

BOARD MEETING DATE: October 1, 2021

AGENDA NO. 4

PROPOSAL: Recognize Revenue, Appropriate Funds, and Execute Contracts to Implement Air Quality Community Training in the Eastern Coachella Valley

SYNOPSIS: U.S. EPA will award South Coast AQMD a grant from the State Environmental Justice Cooperative Agreement Program to implement an Air Quality Academy to improve environmental literacy and air quality data in the Eastern Coachella Valley. The academy will provide training on sensors, air quality index, and actions to reduce air pollution exposure. This action is to recognize upon receipt up to \$200,000 in revenue into the General Fund and appropriate up to \$113,091 to the Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources, Science & Technology Advancement and Legislative, Public Affairs/Media Office FY 2021-22 and/or FY 2022-23 Budgets. South Coast AQMD will partner with Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians and execute contracts with Desert Healthcare District and Foundation and Health Assessment and Research for Communities.

COMMITTEE: Administrative, September 10, 2021; Recommended for Approval

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Recognize up to \$200,000 in EPA State Environmental Justice Cooperative Agreement Program (SEJCA) revenue into the General Fund, upon receipt, and as set forth in Table 1, appropriate up to \$113,091 to the Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources (26), Science & Technology Advancement (44), and Legislative, Public Affairs/Media (35) FY 2021-22 and/or FY 2022-23 Budgets. (excludes \$86,909 in Salaries and Benefits already included in the adopted budget); and
2. Authorize the Executive Officer to execute and/or amend contracts, and issue solicitations and purchase orders to implement air quality community training for the Eastern Coachella Valley in accordance with the South Coast AQMD Procurement Policy and Procedure for items listed in Table 1.

Wayne Natri
Executive Officer

Background

On April 30, 2020, U.S. EPA released Request for Applications (RFA) # EPA-OP-OEJ-20-02 to announce the availability of funds for “State Environmental Justice Cooperative Agreement Program (SEJCA)/COVID-19 Projects.” The RFA solicited proposals for projects designed to assist state, local and tribal agencies to work collaboratively with underserved communities to understand, promote and integrate approaches to meaningful and measurable improvements to public health conditions and the environment in environmental justice (EJ) communities. South Coast AQMD submitted a grant proposal for \$200,000 to establish partnerships to develop an Air Quality Academy to provide resources and training to improve environmental literacy and air quality data in the Eastern Coachella Valley (ECV). ECV is an environmental justice community in the Assembly Bill (AB) 617 Program.

On June 15, 2021, U.S. EPA informed staff that the South Coast AQMD’s proposal was selected for an award. South Coast AQMD anticipates receiving a grant award from U.S. EPA in September 2021.

Proposal

Staff is seeking Board approval to recognize revenue and appropriate funds, execute contracts, and procure related services and supplies as listed in Table 1 - Proposed Appropriations for FY 2021-22 and/or 2022-23. The Board’s approval of these actions would initiate a project to establish an Air Quality Academy and publish a community environmental health report in collaboration with Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians (Tribal Government), Desert Healthcare District and Foundation (DHD) (Healthcare Agency), and Health Assessment and Research for Communities (HARC) (Non-Profit) in the ECV. The project is outlined in the U.S. EPA SEJCA Grant proposal and focuses on the following objectives.

- 1) *Air Quality Training*
Provide training to community members on the Air Quality Index (AQI) and actions to reduce air pollution exposure.
- 2) *Air Pollution Sensors*
Provide training to community members on air pollution measurements and sensors and deploy air pollution sensors in the community.
- 3) *Community Environmental Health Report*
Publish a community environmental health report that evaluates social and environmental justice disparities in the ECV community to inform future community work.

This project builds on existing community partnerships in place through the Assembly Bill (AB) 617 program. Representatives from the Twenty-Nine Palms Tribe and DHD are members of the ECV AB 617 Community Steering Committee. In collaboration with Twenty-Nine Palms Tribe and DHD, South Coast AQMD will develop training

modules for the Air Quality Academy. South Coast AQMD will also provide the blended AQI map tool, a Community Sensors Toolbox with informational materials about sensors and best practices for data collection and interpretation, and additional outreach in the ECV community through the AB 617 program. The Twenty-Nine Palms Tribe will conduct outreach and recruit community participants. DHD will help develop training modules and provide training for community health workers to mitigate health impacts from air pollution. HARC will analyze data (e.g., environmental, demographic) to complete the community environmental health report.

Sole Source Justification

Section VIII.B.3 of the Procurement Policy and Procedure identifies four major provisions for justifying a sole source award funded, in whole or in part with federal funds. The request for sole source awards for the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation and Health Assessment and Research for Communities contracts and the purchase of 35 Purple Air PA-II sensors and eight Aeroqual AQY sensors are made under the provisions B.3.c, which states that the awarding federal agency or pass-through entity expressly authorizes noncompetitive proposals in response to a written request from the non-federal entity.

Benefits to South Coast AQMD

This work complements the ongoing efforts to partner with the community to address local air quality priorities through the AB 617 program, including providing information to reduce air pollution exposure in ECV and expanding the air quality sensor network. This project will strengthen South Coast AQMD's collaborative partnerships in ECV and improve air pollution data and data accessibility in these rural communities. Additionally, this project can serve as a model for future outreach and educational programs in this region.

Resource Impacts

The \$200,000 in U.S. EPA funding will support the establishment of the Air Quality Academy to provide training that will improve environmental literacy and resources for the purchase of low-cost sensors to improve air quality data in ECV. The funding will also support outreach supplies used for the Air Quality Academy and contractual expenditures to conduct training and publish the community environmental health report. This project will also partially support the ECV Community Emission Reduction Plan efforts.

Attachment

Table 1 – Proposed Appropriations for FY 2021-22 and/or 2022-23

ATTACHMENT

**Table 1
Proposed Appropriations for FY 2021-22 and/or 2022-23**

Account Description	Account Number	Organizational Unit	Estimated Expenditures
Services and Supplies Major Object			
Low-cost PM2.5 sensors, 35 sensors	68300	STA	\$10,497
PM10/PM2.5 sensors, 8 sensors	68300	STA	\$27,440
Miscellaneous Outreach supplies	68100	LPAM	\$1,014
Travel	67800	PRDAS, STA, LPAM	\$7,060
Meeting logistics contracts	67450	LPAM	\$24,400
Site rental fees for sensors contracts	67350	STA	\$500
Clerical support for translation and training services	67460	PRDAS	\$7,580
Community Health Worker and Participant Support (Desert Healthcare District & Foundation) contract	67450	PRDAS	\$27,000
Data Evaluation and Reporting (Health Assessment and Research for Communities) contract	67450	PRDAS	\$6,600
Conference fees	69500	PRDAS	\$1,000
Total Appropriation			\$113,091
Salaries and Benefits Major Object			\$86,909
Total Award			\$200,000