

BOARD MEETING DATE: March 5, 2021

AGENDA NO. 11

**PROPOSAL:** Approve Funds for Additional Batteries for the Commercial Electric Lawn and Garden Equipment Incentive and Exchange Program

**SYNOPSIS:** In October 2017, the Board recognized funds from U.S. EPA's 2016 Targeted Air Shed Grant Program for the Commercial Electric Lawn and Garden Equipment Incentive and Exchange Program. Due to the continued high demand, staff is requesting approval for the use of \$50,000 from the Rule 2202 AQIP Special Revenue Fund (27) to provide a 75 percent discount for additional batteries for equipment funded under the Commercial Electric Lawn and Garden Equipment Incentive and Exchange Program.

**COMMITTEE:** No Committee Review

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Approve the use of \$50,000 from the Rule 2202 AQIP Special Revenue Fund (27) to provide a 75 percent discount for additional batteries for equipment funded under the Commercial Electric Lawn and Garden Equipment Incentive and Exchange Program.

Wayne Natri  
Executive Officer

MMM:WS

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**Background**

The Commercial Electric Lawn and Garden Equipment Incentive and Exchange Program replaces old gasoline- or diesel-powered commercial lawn and garden equipment with zero emission, battery-electric technology. A variety of makes and models of commercial-grade electric lawn and garden equipment are offered, including handheld trimmers, chainsaws, pruners, backpack and handheld blowers, and lawnmowers including ride-on, stand-on and walk-behind mowers. Local governments, school districts, nonprofit organizations, and commercial gardeners and landscapers can

participate. This program requires dismantling of the old lawn and garden equipment for the replacement.

In October 2017, the Board recognized \$2,477,250 from U.S. EPA's 2016 Targeted Air Shed Grant Program for the Commercial Electric Lawn and Garden Equipment Incentive and Exchange Program. Subsequently, in April 2018, the Board approved additional funding of \$628,077 from Rule 2202 AQIP Special Revenue Fund (27) and execution of contracts with six qualified manufacturers and suppliers of zero emission commercial lawn and garden equipment. In October 2019, the Board further approved the transfer of \$750,000 from Rule 1111 AQIP Special Revenue Fund (27) to provide a Plus Up Discount of an additional 25 percent for a total of 75 percent reduction in price for eligible lawn and garden equipment. Due to the popularity and high demand for the Plus Up Discount, in January 2021, the Board approved the transfer of an additional \$350,000 from Rule 1111 AQIP Special Revenue Fund (27) to provide additional Plus Up Discount funds.

Since the inception, the Commercial Electric Lawn and Garden Equipment Incentive and Exchange Program has replaced approximately 4,800 old gasoline- or diesel-powered commercial lawn and garden equipment. This program continues to get a high level of participation and most recently, staff has recognized an increased demand for the funding of rechargeable batteries for equipment funded under the Commercial Electric Lawn and Garden Equipment Incentive and Exchange Program.

### **Proposal**

Staff is proposing to utilize \$50,000 from the Rule 2202 AQIP Special Revenue Fund (27) to continue to reduce the cost by 75 percent for rechargeable batteries for equipment funded under the Commercial Electric Lawn and Garden Equipment Incentive and Exchange Program. Staff estimates this would provide sufficient funding for approximately 165 additional batteries. In order to provide greater benefit for most gardeners, staff is proposing to limit the number of additional batteries to three per piece of equipment.

Staff will monitor the demand for additional batteries and available funding and report to the Technology Committee no later than six months from Board approval of these funds.

### **Benefits to South Coast AQMD**

The program's primary objective is to reduce emissions of harmful criteria air pollutants by replacing gasoline- or diesel-powered lawn and garden equipment with zero emissions equipment, prioritizing those replacements to the extent possible in disadvantaged communities within South Coast AQMD's jurisdiction. Since the inception of the Commercial Electric Lawn and Garden Equipment Incentive and Exchange Program, South Coast AQMD has replaced over 4,800 lawn and garden

equipment resulting in emission reductions of approximately 43 tons/year of ROG and 1.6 tons/year of NO<sub>x</sub>. The associated cost-effectiveness for ROG and NO<sub>x</sub> is approximately \$104,000/ton and \$1.1 million/ton, respectively.

**Resource Impacts**

Sufficient funding is available in Rule 2202 AQIP Special Revenue Fund (27) and total expenditures will not exceed \$50,000 from Fund (27).