
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 Secrest, 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 April 2, 2026 Meeting Commenced at 10:01 a.m.

Present Council

Members:

Pedro Chavez, Kate Secrest, Paula Perotte

Staff:

Aeron Arlin Genet, Karl Tupper, Dora Drexler, Andy Mutziger, Sam Mitchie,
Tommy Winning

2. Approval of Minutes of the January 22, 2026 Special Meeting.

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

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

3. Public Comment Period.

There were no public comments.

4. Update on Low Emission Burn Study. (Mutizger)

Item received.

Andy Mutziger, Division Manager, presented findings from the Low Emission Burn study conducted by SLO County APCD. Andy provided an overview of the study: The study focuses on the Emissions/Sequestration assessment of small-scale in-forest burn techniques. Preliminary results compare emissions from three different in-forest burning methods: Pile Burning, Conservation Burning, Flame Cap Kiln (also known as Ring of Fire Kiln). This research, funded by California Climate Investments, involved both field and lab testing. All three burning techniques were shown to minimize smoke impacts and emissions while aiming to preserve carbon by promoting biochar production. Andy discussed the study's objectives and conclusions, providing examples of each burning technique along with data summaries. Notably, the results will not include lab testing data from the Ring of Fire Kiln. In field tests, conservation and kiln burns demonstrated approximately 5 to 12 times greater effectiveness in preserving carbon as biochar.

In lab comparisons, Conservation burns proved to be about 8.4 times more effective than traditional pile burns. The overall finding indicates that as biochar production increases, carbon-based pollutants decrease. Andy shared meaning of Black Carbon and how it affects the study. Answered questions and mentioned there is a gasification system called Qualterra which is a closed system for burning. It supports efficient burning, creating biochar while using heat for other processes. It is a mobile unit or it can be placed as stationary. Andy discussed Auger-fed Paralysis System called RD process material by chipping and fed into Pyrolyze although not as efficient as Qualterra. Results will be sent to CAPCOA to be further discussed and evaluated.

5. Community Air Monitoring of Black Carbon in Oxnard. (Mickey)

Item received.

Sam Mickey of the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District's Monitoring Team, alongside Division Supervisor Tommy Winning, presented to the Council on the Monitoring of Black Carbon in Oxnard. This collaborative program, funded by an EPA grant, supports pollution tracking, modeling, and community-focused research. The project employs an aethalometer—a filter photometer capable of measuring and differentiating the light-absorbing properties of aerosol particles. The primary objective of this network is to identify emission sources through speciated PM_{2.5} measurements, support regulatory attainment goals, and observe both short-term and long-term trends. Black carbon, a byproduct of incomplete combustion, has significant implications for air quality and public health.

This initiative actively engages communities disproportionately affected by particulate matter, driven by factors such as population density and commercial traffic volume. The aim is to leverage community feedback to pinpoint areas of concern for specialized air quality monitoring and to identify regions suitable for sensor deployment and data collection.

Currently, two monitoring sites have been established, and data collection is ongoing. The collected data is under analysis, with considerations being made as the EPA grant period concludes in July 2026. The Ventura County APCD is committed to developing solutions for continued monitoring efforts, which include operation and maintenance, public-facing data displays, and funding earmarked for community air monitoring.

6. Clean Air Rooms Program in Guadalupe & Goleta. (Arlin Genet)

Item received.

Air Pollution Control Officer Aeron Arlin Genet presented the Clean Air Rooms Program for Guadalupe and Old Town Goleta, which was approved by the Board of Directors in June 2025. This initiative aims to provide air purifiers to the public, particularly in underserved and disadvantaged areas. The program builds upon a successful pilot project conducted in 2021 in Guadalupe and Casmalia, where over 800 air purifiers were distributed.

The current plan, approved for implementation, aims to distribute approximately 1,500 air purifiers on a first-come, first-served basis, requiring residents to provide proof of residency due to limited resources. Funding for this initiative was allocated from the Santa Barbara Air Pollution Control District's 2025 budget, with additional resources secured from the Notice of Violation/Mutual Settlement fund, establishing the Clean Air Fund Program. The program is designed to benefit residents directly rather than focusing solely on large businesses.

In addition to receiving air purifiers, residents will have access to real-time air quality data and information on creating healthy environments for their families. The program launched in January 2026 in Guadalupe, coinciding with a Food Bank event. HASBARCO also contributed funding to support the Clean Air Rooms initiative. Program outreach included a bilingual utility bill insert, successfully reaching over 2,500 residents, with printing costs amounting to less than \$1,000. Furthermore, an additional 800 air purifiers were drop-shipped for the Guadalupe event. The overwhelming success of the event necessitated its early closure, reflecting the program's positive impact on the community.

The Old Town Goleta hosted an in-person event for an air purifier giveaway, in collaboration with C5, a nonprofit organization that advocates for alternative fuel vehicles. Residents were required to present a postcard they had received to collect their complimentary air purifiers. The event featured a food truck and opportunities for attendees to test drive electric vehicles provided by the C5 organization. Additionally, residents were introduced to and educated about the DCAP program. With an outreach budget of \$1,500, the event successfully distributed 400 air purifiers on-site, along with meals. The initiative also aimed to encourage the public to sign up for air quality alerts and prepare for wildfire smoke events. Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District would like to coordinate with county Public Health in the future for events to increase outreach. Next stop on the Air Purifier program is the Cuyama area of the county.

7. AB 14 Blue Whales Blue Skies Expansion Update. (Arlin Genet)

Item received.

Air Pollution Control Officer Aeron Arlin Genet provided an update on the Blue Whales Blue Skies (BWBS) Program, which is set to launch statewide. The 2025 Award Season Award Ceremony will take place in Oakland, California, on April 22, 2026, to honor the shipping companies participating in this initiative. In October 2025, Bill AB 14 was passed to facilitate the statewide implementation of the BWBS.

A statewide expansion map has been developed, designating zones that encompass the entire California coastline. While this initiative presents challenges for shipping companies and their operational patterns, there is a willingness to collaborate in overcoming these obstacles.

Elements of the BWBS program have been refined based on industry feedback, including adjustments to zone design, the start date of the season, and the clarification of recognition tiers. It is important to note that the request for vessels to reduce speeds to 10 knots is voluntary, emphasizing a collective effort to ensure the program's success. This initiative aims to enhance local air quality and protect marine mammals migrating along the California coastline. Efforts are currently underway to implement the 2026 program.

8. Other Business/Confirm Next Meeting Date.

Per the approved schedule, the next special meeting is scheduled for July 23, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

9. Adjourn.

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