

BOARD MEETING DATE: August 5, 2022

AGENDA NO. 6

**PROPOSAL:** Authorize Executive Officer to Initiate a Contract for Expert Technical Consulting Services with Zorik Pirveysian

**SYNOPSIS:** This action is to authorize the Executive Officer to initiate a contract with retired South Coast AQMD employee Zorik Pirveysian, a former Planning and Rules Manager, to provide expert technical consulting services in support of pending planning efforts and rules. This action also approves specific findings under Health and Safety Code Section 40426.7, which the Board is required to make before contracting with a former employee within 12 months of their retirement. Mr. Pirveysian separated from the South Coast AQMD on October 15, 2021. Due to substantial staff vacancies, there is an immediate need for expert technical support regarding the development of the 2022 AQMP and the Indirect Source Rules. The total cost of the contract will not exceed the Executive Officer's signing authority.

**COMMITTEE:** No Committee Review

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

1. Authorize the Executive Officer to initiate a contract with Zorik Pirveysian to provide expert technical consulting services.
2. Approve findings in Attachment 1 regarding Mr. Pirveysian's eligibility to provide South Coast AQMD with consulting services.

Wayne Natri  
Executive Officer

SLR: SH

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**Background**

Planning, Rule Development and Implementation (PRDI) is working on several high priority projects that are scheduled for public hearings over the next year and a half. These efforts include the 2022 AQMP, which is the comprehensive blueprint as to how the region will achieve air quality standards. The 2022 AQMP is scheduled for Board adoption in December 2022 and submission to U.S. EPA in early 2023. Staff is also

developing Indirect Source Rules (ISR) for rail yards and ports consistent with Board direction. Those rules are scheduled for adoption by the second and third quarter 2023.

PRDI has experienced an unprecedented rate of staff turnover, with almost all of the previous managers departing due to retirements or promotions. To ensure that commitments to finalize these high priority projects can be met, staff is seeking additional resources for technical support. Mr. Zorik Pirveysian is a former Planning and Rules Manager in PRDI who retired from the South Coast AQMD on October 15, 2021. One of Mr. Pirveysian's chief responsibilities was leading the development of the 2022 AQMP. He also led efforts to develop emission reduction strategies for the Ports and has expertise in port emissions inventories. Mr. Pirveysian has over 35 years of experience in air quality policy, planning, management and rule development, and is a leading expert of mobile source categories (e.g., ocean-going vessels, aircraft, rail locomotives, off-road equipment, trucks), emissions calculations, relevant state and federal regulations, and control strategy development. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering and a Master of Science degree in Environmental Engineering.

### **Proposal**

This proposal recommends that the Board authorize the Executive Officer to enter into a contract with Zorik Pirveysian to provide expert technical services in support of upcoming major projects, including the 2022 AQMP and the development of ISRs. The contract will be at least through the timeframe required to adopt the ISRs, and for an amount within the Executive Officer's authority, to be further determined upon a detailed assessment of the work required.

### **California Health and Safety Code Section 40426.7 Requirements**

Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 40426.7, the Board must make specific findings for a retired employee to provide such services within 12 months of retirement. The Board must find that, at the time of their retirement, (1) the employee was working on one or more programs that are of great importance to the South Coast District, (2) that the services of the employee are necessary to assure the continued effectiveness of programs, (3) that the contract is only for that period of time necessary to complete the employee's work on these programs, and (4) that the employee is the most qualified person to provide the needed services. These findings must be made by a two-thirds vote.

The Board can make these findings with regards to Mr. Pirveysian and the expert technical consulting services he could provide to support the 2022 AQMP and ISR rules. Mr. Pirveysian has extensive expertise of mobile source control measure development and implementation, as well as unique knowledge of ports operations and emission sources.

### **Attachment**

Health and Safety Code Section 40426.7 Findings

## **ATTACHMENT**

### **FINDINGS**

#### **PURSUANT TO HEALTH & SAFETY CODE SECTION 40426.7**

The Governing Board of the South Coast Air Quality Management District makes the following findings with respect to a contract with Zorik Pirveysian for expert technical consulting services, which contract is more fully described in the accompanying Governing Board Letter:

1. At the time Mr. Pirveysian left South Coast AQMD employment, he was working on one or more matters that are of great importance to the South Coast District, including the 2022 AQMP and negotiations with the Ports.
2. His services are necessary to assure that critical planning efforts and rules are able to be completed within the required timeframes.
3. The contract is only for the period of time necessary to complete work related to these efforts.
4. Based on his background and expertise, Mr. Pirveysian is the most qualified person to provide these services.