ANTELOPE VALLEY AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2026
ANTELOPE VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY
DISTRICT OFFICE
LANCASTER, CA

Minutes

Board Members Present:
- Austin Bishop, City of Palmdale
- Newton Chelette, Public Member
- Howard Harris, Los Angeles County
- Ron Hawkins, Los Angeles County
- Lauren Hughes-Leslie, City of Lancaster

Board Members Absent:
- Eric Ohlsen, City of Palmdale
- Ken Mann, *Vice Chair,* City of Lancaster

CALL TO ORDER 10:00 A.M.

The Clerk of the Board called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. The Board selected and voted on an acting Chair for today's meeting. Acting Chair **BISHOP** asked Board Member **HUGHES-LESLIE** to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Acting Chair **BISHOP** called for roll call, roll call was taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Acting Chair **BISHOP** called for **PUBLIC COMMENT**. At this time, no public comment was made in person, or electronically, 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 **HUGHES-LESLIE**, seconded by Board Member **HAWKINS**, and carried by the following roll call vote, with four **AYES** votes by Board Members, **NEWTON CHELETTE, HOWARD HARRIS, RON HAWKINS and LAUREN HUGHES-LESLIE** with Board Members **KEN MANN** and **ERIC OHLSEN** absent and Board Member **AUSTIN BISHOP** abstaining, on the Consent Calendar, as follows:

Agenda Item #1 – Approve Minutes from Regular Governing Board Meeting of June 16, 2026. Find that the California Environmental Quality Act does not apply to this item.

Approved Minutes from Regular Governing Board Meeting of June 16, 2026.

<u>CONSENT CALENDAR</u>

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

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

Received and Filed Monthly Grant Funding Summary.

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

Received and Filed Monthly Activity Report.

<u>Agenda Item #4 – This Preliminary Financial Report is provided to the Governing Board for information concerning the fiscal status of the District at May 31, 2026.</u>
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 May 31, 2026.

<u>CONSENT CALENDAR</u>

Board Member **AUSTIN BISHOP** recused himself from this item due to conflicts of interest and left the room prior to consideration of the item. The following consent item was acted upon by the Board at one time without discussion. Upon motion by Board Member **HAWKINS**, seconded by Board Member **HARRIS**, and carried by the following roll call vote, with four **AYES** votes by Board Members, **NEWTON CHELETTE, HOWARD HARRIS, RON HAWKINS,** and **LAUREN HUGHES-LESLIE with Board Members KEN MANN and ERIC OHLSEN** absent and Board Member **AUSTIN BISHOP** recused, on the Consent Calendar, as follows:

<u>Agenda Item #5 – Approve payment to the City of Lancaster in the amount of $387,557.97 for FY26 Quarter 3 expenditures and $387,667.97 FY 26 Quarter 4 expenditures, totaling $775,225.94. Find that the California Environmental Quality Act does not apply to this item.</u>

Presenter: Barbara Lods, Executive Director/APCO.

Approved payment to the City of Lancaster in the amount of $387,557.97 for FY26 Quarter 3 expenditures and $387,667.97 FY 26 Quarter 4 expenditures, totaling $775,225.94. **Find** that the California Environmental Quality Act does not apply to this item.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

DEFERRED ITEMS

PRESENTATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

Agenda Item #6 – 1) Award an amount not to exceed $22,250 in Carl Moyer Program funds to New Vision Landscaping, owned and operated by Juan Navarro located in Lancaster, for the purchase of a portable charging system; 2) Authorize the Executive Director/APCO the option to change the funding source if warranted or if other applicable 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 the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) does not apply to this item.

Presenter: Julie McKeehan, Grants Analyst.

Acting Chair **BISHOP** opened the public hearing. Julie McKeehan presented background information and answered questions from the Board. Acting Chair **BISHOP** called for public comment, no public comment was made in person, or electronically, being none, Acting Chair **BISHOP** closed the public hearing. Upon motion by Board Member **HUGHES-LESLIE**, seconded by Board Member **HARRIS**, and carried by the following roll call vote, with five **AYES** votes by Board Members, **AUSTIN BISHOP, NEWTON CHELETTE, HOWARD HARRIS, RON HAWKINS, and LAUREN HUGHES-LESLIE with Board Members KEN MANN and ERIC OHLSEN** absent, the Board, 1) **Awarded** an amount not to exceed $22,250 in Carl Moyer Program funds to New Vision Landscaping, owned and operated by Juan Navarro located in Lancaster, for the purchase of a portable charging system; 2) **Authorized** the Executive Director/APCO the option to change the funding source if warranted or if other applicable 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 the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) does not apply to this item.

Agenda Item #7 – Approve legislation allowing compensation for members of the Governing Board pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 41313.

Presenter: Barbara Lods, Executive Director/APCO.

Acting Chair **BISHOP** opened the public hearing. Barbara Lods, Executive Director/APCO, presented background information and answered questions from the Board. Upon Motion by Board Member **HUGHES-LESLIE**, seconded by Board Member **HARRIS,** and carried by the following roll call vote, with five **AYES** votes by Board Members, **AUSTIN BISHOP, NEWTON CHELETTE, HOWARD HARRIS, RON HAWKINS, and LAUREN HUGHES-LESLIE with Board Members KEN MANN and ERIC OHLSEN** absent, the Board, tables this item to the next Governing Board meeting.

Agenda Item #8 – Conduct a public hearing to consider the amendment of Rule 301 – *Permit Fees*: a. Open public hearing; b. Receive staff report; c. Receive public testimony; d. Close public hearing; e. Make a determination that the CEQA Categorical Exemption applies; f.

Waive reading of Resolution; g. Adopt Resolution making appropriate findings, certifying the Notice of Exemption, amending the Rule and directing staff actions.

Presenter: Barbara Lods, Executive Director/APCO.

Acting Chair **BISHOP** opened the public hearing. Barbara Lods, Executive Director/APCO, presented background information and answered questions from the Board. Acting Chair **BISHOP** called for public comment, no public comment was made in person, or electronically, being none, Acting Chair **BISHOP** closed the public hearing. After group discussion and upon motion by **board member HUGHES-LESLIE**, seconded by Board Member **HAWKINS**, as approved by the following roll call vote, , with five **AYES** votes by Board Members, **AUSTIN BISHOP, NEWTON CHELETTE, HOWARD HARRIS, RON HAWKINS and LAUREN HUGHES-LESLIE with Board Members KEN MANN and ERIC OHLSEN** absent, the Board, **Conducted** a public hearing to consider the amendment of Rule 301 – *Permit Fees*: a. **Opened** public hearing; b. **Received** staff report; c. **Received** public testimony; d. **Closed** public hearing; e. **Make** a determination that the CEQA Categorical Exemption applies; f. **Waived** reading of Resolution; g. **Adopted** Resolution making appropriate findings, certifying the Notice of Exemption, amending the Rule and directing staff actions.

CLOSED SESSION

Agenda Item #9 - CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL PENDING LITIGATION Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District v. United States Environmental Protection Agency, et al. 9th Cir. Case No. 23-1614.

Closed session was not held; no reports or updates.

Agenda Item #10 Reports:

Governing Board Counsel –

- No report.

Executive Director/APCO –

- Environmental Protection Agency adopted NSR rule with no sanctions.

Staff – No Report

- No report.

Agenda Item #11 - Board Member Reports and Suggestions for Future Agenda Items.

- No report.

Agenda Item #12 - Adjourn to Regular Governing Board Meeting of Tuesday, August 18, 2026.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m. to the next regularly scheduled Governing Board Meeting of Tuesday, August 18, 2026.

ACTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
APPROVED

Upon motion by LAUREN HUGHES-LESLIE and seconded by RON HAWKINS, as Approved by the following vote:

Ayes: 5 – MANN, BISHOP, HARRIS, HAWKINS, HUGHES-LESLIE
Noes:
Absent: 1 – CHELETTE
Abstain: 1 - OHLSEN

ADRIANNA CASTANEDA, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
BY *Adrianna Castañeda*
Dated: August 18, 2026