

BOARD MEETING DATE: February 7, 2020

AGENDA NO. 6

PROPOSAL: Appropriate Funds and Amend Contract for Consultant Services for South Coast AQMD Environmental Justice Outreach and Initiatives

SYNOPSIS: The current contract with Lee Andrews Group, Inc., for environmental justice efforts conducted for the Environmental Justice Community Partnership expires on March 29, 2020. The contract includes an option for two one-year extensions. Based on the firm's effective performance during their current contract, this action is to approve a one-year extension of the consultant's contract in the amount of \$160,000 for Calendar Year 2020.

COMMITTEE: Administrative, January 17, 2020; Recommended for Approval

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Appropriate \$160,000 from the BP ARCO Settlement Project Fund (46) to the Legislative, Public Affairs & Media FY 2019-20 Budget, Services and Supplies Major Object, Professional & Specialized Services account; and
2. Authorize the Chairman to execute a one-year extension of the contract with Lee Andrews Group, Inc. at the current contract amount of \$160,000.

Wayne Natri
Executive Officer

DA:FW:AR:jf

Background

In February of 2015, the Chairman of the Governing Board, Dr. William Burke, launched the Environmental Justice Community Partnership (EJCP), to strengthen South Coast AQMD's relationships with stakeholders in environmental justice communities, in an effort to help clean the air. In October of 2015, Lee Andrews Group Inc. (LA Group) was contracted to support EJCP outreach efforts. Throughout 2019, LA Group supported South Coast AQMD in coordinating the following:

- 1. Four (4) Meetings for the Environmental Justice Community Partnership Advisory Council:** The Advisory Council assisted with the creation and

implementation of the Clean Air Ranger Education (CARE) Program and Inter-Agency Task Force that addresses the needs of environmental justice communities in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties. LA Group supported South Coast AQMD with identifying and recruiting individuals to be part of the Advisory Council, coordinating meeting logistics, and implementing members' feedback into the execution of multiple events.

- 2. Four (4) School Assemblies for the CARE Program:** The assemblies provided elementary school students, located in environmental justice communities, information on air quality and the health effects of air pollution. The assembly presentations incorporated an interactive experiment, provided examples of things students could do to help clean the air, and an opportunity to ask questions. The CARE Program assists in fostering South Coast AQMD's relationships with school district officials, students, and families. Schools have the option to keep air quality flags and families are left with packets on South Coast AQMD programs. LA Group supported South Coast AQMD with each assembly by assisting with the script, identifying schools, reaching out to principals, coordinating walkthroughs and assisting throughout the presentations.
- 3. Four (4) Meetings for the Inter-Agency Task Force:** The Four Task Force meetings were held in Los Angeles to work with environmental justice leaders and executives from multiple federal, state, and local government agencies to work together on creating a public directory on who to contact for environmental complaints, planning an inter-agency staff training, and creating an internal inter-agency directory for government staff. LA Group supported South Coast AQMD with coordinating the logistics of each meeting by identifying venue locations, managing registration, and sourcing vendors. LA Group also provided updates to Task Force participants in-between meetings.
- 4. One (1) Environmental Justice Bus Tour:** Staff led approximately 40 students from Urban Planning Classes at California State University Los Angeles on a bus tour of environmental justice areas in Boyle Heights and near the Port of Long Beach. The tour provided a clear example of the environmental justice challenges facing those communities and provided insight into some of the technology solutions to those challenges. LA Group supported South Coast AQMD with coordinating the logistics of the tour, such as identifying venue locations and seeking guest speakers.
- 5. One (1) Environmental Justice Conference:** The half-day conference engaged stakeholders from impacted communities, academic researchers, health professionals, and others focused on the need to protect and improve the region's air quality. LA Group supported South Coast AQMD with the logistics of the

event and sourcing of vendors. LA Group also helped identify potential speakers, breakout session topics, panelists, and sponsors.

LA Group effectively collaborated with South Coast AQMD staff in executing the different requirements of the contract for the Environmental Justice Community Partnership, and as a result, helped advance the South Coast AQMD Board's environmental justice interests and policies.

In summary, the LA Group is an effective consulting team for South Coast AQMD. Their event planning skills strengthen the South Coast AQMD's ability to support the Board's environmental justice priorities. At this critical point in time, it is important that the momentum on stakeholder partnerships with environmental justice groups continue in the coming year as we work towards achieving clean air in disadvantaged communities, consistent with South Coast AQMD's mission and goals.

Proposal

The contract with the LA Group expires on March 29, 2020. South Coast AQMD staff is extremely satisfied with the performance of the firm and recommends the Board retain them for Calendar Year 2020. The present contract, based on a competitive selection process, has an option for up to two one-year extensions that may be exercised at the Board's discretion pursuant to the original RFP. This proposal is to approve the first one-year extension for the contract.

Resource Impacts

Sufficient funding will exist for this contract upon the transfer of \$160,000 from the BP ARCO Settlement Project Fund (46) to the Legislative, Public Affairs & Media FY 2019-20 Budget, Services and Supplies Major Object, Professional & Specialized Services account.