

June 27, 2018

Fran Inman, Chair
and Members
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Mary Nichols, Chair
and Members
Air Resources Board
1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: ACTION REQUEST – CTC Directs Staff to Research Policy Options of CalTrans Remnant Parcels to be Sold with Restrictive Covenants Pertaining to Sensitive Receptors

Dear Chairs Inman and Nichols and Board Members:

Both bodies here today are quite familiar with the human health risks associated with close proximity to major roadways, and while neither agency has direct land-use authority over adjacent uses, CalTrans does regularly sell remnant parcels created by new freeway construction and existing freeway expansion.

The comprehensive review of scientific literature cited in the ARB's guiding document, the May 2017 Technical Advisory "Strategies to Reduce Air Pollution Exposure Near High-Volume Roadways," includes 236 specific citations. Unfortunately, the Fresno-based work of ARB board member Dr. Balmes and his colleagues titled "Ambient air pollution impairs regulatory T-cell function in asthma," did not find its way into the advisory, at least not directly. It was published in 2010 and the lead author is Dr. Kari Nadeau of the Stanford University School of Medicine. (Citation: Nadeau K, McDonald-Hyman C, Noth EM, Pratt B, Hammond SK, Balmes J, Tager I. Ambient air pollution impairs regulatory T-cell function in asthma. J Allergy Clin Immunol 2010; 126:845-852)

A unique meteorological feature of Fresno and much of the San Joaquin Valley is our stagnant air pattern. The diurnal patterns that disperse pollution in other air basins are much weaker in our region during much of the summer, fall, and winter. This leads to many more hours of exposure and associated increased health risks than in other parts of the state.

This joint meeting of both bodies and the presence of ARB board members Dr. Balmes and Dr. Sherriffs offers CTC commissioners a great opportunity to learn more from the experts and, ideally, would lead the commission to direct staff to further research the issue and return with a policy recommendation regarding the sale of remnant parcels. Specifically, CalTrans should consider attaching restrictive covenants to the parcels it sells which would forbid the placement of parks, senior living centers, and other uses that house or attract "sensitive receptors."

Thank you for consideration.

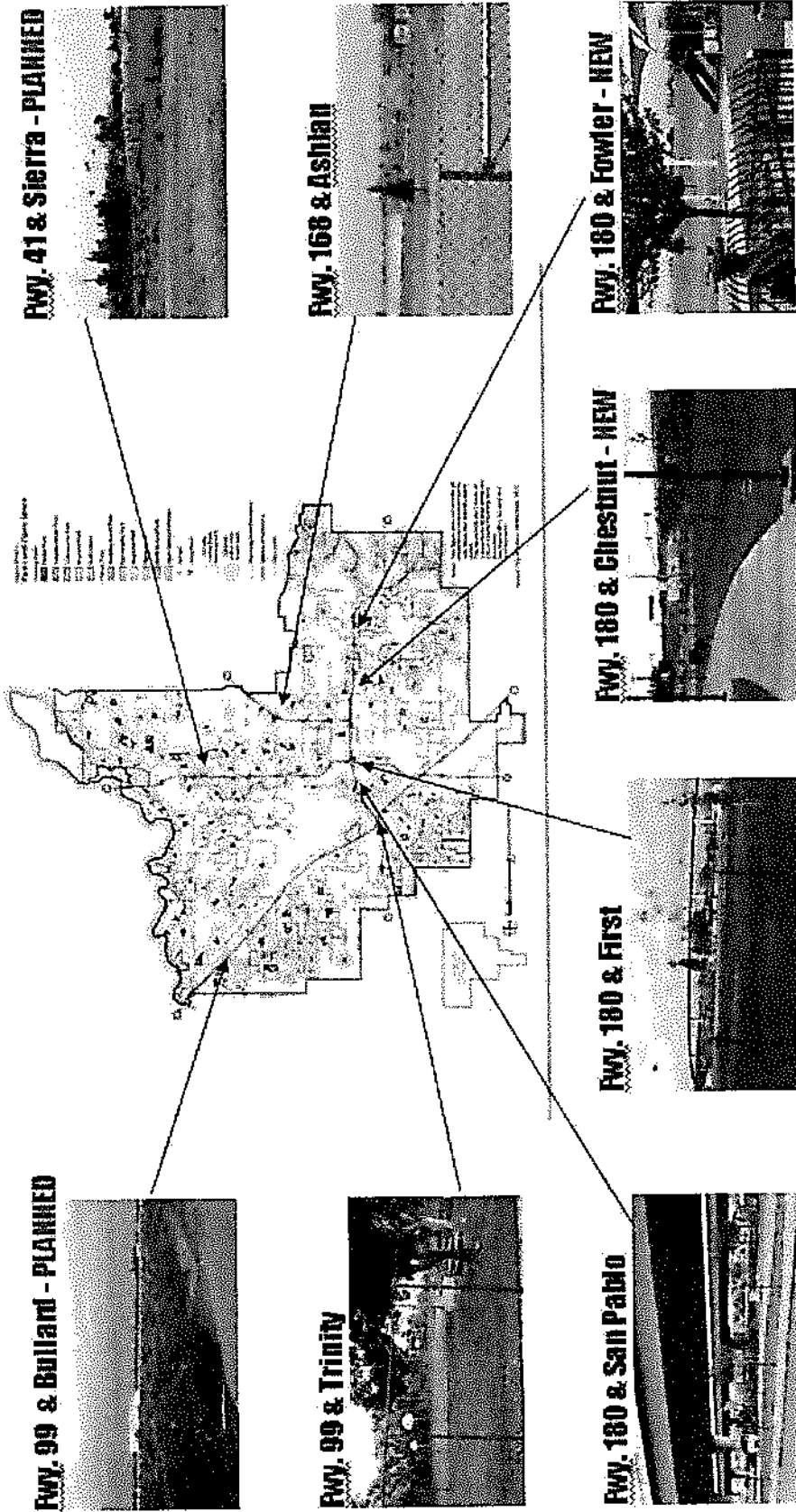
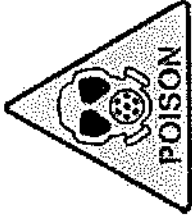
Sincerely,

Kevin Hall
Director

Attached: Poison Parks of Fresno flyer, 2014

Poison Parks of Fresno

Fresno General Plan Update 2014



**Mayor Swearingin & City Council,
Stop Poisoning Our Children!**

June 27, 2018

Mary Nichols, Chair
and Members
Air Resources Board
1001 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: ACTION REQUEST - Seek Reversal or Initiate Other Remedy of San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's Revised Policy on Contract Oversight

Dear Chair Nichols and Board Members:

At the April 19, 2018 Governing Board meeting of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, a policy change was made that should be reversed or addressed by other means.

At issue is board oversight of grant monies, including state grants such as the Carl Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards Attainment Program. The board voted to raise the threshold for signatory approval by its chair or vice chair from zero to \$100,000. The reasons given included the board chair's statement that so much money was going to people he and the vice chair know personally that they were having to recuse themselves so often it was causing delays.

Dr. Sherriffs offered a very logical alternative: simply bring the contracts to a regular board meeting and have other board members provide the oversight function. The APCO quickly shot down that idea.

While your board cannot require the Valley air board to reverse its decision, you should make the request. Alternatively, I suggest you attach new requirements to all grants you award to the district that ensure proper the signature by an elected official, or require online postings of the complete grant information so the public can fulfill this function. Because this is a basic function of elected office and it is there for a good reason: to guard against misuse of public funds.

Below you will find an excerpt from the minutes of the April meeting as approved on June 21, 2018.

Thank you for consideration.

Sincerely,

Kevin Hall
Director

8. UPDATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/APCO SIGNATURE AUTHORITY FOR VERA AND GRANT DOCUMENTS – In the interest of streamlining and expediting the approval process, Mr. Sadredin said the Board asked him to return with an amendment to the District's Administrative Code that would delegate authority to the Executive Director/APCO or designee to approve and sign any Voluntary Emission Reduction Agreement (VERA) with an estimated funding amount of less than or equal to \$100,000. Mr. Sadredin also recommended an additional amendment to the District's Administrative Code to delegate authority

to the Executive Director/APCO or designee to approve and sign incentive contracts when the Board Chair and Vice-Chair are precluded by law from doing so. He said many incentive contracts have specific deadlines and time is of the essence and the recommended actions would streamline the process. (ITEM NUMBER 20: APPROVE ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY UNIFIED AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEETING OF THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2018; June 21, 2018)

June 27, 2018

Mary Nichols, Chair
and Members
Air Resources Board
1001 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: INFORMATION ITEM
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's Lack of Online Archive of Governing Board Meetings**

Dear Chair Nichols and Board Members:

Transparency and public access to the decision-making of the Governing Board of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is currently limited to a person's ability to either attend the board in person or to watch online in real time. The District does not maintain an online archive of its board meetings. Consequently, people working in jobs not pertaining to the business of the board or those who due to physical limitations cannot attend or watch the live webcast are effectively shut out of the process.

In an effort to correct this shortcoming, Valley Climate will submit a letter on July 1, 2018 to the District's incoming APCO and board members with a copy sent to Chair Nichols requesting a change in practice. We would like to see an online archive posted for all of 2018 governing board meetings, including its annual planning retreat, and immediate posting of all subsequent meetings on an ongoing basis.

We also encourage Chair Nichols to informally lend her support to this effort.

Thank you for consideration.

Sincerely,

Kevin Hall
Director

