

Air Pollution Control District Governing Board
San Diego County Air Pollution Control District
AGENDA ITEM # 02

DATE: **October 14, 2021**

TO: Air Pollution Control District Governing Board

SUBJECT:

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT AND ACCEPT, APPROPRIATE, AND ALLOCATE FUNDING FROM THE PORT DISTRICT FOR THE PORTSIDE AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND RELIEF INCENTIVE PROGRAM

REQUESTED ACTION:

1. Authorize the Interim Air Pollution Control Officer (or her designee) to approve and enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the San Diego Unified Port District and any future amendments to the MOA, provided the terms and conditions are not materially impacted or altered, for the Portside Air Quality Improvement and Relief (PAIR) Incentive Program.
2. Establish appropriations of \$103,000 in the APCD Operations Fund, Special Departmental Expense, to provide funding for PAIR Program eligible equipment based on unanticipated additional grant revenue from the San Diego Unified Port District Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Budget, Maritime Industrial Impact Fund.
3. Find that it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility the proposed action may have a significant adverse effect on the environment, and that this action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15061(b)(3).

OVERVIEW:

Today's action would authorize the Interim Air Pollution Control Officer to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the San Diego Unified Port District ("Port District") and accept and appropriate \$103,000 from the Port District in support of the Air Pollution Control District's ("APCD") Portside Air Quality Improvement and Relief ("PAIR") Incentive Program.

The Portside Environmental Justice community (as designated pursuant to Assembly Bill (AB) 617), is comprised of Barrio Logan, Logan Heights, Sherman Heights, and western National City. The community experiences disproportionate burdens from exposure to air pollution compared to most communities in California due to environmental, health, and socioeconomic factors. The USS Bonhomme Richard Navy Ship Fire in July 2020 further exposed air quality and health vulnerabilities within the Portside community, as most residents were not able to mitigate their exposure to degraded air quality conditions in the immediate area during the incident. To address these concerns, a one-time allocation of \$550,000 was appropriated from the County of San Diego's General Fund to establish the APCD PAIR Program, purchase residential portable air

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purifiers (i.e., air filters) and indoor air monitors for residents of the Portside community, and conduct monitoring and data analysis.

Since that time, the APCD has completed competitive solicitations to procure the new equipment and entered into contracts with the equipment vendors. The equipment selected includes the Blueair Blue Pure 311 Auto portable residential air purifier (including three additional disposable filters to provide at least two years of continuous operation at no cost to program participants), and the IQAir AirVisual Pro indoor air monitoring device. All new equipment is anticipated to be delivered directly to participants via U.S. mail to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and accelerate the timeframe in which participants receive their new equipment. PAIR Program participants may also receive a one-time monetary stipend for the partial reimbursement of expected electricity costs associated with the new equipment operation. The APCD also completed a competitive bid process for a contractor to administer the PAIR Program on behalf of APCD and has selected a local organization familiar with the Portside community for this contract. Duties assigned to this organization will include but are not limited to outreach and customer service, selection of participants, translation, case management, and technical support. Air quality data collection and monitoring will be conducted remotely by APCD for each device connected to the internet, through a one-year APCD subscription to the IQAir AirVisual Enterprise Dashboard. Analysis of the data collected, including a comparison of data collected by APCD regional air quality monitors, will be conducted either by the APCD, California Air Resources Board, or another outside entity following the one-year subscription period.

As part of the Port District's Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Budget (adopted June 15, 2021), the Port District allocated \$103,000 from the Maritime Industrial Impact Fund for the purchase of air purifiers and air monitors. To avoid competing regional programs, the MOA calls for the Port District to transfer the \$103,000 to APCD for the purpose of purchasing additional air purifiers (i.e., air filters) or indoor air monitors for use in the PAIR Program. The Port District Board of Commissioners will consider this transfer of funds, as well as the proposed MOA (Attachment A) at their October 12, 2021 Board Meeting. By leveraging funding from both agencies, the total investment will allow APCD to purchase approximately 525 residential air purifiers and approximately 525 indoor air monitors for the Portside community. Furthermore, a unified community program will provide a single interface for interested applicants, thus helping to ensure the PAIR Program's success, and further cements the strong interagency relationship between the Port District and APCD.

Today's action would also authorize a one-time budget adjustment to APCD's Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 Operational Plan to add \$103,000 from the Port District to the existing budgeted funds from the County of San Diego General Fund (\$550,000) for the PAIR Program, resulting in a total PAIR Program balance of \$653,000.

FISCAL IMPACT:

If approved, this request will result in additional costs and revenue of \$103,000 from unanticipated Port District funding for use in the PAIR Program.

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ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT:

Pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant adverse effect on the environment. Since this program positively impacts air quality and the environment, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility the proposed action may have a significant adverse effect on the environment and thus it is exempt from CEQA.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:

August 25, 2020 (County of San Diego Board of Supervisors Minute Order No. 2, Action 2.8, #3).
June 18, 2021 (Governing Board #1), Recommended APCD Budget for FY 2021-22.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH:

On July 20, 2021, APCD presented an informational update on the PAIR Program at a virtual AB617 Portside Steering Committee that included Spanish translation services. APCD discussed the selected equipment, potential program concepts and timelines, and areas where further work is needed with Steering Committee members and the general public. No concerns were raised by the Steering Committee or by members of the public.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Attachment A – Memorandum of Agreement between the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District and the San Diego Unified Port District (Port District) for the Port District to Contribute Funds from the Maritime Industrial Impact Fund for the Purchase of New Portable Air Filtration Devices and Air Monitoring Systems in Support of the Portside Air Quality Improvement and Relief Program

SUBMITTED BY:

Kathleen Keehan, Supervising Air Resources Specialist

CONTACT PERSON(S):

Name
Nick Cormier – Air Quality Specialist
Phone
(858) 586-2798
Email
Nick.Cormier@sdcounty.ca.gov