

BOARD MEETING DATE: August 1, 2025

AGENDA NO. 6

PROPOSAL: Authorize Executive Officer to Negotiate and Execute MOU With County of Riverside Transportation Department for Assembly Bill 617 Eastern Coachella Valley Paving Projects and Reimburse County of Riverside Transportation Department for Administrative Costs

SYNOPSIS: Through community-led participatory budgeting workshops in 2021, the Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617) Eastern Coachella Valley (ECV) Community Steering Committee prioritized \$4.57 million in Year 3 Community Air Protection Incentive funding for implementation of paving projects within the ECV community. The County of Riverside Transportation Department is qualified to implement paving projects in the AB 617 ECV community. South Coast AQMD will partner with the County of Riverside Transportation Department through an MOU agreement to initiate the paving projects. These actions are to: 1) authorize the Executive Officer to negotiate and execute an MOU with the County of Riverside Transportation Department to pave prioritized properties in ECV; (2) appropriate up to \$4.57 million from the Community Air Protection AB 134 Fund (77) to spend towards the implementation of paving projects in ECV; and (3) reimburse the County of Riverside Transportation Department for construction, administrative and contingency costs.

COMMITTEE: Stationary Source, June 20, 2025; Recommended for Approval

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Authorize the Executive Officer to negotiate and execute an MOU with the County of Riverside Transportation Department to implement paving projects in ECV;
2. Appropriate up to \$4.57 million from the Community Air Protection AB 134 Fund (77) to spend towards the implementation of paving projects in ECV; and
3. Authorize the Executive Officer to reimburse the County of Riverside Transportation Department a total amount not to exceed \$4.57 million from Community Air Protection AB 134 Fund (77) to spend towards implementation of paving projects, including up to twenty-five percent (25%) of the total project cost

for Project Documents, Project Advertisement and Contract Awarding, Construction Administration and Performance Monitoring and Reporting, and up to ten percent (10%) of the total project cost will be budgeted for contingency costs (i.e., unforeseen costs such as material acquisition, inflation, construction cost overrun, etc.).

Wayne Natri
Executive Officer

AHJ:WS:RD:PM

Background

Assembly Bill (AB) 617 was signed into California state law in July 2017 and focuses on improving air quality and reducing exposure to criteria air pollutants and toxic air contaminants in communities most impacted by air pollution. AB 617 recognizes these disproportionate impacts and seeks to address this through community-driven actions focused on developing and implementing Community Emission Reductions Plans (CERPs) and Community Air Monitoring Plans.

Since 2018, CARB has designated six AB 617 communities within South Coast AQMD's jurisdiction. As directed by AB 617, South Coast AQMD worked with each community to develop a CERP under the guidance of their respective Community Steering Committee (CSC). Each CSC is comprised of residents, community-based organizations, schools, public agencies, businesses, and other relevant community stakeholders. Each CSC identifies their top air quality concerns and actions to address them in their respective CERPs.

Eastern Coachella Valley (ECV) was designated as a South Coast AQMD AB 617 community in 2019. During the CERP development process, one of the community priorities expressed by CSC members was emissions from PM10 from unpaved roadways. Wind gusts and vehicular activities on unpaved roadways are major sources of fugitive dust, which primarily consists of PM10.

In 2021, through community-led participatory budget working team meetings, the ECV CSC prioritized \$4.57 million in Community Air Protection (CAP) incentive funds for implementing paving projects in the ECV community. In collaboration with the ECV Budget Working Team, staff developed the Paving Project Plan which was approved by CARB in October 2022. The Paving Project Plan was subsequently revised by CARB in April 2025 to incorporate modifications in administrative costs and provisions to allow South Coast AQMD to use alternative procedures, such as executing an MOU, if no

applications were received via the public solicitation process, or applications received do not result in an executed contract.

South Coast AQMD released Program Announcements PA2024-01 and PA2024-01R in September 2023 and February 2024, respectively, to solicit applications to implement paving projects in the ECV community. Applications received were rejected either due to non-compliance with submittal requirements or non-cooperation of the applicant during the contract development process and no contracts were issued.

Proposal

Staff is seeking Board approval to collaborate with the County of Riverside Transportation Department on an MOU for an amount up to \$4.57 million from the CAP incentive funds to implement road paving projects in the ECV community. The County of Riverside Transportation Department will be responsible for administering and overseeing the paving projects' implementation including hiring road paving contractors and obtaining necessary paving property documentation. South Coast AQMD will make payments on a reimbursement basis to the County of Riverside Transportation Department throughout the duration of the paving project until the project funding has been depleted, or the project has been terminated. Also, the CAP Program Guidelines allow project costs up to 25% of the funds for non-construction costs, including permitting, design, and administration, and up to 10% may be budgeted for contingency costs, supported by appropriate documentation. These costs are included as part of the \$4.57 million allocated by the ECV community for the implementation of paving projects. The MOU will require the County of Riverside Transportation Department to submit monthly project reports summarizing the paving project implementation status.

Lastly, based upon the demand and spending down of the allocated amount of \$4.57 million for road paving projects, staff may seek Board approval for subsequent funding on additional road paving projects in the ECV community.

Benefits to South Coast AQMD

Emissions of PM10 from unpaved roadways was one of the major community priorities expressed by the ECV community. Paving unpaved roadways will reduce PM10 emissions from these sources within the ECV community and will improve public health.

Resource Impacts

Sufficient funding is available for the implementation of paving projects within the ECV community and will be provided by Community Air Protection AB 134 Fund (77).