Amend Contract to Provide Technical Support for AQMD PAMS Upper Air Meteorological Monitoring Network

On February 5, 2010, the Board awarded a new contract with Sonoma Technology, Inc. (STI) to provide technical support for the AQMD PAMS Upper Air Monitoring Network, with options for three annual contract renewals. This action is to amend the STI contract for the next year of field support and data management for the upper air measurement program at a cost not to exceed $100,000. This exercises the first of three renewal options based on STI’s responsiveness and satisfactory performance, bringing the contract total to $190,000. Funding for this contract amendment is allocated in the U.S. EPA 19th Year Section 105 Grant for the PAMS program.

Authorize the Executive Officer to amend the existing contract with Sonoma Technology, Inc. in an amount not to exceed $100,000 to exercise the first of three one-year renewal options to provide continued technical support for the AQMD PAMS Upper Air Meteorological Monitoring Network.

Barry R. Wallerstein, D.Env.
Executive Officer
Background
As part of the U.S. EPA PAMS Program, comprehensive measurements of meteorological parameters have been collected in the South Coast Air Basin since 1994, using a network of radar wind and temperature profilers, acoustic wind profilers and tower-mounted meteorological sensors. Data from the upper air measurement stations is routinely used for air quality forecasting and event analyses and has been invaluable for regional modeling efforts. Since 2003, AQMD has utilized consultants to provide operational support, due to the limited availability of staff resources to maintain this valuable network. In addition to the routine site operations and data support, the proposed contract effort is also expected to enhance the utility of the upper air data for regional modeling and its accessibility to the public and other agencies.

On November 6, 2009, RFP #P2010-09 was released to solicit consultants capable of providing technical support for the operation of the AQMD PAMS upper air meteorological monitoring network, under a contract with multi-year renewal options to provide for greater continuity of the measurements. On February 5, 2010, the Board awarded a contract in the amount of $90,000 to Sonoma Technology, Inc. (STI) for the initial year of this effort, with future-year renewals of up to $100,000 per year, based upon availability of funds and satisfactory contractor performance.

STI has provided excellent service under this contract, which has included troubleshooting and repairs of component failures and the relocation of the Moreno Valley station, as well as the continuing maintenance of all five stations, data archives and web access. Data recovery percentages have been high and the data collected has been proven to be an important component of analyses and modeling efforts. Due to the addition of new instrumentation and analyses, staff requests that the award amount be the full $100,000 for the next year of this project.

Proposal
Based on STI’s responsiveness and satisfactory performance, staff recommends exercising the first of three renewal options in STI’s contract for an amount not to exceed $100,000.

Resource Impacts
Funds for this contract have been earmarked from the U.S. EPA Section 105 Grant for the 19th Year PAMS program. These funds were recognized and appropriated by the Board at the November 5, 2010 meeting. Since this contract uses PAMS pass-through funds, it will not impact AQMD staff or fiscal resources.