

BOARD MEETING DATE: September 1, 2023

AGENDA NO. 11

PROPOSAL: Appropriate Funds and Purchase Orders to Implement Air Quality Community Training in Eastern Coachella Valley

SYNOPSIS: U.S. EPA awarded South Coast AQMD a grant from the State Environmental Justice Cooperative Agreement Program to implement an Air Quality Academy to improve environmental literacy and air quality data in the Eastern Coachella Valley. Established in 2021, the Air Quality Academy provides training on the application and usage of air quality sensors, interpretation of the air quality index, and preventive actions to reduce air pollution exposure. U.S. EPA approved a one year no-cost extension of this grant to continue implementation until October 2024. This action is to appropriate the remaining balance of \$41,396 to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion with Community Air Programs Office and \$6,258 to the Monitoring and Analysis Division FY 2023-24 and/or FY 2024-25 Budgets and to issue solicitations and purchase orders.

COMMITTEE: Administrative, August 11, 2023; Recommended for Approval

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Appropriate up to \$41,396 in U.S. EPA State Environmental Justice Cooperative Agreement (SEJCA) funds into the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion with Community Air Programs Office and \$6,258 to the Monitoring and Analysis Division FY 2023-24 and/or FY 2024-25 budgets (as set forth in Attachment 1); and
2. Authorize the Procurement Manager, in accordance with South Coast AQMD Procurement Policy and Procedure, to issue solicitations and purchase orders to implement air quality data monitoring and community training in the Eastern Coachella Valley for items listed in Attachment 1.

Wayne Natri
Executive Officer

Background

In June 2021, U.S. EPA granted South Coast AQMD an award of \$200,000 from the State Environmental Justice Cooperative Agreement (SEJCA) Program funds to partner with local entities to develop an Air Quality Academy in the Eastern Coachella Valley (ECV). On October 1, 2021, the Board recognized \$200,000 and approved appropriations of \$113,091 to the Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources, Science & Technology Advancement, and Legislative, Public Affairs and Media Office into FY 2021-22 and/or FY 2022-23 Budgets from the U.S. EPA SEJCA Program.

Staff has been working with Desert Healthcare District & Foundation (DHCD&F), Alianza Coachella Valley (Alianza CV) (DHCD&F's Subcontractor), Health Assessment and Research for Communities (HARC), and local tribes to implement tasks outlined in the grant. To date, Alianza CV has recruited 15 ECV community members for the Air Quality Academy and have participated in the air quality training and workshops. HARC is in the process of analyzing community data (e.g., environmental, demographic) to complete a community Environmental Health Report. This project builds upon existing efforts to implement the Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617) ECV Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP).

The project was scheduled to end in October 2023. However, staff encountered challenges in involving Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians, the original tribal partner, in the Air Quality Academy. Tribal participation is required, therefore staff is currently in discussions with Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians (Torres Martinez Tribe), to engage them in the Air Quality Academy. In June 2023, U.S. EPA approved a no-cost extension until October 2024 to allow time for South Coast AQMD and project partners to conduct outreach to the Torres Martinez Tribe, gather community input for the Environmental Health Report, analyze the sensor data, and use the remainder of the funds.

Proposal

This action is to appropriate up to \$41,396 in U.S. EPA State Environmental Justice Cooperative Agreement (SEJCA) funds into the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion with Community Air Programs Office and \$6,258 to the Monitoring and Analysis Division FY 2023-24 and/or FY 2024-25 budgets to procure related services and supplies as listed in Attachment 1 – Proposed Appropriations for FYs 2023-24 and/or 2024-25. Approval of these actions will allow staff to continue implementing the Air Quality Academy in ECV and publish a community Environmental Health Report in collaboration with DHCD&F, HARC, and the Torres Martinez Tribe.

Benefits to South Coast AQMD

This work complements the ongoing efforts to partner with the community to address local air quality priorities through the AB 617 program, including providing information to reduce air pollution exposure in ECV and expanding the air quality sensor network. This project will continue to strengthen South Coast AQMD's collaborative partnerships in ECV and improve air pollution data and data accessibility in these rural communities. Additionally, this project can serve as a model for future outreach and educational programs in this region.

Resource Impacts

The U.S. EPA SEJCA Program funding will continue to support the objectives of this grant. The funding will also support outreach efforts and the community Environmental Health Report. This project will also partially support ECV CERP efforts.

Attachment

Proposed Appropriations for FY 2023-24 and/or 2024-25

ATTACHMENT 1

Proposed Appropriations for FY 2023-24 and/or 2024-25

Description	Account Number	Org Unit	Estimated Expenditures
Services and Supplies Major Object			
SIM Card service	67900	Monitoring and Analysis Division	\$5,758
Miscellaneous outreach supplies	68100	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion with Community Air Programs Office (DEI with CAP)	\$1,014
Travel	67800	DEI with CAP	\$7,060
Meeting logistics contracts	67450	DEI with CAP	\$24,400
Site rental fees for sensors contracts	67350	Monitoring and Analysis Division	\$500
Clerical support for translation and training services	67460	DEI with CAP	\$7,580
Conference fees	69500	DEI with CAP	\$1,342
Total Appropriation			\$47,654