

BOARD MEETING DATE: June 5, 2015

AGENDA NO. 7

PROPOSAL: Approve Transfer of Monies from Health Effects Research Fund to Brain & Lung Tumor and Air Pollution Foundation and Authorize Solicitation and Potential Funding of Proposals

SYNOPSIS: At the March 13, 2015 meeting of the Brain & Lung Tumor and Air Pollution Foundation (Foundation), the Foundation Board asked that funds that the SCAQMD Board had previously transferred to the Health Effects Research Fund be designated for the Foundation's use to support brain and lung tumor and air pollution research. The Foundation would then issue a Request for Proposals to identify specific projects for review and potential funding upon approval by the Foundation Board. This action is to transfer \$2,500,000 from the Health Effects Research Fund to the Foundation to fund such research. This action is also to authorize the Foundation to solicit research proposals and to review and potentially fund such proposals.

COMMITTEE: Administrative, May 8, 2015; Recommended for Approval

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Authorize the transfer of \$2,500,000 from the Health Effects Research Fund (Fund 48) to the Brain & Lung Tumor and Air Pollution Foundation.
2. Authorize the Brain & Lung Tumor and Air Pollution Foundation Board to solicit research proposals within the purpose of the Foundation and to review and potentially fund proposals with the transferred monies, as deemed appropriate by the Foundation.

Barry R. Wallerstein, D.Env.
Executive Officer

Background

At the June 2008 meeting, the Board established a Health Effects Research Fund and initially funded it with \$1.5 million from the BP Arco Settlement Fund. The Board further authorized, upon annual Board approval, the transfer of up to 20% of annual penalty money received that exceeds \$4 million in receipts to the Health Effects Research Fund. The available balance in this Fund as of February 27, 2015 is \$3,065,142.

Since 2003, the Board has funded the Brain & Lung Tumor and Air Pollution Foundation and the Asthma and Outdoor Air Quality Consortium from penalty revenues. These monies have been used to fund a number of research projects at local universities and research institutions.

Findings from the Brain & Lung Tumor and Air Pollution Foundation funded research indicate that fine particulate exposure is associated with biochemical changes in the brains of laboratory animals that are consistent with the biochemical pattern found in human brain tumors. Another project found preliminary associations of particulate matter levels and the risk of childhood brain tumors. These findings are of significant interest, but still preliminary, and are being followed up with additional study to better understand the relation of pollution exposure to the risk of contracting brain tumors. One of the hypotheses being tested is whether traffic-related emissions and ultrafine particles may be linked to the changes found in brain tissue and tumor risk.

Through the Asthma and Outdoor Air Quality Consortium, the Board has funded several research projects ranging from laboratory studies to epidemiology studies of air pollution health effects. Results of these projects have provided new information on health effects, including the findings of increased risk for asthma symptoms and lung inflammation in children exposed to traffic-related emissions and new findings of how pollutants can react with cell components to cause injury.

The requested Board action will provide funding to conduct additional health effects research related to brain and lung tumors and air pollution, which may include follow-up on the results from previous projects.

The purpose of the Foundation is to aid, assist, and support research on the incidence, detection, causes and cures of brain and lung tumors, especially those caused or aggravated by air pollution. A Request for Proposal for research related to brain and lung tumors and air pollution will be released by the Brain & Lung Tumor and Air Pollution Foundation Board. The Foundation Board will then review any proposals received for consideration of potential funding.

Results from these studies are expected to provide scientific information to inform policy choices for reducing emissions and exposures to pollutants in the South Coast

Air Basin and may provide new insights on how to develop therapies to treat brain tumors.

Proposal

Staff is proposing that the Board authorize the transfer of \$2,500,000 from the Health Effects Research Fund to the Brain & Lung Tumor and Air Pollution Foundation. The Foundation Board will issue an RFP to solicit proposals within the purpose of the Foundation. The Board will establish a process to evaluate the proposals and potentially fund the proposals with the transferred monies.

Resource Impacts

Funds are available from the Health Effects Research Fund (Fund 48).