




air pollution control district  
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Agenda Date: March 19, 2020  
Agenda Placement: Admin.  
Estimated Time: N/A  
Continued Item: No

## Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board

FROM: Aeron Arlin Genet, Air Pollution Control Officer 

CONTACT: Joel Cordes, Principal Monitoring Specialist (805) 961-8816

SUBJECT: Waiver of Competition for the Purchase of Equipment for the Airpointer Portable Air Monitor

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### RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (District) to purchase a benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene instrument module from Ambilabs for the Airpointer portable air quality monitoring system as a sole source procurement without being required to conduct a formal bid process, for a total cost not to exceed \$42,298, including taxes.

### BACKGROUND:

In January 2019, your Board authorized a waiver of competition for the District's purchase of an Airpointer portable air quality monitoring system from Ambilabs, using both District funds and grant funds from the California Air Resources Board. The Airpointer was purchased in April 2019 and is currently equipped with particulate matter and hydrogen sulfide analyzers, meteorological sensors, air conditioning, and data acquisition and transmission equipment. It is a compact, highly efficient device that requires less maintenance and energy to operate while producing high quality air monitoring data that meets state and federal monitoring requirements. Deployment of the Airpointer requires a safe and secure location with access to electrical power.

### DISCUSSION:

In order to expand the capabilities of the Airpointer, the District plans to acquire an additional module that uses gas chromatography and photoionization to detect the following hydrocarbon compounds: benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene (also known as BTEX). These BTEX compounds are emitted primarily from oil and gas production, processing, transmission and

Aeron Arlin Genet, Air Pollution Control Officer

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storage facilities, and are considered by the State of California to be toxic air contaminants. If approved by your Board, the District would purchase and install this specialized instrument in its existing Airpointer portable monitoring system. The capabilities of the Airpointer would then be expanded to include air quality assessment for these toxic air contaminants.

The BTEX instrument module is custom-built by Ambilabs in a drawer configuration that slides into an empty slot in the Airpointer housing. In order to fit into the space constrained Airpointer, the module includes miniaturized devices that dramatically reduce the size, weight and electrical consumption. The module includes a sample pre-concentrator, a gas chromatograph sample column that separates the different gas species, and a photoionization detector that measures the concentrations of BTEX compounds present in the sample gas. The BTEX instrument module is configured to communicate directly with the Airpointer's data acquisition system. There are no other vendors that can provide this instrument since it is a unique instrument configuration that is designed and built by Ambilabs for the Airpointer.

As the quoted cost of \$42,298 for the BTEX instrument module exceeds the District's authority to issue a purchase order without completing a bid process, the District requests a competitive bid waiver to move forward with the purchase of the BTEX instrument module. As described above, the BTEX instrument module is a specialized piece of equipment that is designed for integration with the Airpointer system and allows for expanded use of the Airpointer to meet a variety of air monitoring needs.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The District's Board adopted budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-20 includes fixed asset funds to purchase air quality analyzers to meet the District's air monitoring goals. Therefore, the purchase of the proposed BTEX instrument module for the Airpointer portable monitoring system is included in the District's FY 2019-20 budget.

**ATTACHMENT:**

A. BTEX Instrument Module Quote



PO Box 311, Warren RI 02885  
 EIN: 45-2275301  
 Tel : 877-247-0403 , Fax : 401-537-9166  
 Email : info@ambilabs.com  
 Web : www.ambilabs.com

## Quotation

Date	Estimate #
2/25/2020	M14078

Purchaser
Santa Barbara County APCD 260 North San Antonio Rd, Suite A Santa Barbara, CA 93110 ATTN: Joel Cordes (805-961-8816)

Item	Description	Qty	U/M	Per Unit	Total
AP-BTX	BTEX module: Mini Gas Chromatograph with preconcentration PID detector with built in pump (cycle time 15 minutes).	1		39,000.00	39,000.00T
Shipping-Std	Packing, shipping, and insurance (UPS Ground to Santa Barbara).	1		275.00	275.00
T&C_Ambi_2015-12-31_...	Payment Terms: Net 30 days from date of invoice. Full terms and conditions : <a href="http://ambilabs.com/TnCV1.pdf">http://ambilabs.com/TnCV1.pdf</a> California 7.75% Sales Tax			7.75%	0.00T 3,022.50
				<b>Total</b>	USD 42,297.50