

BOARD MEETING DATE: March 1, 2024

AGENDA NO. 18

REPORT: Technology Committee

SYNOPSIS: The Technology Committee held a hybrid meeting on Friday, February 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 Andrew Do
Supervisor Curt Hagman
Mayor Pro Tem Larry McCallon
Councilmember Carlos Rodriguez, Committee Chair

Absent: Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson
Board Member Veronica Padilla-Campos

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. Redistribute Funds, Issue Program Announcement for Combustion Freight and Marine Projects and Zero-Emission Class 8 Freight and Port Drayage Trucks, and Execute Agreements Under Statewide Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Program

In 2018 and 2020, the Board recognized up to \$165 million to administer and implement the Combustion Freight and Marine Projects (Combustion Freight and Marine) and Zero-Emission Class 8 Freight and Port Drayage Trucks (Zero-Emission Class 8 Trucks) categories for the statewide Volkswagen Environmental

Mitigation Trust Program (VW Program). In April 2023, CARB staff updated their Board on changes to the VW Program to improve program participation by expanding eligibility, increasing maximum funding amounts, and allowing stacking with other state incentives. Further, CARB is allowing program funds to migrate between project categories. These actions are to: 1) authorize the Executive Officer to redistribute VW Program source funds to meet program liquidation targets; 2) issue a Program Announcement for the Combustion Freight and Marine and Zero-Emission Class 8 Trucks project categories for approximately \$109.3 million; and 3) authorize the Executive Officer to execute agreements and subsequent modifications to these agreements for eligible projects selected through this solicitation.

Committee Chair Rodriguez commented that he supports that staff is looking at opportunities to maximize resources and leveraging with other grants. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 3:10.

Moved by Hagman; seconded by McCallon; unanimously approved.

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

2. Execute Contract to Develop and Demonstrate Megawatt Fast Charging for Battery Electric Trucks

Electric Power Research Institute was awarded a CEC grant for \$12,999,155 to develop and demonstrate megawatt fast charging systems for Class 7 and 8 battery electric trucks. The development and deployment of megawatt charging is needed to accelerate commercialization of battery electric zero-emission technologies. This action is to authorize the Executive Officer to execute a contract with the Electric Power Research Institute in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 from the Clean Fuels Program Fund (31) to co-fund the development and demonstration of megawatt fast charging systems.

Mayor Pro Tem McCallon, Supervisor Hagman and Supervisor Do commented that they do not have a financial interest, but are required to identify for the record that Mayor Pro Tem McCallon and Supervisor Hagman are Regional Council Members for the Southern California Association of Governments and Supervisor Do is a member of both the Policy and Transportation Committees for the Southern California Association of Governments, which is involved in this item.

Supervisor Hagman supports this project and asked if there is work to develop a master plan as we site and invest and sponsor projects in the future either at South Coast AQMD or SCAG. Aaron Katzenstein, Deputy Executive Officer, commented

about the Fuel Cell Partnership map for fuel cell stations and the need for a map for truck charging stations. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 14:02.

Committee Chair Rodriguez stated he supports Supervisor Hagman's inquiry to look at this from a broader regional viewpoint and or opportunities to engage with SCAG, and to leverage additional resources. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 16:41.

Bobbi Jo Chavarria, senior field organizer for the Clean Transportation for All from the Sierra Club, supports heavy-duty electric trucks to address climate change and the importance of electric charging infrastructure. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 17:30.

Ranji George, public member, encouraged greater deployment of hydrogen fuel cell technologies for heavy-duty trucks and having an equal if not expanded commitment to fuel cell technologies. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 20:43.

Harvey Eder, Public Solar Power Coalition, agreed with the previous commenter and indicated that models for Community Choice Aggregation and solar co-ops in unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County are very important. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 22:32.

Committee Chair Rodriguez asked about the anticipated use once the megawatt charging is fully operational and the timing. Dr. Katzenstein responded that battery technology is catching up with megawatt charging and that trucks can be charged in 20 minutes, which is more comparable with conventional fueling. Dr. Katzenstein responded it is difficult to determine the timing, since trucks would need to be commercialized and capacity of electricity from the grid is so constrained. Committee Chair Rodriguez asked if there were other locations being considered for other projects. Dr. Katzenstein said South Coast AQMD has many projects that are being considered. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 11:00.

Moved by Hagman; seconded by McCallon; unanimously approved.

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

3. Approve and Adopt Technology Advancement Office Clean Fuels Program 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Plan Update, Resolution and Membership Changes for Clean Fuels Advisory Group

Each year by March 31, South Coast AQMD must submit to the California Legislative Analyst an approved Annual Report for the past year and a Plan Update for the current calendar year for the Clean Fuels Program. These actions are to: 1) approve and adopt the Technology Advancement Clean Fuels Program Annual Report for 2023 and 2024 Plan Update; 2) adopt the Resolution finding that proposed projects do not duplicate any past or present programs; 3) approve and adopt membership changes to the SB 98 Clean Fuels Advisory Group; and 4) receive and file membership changes to the Technology Advancement Advisory Group.

Mr. George commented that the Zero Emission Infrastructure category should be broken down into battery infrastructure and hydrogen infrastructure. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 42:39.

Committee Chair Rodriguez inquired about the Zero Emission Infrastructure category and the distribution between battery electric and hydrogen. Dr. Katzenstein responded that it has been balanced. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 44:21.

Committee Chair Rodriguez inquired about battery recycling and how it is addressed in the proposed 2024 Clean Fuels funding distribution. Wayne Natri, Executive Officer, responded that the State and U.S. EPA have announced significant investment in the battery recycling area and staff will continue to advocate for those agencies to continue their efforts and that the Clean Fuels funds are better spent on the actual transportation side. Committee Chair Rodriguez requested a follow up on how South Coast AQMD staff is advocating for state and federal agencies to continue their focus on battery recycling. Dr. Katzenstein responded that South Coast AQMD staff will invite a private recycling facility to present at either a March or April Technology Committee meeting.

Committee Chair Rodriguez inquired about the Zero Emission Infrastructure and whether staff foresees further opportunities for charging stations and how Clean Fuels will be invested. Dr. Katzenstein responded that South Coast AQMD staff are looking at technologies to help provide the power to charge battery-electric trucks that often involve fuel cell technologies and there is currently a South Coast AQMD Request for Proposals that will close next week to solicit infrastructure projects. He commented that South Coast AQMD may not be able to fund all the projects submitted but staff are continuously looking at state and federal grant solicitations when they become available.

Moved by McCallon; seconded by Do; unanimously approved.

Ayes: Do, Hagman, McCallon, Rodriguez

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Lock Dawson, Padilla-Campos

OTHER MATTERS:

4. Other Business

There was no other business to report.

5. Public Comment Period

Mr. George commented that the amount of time for public members to speak during these committee meetings is very limited. He also urged staff to focus on battery recycling solutions. For additional details, please refer to the [Webcast](#) beginning at 53:35

6. Next Meeting Date

The next regular Technology Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 15, 2024, at noon.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Attachment

Attendance Record

ATTACHMENT

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

Supervisor Andrew Do	South Coast AQMD Board Member
Supervisor Curt Hagman	South Coast AQMD Board Member
Councilmember Carlos Rodriguez	South Coast AQMD Board Member
Mayor Pro Tem Larry McCallon	South Coast AQMD Board Member
Fred Minassian	Board Consultant (Padilla-Campos)
Andy Silva	Board Consultant (Lock Dawson)
Mark Taylor	Board Consultant (Rodriguez)
Chris Wangsaporn	Board Consultant (Do)
Mark Abramowitz	Public Member
Grant T. Aguinaldo	Public Member
Bobbi Jo Chavarria	Sierra Club
Harvey Eder	Public Solar Power Coalition
Ranji George	Public Member
Danielle Rucco	Public Member
Paola Servas	Public Member
Maria Allen	South Coast AQMD Staff
Debra Ashby	South Coast AQMD Staff
Barbara Baird	South Coast AQMD Staff
Cindy Bustillos	South Coast AQMD Staff
David Chan	South Coast AQMD Staff
Jessie Conaway	South Coast AQMD Staff
Philip Crabbe III	South Coast AQMD Staff
Scott Gallegos	South Coast AQMD Staff
Ping Gui	South Coast AQMD Staff
Alex Han	South Coast AQMD Staff
Sheri Hanizavareh	South Coast AQMD Staff
Anissa Heard-Johnson	South Coast AQMD Staff
Aaron Katzenstein	South Coast AQMD Staff
Angela Kim	South Coast AQMD Staff
Patricia Kwon	South Coast AQMD Staff
Ruby Laity	South Coast AQMD Staff
Howard Lee	South Coast AQMD Staff
Tom Lee	South Coast AQMD Staff

Charlize Li South Coast AQMD Staff
Karin Manwaring 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
Vasileios Papapostolou South Coast AQMD Staff
Robert Paud South Coast AQMD Staff
Sarah Rees South Coast AQMD Staff
Penny Shaw Cedillo South Coast AQMD Staff
Lisa Tanaka South Coast AQMD Staff
Diana Thai South Coast AQMD Staff
Carolina Vargas South Coast AQMD Staff
Donna Vernon South Coast AQMD Staff
Mei Wang South Coast AQMD Staff
Paul Wright South Coast AQMD Staff