

# Report on Roundtable Discussion Meeting

## “The Nexus of Air Quality & Agriculture”

Hosted by:

Congresswoman Julia Brownley  
EPA Administrator Michael Regan

Moderated by:

Dr. Laki Tisopulos

SCCBCC Meeting  
March 24, 2022



Ventura County  
Air Pollution  
Control District

# Roundtable Discussion Meeting

- Held at APCD Headquarters on August 18, 2021
- Topic: The Nexus of Air Quality and Agriculture
- Organized as listening session for Congresswoman Brownley and Administrator Regan
- Focused on ag-related EJ issues/text alert system



# Roundtable Discussion Meeting, cont.

- Invited participants:
  - Farmworker Advisory Groups:
    - = Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP)
    - = Lideres Campesinas
    - = CAUSE
    - = Indigenous Program Community Worker California Rural Legal Assistance
  - Supervisor Matt LaVere
  - Supervisor Carmen Ramirez
  - Ag Commissioner Ed Williams
  - Region IX Acting Administrator



## Roundtable Discussion Meeting, cont.

- Meeting was moderated by Laki Tisopulos (requested by Congresswoman Brownley)
- Meeting went very well
- Received positive feedback
- Proud day for the APCD

Before

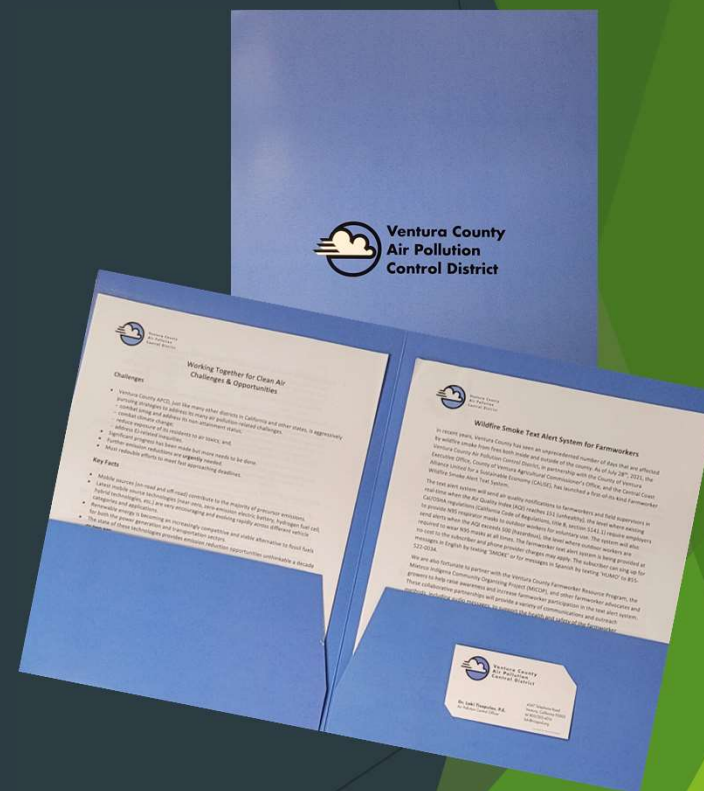


After

# Pre-Meeting with Administrator Regan

## “Working Together for Clean - Air Challenges & Opportunities”

- Prepared position paper “Working Together for Clean Air - Challenges & Opportunities”
- Privately discussed position paper w/Administrator Regan prior to meeting
- Recommendations on how to enhance federal control strategy to complement state/local VCAPCD programs





# Working Together for Clean Air

## *Key challenges:*

- Combat smog
  - Combat climate change
  - Reduce exposure to air toxics
  - Address EJ issues
- District is aggressively pursuing strategies to address key challenges
  - Significant progress made but more needs to be done
  - Further emission reductions needed **URGENTLY**
  - Fast approaching deadlines
  - Must redouble efforts



# Working Together for Clean Air (cont.)

## *Key facts:*

- Mobile sources responsible for majority of precursor emissions
- State of mobile source control technology evolving rapidly - very encouraging  
(near-zero, zero-emission electric battery, hydrogen fuel cell, hybrid technologies)
- Renewable energy - increasingly competitive reusable alternative to fossil fuels
  - Power generation & transportation sector
- Emission reduction opportunities - unthinkable 1-2 decades ago
- Once in a lifetime opportunity to reimagine control strategy
- Opportunity to reshape domestic and international environmental agenda
  - Develop market demand for advanced technology products



# Working Together for Clean Air (cont.)

## *Re-envisioning federal control strategy*

- Recraft federal mobile source strategy to aggressively harness latest zero & near-zero technologies
  - Complement CARB strategy
  - Focus on heavy duty vehicle fleets for NOx reductions - combat smog
  - Reduce GHG emissions - combat climate change
  - Reduce exposure to toxics (diesel) & address EJ inequities
  - Recover lost time





# Working Together for Clean Air (cont.)

## *Re-envisioning federal control strategy (cont.)*

- Address sources under exclusive federal authority:
  - Oceangoing vessels, locomotives, planes, etc.
  - They dominate future emission inventories
- Enhance reliance on renewable energy and accelerate phase-out of fossil fuels
- Implement a comprehensive incentive grants/tax credit program to complement this re-envisioned strategy



# Working Together for Clean Air (cont.)

## *Conclusion*

- EPA uniquely situated to craft a transformative federal strategy
- Complement state and local programs
- Accelerate pollution reduction efforts
- Concurrently address local smog, climate change, & EJ inequities
- Will foster technological innovation & catalyze economic activity
- Will require significant upfront capital investments - long-term health & economic benefits far outweigh investment costs

