

BOARD MEETING DATE: May 5, 2017

AGENDA NO. 4

PROPOSAL: Execute Contract to Educate Communities in Use and Operation of Air Quality Sensors

SYNOPSIS: On November 4, 2016, the Board approved the execution of four contracts from Science & Technology Advancement's FY 2016-17 Budget to participate in U.S. EPA's Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Grant project. Three contractors have already executed agreements. This action is to execute a contract with Comitè Civico Del Valle, Inc., as the fourth contractor in an amount not to exceed \$82,500 from Science & Technology Advancement's FY 2016-17 and/or 2017-18 Budget to educate community members in the use and operation of air quality sensors.

COMMITTEE: Technology, April 21, 2017; Recommended for Approval

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorize the Executive Officer to execute a contract with Comitè Civico Del Valle, Inc., upon EPA approval, to help recruit communities and individuals willing to operate air quality sensors in Southern and Central California over a three-year period in an amount not to exceed \$82,500 from Science & Technology Advancement's (Org 43) FY 2016-17 and/or 2017-18 Budget.

Wayne Nasti
Executive Officer

MMM:JCL:AP:ld

Background

In 2014, SCAQMD applied for a competitive U.S. EPA Science to Achieve Results (STAR) grant and was awarded \$749,820 to provide local California communities with the knowledge necessary to appropriately select, use and maintain sensors as well as correctly interpret sensor data. On October 7, 2016, the Board recognized \$749,820 in revenue into the General Fund and appropriated \$670,500 to Science & Technology Advancement's FYs 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 Budgets, Services and Supplies Major Object, while noting the remaining balance (\$79,320) was already included in

Salaries and Employee Benefits Major Object within Science & Technology Advancement's budget. The STAR grant project was to conduct a comprehensive study focusing on the following specific aims:

1. Develop new methods to engage, educate and empower local communities on the use and applications of "low-cost" sensors;
2. Conduct field and laboratory testing to characterize the performance of commercially available "low-cost" sensors and identify candidates for field deployment;
3. Deploy the selected sensors in multiple California communities and perform a thorough validation and interpretation of the collected data; and
4. Communicate the lessons learned to the public and organize outreach activities.

Subsequently, on November 4, 2016, the Board approved the execution of contracts from Science & Technology Advancement's FY 2016-17 Budget with four contractors including the Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) to participate in the STAR project. Three of the four contractors have already executed agreements, however CBE has decided not to participate. Comitè Civico Del Valle, Inc., is now being proposed as the fourth contractor.

Proposal

This action is to execute a contract with Comitè Civico Del Valle, Inc., (CCV), upon EPA approval, to educate community members in the use and operation of air quality sensors. CCV was founded in 1987, has a long history of working with local communities on specific air quality issues, has extensive experience with low-cost sensors, and is already running a large low-cost sensor network (IVAN Air). Communities will be specifically targeted in Environmental Justice areas and near specific sources of air pollution. Recruitment efforts will be supported by CCV. Regular public meetings and other outreach activities will be organized by SCAQMD in collaboration with CCV to educate the public on the capabilities of commercially available sensors and their potential applications and limitations (Aim 4). All data collected, documentation developed and testing results will be posted online on SCAQMD's AQ-SPEC website (www.aqmd.gov/aq-spec) and shared with the community at no cost.

Sole Source Justification

Section VIII. B. 3 of the Procurement Policy and Procedure identifies four major provisions under which, for contracts funded in whole or in part with federal funds, a sole source award may be justified. This request for sole source award is made under provision B.3.c., which states the awarding federal agency authorizes noncompetitive proposals.

Benefits to SCAQMD

This work will promote the more educated and responsible use of available low-cost sensors within California communities and across the U.S. and help governmental organizations and other policymakers to better understand air quality issues at the community level. It will also serve as a template for developing monitoring strategies and/or studies to provide information on mitigation efforts. Finally, this work will guide the future implementation of sensor networks in other communities.

Resource Impacts

The contract with CCV will not exceed \$82,500 from Science & Technology Advancement's FYs 2016-17 and/or 2017-18 Budget (Org 43) using funds from the U.S. EPA STAR grant award and the AQ-SPEC Program. The U.S. EPA has authorized funding of \$749,820 for the STAR grant, and SCAQMD has received an initial award of \$400,000.