



Agenda Item: H-1
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Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board

FROM: Aeron Arlin Genet, Air Pollution Control Officer 

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SUBJECT: Update on the Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition (C5)

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file an update on the activities of the Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition.

BACKGROUND:

U.S. Department of Energy Clean Cities Program

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) Clean Cities program is a network of coalitions throughout the country that promote the use of alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure. These coalitions work locally to foster the nation's economic, environmental, and energy security by advancing affordable, domestic transportation fuels, energy efficient mobility systems, and other fuel-saving technologies and practices. There are approximately 75 local coalitions in the nation, and they are comprised of businesses, fuel providers, vehicle fleets, state and local government agencies, and community organizations; more information can be found at cleancities.energy.gov/about. As part of a national network, Clean Cities coalitions have access to a wide range of DOE resources and funding opportunities. Every year, DOE's Vehicle Technologies Office issues a program wide Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA). These FOAs fund a diverse mix of projects that drive innovation in the transportation sector that can lead to the deployment of clean energy technologies. Project proposals are oftentimes encouraged, and sometimes even required, to include Clean Cities coalitions on their project teams, leading to coalitions being well positioned to receive federal funding for projects in their region.

Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition (C5)

C5 was initially formed in 2002, and on August 25, 2006, DOE sent representatives to formally designate C5 as an official Clean Cities coalition with a celebratory ceremony at Hearst Castle. When C5 was initially designated as a Clean Cities coalition sixteen years ago, the coalition's boundaries only included San Luis Obispo County. In 2020, C5 officially expanded, and now includes Santa Barbara County as well. C5 has been actively receiving grant funding to implement key components of its mission ever since its initial designation.

C5's goals include but are not limited to:

- Informing and educating the public, government, business entities, and non-profit organizations on the health, environmental, economic, and other benefits of alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure;
- Implementing educational and training programs, green car shows, and other activities to show the benefits of alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure, now and into the future; and,
- Engaging consumers and other stakeholders, such as businesses, government, and manufacturers about the economic and other financial incentives and outcomes for alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure.

More information about C5 can be found at www.c-5.org.

The District has historically managed several different grant and incentive programs that reduce air pollution and promote emission reductions from mobile sources that fall outside of our regulatory authority. In addition, District staff have participated in several regional planning and implementation efforts related to alternative fuel technologies, vehicles, and infrastructure. All of these efforts are complimentary to the mission of C5, and in 2020, the District was requested to provide oversight to the C5 coalition due to its unique position to leverage the resources of many different groups and individuals throughout the Central Coast region to build on the coalition's work and further its goals. In May 2020, the District Board approved an initial Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with C5 that recognized the District's lead role in C5 and provided financial support for staff's time devoted to this effort. The District Board has approved two subsequent twelve-month MOAs since May 2020, and the current MOA's term is in place until March 31, 2023.

DISCUSSION:

Implementing the C5 Program

Since the District began its lead role in administering C5 in 2020, the coalition has continued to monitor the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and has been able to host several in-person events, in addition to some events in virtual and hybrid formats. These events have included annual Green Car Shows at the Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Earth Day Festivals, virtual electric school bus funding workshops, various in-person and virtual events during National Drive Electric Week, a webinar on electric vehicle infrastructure funding opportunities for multi-family housing properties, and a tour of the Tajiguas Landfill's new ReSource Center and anaerobic digester. In addition, the District has led C5's alternative fuel vehicle (AFV) incentive coordination efforts and AFV corridor and infrastructure planning efforts, such as participating on the advisory committee for the Central Coast Zero Emission Vehicle Strategy that is currently under

development. Over the last few years, the coalition has also facilitated multiple listening sessions with stakeholders to gain feedback on targeted fuels and technologies and has organized several AFV safety trainings for first responders.

In the future, C5 plans to work with its regional partners, such as the Electric Drive 805 coalition, to host more in-person and virtual events and trainings. Building off the previous couple of years, C5 will continue to be engaged in activities to build out the network of alternative fueling infrastructure in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties and will track and conduct outreach for several incentive programs such as California's recently approved National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment Plan. C5 is currently in the process of planning additional listening sessions with stakeholders on advanced vehicle technologies and is actively pursuing opportunities for workforce development training. Throughout the remainder of 2022 and into the new year, the District will continue to expand the reach of C5 in Santa Barbara County by issuing C5 newsletters, maintaining an active presence on social media, and continuing to engage new and existing stakeholders. C5 manages a student intern through DOE's Clean Cities University Workforce Development Program, which has greatly helped to bolster the coalition's outreach and engagement efforts.

C5 Re-designation

Since 1993, DOE has worked with Clean Cities coalitions across the nation to build partnerships to advance affordable, domestic transportation fuels and technologies and improve transportation energy efficiency. DOE requires each Clean Cities coalition to reaffirm its commitment to these efforts, by going through a periodic re-designation process. In November 2021, DOE notified C5 that the coalition was due for re-designation, and C5 responded with a formal re-designation request letter to initiate the process. After months of preparation, C5 hosted a re-designation webinar in April 2022 with DOE staff, District staff, C5 Board members, and C5 stakeholders, to give a presentation on the work that the coalition has been undertaking since the last re-designation in 2012, as well as future goals of the coalition. After the presentation, DOE staff asked questions and provided feedback. In July 2022, DOE sent C5 a letter informing the coalition that their request for re-designation had been approved.

Clean Cities Energy and Environmental Justice Initiative (CCEEJI)

In January 2021, the Justice40 Initiative launched, which is part of the Biden Administration's commitment to securing environmental justice and spurring economic opportunity for underserved and disadvantaged communities. Last year, the White House selected DOE's Vehicle Technologies Office as a Justice40 Covered Program Pilot to maximize benefits to disadvantaged communities. As a subset of DOE's Vehicle Technologies Office, Clean Cities coalitions are well positioned to work with underserved communities to access the benefits of Justice40 programs, including investments in climate change, clean transportation, clean energy and energy efficiency, and training and workforce development. In recognition of Clean Cities coalitions unique position to implement the Justice40 Initiative, DOE launched the CCEEJI to provide training and capacity building for Clean Cities coalitions to maximize the coalitions' benefits that flow to disadvantaged communities. In Summer 2022, C5 was one of 30 coalitions nationwide that was given the opportunity to participate in a series of Energy and Environmental Justice (EEJ) Deep Dive Workshops. The C5 Director recently participated in the CCEEJI workshop series, which provided valuable training on how to develop and execute EEJ projects at the coalition level that are aligned with both the Justice40 Initiative and Clean Cities goals.

FISCAL IMPACT:

District staff time spent implementing the C5 program was included in the District's adopted budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. The District's labor and expenses to conduct C5 activities are supported through the 2022-2023 MOA with C5, which allocated \$90,000 from C5's operating budget to cover this expense during the term of the MOA. The District will need to execute a new MOA with C5 in April 2023.