
SOUTH CENTRAL COAST BASINWIDE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL COUNCIL

Santa Barbara County APCD, 260 N. San Antonio Rd. Suite A, Santa Barbara, CA, 93110
San Luis Obispo County APCD, 3433 Roberto Court, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
Ventura County APCD, 4567 Telephone Road, 2nd Floor, Ventura, CA 93003

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL OFFICERS

Karl Tupper, APCO
San Luis Obispo County APCD

Ali Ghasemi, APCO
Ventura County APCD

Aeron Arlin Genet, APCO
Santa Barbara County APCD

BCC MEMBERS

Kate Secret, Chair
Council Member, City of Arroyo Grande
San Luis Obispo County

Pedro Chavez, Vice Chair
Mayor, City of Santa Paula
Ventura County

Paula Perotte
Mayor, City of Goleta
Santa Barbara County

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES January 22, 2026 Meeting Commenced at 10:02 a.m.

Present Council

Members: Kate Secret, Paula Perotte

Staff: Aeron Arlin Genet, Karl Tupper, Dora Drexler, Ali Ghasemi, Tyler Harris

2. Approval of the proposed SCC/BCC Schedule for Calendar Year 2026.

A motion was made by BCC member Perotte, seconded by BCC member Secret that the meetings be scheduled on April 2, July 23, September 24, December 10, 2026 and March 25, 2027. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: 2 - Perotte, Secret.
Noes: 0 - None.
Abstain: 0 - None.
Absent: 0 - Chavez.

3. Approval of Minutes of the September 25, 2025 Special Meeting.

A motion was made by BCC member Perotte, seconded by BCC member Secrest that the minutes be approved. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: 2 - Perotte, Secrest.
Noes: 0 - None.
Abstain: 0 - None.
Absent: 0 - Chavez.

4. Public Comment Period.

There were no public comments.

5. SLO County APCD Burn Permit Program. (Tupper)

Item received.

Karl Tupper provided the Council with an overview of the SLO County APCD's burn permit program which included an explanation of the established burning rules, burn day declarations, the differences between backyard and agricultural burning and how the SLO County APCD administers prescribed burns, right of way, small project and fire hazard reduction burns, firefighter training and handles biochar kilns.

6. Update on the Blue Whales Blue Skies Program. (Ghasemi)

Item received.

Tyler Harris, Ventura County APCD's Planning Manager, provided the Council with an update on the Blue Whales Blue Skies Program. This program asks shipping companies to voluntarily slow ship speeds down to 10 knots or less in specified vessel speed reduction (VSR) zones to realize significant emission reductions, reduce the risk of fatal ship strikes on whales and reduce ocean noise. 2025 program updates include the recently designated Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, increases in the cooperation rates needed to reach award levels, and Assembly Bill 14 (Hart) was signed into law on October 11, 2025 expanding the Blue Whales Blue Skies program statewide. Key challenges the program has seen include: many ships are equipped with Tier 3 marine propulsion engines which reach optimal emission controls at high engine loads which is difficult to achieve at 10 knots, more ships operating at sustained lower speeds may require additional ships to carry the same cargo in the same time increasing port traffic, and funding challenges.

7. Update on CARB's Landfill Methane Gas Regulation. (Arlin Genet)

Item received.

Aeron Arlin Genet explained recent updates to the California Air Resources Board Landfill Methane Gas Regulation which aims to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from one of California's largest methane sources. Methane is a particularly potent greenhouse gas, and under California Senate Bill 1383, the state is required to cut methane emissions by 40% below 2013 levels by 2030. While landfills

already have systems in place to capture and destroy methane and are subject to monitoring and leak repair requirements, the updated regulation introduces more advanced approaches, including satellite, aerial, and drone-based detection to identify methane plumes in near real time.

These changes will require faster responses to leaks, expanded gas collection systems, and increased reporting, with local air districts playing a key role in implementation and enforcement. However, the rule was developed quickly with limited input from local agencies, leaving uncertainty about specific requirements, workload, and costs. Air districts anticipate needing additional staff and resources to meet the new demands, while also supporting landfill operators—many of which are municipal entities—in complying with the regulations. With compliance requirements set to begin in 2027, agencies are now working to better understand the rule, coordinate with the state, and secure funding to support implementation.

8. Other Business/Confirm Next Meeting Date.

Per the approved schedule, the next special meeting is scheduled for April 2, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

9. Adjourn.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:24 a.m.