BOARD MEETING DATE: November 6, 2026 AGENDA NO. 8

PROPOSAL: Authorize Purchase of CrowdStrike Protection Services

SYNOPSIS: South Coast AQMD currently utilizes CrowdStrike Protection Services to safeguard agency systems against viruses, malware, identity threats, and other modern cyber threats, thereby reducing the likelihood of costly data breaches. This action is to obtain approval for a one-year period with CrowdStrike for a total amount not to exceed $175,000. Funding for this purchase is included in the FY 2026-27 Budget for Information Management.

COMMITTEE: Administrative, October 9, 2026; Recommended for Approval

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Authorize the Procurement Manager to purchase CrowdStrike Services and execute all necessary documents for this purchase for a one-year period at an estimated cost of $175,000.

Wayne Nastri
Executive Officer

RMM:CW:tm

Background
CrowdStrike is a global cybersecurity leader that provides a cloud-native platform for protecting critical areas of enterprise risk. Since August 2018, South Coast AQMD has utilized CrowdStrike's protection services to safeguard agency systems against viruses, malware, and other modern cyber threats, thereby reducing the likelihood of costly breaches.

Today's dynamic Information Technology environment, including cloud adoption, remote work, third-party access, and the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI), has expanded the agency's digital boundaries and increased exposure to emerging cyber threats. Threats are increasingly leveraging AI and automation to accelerate attacks, enhance phishing and social engineering techniques, identify vulnerabilities,

and evade traditional security controls. Maintaining CrowdStrike protection services is essential to safeguard agency systems and accounts against these evolving threats, strengthen agency resilience against cyberattacks, enable faster detection and response to real-time threats, and automate remediation to reduce the risk and potential impact of data breaches. Continued investment in CrowdStrike will also help the agency keep pace with increasingly sophisticated and automated threats while improving operational efficiency and reducing compliance and support costs.

The estimated annual subscription cost for CrowdStrike protection services is $175,000. Funding for this purchase is included in the FY 2026-27 Budget for Information Management.

Proposal

In accordance with South Coast AQMD's Administrative Policies and Procedures Number 35, bids were solicited from firms on the List of Prequalified Vendors to provide computer, network, printer hardware and software, and desktop computer hardware upgrades. Bids were also sought through vendor master agreements, cooperative agreements, and other interagency agreements with governmental entities to ensure the best available pricing. The prequalified vendor list was approved by the Board on May 1, 2026, and remains in effect through May 2028.

This action is to authorize the Procurement Manager to execute a purchase order for CrowdStrike Protection Services with the vendor offering the lowest-cost bid for the annual subscription fee.

Resource Impacts

Sufficient funding is available in Information Management's FY 2026-27 Budget.