

BOARD MEETING DATE: September 1, 2023

AGENDA NO. 30

REPORT: Technology Committee

SYNOPSIS: The Technology Committee held a hybrid meeting on Friday, August 18, 2023. The following is a summary of the meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:  
Receive and file.

Carlos Rodriguez, Chair  
Technology Committee

AK:psc

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### **Committee Members**

Present: Councilmember Carlos Rodriguez, Committee Chair  
Supervisor Curt Hagman  
Mayor Larry McCallon  
Board Member Veronica Padilla-Campos

Absent: Supervisor Andrew Do  
Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson

### **Call to Order**

Committee Chair Carlos Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

For additional details of the Technology Committee Meeting, please refer to the [Webcast](#).

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **1. Issue RFP and Execute Contracts for Clean Technology Truck Loaner Program Within Four AB 617 Communities**

Through a participatory budgeting process, four Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617) Community Steering Committees prioritized \$16,590,000 of Community Air Protection Program (CAP) funds for a Clean Technology Truck Loaner Program.

The four AB 617 communities include: 1) East Los Angeles, Boyle Heights, West Commerce; 2) San Bernardino, Muscoy; 3) Southeast Los Angeles; and 4) Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach. The AB 617 Clean Technology Truck Loaner Program will allow truck owners and operators in these communities to rent zero-emission (ZE) trucks at a minimal cost. These actions are to: 1) issue an RFP to establish a list of eligible vendors to offer end-to-end short-term ZE truck rental services to owners and operators residing and operating in the four AB 617 communities; 2) authorize the Executive Officer to execute subsequent contracts with vendors to provide short-term rental services to eligible applicants participating in the AB 617 Clean Technology Truck Loaner Program in an amount not to exceed \$16,590,000 from the CAP AB 134 Fund (77); 3) reimburse the General Fund for administrative costs up to \$1,032,875 from the CAP AB 134 Fund (77) for staff time to implement the AB 617 Clean Technology Truck Loaner Program; and 4) transfer and appropriate up to \$4,000 from the administrative portion of CAP AB 134 Fund (77) into Technology Advancement's FY 2023-24 Budget, Services and Supplies Major Object, Public Notice and Advertisement account for administrative costs to implement the AB 617 Clean Technology Truck Loaner Program.

Supervisor Hagman inquired about the profits vendors could generate from the program. Staff clarified the target audience for the program is small truck operators with medium- to heavy-duty trucks. Staff also commented that it focuses on providing familiarity with zero-emission technology and infrastructure.

Board Member Padilla-Campos inquired about the duration of the loaner period and who will be providing zero-emission truck training. Staff commented that the loaner period for the program is up to one month, however, depending on availability, applicants can reapply and test out various zero-emission truck technologies. Staff also commented that the vendor will provide the training.

Mayor McCallon expressed interest in the participation and requested a program update when its available. Councilmember Rodriguez concurred and requested an update after the program opens. Staff agreed to provide an update and commented that truck drivers expressed interest at a previous community meeting.

Councilmember Rodriguez inquired about the ratio of hydrogen to battery electric truck availability, and the cost of purchasing a zero-emission truck compared to diesel. Staff commented that the ratio is unknown and is affected by infrastructure availability and stated that diesel trucks cost around \$150,000 while Class 8 zero-emission trucks cost around \$400,000.

Ranji George, public member, recommended that the program allocates 50 percent of the funds to hydrogen fuel technology.

Harvey Eder, Public Solar Power Coalition, commented on the equity of hydrogen fuel and battery technology. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 2:50.

Moved by Hagman; seconded by McCallon; unanimously approved.

Ayes: Hagman, McCallon, Padilla-Campos, Rodriguez

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Do, Lock Dawson

## **2. Transfer and Appropriate Funds for Air Monitoring Programs and Issue Purchase Orders for Two Vehicles**

South Coast AQMD previously received Federal grant awards from the Federal Government and U.S. EPA to continue implementing the Enhanced Particulate Monitoring and PAMS Programs, including funds for the purchase of new vehicles. However, additional funds are needed for the purchase of new zero-emission vehicles. These actions are to transfer funds up to \$91,766 from the Clean Fuels Program Fund to the Monitoring and Analysis Division FY 2023-24 Budget and authorize the Procurement Manager to issue solicitations and purchase orders for two zero-emission vehicles.

Board Member Padilla-Campos inquired about which vehicles are currently available on the State of California department of Government Services Fleet contract. Staff acknowledged the Chevrolet Silverado, and Ford Lightning are currently available.

Board Member Padilla-Campos and Mayor McCallon expressed interest in the Rivian R1T. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 32:03.

Moved by Padilla-Campos; seconded by McCallon; unanimously approved.

Ayes: McCallon, Padilla-Campos, Rodriguez

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Do, Hagman, Lock Dawson

## **3. Approve Additional Funding for Residential Electric Vehicle Charging Incentive Program**

Since 2015, the Residential EV Charging Incentive Program provides rebates to offset the cost of residential Level 2 (240V) EV chargers. Currently, the program provides up to a \$250 rebate, plus an additional \$250 for low-income residents within the South Coast AQMD four-county jurisdiction. Staff is proposing to revise

this program to focus solely on low-income residents while still providing the same \$500 rebate on a first come, first serve basis. This action is to request funding of up to \$200,000 from the Clean Fuels Program Fund (31) to continue the year-round Residential EV Charging Incentive Program.

Mayor McCallon asked how much of the rebates were provided to low-income households. Staff replied that approximately 23 percent of rebates issued have been used by low-income households. Mayor McCallon then commented that the rebate amount of \$500 may not be sufficient to cover the costs to upgrade electrical panels for households preparing for EV charging hardware. Staff replied that while the program focuses solely on the cost of EV charging hardware and the Replace Your Ride Program currently being implemented will offer up to \$2,000 for charging infrastructure and will include installation costs.

Supervisor Hagman expressed support for the program and its goals and commented that the program should be open for all to participate, instead of focusing on specific target populations. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 37:42.

Moved by Padilla-Campos; seconded by McCallon; unanimously approved.

Ayes: Hagman, McCallon, Padilla-Campos, Rodriguez  
Noes: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Do, Lock Dawson

**INFORMATIONAL ITEM:**

**4. California Hydrogen Stations: Current State and Future Outlook**

Gia Vacin, Deputy Director, ZEV Market Development Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development provided an overview of the recent hydrogen station development in California, challenges in expanding the refueling stations, and the reliability of existing stations' operations will be presented. In addition, a summary of the current state and Alliance for Renewable Clean Hydrogen Energy Systems efforts in developing and submitting the application to the DOE Hydrogen Hub solicitation.

Supervisor Hagman inquired about local and state governmental agencies' roles in advancing new technologies such as Hydrogen and the supporting infrastructure and how funding can be directed and further planned. Ms. Vacin emphasized the critical role of infrastructure. She also emphasized the necessity of public and private partnerships between governmental agencies to improve the reliability of the hydrogen refueling stations network.

Councilmember Rodriguez asked about the 200 stations goal by 2045 and recommendations for achieving this goal. Ms. Vacin stated that scaling up this technology is essential so that hydrogen technology becomes more cost competitive and to keep the equity between battery electric and fuel cell technologies. Councilmember Rodriguez also asked if California is awarded the Hydrogen Hub, can some funding be directed to light-duty stations. Ms. Vacin indicated that most of the Hydrogen Hub money is allocated to heavy-duty applications. Still, it is not off the table and can be supported by the echo system designed as a part of the hub.

Mr. George expressed appreciation for the support provided for hydrogen.

Mark Abramowitz, Community Environmental Services, emphasized the progress made over the years to advance hydrogen technology. He mentioned the adoption of fuel cell technology vehicles has been comparable to battery electric technologies despite the barriers and the need for infrastructure development. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 1:25:02.

### **OTHER MATTERS:**

#### **5. Other Business**

There was no other business to report.

#### **6. Public Comment Period**

Mr. Eder expressed health concerns regarding the effects of PM2.5 due to the heat and recent fires.

Mr. George expressed appreciation for the support of fuel cell projects and concerns regarding battery recycling. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 1:15:19.

#### **7. Next Meeting Date**

The next regular Technology Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 15, 2023, at noon.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

### **Attachment**

Attendance Record

**ATTACHMENT**

**SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING  
Attendance Record – August 18, 2023**

Supervisor Curt Hagman ..... South Coast AQMD Board Member  
Mayor Larry McCallon..... South Coast AQMD Board Member  
Board Member Veronica Padilla-Campos..... South Coast AQMD Board Member  
Councilmember Carlos Rodriguez..... South Coast AQMD Board Member

Debra Mendelsohn ..... Board Consultant (McCallon)  
Michael Miller..... Board Consultant (Hagman)  
Andy Silva ..... Board Consultant (Lock Dawson)  
Mark Taylor ..... Board Consultant (Rodriguez)  
Amy Wong..... Board Consultant (Padilla-Campos)

Mark Abramowitz ..... Community Environmental Services  
Ramine Cromartie ..... WSPA  
Harvey Eder ..... Public Solar Power Coalition  
Amber Fong ..... Public Member  
Ranji George ..... Public Member  
Fred Minassian ..... Public Member

Debra Ashby ..... South Coast AQMD Staff  
Rene Bermudez ..... South Coast AQMD Staff  
Cindy Bustillos..... South Coast AQMD Staff  
Sam Cao ..... South Coast AQMD Staff  
Ryan Dover ..... South Coast AQMD Staff  
Daniel Garcia ..... South Coast AQMD Staff  
Ping Gui ..... South Coast AQMD Staff  
Maryam Hajbabaei ..... South Coast AQMD Staff  
Lauren Henninger..... South Coast AQMD Staff  
Mark Henninger ..... South Coast AQMD Staff  
Ruby Laity ..... South Coast AQMD Staff  
Joseph Lopat ..... South Coast AQMD Staff  
Ron Moskowitz ..... South Coast AQMD Staff  
Wayne Nastri..... South Coast AQMD Staff  
Vasileios Papapostolou..... South Coast AQMD Staff  
Andrea Polidori ..... South Coast AQMD Staff  
Sarah Rees..... South Coast AQMD Staff  
Penny Shaw Cedillo ..... South Coast AQMD Staff  
Walter Shen..... South Coast AQMD Staff  
Yuh Jiun Tan..... South Coast AQMD Staff  
Lisa Tanaka O’Malley..... South Coast AQMD Staff  
Donna Vernon ..... South Coast AQMD Staff  
Mei Wang..... South Coast AQMD Staff  
Paul Wright ..... South Coast AQMD Staff