ANTELOPE VALLEY AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2026
ANTELOPE VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY
DISTRICT OFFICE
LANCASTER, CA

Minutes

Board Members Present:
Ken Mann, *Vice Chair,* City of Lancaster
Austin Bishop, City of Palmdale
Newton Chelette, Public Member
Howard Harris, Los Angeles County
Lauren Hughes-Leslie, City of Lancaster
Eric Ohlsen, City of Palmdale
Board Members Absent:
Ron Hawkins, Los Angeles County

CALL TO ORDER 10:00 A.M.

Acting Chair MANN called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Acting Chair **MANN** asked Board Member **HUGHES-LESLIE** to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Acting Chair **MANN** called for roll call, roll call was taken.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATION:

- Presentation of the 2025/2026 William J. "Pete" Knight Memorial AIRE Award (no backup materials).
  Presenter: Barbara Lods, Executive Director/APCO.
  - Barbara Lods, Executive Director/APCO provided background information on the AIRE Award (Achievement in Reducing Emissions) and presented the 2025/2026 William J. "Pete" Knight Memorial AIRE award to Marvin Crist, for his leadership and dedication to the Antelope Valley. The Governing Board Members all congratulated and thanked Marvin Crist for his dedication, leadership, mentorship and friendship. The recognition was well-received, with five attendees offering words of praise and congratulations.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Acting Chair **MANN** called for **PUBLIC COMMENT**. At this time, no public comment was made in person, or electronically, the Board, moved to **CONSENT CALENDAR**.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The following consent item was acted upon by the Board at one time without discussion. Upon motion by Board Member **HARRIS**, seconded by Board Member **BISHOP**, and carried by the following roll call vote, with six **AYES** votes by Board Members, **KEN MANN, AUSTIN BISHOP, NEWTON CHELETTE, HOWARD HARRIS, LAUREN HUGHES-LESLIE and ERIC OHLSEN** with Board Member **RON HAWKINS absent**, on the Consent Calendar, as follows:

Agenda Item #1 – Approve Minutes from Regular Governing Board Meeting of August 18, 2026. Find that the California Environmental Quality Act does not apply to this item.

Approved Minutes from Regular Governing Board Meeting of August 18, 2026.

Agenda Item #2 – Monthly Grant Funding Summary. Receive and file. Find that the California Environmental Quality Act does not apply to this item.

Received and Filed Monthly Grant Funding Summary.

Agenda Item #3 – Monthly Activity Report. Receive and file.
Presenter: Barbara Lods, Executive Director/APCO.

Received and Filed Monthly Activity Report.

Agenda Item #4 – This Preliminary Financial Report is provided to the Governing Board for information concerning the fiscal status of the District at July 31, 2026.
Presenter: Barbara Lods, Executive Director/APCO.

Received and filed the Financial Report. This Preliminary Financial Report is provided to the Governing Board for information concerning the fiscal status of the District at July 31, 2026.

Agenda Item #5 – 1) Approve the FY 26-27 Application for Carl Moyer Program Year 29 Funds and authorize its submission to the California Air Resources Board (CARB); 2) Allocate a maximum of 15 percent of Mobile Source Emissions Reduction (MSER) Program funds to serve as the required match funding for the Carl Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards Attainment Program (the Moyer Program); 3) Authorize the Executive Director/APCO and staff to execute the agreement, approved as to legal form by Special Counsel to the Governing Board; and 4) Find that the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) does not apply to this item.
Presenter: Julie McKeehan, Grants Analyst.
1) **Approved** the FY 26-27 Application for Carl Moyer Program Year 29 Funds and authorize its submission to the California Air Resources Board (CARB); 2) **Allocated** a maximum of 15 percent of Mobile Source Emissions Reduction (MSER) Program funds to serve as the required match funding for the Carl Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards

Attainment Program (the Moyer Program); 3) **Authorized** the Executive Director/APCO and staff to execute the agreement, approved as to legal form by Special Counsel to the Governing Board; and 4) **Find** that the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) does not apply to this item.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

DEFERRED ITEMS

PRESENTATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

Agenda Item #6 – 1) Award an amount not to exceed $222,696 in Carl Moyer Program funds to Gene Wheeler Farms for the replacement of two older diesel tractors with new, cleaner technology; 2) Authorize the Executive Director/APCO the option to change the funding source if warranted or if other applicable funding sources become available; 3) Authorize the Executive Director/APCO and staff to negotiate target time frames and technical project details and execute agreements, approved as to legal form by the Office of District Counsel; and 4) Find that this item is not a project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Presenter: Barbara Lods, Executive Director.

Acting Chair **MANN** opened the public hearing. Julie McKeehan, Grants Analyst, presented background information and answered questions from the Board. Acting Chair **MANN** called for public comment, no public comment was made in person, or electronically, being none, Acting Chair **MANN** closed the public hearing. Upon motion by Board Member **HARRIS**, seconded by Board Member **CHELETTE**, and carried by the following roll call vote, with six **AYES** votes by Board Members, **KEN MANN, AUSTIN BISHOP, NEWTON CHELETTE, HOWARD HARRIS, LAUREN HUGHES-LESLIE, and ERIC OHLSEN with Board Member RON HAWKINS** absent, the Board, 1) **Awarded** an amount not to exceed $222,696 in Carl Moyer Program funds to Gene Wheeler Farms for the replacement of two older diesel tractors with new, cleaner technology; 2) **Authorized** the Executive Director/APCO the option to change the funding source if warranted or if other applicable funding sources become available; 3) **Authorized** the Executive Director/APCO and staff to negotiate target time frames and technical project details and execute agreements, approved as to legal form by the Office of District Counsel; and 4) **Find** that this item is not a project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Agenda Item #7 Reports:

Governing Board Counsel –

- The Governing Board Counsel expressed her sincere gratitude and high praise for Marvin Crist's decade-long dedication to the community, highlighting the strong, collaborative partnership they maintained throughout his tenure.

Executive Director/APCO –

- Introduced new staff member Ashley Parra.

Staff – No Report

- No report.

Agenda Item #8 - Board Member Reports and Suggestions for Future Agenda Items.

- Board Member **HARRIS** requested that grant recipients be invited to present an organizational overview to the Board, including details on funding received, fund utilization, and a comprehensive impact report.

Agenda Item #9 - Adjourn to Regular Governing Board Meeting of Tuesday, October 20, 2026.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m. to the next regularly scheduled Governing Board Meeting of Tuesday, October 20, 2026.

ACTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
APPROVED

Upon motion by RON HAWKINS and seconded by NEWTON CHELETTE, as Approved by the following vote:

Ayes: 5 - MANN, BISHOP, CHELETTE,HAWKINS, OHLSEN
Noes:
Absent: 2 – HARRIS, HUGHES-LESLIE
Abstain:

ADRIANNA CASTANEDA, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
BY *Adrianna Castañeda*
Dated: November 17, 2026