

BOARD MEETING DATE: April 2, 2021

AGENDA NO. 22

REPORT: Technology Committee

SYNOPSIS: The Technology Committee held a meeting remotely on Friday, March 19, 2021. The following is a summary of the meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Receive and file.

Joe Buscaino, Chair
Technology Committee

MMM:psc

Committee Members

Present: Council Member Joe Buscaino/Chair
Supervisor Lisa Bartlett
Board Member Gideon Kracov
Mayor Pro Tem Larry McCallon
Vice Mayor Rex Richardson
Mayor Pro Tem Carlos Rodriguez

Call to Order

Chair Buscaino called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Issue RFQ for Technical Assistance to Support South Coast AQMD's Technology Advancement Activities and Implementation Efforts

South Coast AQMD administers and manages both the implementation of incentive programs as well as the pre-commercial research, development, demonstration, and deployment of low and zero emission technologies. This action is to issue an RFQ to solicit proposals from qualified consultants and consulting firms capable of providing technical expertise and experience to assist staff with the evaluation and implementation of these programs. It is anticipated that multiple awards will be made from this solicitation.

Mayor Pro Tem Rodriguez asked if this RFQ is a standard practice or new approach to supporting technology advancement activities and implementation efforts. Staff responded this is a standard RFQ released every 2-3 years for consultant expertise that is needed in the different areas of technology advancement, however we are short in staffing resources for the incentive funding programs which have experienced increased funding and applications in recent years.

Moved by Rodriguez; seconded by McCallon; unanimously approved.

Ayes: Bartlett, Buscaino, Kracov, McCallon, Richardson, Rodriguez
Noes: None
Absent: None

2. Amend Contract for Development of Battery Powered Locomotive Project

In June 2016, the Board approved a contract with VeRail Technologies (VeRail) to develop a natural gas locomotive using U.S. EPA Clean Air Technology Initiative (CATI) funds. VeRail has since dissolved leaving \$90,825 in CATI funds unused. Subsequently, in 2017, the Board approved \$210,000 in CATI funds for a project with Rail Propulsion Systems (RPS) to develop a battery powered switcher locomotive. The U.S. EPA has since approved the reallocation of unused funds towards further enhancements to the RPS project. This action is to amend the contract with RPS to further the development of a battery electric switcher locomotive in an amount not to exceed \$90,825 of unused U.S. EPA CATI funds from the Clean Fuels Program Fund (31).

Mayor Pro Tem McCallon asked if the locomotive developed under this project can operate in any freight services application. Staff responded that it could operate in a freight application.

Ranji George, a member of the public, requested staff considers the end use of batteries and the need for contractors to include a recycling plan in their proposals.

Ian Stewart, RPS, also affirmed that the locomotive that would receive funding through this Board item will be capable of operating in any freight yard in the South Coast.

Mayor Pro Tem Rodriguez inquired about staff plans to include battery disposal in research contracts. Staff responded that they can add a requirement to the contract to include a recycling plan or proper disposal of batteries.

Harvey Eder, a member of the public, expressed concerns regarding hydrogen contributing to climate change and states that all approaches are necessary to reduce air pollution.

Moved by McCallon; seconded by Bartlett; unanimously approved.

Ayes: Bartlett, Buscaino, Kracov, McCallon, Richardson, Rodriguez

Noes: None

Absent: None

OTHER MATTERS:

3. Other Business

There was no other business.

4. Public Comment Period

Mr. George commented on concerns about battery recycling and urged the Board to continue to follow this issue.

Matthew Tasooji, Home Grown Technology, commented that he is working on the development of a new generation lithium-ion battery.

Mr.Eder commented about the history of environmental policy changes.

Mr.Stewart announced that RPS has partnered with BYD to improve and modernize commuter rail with battery electric locomotives.

Sam Kang, BYD, expressed support of the partnership with RPS to find the best solution for electrifying locomotives.

5. Next Meeting Date

The next regular Technology Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 16, 2021 at noon.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

Attachment

Attendance Record

ATTACHMENT

**SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING
Attendance Record – March 19, 2021**

Supervisor Lisa Bartlett.....	South Coast AQMD Board Member
Council Member Joe Buscaino	South Coast AQMD Board Member
Mayor Pro Tem Carlos Rodriguez	South Coast AQMD Board Member
Mayor Pro Tem Larry McCallon	South Coast AQMD Board Member
Vice Mayor Rex Richardson	South Coast AQMD Board Member
Council Member Michael Cacciotti	South Coast AQMD Board Member (observer)
James Dinwiddie	Board Consultant (Bartlett)
Jacob Haik	Board Consultant (Buscaino)
Matthew Hamlett.....	Board Consultant (Richardson)
Matt Holder	Board Consultant (Rodriguez)
Lorraine Lundquist.....	Board Consultant (Kuehl)
Debra Mendelsohn	Board Consultant (Rutherford)
Ross Zelen	Board Consultant (Kracov)
Mark Abramowitz	Public Member
Todd Campbell.....	Clean Energy Fuels
Ramine Cromartie	Public Member
Harvey Eder.....	Public Member
Ranji George.....	Public Member
Sam Kane	BYD
Patty Senecal	WSPA
Ian Stewart.....	RPS
Matthew Tasooji.....	Home Grown Technology
Derrick Alatorre	South Coast AQMD Staff
Laurence Brown	South Coast AQMD Staff
Bayron Gilchrist	South Coast AQMD Staff
Sheri Hanizavareh	South Coast AQMD Staff
Anissa (Cessa) Heard-Johnson.....	South Coast AQMD Staff
Joseph Impullitti.....	South Coast AQMD Staff
Joseph Lopat.....	South Coast AQMD Staff
Ron Moskowitz	South Coast AQMD Staff
Wayne Nastri.....	South Coast AQMD Staff
Arnold Peneda	South Coast AQMD Staff
Matt Miyasato.....	South Coast AQMD Staff

Penny Shaw CedilloSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Walter ShenSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Lisa TanakaSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Veera TyagiSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Alejandra Vega.....South Coast AQMD Staff
Vicki WhiteSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Jill WhynotSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Paul Wright.....South Coast AQMD Staff
Victor Yip.....South Coast AQMD Staff