

BOARD MEETING DATE: August 6, 2021

AGENDA NO. 3

PROPOSAL: Execute Contracts for Technical Assistance and Program Implementation to Support South Coast AQMD's Technology Advancement Activities

SYNOPSIS: South Coast AQMD administers and manages pre-commercial research, development, demonstration and deployment of low and zero emission technologies. On April 2, 2021, the Board approved the release of RFQ #Q2021-06 to solicit proposals to support advanced, low and zero emission technologies for the Clean Fuels Program and Implementation efforts. Eleven proposals were received in response to this solicitation. This action is to execute contracts with qualified consultants and consulting firms to provide technical assistance and outreach support in advanced, low and zero emission technologies. These contracts will not exceed \$775,000 from the Clean Fuels Program Fund (31).

COMMITTEE: Technology, June 18, 2021; Recommended for Approval

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. Authorize the Chairman to execute the following contracts in an amount not to exceed \$775,000 from the Clean Fuels Program Fund (31):
 - a) Green Paradigm Consulting, Inc., (GPCI) for technical assistance and program implementation support with alternative fuels, alternative fuel vehicles, charging and fueling infrastructure in an amount not to exceed \$200,000;
 - b) Gladstein, Neandross & Associates (GNA) for technical assistance with alternative fuels, fueling infrastructure, proposal development and outreach in an amount not to exceed \$300,000;
 - c) CALSTART, Inc., for technical assistance with assessment of cleaner technologies and mobile source applications in an amount not to exceed \$100,000;
 - d) University of California Riverside (UCR) for technical assistance with heavy-duty vehicle emission testing, test methods, analyses and engine development and applications in an amount not to exceed \$75,000; and

- e) AEE Solutions LLC for technical assistance with heavy-duty vehicle emission testing, test methods, and analysis of real-world activity data in an amount not to exceed \$100,000;

Wayne Natri
Executive Officer

MMM:AK:JI:PSK

Background

The AQMP is the comprehensive regional plan for attaining federal air quality standards in the South Coast Air Basin. In addition to full implementation of current technologies and control methods, there is a need to further develop and promote advanced cleaner technologies. In particular, mobile sources such as NO_x from heavy-duty diesel engines and/or vehicles are responsible for the majority of air pollution in the South Coast Air Basin.

South Coast AQMD's Technology Advancement Office administers and manages pre-commercial research, development, demonstration and deployment of low and zero emission technologies. The Clean Fuels Program receives more than \$12 million annually in revenue and typically has over 100 active contracts annually. The Clean Fuels Program supports a mix of short-, medium-, and long-term goals, representing a portfolio of technologies at different stages of technology readiness to achieve cleaner air. Due to constant and rapid innovations in technologies and the sheer breadth of potential projects, staff occasionally requires input from experts and in-the-field practitioners to aid in establishing projects and carrying out specialized tasks for the Clean Fuels Program.

On April 2, 2021, the Board approved RFQ #Q2021-06 to solicit proposals for technical assistance for the Clean Fuels Program and implementation of various incentive funding programs. The RFQ solicited qualifications from individuals and organizations capable of providing technical assistance in a variety of areas to support staff activities. These areas of technical assistance include: mobile applications – low and zero emission technologies; fuels – processing, reformulation and emission analyses; stationary applications – advanced combustion and renewables; emissions and analyses – in-use measurements and health analyses; outreach – latest technological advancements; and financial analyst services – financial studies and cost analyses. Proposals were due on May 18, 2021.

Outreach

In accordance with South Coast AQMD's Procurement Policy and Procedure, a public notice advertising the RFQ 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 South Coast AQMD's own electronic listing of certified minority vendors. Notice of the RFQ was emailed to the Black and Latino Legislative Caucuses and various minority chambers of commerce and business associations, and placed on South Coast AQMD's website (<http://www.aqmd.gov>).

Proposal Evaluation

Seven of the eleven proposals received in response to RFQ #Q2021-06, as shown in Table 1 were evaluated for the Technology Demonstration group and scored by a three-member panel in accordance with established South Coast AQMD guidelines. The panel consisted of one Assistant Deputy Executive Officer, one Technology Demonstration Manager and one Contracts and Outreach Manager. The panel breakdown was as follows: three males; two Caucasians and one Asian Pacific Islander.

Table 1: List of Proposers by Area of Specialty

Proposer	Technology Demonstration
AEE Solutions LLC	Emissions testing, test methods
CALSTART, Inc.	Cleaner technology assessment, policy
GNA	Proposal development, outreach
GPCI	Project implementation support
Sonoma Technology, Inc.	Emissions modeling, data analysis
Tetra Tech, Inc.	Evaluation of alternative fuel technologies
UCR	Emission testing, test methods

Scores are shown in Table 2 of the attachment. Based on these scores and current needs, staff is recommending funding levels for each of the proposers as shown in Table 3 of the attachment. The technical expertise of four proposers - Associates Environmental, Cora Consulting LLC, Opus Inspection and Saint Malo Solutions LLC - did not match the specific objectives and needs of South Coast AQMD demonstration program at this time and are therefore not recommended for awards.

Table 2: Average Scores for Proposers

Proposer	Technical Points	Labor Rates	Additional Points*	Total Points
GPCI	63	30	15	108
GNA	64	25	17	106
CALSTART, Inc.	64	25	5	94
UCR	62	25	0	87
AEE Solutions LLC	56	25	0	81
Tetra Tech, Inc.*	40			
Sonoma Technology, Inc.*	35			

*These proposals did not score sufficient points for technical criteria by the panel

Proposal

This action is to execute level-of-effort contracts from the Clean Fuels Program Fund (31) as follows:

Green Paradigm Consulting, Inc., (GPCI) will provide technical assistance and program implementation support with alternative fuels, alternative fuel vehicles, charging and fueling infrastructure in an amount not to exceed \$200,000. GPCI has been providing program implementation support for large grant funded projects including the GGRF Zero Emission Drayage Truck Project, ZANZEFF Volvo LIGHTS, EPA Volvo Switch-On, and CARB-CEC Pilot Project.

Gladstein, Neandross & Associates (GNA) will provide technical expertise with alternative fuels, fueling infrastructure, proposal development and outreach in an amount not to exceed \$300,000. GNA has partnered with OEMs, fleets and infrastructure providers to develop projects such as the deployment of Class 8 battery electric trucks and cargo handling equipment for fleets in the ZANZEFF Volvo LIGHTS project and two 50 Class 8 battery electric truck deployments for fleets in the CARB-CEC Pilot Project.

CALSTART, Inc., will provide third party assessment of cleaner technologies and mobile source applications in an amount not to exceed \$100,000. CALSTART has professional experience and expertise in cleaner technologies such as alternative fuel infrastructure, zero and near-zero emission buses, medium- and heavy-duty vehicles and strategies for zero and near-zero market expansion. They have been assisting CARB in their long-term heavy-duty investment plan and other assessments for the past several years.

University of California Riverside (UCR) will provide technical assistance with heavy-duty vehicle emission testing, test methods, analyses and engine development and applications in an amount not to exceed \$75,000. UCR has professional experience and

proven expertise in alternative fuels, low and zero emission technologies, emission testing, and federal policies and state regulations.

AEE Solutions LLC will provide technical assistance with heavy-duty vehicle emission testing, test methods, and real-world analysis of activity data in an amount not to exceed \$100,000. AEE Solutions LLC has professional experience and proven expertise in the areas of alternative fuels, low and zero emission technologies, emission controls, federal policies and state regulations.

Benefits to South Coast AQMD

The proposed awards will support the implementation of the Clean Fuels Program. In addition, outside expertise will provide an effective means of evaluating technology readiness of pre-commercial technologies and assessing emission reductions, benefits and impacts of federal policies and state regulations.

Resource Impacts

Total amount of awards will not exceed \$775,000 from the Clean Fuels Program Fund (31).

Table 3 Proposed Awards

Proposer	Clean Fuels Program Fund (31)
GPCI	\$200,000
GNA	\$300,000
CALSTART, Inc.	\$100,000
UCR	\$75,000
AEE Solutions LLC	\$100,000
Total	\$775,000

Sufficient funds are available from the Clean Fuels Program Fund, established as a special revenue fund resulting from the state-mandated Clean Fuels Program to cover the proposed \$775,000 for outside technical assistance. The Clean Fuels Program, under Health and Safety Code Sections 40448.5 and 40512 and Vehicle Code Section 9250.11, establishes mechanisms to collect revenues from mobile sources to support projects to increase the utilization of clean fuels, including the development of the necessary advanced enabling technologies. Funds collected from motor vehicles are restricted, by statute, to be used for projects and program activities related to mobile sources that support the objectives of the Clean Fuels Program.