

BOARD MEETING DATE: November 1, 2019

AGENDA NO. 5

PROPOSAL: Execute Agreements to Establish Endowments to Support Graduate Student Scholarship Fund

SYNOPSIS: In April 2019, the Board released an RFP to solicit proposals to support university graduate student scholarships that will, in part, train students entering the workforce, along with guidance from South Coast AQMD, on the emerging issues and latest research related to air quality and climate change. This action is to execute agreements to establish one-time endowments to the National Fuel Cell Research Center at the University of California, Irvine and the California State University, Los Angeles in the amount of \$1,000,000 and \$250,000, respectively, from interest accrued in the BP ARCO Settlement Projects Fund (46).

COMMITTEE: Technology, October 18, 2019; Recommended for Approval

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorize the Chairman to execute agreements to establish one-time endowments to support graduate student scholarships from interest accrued in the BP ARCO Settlement Projects Fund (46), as follows:

- a. \$1,000,000 to the National Fuel Cell Research Center at the University of California, Irvine; and
- b. \$250,000 to the California State University, Los Angeles.

Wayne Natri
Executive Officer

MMM:NB:JI:SH

Background

The South Coast AQMD has supported research and education in the fields of emission reductions, air quality, and clean energy to support our mission. In April 2019, the Board approved release of RFP (#P2019-18) to solicit proposals to support university graduate student scholarships that will, in part, train students entering the workforce, with guidance from South Coast AQMD, on emerging issues and the latest research related to air quality and climate change. Relevant areas of study will include, in part: emissions and air quality impacts, health impacts of air pollution, climate change

impacts, sustainable transportation and energy, and improving policy to achieve clean air standards and stabilize GHG emissions.

Outreach

In accordance with South Coast AQMD Procurement Policy and Procedure, a public notice advertising the RFP 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 Basin.

Additionally, potential bidders may have been notified utilizing South Coast AQMD’s own electronic listing of certified minority vendors. Notice of the RFP was emailed to the Black and Latino Legislative Caucuses and various minority chambers of commerce and business associates, and placed on the Internet at South Coast AQMD’s website (<http://www.aqmd.gov>).

Bid Evaluation

Proposals were received from the National Fuel Cell Research Center at the University of California, Irvine (NFCRC at UCI) and the California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA) by the June 5, 2019 closing date. Both proposals met the technical merits of the RFP, complement existing South Coast AQMD funding portfolios and will meet policy objectives.

Based on the evaluation criteria in the RFP, priority was placed on research capability and experience that aid in achieving South Coast AQMD’s air quality goals. Ten additional points could also be awarded to proposals where the scholarship program would integrate into an existing program(s) with a successful track record and national level laboratories. The evaluation scores are shown below.

Applicant	Points
NFCRC at UCI	93.3
CSULA	83.0

Panel Composition

The evaluation panel consisted of three South Coast AQMD staff: one Air Quality Specialist, one Senior Public Affairs Manager and one Atmospheric Measurements Manager. Of the three panelists, one is Asian-Pacific Islander, one is Hispanic and one is Caucasian; two are male and one is female.

Proposal

This action is to execute agreements for one-time endowments to the NFCRC at UCI and CSULA.

UCI has extensive experience conducting research through the NFCRC, has significant training capabilities and is well equipped to train students entering the workforce on the emerging issues and latest research related to emissions and air quality impacts, health impacts of air pollution, climate change and sustainable transportation. UCI has proposed that the “Samuelson Energy Visionary Scholarship” be managed by the UCI Foundation, which is a charitable organization. The NFCRC will commit time and resources to establish the scholarship and its policies and procedures for determining the scholarship award winners.

CSULA has extensive experience conducting research, including projects with Argonne National Labs, and training and mentoring students in the design of hybrid vehicles and working with NASA’s Data Intensive Research and Education Center in STEM. Through these programs, students receive research and training opportunities at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, NASA, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Los Alamos National Lab and partner universities (University of New Mexico and Arizona State). Students also partner with local clean air and transportation partners such as LA Cleantech Incubator, Proterra and numerous others. CSULA provides a comprehensive current sustainability and climate change curriculum. The College of Engineering, Computer Science and Technology includes coursework that corresponds to South Coast AQMD-related topics across every department. Currently, curriculum on criteria pollutant emissions and air quality and health impacts of air pollution are offered through coursework in the departments of Geology, Biology and Political Science.

This program will be overseen by an advisory board consisting of representatives from South Coast AQMD, potential other cofunding organizations, and the awarded universities, which will provide guidance for the relevant topics for research and coursework and recommendations for program management and effectiveness.

Benefits to South Coast AQMD

The proposed endowments could result in significant benefits for South Coast AQMD. Specifically, the endowments will provide opportunities for enhanced candidate pools for technical, policy and health effects positions at South Coast AQMD, as well as opportunities to partner on issues related to energy production and management, mobile source emissions characterization and control, related health impacts, and planning and control strategy implementation.

Resource Impacts

The agreements with the NFCRC at UCI and CSULA will not exceed \$1,000,000 and \$250,000, respectively. There are sufficient funds in the BP ARCO Settlement Projects Fund (46), which was established to fund projects and programs related to air pollution mitigation, research, public outreach and education, and other projects to help improve air quality in the jurisdiction of the South Coast AQMD.