

BOARD MEETING DATE: November 5, 2021

AGENDA NO. 36

PROPOSAL: Appropriate Funds for Field Monitoring Equipment

SYNOPSIS: This action is to appropriate \$80,000 from the General Fund Undesignated (Unassigned) Fund Balance to the Office of Compliance & Enforcement's (OCE's) FY 2021-22 Budget to acquire the appropriate monitoring resources to support the ongoing multi-agency investigation of the Dominguez Channel odor event.

COMMITTEE: No Committee review

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Appropriate \$80,000 from the General Fund Undesignated (Unassigned) Fund Balance to OCE's FY 2021-22 Budget, Capital Outlays Major Object to purchase Jerome H2S monitors.

Wayne Natri
Executive Officer

TM:VY:SC

Background

Since early October, South Coast AQMD has received almost 4,000 complaints from residents of the City of Carson and the surrounding areas reporting rotten egg and sulfur-type odors. Initial monitoring and sampling revealed elevated levels of hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) in and around the Dominguez Channel. South Coast AQMD has continued to work in collaboration with a number of governmental agencies in an effort to address this largescale incident.

Staff routinely employs portable analyzers in the field to conduct complaint investigations and to identify potential sources of emissions. In particular, both inspectors and monitoring staff utilize the Jerome brand H₂S portable analyzer (also known as a Jerome meter), which is capable of measuring H₂S at levels as low as parts per billion (ppb). The agency currently has six operable Jerome meters designated for

inspectors and monitoring staff. These devices are being used in a public safety capacity for surveillance routes at schools, senior centers, and other sensitive receptors; for incident responses alongside Los Angeles County Fire Department Hazmat; and as part of the enforcement team's ongoing investigation of particular sites and facilities. Although Jerome meters are rated to have a battery life of up to six hours, the devices must be regenerated regularly to avoid sensor saturation and therefore are removed from the field daily, often multiple times. South Coast AQMD field staff are fully deployed in connection with this incident; and, with 10-15 inspectors generally working on the matter each day, the limited number of available Jerome portable analyzers is the biggest logistical challenge to the investigation.

Proposal

Staff is seeking Board approval to appropriate \$80,000 from the General Fund Undesignated (Unassigned) Fund Balance to OCE's FY 2021-22 Budget, Capital Outlays Major Object to purchase four Jerome H2S monitors at an amount not to exceed \$80,000.

Sole Source Justification

A sole source award is authorized under Section VI A.4 (a) of the Procurement Policy and Procedure when the product or service is available from one source due to the unique qualities or capabilities of the vendor or proposed contractor.

Resource Impacts

Sufficient funds will be available in OCE's FY 2021-22 Budget upon approval of this Board letter.