

BOARD MEETING DATE: September 3, 2021

AGENDA NO. 8

**PROPOSAL:** Appropriate Funds for Consultant Services for South Coast AQMD's Environmental Justice Outreach and Initiatives and Clean Air Program for Elementary Students and Why Healthy Air Matters Program

**SYNOPSIS:** At the September 2, 2020 meeting, the Board appropriated funds for the Environmental Justice Outreach and Initiatives and Clean Air Program for Elementary Students (CAPES) at \$360,000 per year in FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23 and the Why Healthy Air Matters (WHAM) Program to add \$1,000,000 per year in FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23. Funding was to be provided from 20 percent of the annual penalty money received in excess of \$4 million from the General Fund. Sufficient annual penalty funding is not available for the Environmental Justice Outreach and Initiatives and CAPES program and WHAM in FY 2021-22 based on this formula, and Board action is required to provide supplemental funding from BP ARCO Fund (Fund 46). This action is to appropriate funds for the Board approved contracts.

**COMMITTEE:** Administrative, August 13, 2021; Recommended for Approval

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

1. Appropriate \$142,394 which is a portion of the 20 percent of the annual penalty money received in excess of \$4 million from the General Fund Unreserved (Unassigned) Fund Balance, and transfer and appropriate \$117,606 from BP ARCO Fund (Fund 46) to the Legislative, Public Affairs & Media FY 2021-22 Budget, Services and Supplies Major Object, Professional & Specialized Services account for consultant services for Environmental Justice Outreach and Initiatives to secure participation of 20 schools in CAPES;
2. Transfer and appropriate \$100,000 from BP ARCO Fund (Fund 46) to the Legislative, Public Affairs & Media FY 2021-22 Budget, Services and Supplies Major Object, Professional & Specialized Services account for the District to purchase needed products and equipment for the CAPES program; and

3. Transfer and appropriate \$1,000,000 from BP ARCO Fund (Fund 46) to the Legislative, Public Affairs & Media FY 2021-22 Budget, Services and Supplies Major Object, Professional & Specialized Services account for consultant services for the WHAM program.

Wayne Nastri  
Executive Officer

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## **Background**

In February 2015, the Board launched the Environmental Justice Community Partnership (EJCP) to strengthen South Coast AQMD's relationships with stakeholders in environmental justice communities and to help clean the air. In October 2015, the Lee Andrews Group was contracted to support EJCP outreach efforts and programs. On September 4, 2020, the Board approved the expansion of the Clean Air Program for Elementary Students (CAPES) and Why Healthy Air Matters (WHAM) Program to extend implementation for an additional three years beginning on October 1, 2020 and to develop curriculum focused on South Coast AQMD and the regions' specific air quality challenges, especially environmental justice.

For the current 2020-21 academic school year, CAPES and WHAM have been successfully implemented in 24 elementary schools with 88 classrooms, 26 middle schools with 184 classrooms, and 79 high schools with 253 classrooms. Summer school programs are on-going and additional elementary, middle and high schools are expected to participate in CAPES or WHAM. Development of age-appropriate, engaging curriculum is complete for CAPES and will be completed for WHAM as scheduled for Fall 2021. Both the CAPES and WHAM curriculum provide teachers the flexibility to offer in person, virtual, or a hybrid learning experience. Lessons, including videos, worksheets with hands-on activities and other resources, can be accessed online. The 2021-22 academic school year will reach an additional 20 elementary schools for CAPES and 100 middle school classrooms and 300 high school classrooms for WHAM.

The programs have reached several thousand students and teachers living in South Coast AQMD's jurisdiction. South Coast AQMD's educational outreach inspires students to build air quality friendly lifestyles, get involved in their communities, and consider academic and professional careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) and public policy. Students and teachers serve as influencers, bringing home knowledge learned through CAPES and WHAM to their families and friends, further amplifying outreach impacts.

Funding was to be provided from 20 percent of the annual penalty money received in excess of \$4 million from the General Fund. However, sufficient penalty funding is not available for the Environmental Justice Outreach and Initiatives and CAPES program and WHAM in FY 2021-22 based on this formula.

**Proposal**

This proposal would:

1. Appropriate \$142,394 which is a portion of the 20 percent of the annual penalty money received in excess of \$4 million from the General Fund Unreserved (Unassigned) Fund Balance, and transfer and appropriate \$117,606 from BP ARCO Funds (Fund 46) to the Legislative, Public Affairs & Media FY 2021-22 Budget, Services and Supplies Major Object, Professional & Specialized Services account for consultant services for Environmental Justice Outreach and Initiatives to secure participation of 20 schools in CAPES;
2. Transfer and appropriate \$100,000 from BP ARCO Fund (Fund 46) to the Legislative, Public Affairs & Media FY 2021-22 Budget, Services and Supplies Major Object, Professional & Specialized Services account for the purchase of needed products and equipment for the CAPES program; and
3. Transfer and appropriate \$1,000,000 from BP ARCO Fund (Fund 46) to the Legislative, Public Affairs & Media FY 2021-22 Budget, Services and Supplies Major Object, Professional & Specialized Services account for consultant services for the WHAM program.

**Resource Impacts**

Sufficient funding is available from the BP ARCO Fund (Fund 46) and General Fund Unreserved (Unassigned) Fund Balance for these contracts in FY 2021-22.