

BOARD MEETING DATE: June 3, 2022

AGENDA NO. 10

PROPOSAL: Add Deputy Executive Officer and Senior Administrative Assistant Positions to Science & Technology Advancement Division to Address Operational Needs

SYNOPSIS: This item is to add two positions to the Science & Technology Advancement division to address operational needs. This action will result in an increased annual cost of \$488,837. Funding for the budget amendments is available in the FY 2021-22 Budget and funds will be appropriated into the FY 2022-23 Budget from the Undesignated (Unassigned) Fund Balance.

COMMITTEE: Administrative, May 12, 2022; Recommended for Approval

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Add the positions of Deputy Executive Officer and Senior Administrative Assistant positions in Science & Technology Advancement division to address operational needs; and
2. Appropriate \$488,837 from the Undesignated (Unassigned) Fund Balance to the FY 2022-23 General Fund Budget.

Wayne Natri
Executive Officer

AJO:mm

Background

Under the direction of the Executive Officer and the Chief Operating Officer, each division continually reviews and assesses staffing resources and functionality to determine whether changes should be made to increase efficiency and effectiveness of South Coast AQMD programs. In addition, as part of the succession planning process, there is periodic evaluation of management and executive management functions to ensure programs have appropriate guidance and supervision. The annual budget reflects staffing allocations and changes that are being proposed to address operational needs.

The Science & Technology Advancement (STA) division is responsible for two key areas of operation: monitoring and analysis; and technology research, development and implementation. There are currently over 230 positions, and the annual department

budget is about \$40 million. As part of the selection process for a successor to former Chief Technologist Dr. Matt Miyasato, an assessment of STA's organizational structure was conducted to ensure continued growth in the agency's leadership in developing future strategies and technologies that improve public health.

Proposal

Staff is recommending changes to the position allocation in the FY 2021-22 and 2022-23 Budgets. Specifically, under this proposal, a new Deputy Executive Officer position and a new Senior Administrative Assistant position would be added to the Science & Technology Advancement division. This proposal would allow the division to be split into two separate divisions based on the primary areas of responsibility currently overseen by this group. The operational functions of the units within STA are clearly distinct from each other.

Monitoring and Analysis (M&A)

The Monitoring and Analysis unit operates and maintains South Coast AQMD's air monitoring network, performs chemical analyses in a state-of-the-art laboratory, conducts source tests and evaluations, initiates local community monitoring, implements quality assurance programs, evaluates low-cost sensors, implements optical remote sensing (ORS) technologies for emission measurements, and provides meteorological, sampling and analytical support as part of South Coast AQMD's emergency and wildfire response programs.

Technology Advancement Office (TAO)

The Technology Advancement Office co-sponsors low- and zero-emission and clean fuel technology development and demonstration projects in cooperation with private industry, technology developers, and local, state, and federal agencies. Additionally, TAO implements a range of incentive funds available to local fleets to accelerate implementation of lower emitting technologies, and provides outreach to support cleaner technologies. In addition, TAO provides staff and resources to facilitate the activities of the MSRC, an independent agency created by AB 2766, to make recommendations as to which projects and programs would be funded from motor vehicle registration fees received by South Coast AQMD.

With the addition of a Deputy Executive Officer position, the STA functions can be organized into separate divisions – M&A and TAO. This organizational structure will provide more opportunities for policy development and implementation in each area, as well as a better allocation of staff and resources. This proposal also enhances the agency's succession planning program by more clearly defining current and future roles for leadership in these mission critical areas.

Resource Impacts

Sufficient funding is available in the FY 2021-22 Budget and for the FY 2022-23 Budget from the General Fund Undesignated (Unassigned) Fund Balance.