

BOARD MEETING DATE: December 4, 2020

AGENDA NO. 24

REPORT: Technology Committee

SYNOPSIS: The Technology Committee held a meeting remotely on Friday, November 20, 2020. The following is a summary of the meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Receive and file.

Joe Buscaino, Chair
Technology Committee

MMM:psc

Committee Members

Present: Council Member Joe Buscaino/Chair
Supervisor Lisa Bartlett
Board Member Gideon Kracov
Mayor Larry McCallon
Council Member Judith Mitchell
Council Member Carlos Rodriguez

Absent: None

Call to Order

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

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Execute Contracts for the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Program – Combustion Freight and marine Projects Category

In March 2020, the Program Announcement for the Volkswagen (VW) Environmental Mitigation Trust Program - Combustion Freight and Marine Projects category, with \$30 million in available funding, closed. The solicitation was largely undersubscribed primarily due to the lower incentive amounts, other competing programs in South Coast AQMD, and other programmatic

requirements, as specified in the court-approved Consent Decrees and CARB's Beneficiary Mitigation Plan. Based on review of eligible applications, staff is recommending awards for truck replacement and marine engine repower projects. This action is to execute contracts for the VW Program – Combustion Freight and Marine Projects Category.

Board Member Kracov announced he has a financial interest in Universal Waste Systems, Inc., which is materially affected by Item Number 1, and recused himself from participation in the item.

Council Member Buscaino left the meeting at 12:12 p.m. and Council Member Mitchell chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Council Member Rodriguez asked if the amount of NOx emission reductions is representative for South Coast AQMD relative to the statewide benefits. Staff explained the proportion of NOx reductions for the South Coast AQMD is consistent with historical percentages from other programs, including Moyer at 44 percent and Prop 1B at 55 percent.

Council Member Mitchell asked why the solicitation was undersubscribed and what will happen with the remaining funds. Staff explained the funding parameters in the Consent Decrees', which were finalized without any input from local air districts, are not consistent with other state incentive programs that offer higher amounts and that leveraging other state funds was not allowed. Prop 1B, for example, offers \$100,000 for a low NOx truck and the latest solicitation was recently released. Staff informed the committee of the on-going discussions with CARB staff on using a first-come, first-served approach and considering options for leveraging VW funds with other grants.

Mayor McCallon asked if the marine category was in San Diego or San Francisco. Staff confirmed the marine vessel engine repowering project is in San Diego.

Ranji George, a member of the public, commented that South Coast AQMD should set aside funds for zero emission technologies or divert the funds for near-zero trucks to natural gas school buses and that additional funds should be provided for hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.

Moved by McCallon; seconded by Bartlett; unanimously approved

Ayes: Bartlett, McCallon, Mitchell, Rodriguez

Abstain: Kracov

Noes: None

Absent: Buscaino

2. Recognize Funds, Execute and Amend Agreements for Installation and Maintenance of Air Filtration Systems, and Reimburse General Fund

As part of the Community Air Protection Program (CAPP) incentive funds, \$6,352,650 was approved to implement school air filtration projects in AB 617 communities. CARB has also requested South Coast AQMD administer two Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs) to install and maintain air filtration systems at schools and residences in Environmental Justice communities. These actions are to: 1) recognize up to \$17,600 and \$9,250 from CARB for two SEPs to install and maintain air filtration systems at schools and residences, and reimburse administrative costs, into the Air Filtration Fund (75); 2) execute contracts with IQAir North America to install air filtration systems in an amount up to \$6,352,650 from the Community Air Protection SB 856 Fund (77) and up to \$17,600 and \$9,250 from the Air Filtration Fund (75); 3) execute agreements with CARB and local school districts; 4) amend contracts to purchase additional filters using unspent administrative funds; and 5) reimburse the General Fund for administrative costs up to \$1,343 for the CARB SEPs.

Council Member Mitchell noted that she does not have a financial interest or conflict of interest but is required to identify for the record that she is a Board Member of CARB which is involved in this item.

Mayor McCallon inquired about the school selection and prioritization process and wanted to ensure equitable distribution between the three Year 1 AB 617 communities. Staff responded that the selection process was mainly by the Community Steering Committee (CSC) for each community and 10 schools will be funded in each *community*. Mayor McCallon also inquired about funding allocation to community centers. Staff informed the committee that the top 10 schools includes childcare and elementary schools, since the CSC priority was for the youngest children.

Council Member Mitchell asked staff to notify Board members in the AB 617 areas of schools anticipated to receive air filtration systems. Staff committed to providing *this information*.

Council Member Rodriguez asked about the selection process and if the school list can be revised. Staff emphasized that the school lists were prioritized by CSCs and the community ultimately decides on the plans and their implementation. *Only* the CARB Board can approve the plans developed by the CSC.

Council Member Mitchell further emphasized that the CARB Board's focus is on getting community input. The South Coast AQMD Board members can be part of the process by attending CSC meetings, but mostly the community participates in

the development of the plan and CARB and South Coast AQMD only implements the plan once it is developed.

Moved by McCallon; seconded by Rodriguez; unanimously approved.

Ayes: Bartlett, Kracov, McCallon, Mitchell, Rodriguez

Noes: None

Absent: Buscaino

3. Recognize Revenue and Execute Contracts for Electrification of Transport Refrigeration in Southern California Grocery Fleet

South Coast AQMD has been awarded up to \$2,240,721 from U.S. EPA to replace diesel transport refrigeration units (TRUs) with electrified TRUs and install supporting infrastructure with Albertsons Companies. These actions are to: 1) recognize revenue, upon receipt, of up to \$2,240,721 from the U.S. EPA FY20 Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program into the Clean Fuels Program Fund (31) for electrification of transport refrigeration; 2) execute a contract with Albertsons Companies to replace diesel TRUs with electrified TRUs and install supporting infrastructure in an amount not to exceed \$2,170,975 from the Clean Fuels Program Fund (31); and 3) reimburse the General Fund up to \$69,746 from the Clean Fuels Program Fund (31) for administrative costs.

Mayor McCallon inquired about the NOx and PM emission reductions from the proposed project. Staff responded that annual emission reduction is estimated at 1.5 tons of PM2.5 and 13.5 tons of NOx per year.

Council Member Rodriguez inquired about the possibility of incorporating fuel cell technology and the role of the California Fuel Cell Partnership (CaFCP). Staff responded that the CaFCP is mostly focused on light-duty fuel cell vehicles and limited fuel cell manufacturers are looking at fuel cell powered TRUs since the market is currently small. The battery and hybrid electric powered TRUs are more cost-effective than fuel cells \, but staff will continue to explore potential fuel cells projects.

Ranji George, a member of the public, commented on the importance of fuel cell technology deployment in the trucking industry.

Moved by Bartlett; seconded by Rodriguez; unanimously approved.

Ayes: Bartlett, Kracov, McCallon, Mitchell, Rodriguez

Noes: None

Absent: Buscaino

OTHER MATTERS:

4. Other Business

There was no other business.

5. Public Comment Period

Ranji George, a member of the public, commented about Council Member Mitchell leaving South Coast AQMD and thanked her for her leadership.

6. Next Meeting Date

The next regular Technology Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 18, 2020 at noon.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:54 p.m.

Attachment

Attendance Record

ATTACHMENT

**SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Attendance Record – November 20, 2020

Supervisor Lisa Bartlett South Coast AQMD Board Member
Council Member Joe Buscaino South Coast AQMD Board Member
Board Member Gideon Kracov South Coast AQMD Board Member
Mayor Larry McCallon South Coast AQMD Board Member
Council Member Judith Mitchell South Coast AQMD Board Member
Council Member Carlos Rodriguez South Coast AQMD Board Member

James Dinwiddie Board Consultant (Bartlett)
Matt Holder Board Consultant (Rodriguez)
Debra Mendelsohn Board Consultant (Rodriguez)
Fred Minassian Board Consultant (Mitchell)
Ross Zelen Board Consultant (Kracov)

Mark Abramowitz Public Member
Ranji George Public Member
Alex Van Houghton Public Member
Dan McGiveny SoCal Gas

Naveen Berry South Coast AQMD Staff
Penny Shaw Cedillo South Coast AQMD Staff
Philip Crabee South Coast AQMD Staff
Seungbum Ha South Coast AQMD Staff
Maryam Hajbabaei South Coast AQMD Staff
Sheri Hanizavareh South Coast AQMD Staff
Mark Henninger South Coast AQMD Staff
Joseph Impullitti South Coast AQMD Staff
Jason Low South Coast AQMD Staff
Matt Miyasato South Coast AQMD Staff
Ron Moskowitz South Coast AQMD Staff
Wayne Nastro South Coast AQMD Staff
Walter Shen South Coast AQMD Staff
Anthony Tang South Coast AQMD Staff
Veera Tyagi South Coast AQMD Staff
Alejandra Vega South Coast AQMD Staff
Donna Vernon South Coast AQMD Staff
Vicki White South Coast AQMD Staff
Jill Whynot South Coast AQMD Staff
Paul Wright South Coast AQMD Staff