

BOARD MEETING DATE: October 7, 2022

AGENDA NO. 9

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

SYNOPSIS: At the September 4, 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 is 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 and WHAM in FY 2022-23 based on this formula, and Board action is required to provide \$1,088,425 from BP ARCO Fund (Fund 46). This action is to appropriate funds for the Board approved contracts.

COMMITTEE: Administrative, September 9, 2022; Recommended for Approval

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Appropriate \$271,575 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 to the Legislative, Public Affairs & Media FY 2022-23 Budget, Services and Supplies Major Object, Professional & Specialized Services account for consultant services for Environmental Justice Outreach and Initiatives and for South Coast AQMD to purchase needed products and equipment for CAPES;
2. Transfer and appropriate \$88,425 from BP ARCO Fund (Fund 46) to the Legislative, Public Affairs & Media FY 2022-23 Budget, Services and Supplies Major Object, Professional & Specialized Services account for South Coast AQMD to purchase needed products and equipment for CAPES; and

3. Transfer and appropriate \$1,000,000 from BP ARCO Fund (Fund 46) to the Legislative, Public Affairs & Media FY 2022-23 Budget, Services and Supplies Major Object, Professional & Specialized Services account for consultant services for the WHAM program.

Wayne Nastri
Executive Officer

DJA:LT:EJH:MK:AL:ar

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 (EJ) communities and to help clean the air. In October 2015, the Lee Andrews Group was contracted to support EJCP outreach efforts and programs. In September 2020, the Board approved the expansion of the CAPES and WHAM programs to extend implementation for an additional three years beginning on October 1, 2020, and to develop curriculum focused on air quality challenges, personal actions to clean the air, technology, and educational and career pathways.

Environmental Justice Outreach and Initiatives highlights for 2021-22 are below:

- Quarterly EJCP Advisory Council meetings with members representing all four counties in South Coast AQMD's jurisdiction from environmental, health, academic, and other organizations.
- 2021 Annual Environmental Justice Conference with more than 700 attendees and featured former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.
- The 2022 Annual Environmental Justice Conference is scheduled for September 14, 2022. U.S. EPA Region 9 Administrator Martha Guzman is the Keynote and California Attorney General Rob Bonta is the Featured Speaker. More than 450 participants are currently registered.
- Environmental Justice Discussion with college students aims to educate and inspire the next generation of clean air advocates and professionals. This past year, University of California, Riverside students participated in a half-day hybrid session to learn about South Coast AQMD, air quality, local issues in Riverside, education, and career paths and more.
- Interagency Task Force was first developed in Los Angeles County and is being expanded to all four counties to facilitate information sharing among government, environmental, health, and other organizations to better serve communities.

In the 2021-2022 academic year, CAPES was implemented in a total of 90 schools, reaching more than 6,000 students throughout South Coast AQMD's jurisdiction. WHAM was implemented in a total of 409 classrooms in 70 high schools and 45 middle schools within the agency's jurisdiction reaching more than 10,000 middle and high school aged students. In addition, both programs hosted successful virtual Earth Day events, with over 85 schools in attendance combined.

CAPES and WHAM also have developed age-appropriate, engaging curriculum in alignment with Next Generation Science Standards including lessons, videos, worksheets with hands-on activities and other resources. All of the curriculum is online to provide teachers the flexibility to offer in person, virtual, or a hybrid learning experiences. CAPES has six curriculum units with three additional units in progress. WHAM has four curriculum units for middle school students and four for high school students.

In total, the programs have reached an estimated 31,000 students living within South Coast AQMD's jurisdiction since 2019. 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 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.

This is the last year of the consultant contracts for both the Environmental Justice Outreach and Initiatives and CAPES and WHAM programs. Activities for the upcoming FY 2022-23 include:

- Four quarterly EJCP Advisory Council meetings with members representing all four counties in South Coast AQMD's jurisdiction from environmental, health, academic, and other organizations.
- 9th Annual Environmental Justice Conference with notable speakers and a minimum attendance of 300 including all four counties in South Coast AQMD jurisdiction.
- EJ Discussion with college students, including an EJ Bus Tour if possible.
- Interagency Task Force for all four counties to facilitate information sharing with government, environmental, health, and other organizations to better serve communities.
- Implementation of WHAM at 300 high school classrooms and 100 middle school classrooms with prioritization for AB 617 communities.
- Implementation of CAPEs at 20 elementary schools and development of three additional curriculum units.

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 and WHAM in FY 2022-23 based on this formula.

Proposal

This proposal would:

1. Appropriate \$271,575 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 to the Legislative, Public Affairs & Media FY 2022-23 Budget, Services and Supplies Major Object, Professional & Specialized Services account for consultant services for Environmental Justice Outreach and Initiatives and for South Coast AQMD to purchase needed products and equipment for CAPES;
2. Appropriate \$88,425 from BP ARCO Fund (Fund 46) to the Legislative, Public Affairs & Media FY 2022-23 Budget, Services and Supplies Major Object, Professional & Specialized Services account for South Coast AQMD to purchase needed products and equipment for CAPES; and
3. Appropriate \$1,000,000 from BP ARCO Fund (Fund 46) to the Legislative, Public Affairs & Media FY 2022-23 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 2022-23.