

BOARD MEETING DATE: July 10, 2015

AGENDA NO. 4

PROPOSAL: Execute Contracts for Two Heavy-Duty CNG Vehicles in Coachella Valley 

SYNOPSIS: In 2009, the MSRC awarded the City of Desert Hot Springs \$25,000 in match funds to purchase one heavy-duty CNG-powered truck. Financial constraints have prevented the City from purchasing this vehicle. Additionally, the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) has requested funding for the purchase of a paratransit vehicle for deployment at Roy's Desert Resource Center, the first comprehensive resource center for the transitionally homeless in Coachella Valley. This action is to award contracts from the Clean Fuels Fund (31) to: 1) the City of Desert Hot Springs to cost-share the purchase of a CNG truck with the MSRC in an amount not to exceed \$38,000; and 2) CVAG to purchase a heavy-duty CNG paratransit vehicle in an amount not to exceed \$140,000.

COMMITTEE: Technology, June 19, 2015; Recommended for Approval

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

Authorize the Chairman to execute contracts from the Clean Fuels Fund (31) with the following:

1. City of Desert Hot Springs to cost-share the purchase of one heavy-duty CNG-powered truck with the MSRC in an amount not to exceed \$38,000, and
2. CVAG to purchase a heavy-duty CNG paratransit vehicle in an amount not to exceed \$140,000.

Barry R. Wallerstein, D.Env.  
Executive Officer

MMM:HH:DKS:DRC:PMB

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**Background**

In 2009, the MSRC awarded the City of Desert Hot Springs \$25,000 in match funds to purchase one heavy-duty CNG-powered truck, which was expected to cost at least

\$50,000. The City was to provide the balance of funds for the purchase of the vehicle. Since the award, however, the City of Desert Hot Springs has been unable to meet any of the cost-share for this vehicle. In addition, the cost of this vehicle has increased and is now estimated at \$63,000.

The Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) identified homeless services as a significant community need. In response, CVAG developed a Homelessness Committee to help direct regional efforts to address this need. Roy's Desert Resource Center (DRC), the first comprehensive homeless center built in the Western Coachella Valley, provides shelter to homeless individuals as well as to provide training and rehabilitative services to enable the homeless to regain the ability to provide for themselves. To ensure clean vehicles are used for transportation activities at Roy's DRC, CVAG has requested that the SCAQMD provide funds for the purchase of a heavy-duty CNG paratransit vehicle.

### **Proposal**

This action is to execute a contract with the City of Desert Hot Springs to cost-share with the MSRC the purchase and deployment of one heavy-duty CNG-powered truck. This truck will be used by the City for services in the public works department and will displace the use of an older comparable diesel-fueled flatbed heavy-duty truck. The proposed CNG-powered vehicle is a Ford F-450 powered by a 6.8L V-10 gasoline engine that will be converted to dedicated CNG power using a CARB-certified conversion system. The CNG-powered vehicle will provide the City with a clean, alternative fuel heavy-duty vehicle that will help lower criteria pollutants and GHG emissions. This vehicle will be domiciled at the City and will be fueled locally by an upgraded CNG refueling station in the City of Desert Hot Springs.

The second action is to execute a contract with CVAG to purchase and deploy one heavy-duty dedicated CNG-powered paratransit bus. This paratransit vehicle will be used to shuttle people throughout the Coachella Valley area, but for primary use by Roy's DRC. The vehicle proposed for the paratransit is a Class E, 32-foot, Ford F-550, powered by a 6.8L V-10 gasoline engine that will be converted to dedicated CNG power using a CARB-certified conversion system. The vehicle will have wheelchair lift capability and meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. The CNG-powered vehicle will provide the region with a clean, alternative fuel heavy-duty vehicle that will help lower both criteria pollutants and GHG emissions.

Both projects will require reporting of vehicle usage data for three years.

### **Sole Source Justification**

Section VIII.B.2 of the Procurement Policy and Procedure identifies four major provisions under which a sole source award may be justified. The cost-share project with the City of Desert Hot Springs qualifies under section B.2.d(1): "Projects involving

cost sharing by multiple sponsors.” The project with CVAG qualifies under section B.2.c.(1). “The desired services are available from only the sole-source based upon the unique experience and capabilities of the proposed contractor or contractor team.” CVAG/ Roy’s DRC provides services to underserved members of their community and this project presents a unique opportunity for CVAG/Roy’s DRC to replace an older higher emitting shuttle bus with a cleaner advanced technology shuttle bus. The non-profit nature of this entity typically is not afforded the opportunity to experience delivery of services in clean technology vehicles.

### **Benefits to SCAQMD**

The Air Quality Management Plan relies upon the accelerated implementation of advanced technologies within Southern California to achieve federal and state ambient air quality standards and further reductions in air toxic exposure. Conversion of high mileage gasoline- or diesel-powered vehicles to natural gas-powered vehicles can significantly reduce criteria pollutants, GHG emissions and the use of petroleum based fuels.

### **Resource Impacts**

Total funding for the two vehicles shall not exceed \$178,000 from the Clean Fuels Fund (31). Sufficient funds are available from the Clean Fuels Fund, established as a special revenue fund resulting from the state-mandated Clean Fuels Program. The Clean Fuels Program, under Health and Safety Code Sections 40448.5 and 40512 and Vehicle Code Section 9250.11, establishes mechanisms to collect revenues from mobile sources to support projects to increase the utilization of clean fuels, including the development of the necessary advanced enabling technologies. Funds collected from motor vehicles are restricted, by statute, to be used for projects and program activities related to mobile sources that support the objectives of the Clean Fuels Program.