

BOARD MEETING DATE: September 4, 2026

AGENDA NO. 8

PROPOSAL: Recognize Revenue, Appropriate Funds, Issue Solicitations and Purchase Orders for Air Monitoring Equipment for Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations Program

SYNOPSIS: South Coast AQMD has received \$783,141 from U.S. EPA for the 34th year of the Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations Program (PAMS). This action is to recognize revenue, appropriate \$393,141 into the Monitoring and Analysis FY 2026-27 and/or FY 2027-28 Budgets, and issue solicitations and purchase orders for air monitoring equipment. These actions are also to recognize revenue and appropriate up to \$72,230 into the Monitoring and Analysis FY 2026-27 Budget from the 33rd year of PAMS funding.

COMMITTEE: Administrative, August 14, 2026; Recommended for Approval

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Recognize revenue of the U.S. EPA 34th year PAMS award, appropriate \$393,141 of the \$783,141 (\$390,000 was previously recognized into the FY 2026-27 Budget for Salaries and Employee Benefits) into the Monitoring and Analysis FY 2026-27 and/or FY 2027-28 Budgets, Services and Supplies and Capital Outlays Major Object, as set forth in Attachment 1;
2. Authorize the Procurement Manager, in accordance with South Coast AQMD's Procurement Policy and Procedure, to issue solicitations as needed, and based on the results of the solicitations, issue purchase orders for the following items, as listed in Table 1.
 - a. Four meteorological towers not to exceed \$36,000;
 - b. Two zero air generators not to exceed \$26,000;
 - c. One TOC gas generator not to exceed \$13,500;
 - d. One GC-FID system not to exceed \$85,500; and

3. Recognize revenue and appropriate up to \$72,230 for U.S. EPA 33rd year PAMS award into the Monitoring and Analysis FY 2026-27 Budget, Services and Supplies as set forth in Attachment 2.

Wayne Natri
Executive Officer

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Background

In February 1993, U.S. EPA promulgated the PAMS regulations for areas classified as serious, severe, or extreme nonattainment. These regulations require that South Coast AQMD conduct monitoring for ozone precursors with enhanced monitoring equipment at multiple sites. The PAMS program also funds upper air and surface-based meteorological measurements at several locations. Since the onset of the PAMS program, U.S. EPA has annually allocated Section 105 Grant funds in support of this requirement.

Proposal

U.S. EPA Section 105 Grant for the 34th Year PAMS program funding is \$783,141 based on the 34th Year PAMS program funding levels. This action is to recognize revenue, and appropriate estimated funds up to the amount of \$393,141 (with the remainder of \$390,000 already included in Salaries and Employee Benefits within the FY 2026-27 Budget) into the Services and Supplies and Capital Outlays Major Object in Monitoring and Analysis FY 2026-27 and/or FY 2027-28 Budgets.

The U.S. EPA Section 105 Grant for the 33rd Year PAMS program was previously recognized by the board in April 2025. This action is to recognize revenue and appropriate up to \$72,230 for U.S. EPA 33rd year PAMS award into the Monitoring and Analysis FY 2026-27 Budget, Services and Supplies, as set forth in Attachment 2.

Services and Supplies

A budget for Services and Supplies, as set forth in Attachment 1 and 2, includes funding for the PAMS program that pertains to demurrage expenses, maintenance of equipment, travel and training, communications, laboratory supplies, office expenses, and small tools, instruments, and equipment. Additionally, funds are allocated to Professional and Special Services to fund a contract to perform quality assurance audits of the South Coast AQMD meteorological network and maintain ceilometers (a remote-sensing laser instrument used to measure hourly mixing layer height) as required by the PAMS program.

Proposed Purchases through Solicitation

Meteorological Towers

Meteorological towers are needed to support air monitoring sensors at new ambient monitoring locations which measure ozone. The estimated cost for up to four meteorological towers is \$36,000, and the purchase will be made through a solicitation process as needed, followed by issuance of a purchase order, as specified in Table 1.

Zero Air Generators

Precision zero air generators are necessary to deliver contaminant-free air required for the operation of air monitoring equipment in support of ozone measurements. The estimated cost for two zero air generators is \$26,000, and the purchase will be made through a solicitation process as needed, followed by issuance of a purchase order, as specified in Table 1.

Total Organic Carbon (TOC) Gas Generator

TOC gas generators are required to supply continuous, high-purity zero air to the PAMS Auto-Gas Chromatograph systems. A backup system is necessary to minimize instrument downtime and data loss during the PAMS intensive season. The estimated cost for a TOC gas generator is \$13,500, and the purchase will be made through a solicitation process as needed, followed by issuance of a purchase order, as specified in Table 1.

Proposed Sole Source Purchase Orders

Gas Chromatograph-Flame Ionization Detector (GC-FID) System

A new GC-FID system is needed to replace one of two existing Agilent 7890B systems in support of the PAMS program. The 7890A systems reached the End of Guaranteed Support on June 30, 2021. The purchase of a new GC-FID system will be made through a sole source purchase order not to exceed \$85,500.

Sole Source Justification

Section VIII.B.3 of South Coast AQMD's Procurement Policy and Procedures identifies four major provisions under which sole source awards are funded as a whole or in part with federal funds, may be justified. The request for sole source purchase of the Agilent 8890 GC-FID System is made under provision VIII.B.3.a, "The item is available only from a single source." Agilent Technologies is the manufacturer and supplier of the GC-FID and auto GC systems currently used by South Coast AQMD for the PAMS program. The Agilent 8890 GC-FID System is a direct replacement for the aging GC-FID that is no longer supported by the manufacturer, is compatible with the current method and supports laboratory equipment and is only available from a single vendor. This allows staff to follow established procedures for operation and maintenance. Consistency and compatibility amongst GC-FIDs and supporting laboratory equipment are critical to meeting the operational needs of the agency.

Resource Impacts

U.S. EPA Section 105 Grant funding will support the operation of the PAMS program including funding for Capital Outlays, Services and Supplies, and Salaries and Employee Benefits to meet the necessary objectives of the program.

Table 1
Proposed PAMS Purchases through an
Solicitation or Sole Source Process

Description	Qty	Estimated Amount	Contracting Method
Meteorological Tower	4	\$36,000	Solicitation
Zero Air Generator	2	\$26,000	Solicitation
TOC Gas Generator	1	\$13,500	Solicitation
GC-FID	1	\$85,500	Sole Source
Total		\$161,000	

Attachment 1: Proposed 34th Year PAMS Expenditures for FY 2026-27 and/or FY 2027-28

Attachment 2: Proposed 33rd Year PAMS Expenditures for FY 2026-27

Attachment 1
Proposed 34th Year PAMS Expenditures for FY 2026-27 and/or FY 2027-28

Account Description	Account Number	Program Code	Estimated* Expenditure
Services & Supplies Major Object:			
Professional and Special Services	67450	47530	\$60,000
Demurrage Expenses	67550	47530	\$11,141
Maintenance of Equipment	67600	47530	\$55,000
Travel	67800	47530	\$5,000
Communications	67900	47530	\$1,000
Laboratory Supplies	68050	47530	\$50,000
Office Expense	68100	47530	\$5,000
Small Tools, Instruments, Equipment	68300	47530	\$40,000
Training/Conf/Tuition/Board	69500	47530	\$5,000
Total Services & Supplies Major Object:			\$232,141
Capital Outlays Major Object:			
Meteorological Tower (4)	77000	47530	\$36,000
Zero Air Generator (2)	77000	47530	\$26,000
TOC Gas Generator (1)	77000	47530	\$13,500
GC-FID (1)	77000	47530	\$85,500
Total Capital Outlays Major Object:			\$161,000
Total			\$393,141

*Expenditures may be appropriated to Services and Supplies or Capital Outlays Major Object, as warranted.

Attachment 2
Proposed 33rd Year PAMS Expenditures for FY 2026-27

Account Description	Account Number	Program Code	Estimated* Expenditure
Services & Supplies Major Object:			
Professional and Special Services	67450	47530	\$3,000
Maintenance of Equipment	67600	47530	\$6,003
Travel	67800	47530	\$5,000
Communications	67900	47530	\$1,000
Laboratory Supplies	68050	47530	\$26,241
Office Expense	68100	47530	\$3,000
Small Tools, Instruments, Equipment	68300	47530	\$26,000
Training/Conf/Tuition/Board	69500	47530	\$1,986
Total Services & Supplies			\$72,230

*Expenditures may be appropriated to Services and Supplies or Capital Outlays Major Object, as warranted.