



TAMI RITTER, CHAIR
Supervisor, District #3

TOD KIMMELSHUE, VICE CHAIR
Supervisor, District #4

BILL CONNELLY
Supervisor, District #1

PETER DURFEE
Supervisor, District #2

DOUG TEETER
Supervisor, District #5

ZACH BROWN
Councilmember, Biggs

BRYCE GOLDSTEIN
Councilmember, Chico

BRUCE JOHNSON
Vice Mayor, Gridley

ERIC SMITH
Vice Mayor, Oroville

RON LASSONDE
Councilmember, Paradise

STEPHEN ERTLE
Air Pollution Control Officer

PATRICK LUCEY
Assistant Air Pollution Control Officer

Final Minutes of the Butte County Air Quality Management District Governing Board of Directors Meeting of July 23, 2026

Members Present:

Bill Connelly	Supervisor, District 1
Peter Durfee	Supervisor, District 2
Tami Ritter	Supervisor, District 3
Tod Kimmelshue	Supervisor, District 4
Doug Teeter	Supervisor, District 5
Zach Brown	Councilmember, Biggs
Bruce Johnson	Councilmember, Gridley
Eric Smith	Vice Mayor, Oroville
Ron Lassonde	Councilmember, Paradise
Addison Winslow	Councilmember, Chico (Alternate)

Staff Present:

Stephen Ertle	Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO)
Patrick Lucey	Assistant Air Pollution Control Officer (AAPCO)
Aleah Ing	Administrative Services Officer, (ASO)
Kelly Towne	Clerk of the Board
Jason Mandly	Senior Air Quality Planner

Staff Remote:

Riley Peacock	Air Quality Engineer, II
Samuel Nassie	Air Quality Compliance Officer II

Members Absent:

Bryce Goldstein Councilmember, Chico

Public comments are accepted before and during the meeting by emailing ktowne@bcaqmd.org.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.

Chair Tami Ritter called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the BCAG Board Room, 326 Huss Drive, Suite 100, Chico, California.

2. Additions and Deletions to the Consent or Regular Agenda.

No additions or deletions.

Agenda Item 3.1

3. Consent Agenda.

- 3.1** Minutes of May 28, 2026, Meeting of the Board of Directors.
- 3.2** Activity Report on Butte County Air Quality Management District Activities.
- 3.3** Status Report on Calendar of Events.
- 3.4** Status Report on Communications.
- 3.5** Financial Status Report for Fiscal Year 2025-26.
- 3.6** 4th Quarter Grant Revenue Report.
- 3.7** PBRM Grant Amendment – Additional Funds. (Resolution)
- 3.8** Authorization to Open New Bank Accounts. (Resolutions)

ACTION REQUESTED: Approve Consent Agenda Items.

Board comments: None.

Public comments: None.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Johnson and seconded by Supervisor Durfee to approve the Consent Agenda Items.

AYES: Supervisor Ritter, Supervisor Durfee(second), Supervisor Kimmelshue, Supervisor Connelly, Supervisor Teeter, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Winslow(Alternate), Vice Mayor Johnson(motion), Councilmember Lassonde and Vice Mayor Smith.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Councilmember Goldstein.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

4. Items removed from the Consent Agenda for Board consideration and actions.

No items were removed from the Consent Agenda.

5. Fiscal Year 26-27 Budget Hearing #2

ACTION REQUESTED:

- 1. Following a Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget, accept comment and,
- 2. Adopt implementing Resolution 2026-04 Adopting the Final Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget and,
- 3. Adopt implementing Resolution 2026-05 Authorizing Contracted Legal Services.

The FY 2026-2027 Budget Report was presented by Aleah Ing, Administrative Services Officer.

Hearing closed: 10:02 a.m. by Supervisor Ritter(chair).

Board comments: None.

Public comments: None.

A motion was made by Supervisor Kimmelshue and seconded by Supervisor Durfee to adopt Resolution 2026-04 adopting the Final Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget and Resolution 2026-05 Authorizing Contracted Legal Services.

AYES: Supervisor Ritter, Supervisor Durfee(second), Supervisor Kimmelshue(motion), Supervisor Connelly, Supervisor Teeter, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Winslow (Alternate), Vice Mayor Johnson, Councilmember Lassonde and Vice Mayor Smith.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Councilmember Goldstein.

6. PM2.5 Second Maintenance Plan

ACTION REQUESTED:

After holding a public hearing, consider comments and approve Resolution 2026-13 adopting the Chico, CA / Butte County PM_{2.5} Second Maintenance Plan and directing staff to forward the Chico, CA / Butte County PM_{2.5} Second Maintenance Plan, including all public comments received, to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for consideration and submittal to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The PM2.5 Maintenance Plan report was presented by Jason Mandly, Senior Air Quality Planner.

Hearing opened: 10:03 a.m. by Supervisor Ritter(chair).

Board comments: Discussion ensued.

Public comments: None.

Hearing closed: 10:11 a.m. by Supervisor Ritter(chair).

A motion was made by Supervisor Durfee and seconded by Vice Mayor Johnson to approve Resolution 2026-13 adopting the Chico, CA / Butte County PM_{2.5} Second Maintenance Plan and directing staff to forward the Chico, CA / Butte County PM_{2.5} Second Maintenance Plan, including all public comments received, to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for consideration and submittal to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

AYES: Supervisor Ritter, Supervisor Durfee(motion), Supervisor Kimmelshue, Supervisor Connelly, Supervisor Teeter, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Winslow (Alternate), Vice Mayor Johnson(second), Councilmember Lassonde and Vice Mayor Smith.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Councilmember Goldstein.

7. Final adoption of CalPERS Pension Contract Amendment to Include PEPRAs Provisions

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve Resolution to amend the CalPERS Pension contracts to incorporate the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA) provisions and language.

The CalPERS Pension Contract Amendment to Include PEPRA Provisions report was presented by Aleah Ing, Administrative Services Officer.

Board comments: None.

Public comments: None.

A motion was made by Supervisor Connelly and seconded by Supervisor Durfee to Approve the CalPERS Resolution to amend the CalPERS Pension contracts to incorporate the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA) provisions and language.

AYES: Supervisor Ritter, Supervisor Durfee(second), Supervisor Kimmelshue, Supervisor Connelly(motion), Supervisor Teeter, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Winslow (Alternate), Vice Mayor Johnson, Councilmember Lassonde and Vice Mayor Smith.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Councilmember Goldstein.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

8. APCO Report.

ACTION REQUESTED:

None. This Item is provided for information and discussion.

Board comments: Discussion ensued.

Public comments: None.

9. Other Business. No other business was presented.

10. Public Comment Period. Any person may address the Board of Directors on any matter within the jurisdiction of the Board that is not on the agenda for this meeting. Any person may address the Board on an agenda item when that time is called. The Chair requests that each person addressing the Board limits their presentation to five (5) minutes.

11. Adjourn to Closed Session.

The meeting was adjourned to Closed Session at 10:19 a.m.

12. Report from Closed Session.

Closed Session concluded at 10:29 a.m.

The report following Closed Session stated that the Governing Board provided unanimous direction to Management regarding Employee Association negotiations.

13. **The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. The next Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for August 27, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the Butte County Association of Governments Board Room, 326 Huss Drive, Suite 100, Chico, California.**



Stephen Ertle, Air Pollution Control Officer
Butte County Air Quality Management District

I hereby attest that this is a true and correct copy of the action taken by the Butte County Air Quality Management District Board of Directors on July 23, 2026.



ATTEST:

Kelly Towne, Clerk of the Governing Board

Attachment 1

APCO Notes

JULY APCO REPORT

Priority Air Quality Issues Being Tracked

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Stephen Ertle, Air Pollution Control Officer

DATE: July 23, 2026

SUBJECT: Update on federal, state, local, and CAPCOA priorities

Federal

- **New Source Review construction threshold.** U.S. EPA has proposed revising “Begin Actual Construction” and defining “pollutant-emitting activities.” The change could allow more site and project work before the NSR construction bar is reached, potentially accelerating projects while requiring careful review of local permit conditions and enforcement implications.
- **Title V review streamlining.** EPA is expected to clarify that draft Title V permits may be reviewed by EPA before or concurrently with public comment and that a full 45-day review is not always required. If implemented consistently, this could shorten permit timelines and reduce avoidable sequencing delays.
- **Wildfire Emissions Prevention Act.** Bipartisan federal legislation introduced July 22 would amend Clean Air Act treatment of air-quality monitoring associated with prescribed fire. The proposal is important for balancing smoke management, attainment obligations, and the need to expand beneficial fire.
- **Cross-border wildfire-smoke response.** EPA is coordinating with federal, state, local, Tribal, and Canadian partners, expanding public information through AirNow, and deploying supplemental monitoring resources. The episode reinforces the need for rapid local messaging and access to defensible monitoring data during regional smoke events.

State

- **AB 617 funding.** The emerging budget agreement includes \$150 million: \$50 million for air-district implementation, \$92.5 million for incentives, and \$7.5 million for community grants. This is the most significant near-term state funding item for community air-protection work.
- **Zero-emission vehicle and equipment incentives.** The package identifies \$19.8 million for Clean Cars 4 All, \$135.5 million for light-duty zero-emission incentives, and \$135 million for truck and bus incentives through HVIP. Program design and geographic access will determine the practical benefit to rural and disadvantaged communities.
- **Core district and prescribed-fire support.** The budget retains \$10.111 million for subvention and \$3 million for local prescribed-fire grants. Both are directly relevant to maintaining local air-program capacity and supporting smoke-management partnerships.
- **No FARMER appropriation identified.** The current package contains no FARMER funding. The absence may constrain agricultural equipment turnover and emission reductions unless another funding source or later appropriation is secured.

Local

- **Community outreach presence.** During FY 2025–26, the District participated in seven outreach events in Chico, Oroville, Paradise, Magalia, and Berry Creek. The events broadened contact with communities affected by wildfire smoke, prescribed fire, energy, and AB 617 priorities.
 - September 18, 2025: Downtown Chico Thursday Night Market
 - October 1, 2025: Breathe Better Butte Fair at Riverbend Park in Oroville
 - October 21, 2025: World Energy Day event at Sierra Nevada Brewery
 - November 15, 2025: Good Fire Festival in Paradise
 - January 29, 2026: Upper Ridge Community Meeting in Magalia
 - June 6, 2026: Paradise Grazing Festival
 - June 28, 2026: Berry Creek Grange Community Event
- **AB 617 accountability and outreach tracking.** The outreach record supports annual AB 617 jobs/outreach reporting. Maintaining a running log with location, audience, topic, and follow-up needs strengthen grant reporting and help identify geographic or demographic gaps.
- **Wildfire-smoke readiness.** Current national smoke events underscore the value of pre-season communication, AirNow promotion, supplemental-monitor coordination, and consistent health-protection messaging. Local preparedness remains especially important for communities with repeated wildfire exposure.
- **Readiness to deploy state funds.** The emerging state budget may create opportunities for AB 617 implementation, incentives, Clean Cars 4 All, and prescribed-fire projects. Early identification of eligible projects and community partners will position the District to compete for and efficiently deploy funds.

CAPCOA

- **State budget implementation.** CAPCOA coordination will be important as CARB develops allocations, guidelines, and timelines for AB 617, subvention, vehicle incentives, and prescribed-fire grants. A shared air-district position can help protect local flexibility and equitable access for smaller and rural districts.
- **Federal permitting advocacy.** The NSR proposal and forthcoming Title V guidance warrant coordinated technical review. CAPCOA can help districts identify implementation concerns, develop consistent interpretations, and communicate practical recommendations to EPA and CARB.
- **Wildfire and prescribed-fire policy alignment.** The federal wildfire legislation and cross-border smoke response raise common monitoring, exceptional-events, public-health, and beneficial-fire issues. CAPCOA provides a forum for aligning district priorities and elevating California-specific operational needs.