

BOARD MEETING DATE: September 6, 2024

AGENDA NO. 7

PROPOSAL: Adopt Resolution to Recognize Funds and Accept Terms and Fulfill Conditions and Requirements of Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Award from California Department of Transportation and Authorize Executive Officer to Enter into Agreement with California Air Pollution Control Officer's Association

SYNOPSIS: On July 9, 2024, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) awarded \$450,000 from the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant to incorporate new transportation measures, new datasets, and additional reporting features, and increase the functionality of California Air Pollution Control Officers Association's California Emissions Estimator Model and Quantifying GHG Mitigation Measures Handbook. These two tools are currently used by local governments and state agencies throughout California to prepare air quality analyses, which model future transportation behavior and vehicle miles traveled in environmental documents for projects subject to the requirements of CEQA. Caltrans requires a Resolution of the Board in order to release the funds.

COMMITTEE: Mobile Source; August 16, 2024; Recommended for Approval

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- 1) Adopt the attached Resolution recognizing, upon receipt from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), up to \$450,000 from the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant into the General Fund (01) and authorizing the Executive Officer to accept the terms and conditions to fulfill the requirements of the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant; and
- 2) Authorize the Executive Officer to enter into an agreement with the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), a sub-recipient of the funds to be awarded by Caltrans to South Coast AQMD, in an amount not to exceed \$450,000 from the General Fund (01), to implement the terms of the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant.

Wayne Nastri
Executive Officer

Background

South Coast AQMD partnered with CAPCOA to submit an application to Caltrans' Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program which proposes to incorporate five new transportation measures, new datasets, and additional reporting features, and increase the functionality of CAPCOA's California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) and Quantifying GHG Mitigation Measures Handbook (Handbook). These two tools are used by local governments and state agencies throughout California to prepare air quality analyses which model future transportation behavior and vehicle miles traveled in environmental documents for projects subject to the requirements of CEQA.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, travel behaviors have shifted. As the updates to the CAPCOA Handbook and CalEEMod program occurred during the pandemic and utilized published research available at that time, the defaults and assumptions relied upon and the default tables that measure effectiveness of the mitigation measures are based on pre-pandemic sources of information. As the agencies who model and measure vehicle emissions and traffic data generate new datasets, the information relied upon in the CAPCOA Handbook and CalEEMod becomes out-of-date. Without funding for this project, California jurisdictions and agencies will have limited mitigation options for their projects, lead agencies may not have the substantial evidence needed for defensible CEQA reviews, and project decisions will be driven by out-of-date data.

CAPCOA, South Coast AQMD and other California air districts recognize the need for periodically updating these data sources and are continuing to invest in these tools so that trips and emissions associated with the construction of transportation facilities, development, and other land use projects analyzed in CEQA documents would be accurate and complete. However, CAPCOA, the owner of these tools, does not have funding to incorporate the new measures and defaults into CalEEMod.

On July 9, 2024, in an acknowledgement of this need to update the CAPCOA Handbook and CalEEMod, Caltrans conditionally awarded a Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant of \$450,000 to South Coast AQMD for this proposed project with CAPCOA designated as a sub-recipient of the awarded funds. As a condition of the award, Caltrans requires a Resolution of the Board in order to release the funds.

The Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant funds will be paid to South Coast AQMD on a reimbursement basis.

Proposal

Staff is recommending that the Board adopt the Resolution to recognize funds, accept the terms and conditions of the Grant and authorize the execution of the necessary agreement with Caltrans to receive the funds, and to authorize the Executive Officer to execute an agreement with CAPCOA in an amount not to exceed \$450,000 as a sub-recipient of the Grant. Through this Grant, South Coast AQMD will work with CAPCOA to incorporate new transportation measures, new datasets, and additional reporting features, and increase the functionality of CalEEMod and the CAPCOA Handbook.

Benefits to South Coast AQMD

CalEEMod and the CAPCOA Handbook have already demonstrated to South Coast AQMD, other California air districts, CAPCOA, agencies throughout California and the public, the value of analyzing future transportation demand together with future climate risks and environmental burdens, as well as creating a common language and standardized tools to ensure projects and options are fairly compared against each other. Incorporating the new transportation measures and post-pandemic datasets into CalEEMod and the CAPCOA Handbook ensures that these tools relied upon for CEQA compliance for projects throughout California reflect California's regulatory requirements, current conditions, and ensures the most stringent mitigation measures are applied to environmental impacts.

Sole Source Justification

Section VIII.B.2 of South Coast AQMD's Procurement Policy and Procedure identifies four major provisions under which a sole source award may be justified. Specifically, this request for a sole source award to CAPCOA is made under provision B.2.c(2): The project involves the use of proprietary technology and B.2.c(3): contractor has ownership of key assets required for project performance. CAPCOA owns CalEEMod and the Handbook.

Resource Impacts

Sufficient funds will be available, upon receipt from Caltrans, in the General Fund (01) for the Sustainable Transportation Planning project. Staff resources will be needed to administer the terms and conditions of the Grant, and existing staff will be sufficient to fulfill these needs.

Attachment

Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 24-_____

A Resolution of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) Board Recognizing Funds and Accepting the Terms and Fulfilling the Conditions and Requirements of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Award.

WHEREAS, under Health and Safety Code Section 40400 et seq., the South Coast AQMD is the local agency with the primary responsibility for the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of air pollution control strategies, clean fuels programs and motor vehicle use reduction measures;

WHEREAS, the South Coast AQMD is authorized by Health and Safety Code Sections 40402, 40404, 40440, and 40448.5 to implement programs to reduce transportation emissions, including programs to encourage the use of alternative fuels and low-emission vehicles; to develop and implement other strategies and measures to reduce air contaminants and achieve the state and federal air quality standards; and

WHEREAS, the South Coast AQMD is designated as an extreme non-attainment area for ozone and as such is required to utilize all feasible measures to meet national ambient air quality standards;

WHEREAS, the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association's (CAPCOA) California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) and Quantifying GHG Mitigation Measures Handbook (Handbook), are two tools used by South Coast AQMD, other air districts in California, local governments and state agencies to prepare air quality analyses which model future transportation behavior and vehicle miles traveled in environmental documents for projects subject to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and

WHEREAS, the South Coast AQMD partnered with CAPCOA to submit an application seeking funding from the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program to incorporate five new transportation measures, new datasets, and additional reporting features, and increase the functionality of CalEEMod and the Handbook; and

WHEREAS, the South Coast AQMD has been awarded up to \$450,000 from the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program to expand and update the Handbook and CalEEMod and administer the program according to the terms, conditions, and requirements of administration through Caltrans;

WHEREAS, the South Coast AQMD is eligible to receive Federal and/or State funding for certain transportation projects, through Caltrans; and

WHEREAS, South Coast AQMD may be required to execute an agreement with Caltrans or its designee before such funds can be claimed, which may include Master Agreements, Program Supplemental Agreements, Fund Exchange Agreements and/or Fund Transfer Agreements;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Officer is authorized to execute all agreements necessary to claim the funds, including Master Agreements, Program Supplemental Agreements, Fund Exchange Agreements, Fund Transfer Agreements and any amendments thereto, with Caltrans or its designee;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the South Coast AQMD Governing Board, in regular session assembled on September 6, 2024, does hereby accept the terms and conditions to fulfill the requirements of the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Award and recognize up to \$450,000 in the General Fund (01) for eligible projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Officer is authorized and directed to take all steps necessary to carry out this Resolution.

Date

Faye Thomas, Clerk of the Board