

BOARD MEETING DATE: March 5, 2021

AGENDA NO. 27

REPORT: Technology Committee

SYNOPSIS: The Technology Committee held a meeting remotely on Friday, February 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
Mayor Pro Tem Larry McCallon
Vice Mayor Rex Richardson

Absent: Board Member Gideon Kracov
Mayor Pro Tem Carlos Rodriguez

Call to Order

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

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Amend Contracts for Enhanced Fleet Modernization Program and Execute Contract for Program Support

Since 2015, the South Coast AQMD has been implementing an Enhanced Fleet Modernization Program (EFMP), branded as Replace Your Ride. The program is administered with assistance from three contractors providing case management and remote sensing technical support. These actions are to amend contracts with three consultants to add funds for continued program support and execute a contract to provide income verification service for the program, using funds from the HEROS II Special Revenue Fund (56).

Mayor McCallon asked about the amount of NOx emission reduction and the cost-effectiveness of the program. Staff explained the EFMP is funded by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund with a primary goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and serving low-income communities. NOx reduction is not a primary goal of this program. Staff will provide this information to Mayor McCallon.

Moved by Bartlett; seconded by McCallon; unanimously approved.

Ayes: Bartlett, Buscaino, McCallon

Noes: None

Absent: None

2. Adopt Resolution Recognizing Funds for FY 2020-21 Carl Moyer Program and Issue Program Announcements for Carl Moyer and SOON Programs

These actions are to adopt a Resolution recognizing up to \$35 million in Carl Moyer Program grant funds from CARB with its terms and conditions for FY 2020-21 and issue Program Announcements for “Year 23” of the Carl Moyer Program and SOON Provision to solicit applications for eligible zero and low emitting on- and off-road vehicles and equipment, including marine vessels and locomotives, and infrastructure for near-zero and zero emission vehicles and equipment.

Vice Mayor Richardson arrived at 12:10 pm.

Supervisor Lisa Bartlett supported the staff proposal that 60 percent of the Carl Moyer Program funding be prioritized to disadvantaged and low-income communities while emphasizing the importance of allocating the remaining 40 percent for cost-effective projects and emission reduction benefits in our basin.

Mayor Larry McCallon asked about the source of AB 923 funding. Staff explained this funding is based on a \$2 DMV motor vehicle registration fee and used for eligible Carl Moyer projects, including South Coast AQMD’s required match funds to participate in the Carl Moyer Program.

Mayor Larry McCallon commented that Metrolink has been a recipient of AB 923 funding and has successfully deployed cleaner Tier 4 passenger trains in the region.

Ranji George, a member of the public, recommended more focus on reducing greenhouse gases and requested a broader definition of cost-effectiveness including short-, medium- and long-term benefits, while prioritizing fuel cell and sustainable battery technologies.

Moved by McCallon; seconded by Bartlett; unanimously approved.

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

3. Amend Contract for Kore Infrastructure Project

In June 2020, the Board approved a contract amendment of Kore Infrastructure LLC (Kore) for a Renewable Natural Gas Commercial Field Test project, including construction of a pyrolysis system on Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) property in Los Angeles. The project is to test various biomass feedstocks for commercial production of renewable natural gas. This action is to amend the contract with Kore to extend the deadline to complete construction, commissioning and testing efforts by October 1, 2021.

Matt Gregori, Technology Development Manager for SoCalGas provided a presentation on their interest in promoting the development of hydrogen fuels and their continued interest in pyrolysis as a technology to increase the production of renewable hydrogen from biomass.

Mr. George inquired on the percent of our energy needs currently being met by renewables and inquired about staff's knowledge of pyrolysis projects in other countries and other areas.

Moved by Richardson; seconded by McCallon; unanimously approved.

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

4. Execute Contracts for Hydrogen Infrastructure Projects and Fuel Cell Microgrid Study

Research and development in the area of hydrogen infrastructure and microgrids is important as fuel cell technology transitions from light- to medium- and heavy-duty vehicles. These actions are to support High Flow Bus Fueling Protocol Development with Frontier Energy, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$25,000, support California Heavy-Duty Hydrogen Infrastructure Research with National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 and support California Hydrogen Systems Analysis with University of California, Davis (UC Davis) in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 from the Clean Fuels Program Fund (31). The University of California, Irvine Advanced Power and Energy Program (UCI APEP) proposes a study to identify and quantify the steps required for wider deployment of microgrids using fuel cell technology. This action is also to execute a contract with UCI APEP to study fuel cell microgrid technology in an amount not to exceed \$370,000 from the Clean Fuels Program Fund (31).

Vice Mayor Richardson noted that he does not have a financial interest or conflict of interest but is required to identify for the record that he is the Vice Mayor for the City of Long Beach which is involved in this item. He stated that he supports this program which will provide a bridge to zero emission technology.

Mayor McCallon emphasized the importance of microgrids for local zero-emission transportation, especially under Public Safety Power Shutoff events, to operate under islanding mode to secure continued operation of the transportation system. Local transit agencies and other critical facilities are such areas where demonstration of microgrids will be vital.

Supervisor Bartlett stated that microgrids are an important bridging technology to expand zero-emission hydrogen infrastructure. Since University of California, Irvine has been doing comprehensive studies for microgrids, this project will expand their previous work to provide strategic deployment of fuel cell microgrid systems.

Mr. George commented on the importance of hydrogen infrastructure deployment for light-duty vehicles as well as medium and heavy-duty vehicles. He stated that hydrogen fuel cells have less waste than battery technology.

Harvey Eder, Public Solar Power Coalition, commented that there is a need for low income, equitable solar power.

Moved by McCallon; seconded by Bartlett; unanimously approved.

Ayes: Bartlett, Buscaino, McCallon, Richardson

Noes: None

Absent: None

5. Approve and Adopt Technology Advancement Office Clean Fuels Program 2020 Annual Report and 2021 Plan Update, Resolution and Membership Changes for Clean Fuels Advisory Group and Receive and File Updated Membership of Technology Advancement Advisory Group

Each year by March 31, the South Coast AQMD must submit to the California Legislative Analyst an approved Annual Report for the past year and a Plan Update for the current calendar year for the Clean Fuels Program. This action is to approve and adopt the Technology Advancement Clean Fuels Program Annual Report for 2020 and 2021 Plan Update and the Resolution finding that proposed projects do not duplicate any past or present programs. These actions are to also approve and adopt membership changes to the SB 98 Clean Fuels Advisory Group and receive and file membership changes to the Technology Advancement Advisory Group.

Mr. Eder inquired about the Clean Fuels program and how the different types of supported technologies have developed and made an impact on the air quality in the

South Coast. Additionally, he commented that more funds should be spent on solar renewable energy due to climate concerns.

Mr. George expressed support for battery recycling and more solar energy to support EV infrastructure.

Moved by McCallon; seconded by Bartlett; unanimously approved.

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

OTHER MATTERS:

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Public Comment Period

Mr. Eder expressed concerns regarding technology and policy. Additionally, he expressed support for solar renewables.

Mr. George requested South Coast AQMD support of greenhouse gas reductions and concerns pertaining to batteries for zero emission technology and their eventual need for recycling.

Wayne Nastri, Executive Officer, announced that this will be Naveen Berry's last day due to his retirement and recognized Naveen for his more than 30 years of service. Chair Buscaino commented that Naveen has been a subject matter expert and has led with grace and passion in the field of moving toward embracing technologies and bringing key people to the table. Mayor McCallon commented that Naveen has served us well and will be missed. Naveen thanked management and the committee for their guidance and thanked staff for their support.

8. Next Meeting Date

The next regular Technology Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 19, 2021 at noon.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Attachment

Attendance Record

ATTACHMENT

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

Supervisor Lisa Bartlett	South Coast AQMD Board Member
Council Member Joe Buscaino	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)
Ross Zelen.....	Board Consultant (Kracov)
Mark Abramowitz	Public Member
Ramine Cromartie	Public Member
Harvey Eder	Public Member
Ranji George	Public Member
Matt Gregori.....	SoCalGas
Ihshan Hsuyen	Public Member
Dan McGivney	Public Member
Fred Minassian	Public Member
Henry Zhang	Public Member
Phil Barroca.....	South Coast AQMD Staff
Naveen Berry	South Coast AQMD Staff
Penny Shaw Cedillo	South Coast AQMD Staff
Bayron Gilchrist	South Coast AQMD Staff
Sheri Hanizavareh	South Coast AQMD Staff
Anissa (Cessa) Heard-Johnson	South Coast AQMD Staff
Darren Ha.....	South Coast AQMD Staff
Seungbum Ha	South Coast AQMD Staff
Mark Henninger	South Coast AQMD Staff
Joseph Impullitti.....	South Coast AQMD Staff
Rhea Lam	South Coast AQMD Staff
Tom Lee	South Coast AQMD Staff
Jason Low	South Coast AQMD Staff

Lisa Mirisola South Coast AQMD Staff
Matt Miyasato South Coast AQMD Staff
Wayne Nastro..... South Coast AQMD Staff
Arnold Peneda..... South Coast AQMD Staff
Angelica Reyes..... South Coast AQMD Staff
Walter Shen..... South Coast AQMD Staff
Veera Tyagi..... South Coast AQMD Staff
Alejandra Vega..... South Coast AQMD Staff
Donna Vernon South Coast AQMD Staff
Michelle White..... South Coast AQMD Staff
Vicki White..... South Coast AQMD Staff
Jill Whynot..... South Coast AQMD Staff
Paul Wright South Coast AQMD Staff
Alyssa Yan South Coast AQMD Staff