

BOARD MEETING DATE: November 3, 2023

AGENDA NO. 18

REPORT: Technology Committee

SYNOPSIS: The Technology Committee held a hybrid meeting on Friday, October 20, 2023. The following is a summary of the meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Receive and file.

Carlos Rodriguez, Chair
Technology Committee

AK:psc

Committee Members

Present: Supervisor Andrew Do
Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson
Councilmember Carlos Rodriguez, Committee Chair
Supervisor Curt Hagman
Mayor Larry McCallon
Board Member Veronica Padilla-Campos

Call to Order

Committee Chair Carlos Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

For additional details of the Technology Committee Meeting, please refer to the [Webcast](#).

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1. Execute Contract to Replace Existing Hydrogen Refueling Station at South Coast AQMD Headquarters**
This item was pulled by staff.

2. Execute Contract for Regional Medium- and Heavy-Duty Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Analysis

The University of California, Riverside (UCR) was awarded \$400,000 from CEC to conduct a technical planning study for Southern California's and the California-Mexico Border ZEV infrastructure deployment. The CEC Medium-Duty and Heavy-Duty (MD/HD) blueprint project focuses on ZEV infrastructure deployment planning. Consistent with CEC's blueprint and to expand the scope of the study, UCR proposes to expand the scope of the existing planning efforts to include a Medium-Duty and Heavy-Duty ZEV infrastructure deployment criteria and benefits analysis for Southern California. This action is to execute a contract with UCR in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 from the Clean Fuels Program Fund (31).

Mayor McCallon inquired about the outcome of the proposed analysis. Maryam Hajbabaei, Program Supervisor/Technology Advancement Office responded that UCR would expand the study, perform a cost analysis, streamline the plan, and standardize the development of the infrastructure. Aaron Katzenstein, Deputy Executive Officer/Technology Advancement Office added that UCR would help to standardize installations, evaluate the cost, and use best practices to support future projects. Mayor McCallon inquired if people in the industry and those involved in the infrastructure installation would be involved in the process. Ms. Hajbabaei responded that there will be coordination between different entities and confirmed that this study includes hydrogen refueling and charging infrastructure planning.

Board Member Padilla-Campos inquired about the expansion of the scope of work of the project. Ms. Hajbabaei responded that UCR will streamline the ongoing work with several entities developing the blueprints for different regions of California and performing a cost analysis.

Mayor Lock Dawson inquired about the project timeline. Ms. Hajbabaei responded that when the project receives Board approval, the work can commence, and that the project duration is one to two years. Mayor Lock Dawson also asked if there will be a map of the strategic locations of the charging and refueling stations. Ms. Hajbabaei responded that UCR is equipped with an in-house model and will include a map in the final report.

Ranji George, public member, commented that funds for the project should be distributed equally between hydrogen refueling stations and charging infrastructure. He also noted the need to study the application of used batteries and battery recycling.

Councilmember Rodriguez inquired if part of the scope of work includes providing strategic infrastructure locations and studying applications of used batteries. Staff responded that the application of used batteries is not part of the scope of work and that the study's objective is to augment the existing studies for developing the

infrastructure blueprint plan. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 7:00.

Moved by Lock Dawson; seconded by Padilla-Campos; unanimously approved.

Ayes: Do, Hagman, Lock Dawson, McCallon, Padilla-Campos, Rodriguez

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

INFORMATIONAL ITEM:

3. Clean Fuels Program Draft 2024 Plan Update

The Clean Fuels Plan Update is submitted every year with the Clean Fuels Annual Report as required by legislation. As part of that process, staff provides the Clean Fuels Program Draft Plan Update to the Technology Committee to solicit input on the proposed priority technology areas and potential projects for the upcoming year before requesting final Board approval for the Plan Update in early spring. Staff proposes continued support for a wide portfolio of technologies emphasizing zero emission technologies for vehicles, off-road equipment, and supporting infrastructure.

Mayor McCallon inquired about the fee collected from stationary sources which was approximately \$400,000 per year allocated to the Clean Fuel Fund Program. Aaron Katzenstein, Deputy Executive Officer/Technology Advancement Office, responded that staff will follow up on this inquiry.

Board Member Padilla-Campos expressed her gratitude to staff for proposing increased AQMD funding support for the Health Impacts Studies category in the 2024 Clean Fuels Fund Plan.

Mr. George expressed support for the 2024 Clean Fuels Fund Plan Update and requested that more funding be allocated to study battery recycling which will also have a major health impact. He also commented that health impacts studies should look at how environmentally friendly and/or damaging the battery waste recycling plants would be to the public residing in environmental justice areas and that pilot studies should be conducted to demonstrate how long batteries can be used in stationary applications after they have been used in mobile applications.

Mark Abramovitz, Community Environmental Services, expressed concern and questioned the proposed funding support for hydrogen internal combustion engine technologies.

Councilmember Rodriguez asked for additional comments or thoughts on the scope of the health impacts studies category and about the use and disposal of batteries used in the electrification of vehicles. Wayne Nastri, Executive Officer, responded that a health impacts study is best handled by another agency. Mr. Nastri commented that South Coast AQMD can advocate for effective and safe use and the development of policies and programs that make sure that the disposal and recycling aspects are adequately addressed. Councilmember Rodriguez responded that he would like to bring this topic back early next year to hear about the latest best practices recommended for the increasing number of electric batteries that will no longer be viable for use.

Mayor Lock Dawson commented that there are many battery recycling operations that are run by private sector in Korea and inquired about battery recycling companies in Southern California. Aaron Katzenstein, Deputy Executive Officer, Technology Advancement Office, responded that there are differences between lead-acid and lithium-ion batteries. Earlier this year, Argonne National Laboratory did a presentation to the Technology Committee on the recycling process of electric vehicle batteries. Councilmember Rodriguez and Mayor Lock Dawson requested to have one of those companies come to a Technology Committee meeting early next year to present on electric vehicle battery recycling. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 22:25.

OTHER MATTERS:

4. Other Business

There was no other business to report.

5. Public Comment Period

Mr. George respectfully disagreed with Mr. Nastri's comment regarding battery recycling. He stated that Technology Advancement Office helped build the battery program and urged South Coast AQMD to look into the battery recycling program. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 46:32.

6. Next Meeting Date

The next regular Technology Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 17, 2023, at noon.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Attachment

Attendance Record

ATTACHMENT

**SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING
Attendance Record – October 20, 2023**

Councilmember Carlos Rodriguez..... South Coast AQMD Board Member
Supervisor Andrew Do South Coast AQMD Board Member
Supervisor Curt Hagman South Coast AQMD Board Member
Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson South Coast AQMD Board Member
Mayor Larry McCallon South Coast AQMD Board Member
Board Member Veronica Padilla-Campos..... South Coast AQMD Board Member

Debra Mendelsohn Board Consultant (McCallon)
Mark Taylor Board Consultant (Rodriguez)
Chris Wangsaporn Board Consultant (Do)

Mark Abramowitz Community Environmental Services
Ramine Cromartie Public Member
Harvey Eder Public Solar Power Coalition
Ranji George Public Member
Bethmarie Quiambao..... SCE

Derrick Alatorre South Coast AQMD Staff
Cindy Bustillos..... South Coast AQMD Staff
Phillip Crabbe III..... South Coast AQMD Staff
Scott Gallegos South Coast AQMD Staff
De Groeneveld South Coast AQMD Staff
Maryam Hajbabaei South Coast AQMD Staff
Sheri Hanizavareh South Coast AQMD Staff
Alex Han South Coast AQMD Staff
Gillian Kass..... South Coast AQMD Staff
Aaron Katzenstein South Coast AQMD Staff
Angela Kim South Coast AQMD Staff
Ruby Laity South Coast AQMD Staff
Howard Lee..... South Coast AQMD Staff
Tom Lee South Coast AQMD Staff
Ron Moskowitz South Coast AQMD Staff
Susan Nakamura..... South Coast AQMD Staff
Wayne Nastro..... South Coast AQMD Staff
Vasileios Papapostolou..... South Coast AQMD Staff
Penny Shaw Cedillo South Coast AQMD Staff
Walter Shen..... South Coast AQMD Staff
Paul Wright..... South Coast AQMD Staff