSENT CALENDAR</u>

The following consent item was acted upon by the Board at one time without discussion. Upon motion by Board Member **HARRIS**, 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 **LAUREN HUGHES-LESLIE** and **ERIC OHLSEN** abstained and Board Member **AUSTIN BISHOP** absent, on the Consent Calendar, as follows:

<u>Agenda Item #1 – Approve Minutes from Regular Governing Board Meeting of May 19, 2026. Find that the California Environmental Quality Act does not apply to this item.</u>

Approved Minutes from Regular Governing Board Meeting of May 19, 2026.

<u>ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION</u>

DEFERRED ITEMS

PRESENTATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

<u>Agenda Item #9 – 1) Award an amount not to exceed $568,265 in Carl Moyer Program funds to Allied Potato 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.</u>
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 **HARRIS**, seconded by Board Member **CHELETTE**, and carried by the following roll call vote, with six **AYES** votes by Board Members, **KEN MANN, NEWTON CHELETTE, HOWARD HARRIS, RON HAWKINS, LAUREN HUGHES-LESLIE** and **ERIC OHLSEN with Board Member AUSTIN BISHOP** absent, the Board, 1) **Awarded** an amount not to exceed $568,265 in Carl Moyer Program funds to Allied Potato 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 .

Agenda Item #10 – Conduct a public hearing to present an overview of current job vacancies, recruitment efforts, and retention strategies to comply with Assembly Bill 2561/Government Code Section 3502.3. a. Open public hearing; b. Receive staff report; c. Receive public testimony; d. Close public hearing.

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. The Board, **Received and Filed** Conducted a public hearing to present an overview of current job vacancies, recruitment efforts, and retention strategies to comply with Assembly Bill 2561/Government Code Section 3502.3. a. Opened public hearing; b. Received staff report; c. Received public testimony; d. Closed public hearing.

Agenda Item #11 – Conduct Continued Public Hearing to consider the proposed AVAQMD Budget for FY 2026-27: a. Re-Open the continued public hearing; b. Receive supplemental staff report and/or staff update; c. Receive public testimony; d. Close public hearing; e. Find that the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) does not apply to this item; f. Adopt a resolution approving and adopting the budget for FY 2026-2027.

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 **CHELETTE**, seconded by Board Member **HARRIS**, as approved by the following roll call vote, , with six **AYES** votes by Board Members, **KEN MANN, NEWTON CHELETTE, HOWARD HARRIS, RON HAWKINS, LAUREN HUGHES-LESLIE** and **ERIC OHLSEN with Board Member AUSTIN BISHOP** absent, the Board, Conduct Continued Public Hearing to consider the proposed AVAQMD Budget for FY 2026-27: a. **Re-Opened** the continued public hearing; b. **Received** supplemental staff report and/or staff update; c. **Received** public testimony; d. **Closed** public hearing; e. Find that the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) does not apply to this item; f. **Adopted** a resolution approving and adopting the budget for FY 2026-2027.

CLOSED SESSION

Agenda Item #12 - 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.

Agenda Item #13 - Public Employee Performance Evaluation - Pursuant to Government Code Sections 54954.5(e) and 54957(b) Title: Executive Director/APCO.

The Governing Board entered the Closed Session at 10:20 am and concluded at 10:58 am with no reportable action.

Agenda Item #14 Reports:

Governing Board Counsel –

- No report.

Executive Director/APCO –

- Informed the Board on the success of the City of Lancaster Earth Day, where over 170 gas powered lawn mowers were recycled.

Staff Report

- Presented to the Board an Attendance Report that was requested by Acting Chair Mann at a previous meeting.

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, July 21, 2026.
Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m. to the next regularly scheduled Governing Board Meeting of Tuesday, July 21, 2026.

ACTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
APPROVED

Upon motion by LAUREN HUGHES-LESLIE and seconded by RON HAWKINS, as Approved by the following vote:

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

ADRIANNA CASTANEDA, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
BY Adrianna Castañeda
Dated: July 21, 2026