

AB 32 Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (EJAC)
September 3, 2024, EJAC Public Meeting
Minutes

Attendance

EJAC Member Attendees:

Virtual Only: (no in person members)

1. Kevin Hamilton
2. Thomas Helme
3. Rey Leon
4. Luis Olmedo
5. Martha Dina Arguello
6. Kevin Jefferson III
7. Jill Sherman-Warne
8. Matt Holmes
9. Juan Flores

EJAC Members not in Attendance:

- Dr. Catherine Garoupa
- John Harriel Jr.

CARB Attendees:

- Chanell Fletcher
- Radhika Majhail
- Ashley Georgiou
- Dana Grubaugh
- Rebecca Neumann
- Karina Jhaj
- Bobbi Ruch
- Cassandra Duval
- Steven Weiss
- Meena Kaypour

Board Member Attendees:

- Diane Takvorian

Other Attendees:

- Jane Harrington, Leading Resources Inc. (Facilitator)

Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item #1: Housekeeping and Logistics

Quorum was reached at 2:20 pm and the public meeting began. The facilitator provided general housekeeping and logistics information and conducted EJAC member roll call. 9 EJAC members were present; 2 were absent.

Agenda Item #2: Introduction and August 16, 2024, EJAC Public Meeting Recap

The Facilitator provided a summary of the August 16, 2024, EJAC public meeting before the power outage occurred in Sacramento headquarters. There were no additional comments, additions, or discussions from members.

Agenda Item #3: Continuation of EJAC Discussion to Prepare for the September 12, 2024, Joint EJAC/CARB Board Meeting

- **EJAC to discuss concerns with plastics, organic waste, and landfills as they relate to the LCFS and questions in preparation for the joint meeting.**

Co-Chair Arguello opened by suggesting the group discuss main topics and roles for the meeting. She also invited discussion on the recent Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) regulation revisions and invited Kevin Hamilton to share his thoughts.

Co-Chairs Arguello and EJAC Member Helme shared that a comment letter was prepared and sent to CARB (this was developed by the Natural Resources Defense Council, or NRDC, and submitted to CARB through the LCFS 15-day changes public comment docket) and that she and Tom Helme met with CARB staff. The concern was that the definition of “petroleum product” in the revised draft regulation did not include “plastics”. EJAC Member Helme stated that to his understanding, the language was taken out of the draft regulation and this specific concern was addressed.

Additionally, there was concern about incentivizing municipal solid waste and the amount of contamination in compost. There was also interest in a conversation with CARB about programs that reduce waste versus incentivizing the monetization of waste. A member also noted they felt it was disturbing that chemicals are still allowed, that other countries have removed and that the issue needs to be raised again.

EJAC Member Helme shared that he sits on the CalRecycle SB 54 Packaging Producer Responsibility Advisory Board and suggested a joint meeting between CalRecycle and CARB officials to talk about overlaps in their work on these topics.

Co-Chair Arguello noted a related topic for future discussion could be how EJAC and CARB can think through programs and how to incentivize desired outcomes, citing wind and solar as examples. She also noted how certain products are thought of as commodities and the instinct is to invest, with less investment put to reducing waste.

She noted the desire to change the thinking around relying on dirty fuels to make what's described as clean fuels. She noted these topics could be future discussions with EJAC and CARB.

Regarding the EJAC LCFS recommendations from 2023, CARB staff noted that a response document was being prepared and would be provided to EJAC members when complete.

Co-Chair Arguello expressed interest that the discussion in the joint meeting on LCFS be more interactive and less presenting and that committee members limit airtime to give time and opportunity for a discussion with the Board. A member shared that the Board is also interested in a discussion.

- **EJAC to continue discussion of planning for the joint meeting and the Carbon Capture Use and Storage (CCUS) and Direct Air Capture (DAC) Resolution given the power outage interruption that occurred at the August 16, 2024, EJAC Meeting.**

The committee continued the discussion of the CCUS and DAC resolution that was cut short in the August 16, 2024, meeting. The resolution was shared on the screen and the facilitator asked for any additional thoughts or if there was anything that would prevent the Committee from taking action on the resolution in advance of the joint meeting. There was no additional discussion or comments provided.

Agenda Item #4: Public Comment

Public comment was held on agenda item #3 and 1 member of the public provided comments. Please see the recording for the comment which began at minute mark 34:10. This comment was not specific to the recommendations but more general on organic compost.

Agenda Item #5: EJAC Carbon Capture Use and Storage (CCUS) and Direct Air Capture (DAC) Resolution Action

EJAC Member Holmes made a motion for a vote to approve the resolution; Thomas Helme seconded the motion. Public comment was taken before the vote and 1 member of the public provided comment. This comment was not specific to the vote, but more general on organic compost.

A vote was taken on the motion. 9 EJAC members voted in favor; 2 were absent. The motion passed to allow for the resolution to be brought before the Board for discussion in the September 12, 2024, joint EJAC/CARB Board meeting.

Agenda Item #6: Public Comment

Public comment was taken before the vote and 1 member of the public provided comment. This comment was not specific to the resolution, but more general on organic compost.

Agenda Item #7: Next Steps and Closing Remarks

Co-Chair Arguello noted the challenge of continuing the previously interrupted meeting and thanked members for attending. She shared that a sub quorum would likely meet before the joint meeting and invited members to share anything with her for that. CARB staff shared that the public agenda for the joint meeting was posted on Friday, August 30, 2024, and that a response document to compare EJAC LCFS recommendations with 15-day changes would be provided as soon as possible before the joint meeting when complete.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:07 pm.