ANTELOPE VALLEY AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 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
Howard Harris, Los Angeles County
Ron Hawkins, Los Angeles County
Lauren Hughes-Leslie, City of Lancaster
Eric Ohlsen, City of Palmdale
Board Members Absent:
Newton Chelette, Public Member

CALL TO ORDER 10:00 A.M.

Acting Chair MANN called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Acting Chair **MANN** asked Board Member **BISHOP** to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Acting Chair **MANN** called for roll call, roll call was taken. Upon motion by Board Member **HUGHES-LESLIE** and seconded by Board Member **HAWKINS**, the Board excused Member **CHELETTE's** absence.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Acting Chair **MANN** called for **PUBLIC COMMENT**. The first of two public speakers, Bret Banks, congratulated the Antelope Valley District and the Executive Director for all of the hard work that was put into the approval of the NSR ruling. Next, Lijin Sun, congratulated the district, the Executive Director on their hard work and praised the teamwork between Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District and the Southern California Association of Governments. At this time, 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 **HUGHES-LESLIE**, seconded by Board Member **HAWKINS**, and carried by the following roll call vote, with five **AYES** votes by Board Members, **KEN MANN, AUSTIN BISHOP, HOWARD HARRIS, RON HAWKINS**

and LAUREN HUGHES-LESLIE with Board Member **NEWTON CHELETTE absent** and Board Member **ERIC OHLSEN** abstaining, on the Consent Calendar, as follows:

Agenda Item #1 – Approve Minutes from Regular Governing Board Meeting of July 21, 2026. Find that the California Environmental Quality Act does not apply to this item.

Approved Minutes from Regular Governing Board Meeting of July 21, 2026.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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 **OHLSEN**, and carried by the following roll call vote, with six **AYES** votes by Board Members, **KEN MANN, AUSTIN BISHOP, HOWARD HARRIS, RON HAWKINS, LAUREN HUGHES-LESLIE,** and **ERIC OHLSEN** with Board Member **NEWTON CHELETTE** absent, on the Consent Calendar, as follows:

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 June 30, 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 June 30, 2026.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

DEFERRED ITEMS

PRESENTATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

Agenda Item #5 – Approve legislation allowing compensation for members of the Governing Board pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 41313.
Presenter: Barbara Lods, Executive Director.
Acting Chair **MANN** opened the public hearing. Barbara Lods 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 **HUGHES-**

LESLIE, seconded by Board Member **HARRIS**, and carried by the following roll call vote, with six **AYES** votes by Board Members, **KEN MANN, AUSTIN BISHOP, HOWARD HARRIS, RON HAWKINS, LAUREN HUGHES-LESLIE, and ERIC OHLSEN with Board Member NEWTON CHELETTE** absent, the Board, Motioned to approve Resolution 26-02, adding to Section 3 a sentence reading "the foregoing amount shall be increased by the Consumer Price Index in accordance with the provisions of Health and Safety Code section 41313" and revising Section 4 to state that the Resolution shall go into effect on such date as the Board may determine by motion, to be evaluated by the Board at the Board meeting in January of each year.

CLOSED SESSION

Agenda Item #6 - 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.

The Governing Board entered the Closed Session at 10:38 am and concluded at 10:50 am, reporting that the Governing Board unanimously voted to dismiss the pending action.

Agenda Item #10 Reports:

Governing Board Counsel –

- No report.

Executive Director/APCO –

- No report.

Staff – No Report

- No report.

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

- The Governing Board members congratulated and thanked the Antelope Valley District, AVAQMD staff and executive Director, and legal counsel on all of their hard work and teamwork.

Agenda Item #12 - Adjourn to Regular Governing Board Meeting of Tuesday, September 15, 2026. Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m. to the next regularly scheduled Governing Board Meeting of Tuesday, September 15, 2026.

ACTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
APPROVED

Upon motion by HOWARD HARRIS and seconded by AUSTIN BISHOP, as Approved by the following vote:

Ayes: 6 – MANN, BISHOP, CHELETTE, HARRIS, HUGHES-LESLIE, OHLSEN
Noes:
Absent: 1 – HAWKINS
Abstain:

ADRIANNA CASTANEDA, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
BY *Adrianna Castañeda*
Dated: September 15, 2026