

BOARD MEETING DATE: November 6, 2015

AGENDA NO. 6

PROPOSAL: Execute Contract to Conduct 2016 Leaf Blower Exchange Program

SYNOPSIS: At its July 10, 2015 meeting, the Board approved release of a Program Announcement to solicit competitive bids from manufacturers of low- or zero-emission/low-noise leaf blowers. This action is to award a contract to Pacific STIHL to conduct the 2016 Leaf Blower Exchange Program in an amount not to exceed \$481,955 from the Rule 2202 AQIP Special Revenue Fund (27).

COMMITTEE: Mobile Source, October 16, 2015; Recommended for Approval

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorize the Chairman to execute a contract with Pacific STIHL to exchange up to 2,000 leaf blowers in an amount not to exceed \$481,955 from the Rule 2202 AQIP Special Revenue Fund (27).

Barry R. Wallerstein, D. Env.
Executive Officer

MMM:FM:VY

Background

Rule 2202 Air Quality Investment Program (AQIP) allows affected employers to participate by electing to invest in an SCAQMD-administered restricted fund. Effective July 1, 2015, investment can be either \$45.63 annually per employee reporting to the worksite during the 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. peak window or \$126.75 triennially per employee. The restricted monies are to be used by the SCAQMD to fund proposals that achieve mobile source emission reductions that would otherwise have been achieved by implementing a rideshare program.

Upon registering under this option and submitting the designated investment amount, an employer is considered to be in compliance with the Rule and there is no need for the employer to take further action to reduce mobile source emissions. The collected monies are used to fund alternative mobile source emission reduction strategies that reduce mobile source emissions at a more cost-effective rate which could potentially result in greater overall emission reductions.

At its July 10, 2015 meeting, the Board approved the release of Program Announcement #PA2016-01 to solicit bids from potential manufacturers/suppliers of low- or zero-emission/low-noise leaf blowers to provide units at a discounted price to be used for the SCAQMD's 2016 Leaf Blower Exchange Program.

Bid Evaluation

While all manufacturers with certified leaf blowers were notified, only one bid from Pacific STIHL was received by the application deadline. Pacific STIHL offered two types of zero-emission/low-noise, battery-operated BGA85 and BGA100 model blowers, in addition to the BR500 model blower that meets the low-exhaust emission standards ("Blue Sky Series") required by the Program Announcement.

Proposal

The primary goal of this project is to replace existing two-stroke backpack blowers currently used by commercial landscapers/gardeners within the South Coast Air Basin with new zero-emission or four-stroke blowers which have significantly reduced emission and noise levels. The current CARB emission standard is 72 grams of HC + NO_x per kilowatt hour. The BR500 model has been certified by CARB at 16 grams of HC+NO_x per kilowatt hour. The 16 gram per kilowatt hour exceeds CARB's Blue Sky criteria of 36 grams for product in its displacement category. The cost effectiveness of this model is \$0.53 per pound. The cost effectiveness of the zero-emission BGA85 and BGA100 models are \$0.32 and \$0.67 per pound, respectively. Because of its low-emission levels and low-noise level rating, Model BR500 was used in all prior Leaf Blower Exchange Programs. Staff proposes using the STIHL BR500 model in addition to the two zero-emission leaf blowers in the 2016 Leaf Blower Exchange Program. The BGA85 is a hand-carried battery electric model, and the BGA100 is a backpack battery electric model. Table 1, provides the specifications and pricing information of the proposed models.

The past SCAQMD's leaf blower exchanges for commercial gardeners/landscapers have been conducted at STIHL dealerships. STIHL will notify all registered current equipment users of the program and conduct general outreach. Typically, thirteen exchange events are set up across the Basin, and for the convenience of the participants, the exchange events take place during consecutive weekdays. Due to the great demand, and to prevent long lines, pre-registration will be required and participants given time slots on the half-hour.

At the event site, the old leaf blowers will be tested for operation and then drained of all fluids in a responsible manner and collected for scrapping. The vendor will haul the traded-in blowers to a scrapping yard where they will be crushed and recycled. The vendor will also provide training for the proper use of the equipment at each of the exchange sites. This format has been used for all prior programs.

Since this is the first year that multiple technologies are being offered, staff recommends 750 units of model BR500 (gasoline) and 750 units of the same-priced electric unit, BGA85. Staff is also recommending up to 500 units of the more expensive BGA100, and allow the Executive Officer to adjust all of the amounts subject to the demand. This action is to execute a contract with Pacific STIHL to exchange up to 2,000 leaf blowers in an amount not to exceed \$481,955 from the Rule 2202 AQIP Special Revenue Fund (27).

Outreach

In accordance with SCAQMD's Procurement Policy and Procedure, a public notice advertising the PA and inviting bids was published in the Los Angeles Times, the Orange County Register, the San Bernardino Sun, and Riverside County's Press Enterprise newspapers to leverage the most cost-effective method of outreach to the South Coast Basin.

Additionally, potential bidders may have been notified utilizing SCAQMD's own electronic listing of certified minority vendors. Notice of the PA has been emailed to the Black and Latino Legislative Caucuses and various minority chambers of commerce and business associations, and placed on the Internet at SCAQMD's website (<http://www.aqmd.gov>).

Benefits to SCAQMD

This program will exchange up to 2,000 old 2-stroke leaf blowers for new 4-stroke gasoline and zero-emission blowers. The STIHL BR500 leaf blower has been certified by CARB at 16 grams of HC+NO_x per kilowatt hour. This is nearly 78 percent lower than the current emission standard of 72 grams established by CARB for new leaf blowers of that size sold in California. The STIHL BGA85 and BGA100 models are zero-emission battery-operated blowers. Based on the U.S. EPA Model¹, this exchange program will result in emission reductions of 157,647 pounds per year of HC+NO_x. The cost effectiveness of BR500 model will be \$0.53 per pound and BGA85 and BGA100 models will be \$0.32 and \$0.67 per pound, respectively.

Resource Impact

Total expenditures for the proposed project shall not exceed \$481,955 from the Rule 2202 AQIP Special Revenue Fund (27). Table 1 provides a breakdown of pricing per leaf blower.

Attachment

Table 1 – Leaf Blower Specifications and Pricing

¹ EPA-420-R-10-016; NR-005d; 2010

Table 1: Leaf Blower Specifications and Pricing

Make/Model	STIHL BR 500	STIHL BGA85	STIHL BGA100
			
HC + NOx Certification Level (gm/kW-hr)	16	N/A	N/A
CO Certification Level (gm/kW-hr)	307	N/A	N/A
Noise Rating (dB(A))	65	64	56
Displacement (CC)	64.8	N/A	N/A
Engine Power (bhp)	2.4	N/A	N/A
Air Velocity (MPH)	181	102	128-141
Air Volume (w/ Tubes) CFM	477	385	447-494
Air Volume (w/o Tubes) CFM	812	N/A	N/A
Weight (lbs.)	22.3	7	5.5
Fuel Capacity (fl. Oz.)	47.3	N/A	N/A
Warranty (Years)	2	2	2
# of So Cal Service Dealers	120	120	120
MSRP	\$479.95	\$479.93	\$1,419.88
Discounted Price	\$387.97	\$387.97	\$1,000
Discount TO SCAQMD	\$91.98	\$91.96	\$419.88
Customer pays (Plus Tax)	\$200	\$200	\$600
SCAQMD Pays (per leaf blower)	\$187.97	\$187.97	\$400
Vendor Event & Advertising Support	\$64,500	(included)	(included)
Collection & Disposal of Old Blowers	Yes	Yes	Yes
Battery Run Time (per charge)	N/A	Up to 23 minutes	Up to 300 minutes