

BOARD MEETING DATE: September 6, 2024

AGENDA NO. 24

REPORT: Technology Committee

SYNOPSIS: The Technology Committee held a hybrid meeting on Friday, August 16, 2024. The following is a summary of the meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Receive and file.

Carlos Rodriguez, Chair
Technology Committee

AK:psc

Committee Members

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

Absent: Supervisor Andrew Do

Call to Order

Committee Chair Carlos Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

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

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Establish Special Revenue Fund and Recognize Revenue for Implementation of INVEST CLEAN Program and Reimburse General Fund

Lisa Tanaka, Assistant Deputy Executive Officer/Legislative, Public Affairs and Media, and Aaron Katzenstein, Deputy Executive Officer/Technology Advancement Office, presented on the \$499,997,415 award South Coast AQMD received from the U.S. EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program to implement the

Infrastructure, Vehicles, and Equipment Strategy for Climate, Equity, Air Quality, and National Competitiveness INVEST CLEAN program in the Los Angeles – Long Beach – Anaheim and Riverside – San Bernardino – Ontario Metropolitan Statistical Areas. These actions are to: 1) establish a U.S. EPA CPRG Special Revenue Fund (90); 2) recognize revenue, upon receipt, up to \$499,997,415 from U.S. EPA into Fund (90); and 3) reimburse the General Fund up to \$24,297,415 from U.S. EPA CPRG Special Revenue Fund (90) for South Coast AQMD administrative expenses. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 3:59.

Committee Chair Carlos Rodriguez extended congratulations on the success of the application and gratitude for the multi-jurisdictional collaboration. He noted that the areas covered by the award will help with South Coast AQMD’s mission. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 4:03.

Board Member Padilla-Campos also expressed congratulations and encouraged staff to look into the Tataviam Tribe’s workforce training around solar. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 17:04.

Mayor Lock Dawson shared congratulations and asked about the planned schedule for rollout. Aaron Katzenstein, Deputy Executive Officer, Technology Advancement Office, responded that staff is working with U.S. EPA to fast track this and to have the grant in place in October. The Committee should see RFPs in the first quarter or early second quarter of 2025. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 18:03.

Ranji George, public member, expressed congratulations to staff. Mr. George also requested that staff look into battery recycling and more hydrogen projects. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 19:20.

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

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

2. Allocate Funds, Issue RFP, Execute and Amend Contracts for Residential and Commercial Electric Lawn and Garden Equipment Program Support

Victor Juan, Program Supervisor/Technology Advancement Office presented on the Residential Electric Lawn Mower Rebate Program which provides rebates to offset the purchase cost of new electric lawn mowers. These actions are to: 1) allocate up to \$500,000 from the Rule 2202 Air Quality Investment Fund (27) for the expanded Residential Lawn and Garden Equipment Rebate Program; 2) issue an RFP to solicit contractor support for the in-person residential lawn and garden equipment exchange events; 3) based on the results of the RFP, authorize the Executive Officer to execute a contract with a qualified firm for the in-person exchange events in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 from Rule 2202 Air Quality Investment Fund (27); and 4) amend a contract with American Green Zone Alliance for continued support for the Commercial Electric Lawn and Garden Equipment Incentive and Exchange Program in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 from the administrative portion of the Carl Moyer Program Fund (32). For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 23:25.

Supervisor Hagman asked if larger lawn equipment such as tractors or riding mowers are included in the program expansion. Dr. Katzenstein responded that large lawn equipment are eligible for the Commercial Lawn & Garden Program rebate. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 26:33.

Board Member Padilla-Campos inquired about the locations of the in-person exchange events, and if they are intended for both the Residential and Commercial programs. Dr. Katzenstein responded that there are four events, one in each county, and if there are sufficient funds a fifth event will be in Coachella Valley, and that the events will be for the Residential program. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 27:15.

Committee Chair Rodriguez asked whether the \$500,000 will be applicable for both programs. Mr. Juan responded that the \$500,000 is strictly for the Residential Lawn & Garden Program and the \$50,000 will be for the Commercial Lawn & Garden Program. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 28:38.

Mr. George commented that South Coast AQMD should encourage the development of hydrogen fuel cell powered lawn and garden equipment. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 29:14.

Moved by Hagman; seconded by McCallon; unanimously approved.

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

3. Issue Program Announcement and Execute Contracts for AB 617 Public School Air Filtration Program

Dan Garcia, Planning and Rules Manager/Technology Advancement Office presented on public school air filtration for the following four AB 617 communities: East Los Angeles, Boyle Heights, West Commerce; San Bernardino, Muscoy; Southeast Los Angeles; and Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach. These actions are to: 1) issue Program Announcement #PA2025-01 for up to \$13.7 million from the Community Air Protection AB 134 Fund (77) to solicit applications from public schools within AB 617 Communities for the AB 617 Public School Air Filtration Program; and 2) based on the results of the PA, authorize the Executive Officer to execute contracts with public schools or school districts or their preferred vendors for the installation and/or maintenance of air filtration systems at schools within AB 617 Communities prioritizing East Los Angeles/Boyle Heights/West Commerce, San Bernardino/Muscoy, Southeast Los Angeles and Wilmington/West Long Beach/Carson. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 31:34.

Mayor McCallon stated he was happy to see program funding available to San Bernardino/Muscoy and asked how schools will be identified and how outreach is being conducted. Mr. Garcia responded that staff is working with the San Bernardino City Unified School District and other school districts who expressed interest in participating in the program. The school districts will identify schools for the program. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 33:33.

Supervisor Hagman asked about the type of heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) and air filtration projects it can include. Mr. Garcia responded that the program will mostly cover air filtration system installation and maintenance while allowing for minor HVAC system upgrades. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 34:27.

Committee Chair Rodriguez asked if there is a pending waiting list of schools for the program and how many schools it can fund. Mr. Garcia responded that there is no waiting list and school districts are prioritizing schools within the AB 617 communities. Additionally, with the \$13.7 million in available funding, the program can fund up to 125 schools. Committee Chair Rodriguez requested a Technology Committee update on the number program applicants and anticipated program awards in the first quarter of 2025. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 35:33.

Moved by Hagman; seconded by McCallon; unanimously approved.

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

OTHER MATTERS:

4. Other Business

Committee Chair Rodriguez commented that he is looking forward to upcoming discussions with Alliance for Renewable Clean Hydrogen Energy Systems and directed staff to provide an update on funding opportunities and the hydrogen hub. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 40:33.

5. Public Comment Period

Mr. George encouraged staff to consider establishing a hydrogen working group to look into more hydrogen fuel cell technology. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 37:48.

6. Next Meeting Date

The next regular Technology Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 18, 2024, at noon.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Mayor McCallon closed the meeting in memory of Richard Alatorre, a pioneering Los Angeles political figure.

Attachment

Attendance Record

ATTACHMENT

**SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING
Attendance Record – August 16, 2024**

Supervisor Curt Hagman South Coast AQMD Board Member
Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson South Coast AQMD Board Member
Mayor Pro Tem 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)
Mark Taylor Board Consultant (Rodriguez)

Mark Abramowitz Public Member
Ranji George Public Member

Derrick Alatorre South Coast AQMD Staff
Debra Ashby South Coast AQMD Staff
Cindy Bustillos South Coast AQMD Staff
Penny Shaw Cedillo South Coast AQMD Staff
Matthew Ceja South Coast AQMD Staff
Scott Gallegos South Coast AQMD Staff
Liliana Garcia South Coast AQMD Staff
Alex Han South Coast AQMD Staff
Sheri Hanizavareh South Coast AQMD Staff
Nydia Ibarra South Coast AQMD Staff
Victor Juan South Coast AQMD Staff
Aaron Katzenstein South Coast AQMD Staff
Ruby Laity South Coast AQMD Staff
Howard Lee South Coast AQMD Staff
Tom Lee South Coast AQMD Staff
Hay Lo South Coast AQMD Staff
Ron Moskowitz South Coast AQMD Staff
Ghislain Muberwa South Coast AQMD Staff
Susan Nakamura South Coast AQMD Staff
Wayne Nastri South Coast AQMD Staff
Lisa Tanaka O'Malley South Coast AQMD Staff
Robert Paud South Coast AQMD Staff
Walter Shen South Coast AQMD Staff
Edwin Talledo South Coast AQMD Staff
Erika Valle South Coast AQMD Staff
Mei Wang South Coast AQMD Staff
Michelle White South Coast AQMD Staff