

BOARD MEETING DATE: January 10, 2020

AGENDA NO. 5

PROPOSAL: Approve Transfer of Monies from Health Effects Research Fund to Health Effects of Air Pollution Foundation

SYNOPSIS: At the June 2008 meeting, the Board established a Health Effects Research Fund. This fund is designated for the Health Effects of Air Pollution Foundation's use to support air pollution health effects research. This action is to transfer \$3,500,000 from the Health Effects Research Fund to the Health Effects of Air Pollution Foundation to fund additional research and to help achieve the objectives of the Foundation.

COMMITTEE: Administrative, December 13, 2019; Recommended for Approval

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorize the transfer of \$3,500,000 from the Health Effects Research Fund (Fund 48) to the Health Effects of Air Pollution Foundation.

Wayne Natri
Executive Officer

JG:as

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 November 2019 is \$4,720,374.

In 2003, the Board established the Brain Tumor and Air Pollution Foundation. In 2004, the Foundation amended its Articles of Incorporation to change its name to Brain & Lung Tumor and Air Pollution Foundation and to specify that its purpose is related to the effects of air pollution on brain tumors and lung cancer. In 2017, the Foundation again amended its Articles of Incorporation to change its name to the Health Effects of Air Pollution Foundation (Foundation) and to specify its purpose is to aid, assist, and

support research on the incidence, detection and causes and cures of various health conditions that may be caused or aggravated by air pollution.

The Board has funded the Health Effects of Air Pollution Foundation from penalty revenues since 2003. To carry out its purpose, the Foundation has sponsored over \$8.9 million in studies with leading medical researchers in Southern California. As a result of these studies, it has been learned that exposure of laboratory animals to particulate pollutants is associated with biochemical changes in the brain tissue that are consistent with the biochemical patterns found in human brain tumors and neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease. Other projects found preliminary associations between particulate matter exposure and the risk of childhood brain tumors. These findings are of significant interest and are being followed up with additional study proposals. Results from these studies are expected to provide scientific information to help inform air pollution policies and better understand the health risks of exposure to air pollutants.

Proposal

Staff is proposing that the Board authorize the transfer of \$3,500,000 from the Health Effects Research Fund to the Health Effects of Air Pollution Foundation. The Foundation will evaluate and fund proposals with the available monies.

Resource Impacts

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