

BOARD MEETING DATE: March 4, 2022

AGENDA NO. 26

REPORT: Technology Committee

SYNOPSIS: The Technology Committee held a meeting remotely on Friday, February 18, 2022. The following is a summary of the meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Receive and file.

Rex Richardson, Chair
Technology Committee

MMM:psc

Committee Members

Present: Board Member Gideon Kracov
Mayor Larry McCallon
Board Member Veronica Padilla-Campos
Vice Mayor Rex Richardson, Chair
Mayor Carlos Rodriguez

Absent: Supervisor Andrew Do

Call to Order

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

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Renew Membership in California Fuel Cell Partnership, Execute Contract, Receive and File California Fuel Cell Partnership Executive Board Meeting Agendas and Activity Updates

South Coast AQMD has been a member of the California Fuel Cell Partnership (CaFCP) since 2000. These actions are to renew South Coast AQMD's membership in the CaFCP for Calendar Year 2022, execute a contract from the Clean Fuels Program Fund (31) with Frontier Energy, Inc., acting on behalf of the CaFCP in an amount not to exceed \$40,000 and receive and file the CaFCP Executive Board

Meeting Agendas for March 30, 2021, and October 20, 2021; and Activity Updates for 2021.

Board Member Kracov commented that he does not have a financial interest but is required to identify for the record that he is a Board Member of the California Air Resources Board which is a member of the California Fuel Cell Partnership and California Natural Gas Vehicle Partnership, which is involved in this item.

Mayor Rodriguez commented that he is looking forward to participating in the new non-profit structure, which will support inclusion of all hydrogen related entities and enable the organization to grow beyond passenger cars and beyond California. He thanked Sandy Berg of CARB and the leadership team for their work in transitioning to the new non-profit, noting that membership has grown to 55 members and reduced government agency fees. A significant accomplishment in 2021 was the Fuel Cell Electric Truck Vision, which identified the ambitious goals of 70,000 fuel cell trucks and 200 heavy-duty hydrogen stations by 2035.

Mayor McCallon mentioned that SoCalGas is launching their Angeles Link to bring a green hydrogen pipeline to Southern California, to help foster the growth of the fuel cell industry.

Ranji George, a member of the public, expressed his disappointment that domestic manufacturers are no longer on CaFCP Executive Board. He urged the Board members to push for more hydrogen stations in the eastern part of the region.

Harvey Eder, Public Solar Power Coalition, expressed his concerns about hydrogen from natural gas and the lack of solar generation in CARB's Scoping Plan.

Adrian Martinez, Earth Justice, encouraged the new leadership of the Technology Committee to focus on zero emissions only.

Vice Mayor Richardson agreed with the need to expand access to hydrogen and noted that there is only one hydrogen station in Long Beach, which often has a long line of cars waiting to refuel. He encouraged the Fuel Cell organization to increase hydrogen access.

Moved by Rodriguez; seconded by McCallon; unanimously approved.

Ayes: Kracov, McCallon, Padilla-Campos, Richardson, Rodriguez
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Do

2. Recognize California Natural Gas Vehicle Partnership as a Nonprofit Corporation and Transfer Funds, Contracts and Administrative Activities to this Nonprofit

The Board established the California Natural Gas Vehicle Partnership (CNGVP) and the Natural Gas Vehicle Partnership Fund (Fund 40) in 2002 to promote greater deployment of natural gas vehicles in California. To provide the CNGVP with greater autonomy and help reduce South Coast AQMD's administrative responsibilities, the CNGVP is registering as a California nonprofit corporation. These actions are to: 1) recognize the CNGVP as a California nonprofit corporation; 2) close all CNGVP contracts; 3) transfer all unspent funds of up to \$290,000 from the Natural Gas Vehicle Partnership Fund (Fund 40) to CNGVP nonprofit corporation; 4) close the Natural Gas Vehicle Partnership Fund (Fund 40); and 5) discontinue administrative activities on behalf of the CNGVP.

Board Member Kracov commented that he does not have a financial interest but is required to identify for the record that he is a Board Member of the California Air Resources Board which is a member of the California Fuel Cell Partnership and California Natural Gas Vehicle Partnership, which is involved in this item.

Mr. Eder expressed concerns about the tax implications and limitations for solar and renewable non-profit organizations.

Mr. Martinez expressed the need to understand the continued financial involvement and support from the South Coast AQMD. He stated that the agency should be focused on shifting to zero emissions approaches as identified by the recent AQMP strategy.

Board Member Padilla Campos asked if this action would result in any impacts to South Coast AQMD. Staff responded that the transition of the CNGVP to a non-profit will benefit the South Coast AQMD, as it will relieve staff resources associated with the development and administration of contracts, administration of invoice payments and provide budget oversight responsibilities. Board Member Padilla Campos inquired about the difference in the non-profit organizations, i.e., 501(c)6 vs. 501(c)3. Staff indicated that it has been determined the 501(c)6 is established to promote a common business interest, whereas a 501(c)3 is tax exempt and prohibited from lobbying.

Moved by McCallon; seconded by Rodriguez; unanimously approved.

Ayes: Kracov, McCallon, Padilla-Campos, Richardson, Rodriguez

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Do

3. Amend Contracts to Deploy Trucks for Volvo Low Impact Green Heavy Transport Solutions Project

In November 2018, the Board approved execution of contracts for the Volvo Low Impact Green Heavy Transport Solutions (LIGHTS) project. CARB approved reallocation of up to \$1,044,854 of administrative funding to project costs and extend the project to September 2022, to deploy up to five trucks at freight handling facilities. This action is to amend a contract with Volvo Group North America, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$1,044,854 from the GHG Reduction Projects Special Revenue Fund (67) to deploy up to five trucks and amend a contract with Green Paradigm Consulting, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$14,000 from the GHG Reduction Projects Special Revenue Fund (67) to provide project implementation assistance.

Board Member Kracov commented that he does not have a financial interest but is required to identify for the record that he is a Board Member of the California Air Resources Board which is a member of the California Fuel Cell Partnership and California Natural Gas Vehicle Partnership, which is involved in this item.

Vice Mayor Richardson commented 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.

Board Member Kracov asked how many trucks are funded by the Volvo LIGHTS project. Staff responded that this project has developed and deployed 23 battery electric trucks but is also funding the development and demonstration of an entire system, which includes battery electric cargo handling equipment as well as infrastructure for the trucks and equipment.

Mr. George recommended that the truck batteries be properly disposed of after the demonstration.

Moved by Kracov; seconded by McCallon; unanimously approved.

Ayes: Kracov, McCallon, Padilla-Campos, Richardson, Rodriguez

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Do

4. Approve and Adopt Technology Advancement Office Clean Fuels Program 2021 Annual Report and 2022 Plan Update, Resolution and Membership Changes for Clean Fuels Advisory Group

Each year by March 31, 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 2021 and 2022 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.

Board Member Kracov commented that he does not have a financial interest but is required to identify for the record that he is a Board Member of the California Air Resources Board which is a member of the California Fuel Cell Partnership and California Natural Gas Vehicle Partnership, which is involved in this item.

Mr. Martinez inquired why investments in compressed natural gas, compressed methane gas and biomethane are being pursued and suggested consideration for investments in zero emission technologies. He urged staff to engage with stakeholders, in particular San Joaquin Valley, who have concerns about dairy biomethane and environmental justice implications. Finally, he recommended that South Coast AQMD partner with other technology coalitions.

Mr. Eder commented on the funding amount allocated towards the proposed programs and suggested funds should be allocated towards solar.

Mr. George commented on the disparity in funding between battery electric and hydrogen technologies and recommended treating all technologies equal.

Board Member Padilla-Campos inquired about the emissions benefit timeframe. Staff confirmed the emission reductions cover five years. She also asked about the two advisory committee member transitions. Staff noted it was due to movement within their organization and interest on who would like to participate. She recommended removal of investments in natural gas and encouraged the committee to engage more in innovative zero emission technologies.

Moved by McCallon; seconded by Rodriguez; unanimously approved.

Ayes: Kracov, McCallon, Richardson, Rodriguez
Noes: None
Abstain: Padilla-Campos
Absent: Do

OTHER MATTERS:

5. Other Business

There was no other business to report.

6. Public Comment Period

Mr. George commented on the importance of hydrogen fuels and technologies.

Mr. Eder commented on the usage of alcohol fuels.

7. Next Meeting Date

The next regular Technology Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 18, 2022, 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 18, 2022**

Board Member Gideon Kracov	South Coast AQMD Board Member
Mayor Larry McCallon	South Coast AQMD Board Member
Board Member Veronica Padilla-Campos	South Coast AQMD Board Member
Vice Mayor Rex Richardson	South Coast AQMD Board Member
Mayor Carlos Rodriguez	South Coast AQMD Board Member
Matthew Hamlett	Board Consultant (Richardson)
Mathew Holder	Board Consultant (Rodriguez)
Amy Wong	Board Consultant (Padilla-Campos)
Ross Zelen	Board Consultant (Kracov)
Mark Abramowitz	Public Member
Ramine Cromartie	Public Member
Harvey Eder	Public Solar Power Coalition
Fernando Gaytan	Earth Justice
Ranji George	Public Member
Kristen Gifford	Public Member
Cal Jacobs	Public Member
Roupen Karakouzian	Public Member
Adrian Martinez	Earth Justice
David Rothbart	Public Member
Bethmarie Quiambao	SCE
James Simonelli	Public Member
Tom Swenson	Public Member
Derrick Alatorre	South Coast AQMD Staff
Jason Aspell	South Coast AQMD Staff
Phil Barroca	South Coast AQMD Staff
Penny Shaw Cedillo	South Coast AQMD Staff
Anissa Heard-Johnson	South Coast AQMD Staff
Philip Crabbe	South Coast AQMD Staff
Josephine Gonzales	South Coast AQMD Staff
Mark Henninger	South Coast AQMD Staff
Aaron Katzenstein	South Coast AQMD Staff
Patricia Kwon	South Coast AQMD Staff
Ruby Laity	South Coast AQMD Staff
Lisa Mirisola	South Coast AQMD Staff

Matt Miyasato.....South Coast AQMD Staff
Ron MoskowitzSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Susan Nakamura.....South Coast AQMD Staff
Wayne Natri.....South Coast AQMD Staff
Sarah ReesSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Walter ShenSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Anthony WangSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Lisa TanakaSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Donna VernonSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Mei WangSouth Coast AQMD Staff
Jill WhynotSouth Coast AQMD Staff