

BOARD MEETING DATE: January 10, 2025

AGENDA NO. 7

PROPOSAL: Recognize Revenue, Appropriate Funds, Issue Solicitations and Purchase Orders for Air Monitoring Equipment and Execute Contract

SYNOPSIS: South Coast AQMD previously received a Federal grant award from U.S. EPA under the American Rescue Plan and is expected to receive funds under the Inflation Reduction Act. This action is to recognize up to \$1,245,708 and appropriate these funds into the Monitoring and Analysis FY 2024-25, FY 2025-26 and/or FYs 2024-29 Budgets, issue solicitations and purchase orders for air monitoring equipment, issue an RFP in an amount up to \$600,000, and execute a contract for the development of an Air Monitoring Equipment Testing and Education Center in Diamond Bar.

COMMITTEE: Administrative, December 13, 2024; Recommended for Approval

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Recognize revenue up to \$35,000 from U.S. EPA for the American Rescue Plan (ARP) and appropriate the funds into Monitoring and Analysis FY 2024-25 and/or 2025-26 Budgets (Org 47) as detailed in Attachment 1;
2. Recognize revenue up to \$1,210,708 upon receipt from U.S. EPA for the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and appropriate the funds into the Monitoring and Analysis FYs 2024-29 Budgets (Org 47) as detailed in Attachment 2;
3. Authorize the Procurement Manager, in accordance with South Coast AQMD's Procurement Policy and Procedure, to issue solicitations, as needed, and based on results, issue purchase orders for the items listed in Table 1; and
4. Authorize the Procurement Manager, in accordance with South Coast AQMD's Procurement Policy and Procedure, to issue an RFP in an amount up to \$600,000, and based on results of the RFP, authorize the Executive Officer to execute a contract for the development of an Air Monitoring Equipment Testing and Education Center in Diamond Bar as listed in Table 2.

Wayne Nastri
Executive Officer

Background

On July 7, 2021, U.S. EPA announced that it will make \$50 million in ARP funding available to improve ambient air quality monitoring for communities across the nation. U.S. EPA prioritized using funds to support PM_{2.5} equipment upgrades and maintenance, as this is expected to reduce the frequency of required field visits while allowing real-time data to continue to be available to the public.

On August 16, 2022, Congress passed the IRA, which included provisions for U.S. EPA to fund air monitoring network upgrades for state and local air pollution control agencies. This funding, distributed through a noncompetitive grant process, supports activities such as the operation of criteria pollutant air monitoring networks mandated under Section 103 of the Clean Air Act. This section authorizes U.S. EPA to provide grants for research and measurements related to the causes, effects, prevention and control of air pollution. To further support these efforts, U.S. EPA allocated an additional \$1,210,708 for the IRA program in Federal FY 2025, extending the grant period through Federal FY 2029.

Proposal

American Rescue Plan (FY 2024-25 and/or FY 2025-26)

U.S. EPA previously awarded Section 103 Grant funding under the ARP in an amount up to \$333,500. This action is to recognize and appropriate the remaining balance up to \$35,000 into the Monitoring and Analysis FY 2024-25 and/or 2025-26 Budget, as set forth in Attachment 1.

Inflation Reduction Act (FY 2024-29)

U.S. EPA IRA Grant award provides funding to maintain the South Coast AQMD's ambient air monitoring network and field and laboratory equipment support. This action is to recognize revenue upon receipt and appropriate up to \$1,210,708 from U.S. EPA into the Monitoring and Analysis FYs 2024-29 Budgets (Org 47), as set forth in Attachment 2.

Proposed Purchase through Solicitation Process or 'Prior Bid, Last Price'

Sulfur Dioxide Monitors

South Coast AQMD operates sulfur dioxide (SO₂) monitors in support of the criteria pollutant monitoring network. The current samplers are more than 15 years old and need replacement. The estimated cost for up to three SO₂ monitors is \$53,108 (see Table 1). The purchase will be made by "Prior Bid, Last Price" or through a solicitation process, as needed, followed by issuance of a purchase order.

Gas Diluters

South Coast AQMD operates 27 ozone and nitrogen dioxide sites in support of the criteria pollutant monitoring network. Daily precision zero and span audits of gas monitors are required to meet U.S. EPA quality assurance criteria. Gas dilution systems are necessary to provide a known concentration of gas standard required for quality

control (QC) of air monitoring equipment. The current QC gas dilution systems are greater than 10 years old and no longer meet U.S. EPA QC requirements. The replacement gas diluters meet U.S. EPA requirements as outlined in the most recent ozone Technical Assistance Document. The estimated cost for up to seven gas diluters is \$187,600 (see Table 1). The purchase will be made by “Prior Bid, Last Price” or through a solicitation process, as needed, followed by issuance of a purchase order.

Proposed Contract through an RFP Process

Development of an Air Monitoring Equipment Testing and Education Center in Diamond Bar

Staff proposes issuing an RFP to solicit bids from contractors for the development of an Air Monitoring Equipment Testing and Education Center in Diamond Bar. This facility will be located at South Coast AQMD’s Diamond Bar headquarters and serve as both a public education center and an air monitor and sensor testing location. The RFP will include all necessary infrastructure development, such as planning, design, permitting, site preparation, hardscaping, electrical and data infrastructure and installation of a sampling platform. The site will support the assessment and calibration of FRM/FEM monitors and air quality sensors. Public access will be available, with a focus on engaging the public through interactive educational components that demonstrate sensor calibration and raise awareness about air quality. U.S. EPA will provide up to \$600,000 in grant funds to support the development of this facility at Diamond Bar (See Table 2).

Proposed Purchases through Sole Source Purchase Order

Agilaire 8872 Data Loggers

The South Coast AQMD air monitoring network operates 34 air monitoring sites utilizing data loggers as part of U.S. EPA minimum monitoring requirement to support compliance with NAAQS and emissions strategy development, and to provide real-time air pollution data to the public, CARB and U.S. EPA. The current data loggers are older than 15 years old and will no longer be supported by the manufacturer beyond the most recent Windows 10 upgrade. The technical specifications of the data loggers are proprietary and consistent with the existing South Coast AQMD air monitoring network. The approximate cost for up to 10 data loggers is \$140,000 (see Table 1).

Ion Chromatograph

This request is to replace South Coast AQMD’s PM Speciation Ion Chromatograph (IC), which has been in use for over 10 years and is no longer supported by the manufacturer. The IC is critical for supporting PM10, PM2.5 and the U.S. EPA Chemical Speciation Network. Replacing this equipment is vital to maintaining data integrity and meeting U.S. EPA requirements. The estimated cost for an Ion Chromatograph is \$80,000 (See Table 1).

Bid Evaluation

Proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by a panel consisting of three to five South Coast AQMD staff members familiar with relevant subject matter expertise. The panel will be appointed by the Executive Officer or their designee. At the discretion of the Executive Officer, the panel may also include external experts from the public sector or academic community to provide additional insight.

The panel will assess each proposal based on the evaluation criteria and numerical weightings outlined in the RFP. Each panel member's ratings will be given equal weight in the overall scoring process. Based on their evaluation, the panel will provide a recommendation for the final selection of a contractor.

Outreach

In accordance with South Coast AQMD's Procurement Policy and Procedure, a public notice advertising the solicitations and inviting bids will be published in the local newspapers to leverage the most cost-effective method of outreach to the Basin.

Additionally, potential bidders may be notified utilizing South Coast AQMD's own electronic listing of certified minority vendors. Notice of the RFP will be emailed to the Black and Latino Legislative Caucuses and various minority chambers of commerce and business associations and placed on South Coast AQMD's website (<http://www.aqmd.gov>) where it can be viewed by making the selection "Grants & Bids." Information is also available on South Coast AQMD's bidders' 24-hour telephone message line (909) 396-2724.

Sole Source Justification

Section VIII.B.3 of the South Coast AQMD's Procurement Policy and Procedure identifies four major provisions under which a sole source award funded in whole or in part with federal funds, may be justified. Specifically, the request for sole source awards for the Agilaire 8872 data loggers and Thermo Electron North America Ion Chromatograph are made under provision VIII.B.3.a., the items are available only from a single source. Agilaire LLC is the only manufacturer who produces data loggers which work with the AirVision air quality data collection software with proprietary technology. South Coast AQMD uses the Agilaire, LLC AirVision software as the primary telemetry system for continuous measurements at all fixed air monitoring network sites. Thermo Electron North America is the only manufacturer of Ion Chromatographs that are compatible with existing instrumentation and software systems used by South Coast AQMD's laboratory.

Resource Impacts

U.S. EPA ARP and IRA grant funding will fully support the budgeted objectives of the programs.

Attachments

1. FY 2024-25 and/or FY 2025-26 Proposed ARP Expenditures
2. FYs 2024-29 Proposed IRA Expenditures

**Table 1
Proposed FYs 2024-29 Capital Outlays Major Object**

Description	Qty	Estimated Amount*	Contracting Method
Sulfur Dioxide Monitors	Up to 3	\$53,108	“Prior Bid, Last Price” or Solicitation Process
Gas Diluters	Up to 7	\$187,600	“Prior Bid, Last Price” or Solicitation Process
Agilaire 8872 Data Loggers	Up to 10	\$140,000	Sole Source
Ion Chromatograph	1	\$80,000	Sole Source
Total		\$460,708	

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

**Table 2
Proposed FYs 2024-29 Contract for IRA**

Description	Account	Estimated Amount*	Contracting Method
Development of Air Monitoring Equipment Testing and Education Center in Diamond Bar	67450	\$600,000	RFP
Total		\$600,000	

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

Attachment 1
FY 2024-25 and/or FY 2025-26 Proposed ARP Expenditures

Account Description	Account Number	Program Code	Estimated Expenditure
Services and Supplies Major Object:			
Maintenance of Equipment	67600	47241	\$25,000
Small Tools, Instruments, Equipment	68300	47241	\$10,000
Total Services and Supply:			\$35,000
Total Appropriation			\$35,000

Attachment 2
FYs 2024-29 Proposed IRA Expenditures

Account Description	Account Number	Program Code	Estimated Expenditure*
Services and Supplies Major Object:			
Professional and Special Services	67450	47242	\$750,000
Total Services and Supplies:			\$750,000**
Capital Outlay Major Object:			
Ion Chromatograph (1)	77000	47242	\$80,000
Sulfur Dioxide Monitors (up to 3)	77000	47242	53,108
Gas Diluters with Photometer (up to 7)	77000	47242	187,600
Agilaire 8872 Data Loggers (up to 10)	77000	47242	140,000
Total Capital Outlay:			\$460,708
Total			\$1,210,708

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

**\$150,000 of this amount will be allocated in a future board action.