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Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board

FROM: Dave Van Mullem, Air Pollution Control Officer

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SUBJECT: Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo Hydrogen Readiness Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution authorizing the Air Pollution Control Officer to execute agreement ARV-14-038 with the California Energy Commission for a grant to prepare a Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo Counties Hydrogen Readiness Plan.

DISCUSSION:

The counties of Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo (Tri-Counties) are a proven location for early adoption of advanced vehicle technologies. They also represent an important corridor for travel between the Bay Area and Southern California. Advanced vehicle technologies contribute toward meeting California's clean air and climate change goals, and can also reduce our dependence on petroleum transportation fuels. The availability of refueling infrastructure is a critical requirement for the success of these technologies.

Assembly Bill (AB) 118 (Núñez, Chapter 750, Statutes of 2007) created the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program. The statute authorizes the California Energy Commission to develop and deploy alternative and renewable fuels and advanced transportation technologies to help attain the state's climate change policies. AB 8 (Perea, Chapter 401, Statutes of 2013) re-authorized the program through January 1, 2024, and specified that the Energy Commission allocate up to \$20 million per year for hydrogen station development until at least 100 stations are operational.

Acting as the lead, the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (District), in collaboration with the Ventura County and San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control

Districts, Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition (C5), the University of California Irvine Advanced Power and Energy Program, Energy Independence Now, Ivor John Associates, Community Environmental Council, and A-Z Safety applied for a grant from the California Energy Commission to facilitate the adoption of hydrogen-powered vehicles in the Tri-Counties region. On April 8, 2015 the California Energy Commission approved a \$242,872 grant for the District. If the District accepts this grant, we would commit to preparing three products:

- A Tri-Counties Infrastructure Plan, which would outline how the region would facilitate the installation of hydrogen fueling stations and determine where those stations would be most effectively located.
- A Hydrogen Station Permitting Manual for local municipalities and agencies to use as a reference document when permitting new hydrogen fueling stations.
- A Tri-Counties Hydrogen Adoption and Promotion Plan with detailed promotional activities for civic leaders, communities, and hydrogen refueling station operators.

The grant agreement identifies eight specific tasks to be completed while preparing the work products. It also specifies a timeline for completing each task, identifies the division of labor between the partners and sub-contractors, and requires regular updates to the California Energy Commission Agreement Manager. In addition to these updates, the Control Officer would provide regular updates to your Board.

This effort is a critical step for expanding the reach of hydrogen infrastructure beyond the main urban centers of California. The grant would provide an opportunity to lead a partnership with adjacent Districts, community organizations, and experts in the field of advanced vehicle technologies.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution to accept the grant agreement
2. Grant agreement