




air pollution control district  
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Agenda Item: D-12  
Agenda Date: June 26, 2025  
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 

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SUBJECT: Waiver of Competition for the Purchase of Air Purifiers for Goleta Clean Air Rooms Program

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### RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (District) to purchase air purifiers and related parts from Winix America, Inc., as a sole source procurement without being required to conduct a formal bid process, for a total cost not to exceed \$150,000, including tax and shipping.

### BACKGROUND:

In June 2021, the District designed a Clean Air Rooms Pilot Program and received Board authorization to use a portion of Clean Air Funds to give High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) air purifiers to residents of select communities in Santa Barbara County. The goal of the program was to provide more individuals with the ability to keep their indoor air safe and clean during wildfire smoke events and other high-pollution events.

With the Clean Air Rooms Pilot Program, the District's goal was to provide HEPA devices to Santa Barbara County residents who are traditionally underserved and/or who may not have the means to purchase an air purifier on their own. In selecting which communities to implement the pilot program, the District used CalEnviroScreen, a State-created mapping tool that uses environmental, health, and socioeconomic data collected from state and federal sources to compare communities across California. Utilizing the criteria from CalEnviroScreen, the State designates the 25% highest scoring census tracts, as well as federally recognized tribal areas, as disadvantaged communities. For the Clean Air Rooms Pilot Program, the District reviewed the CalEnviroScreen analysis and decided to implement the pilot program in the City of Guadalupe, as well as in the community of Casmalia. According to CalEnviroScreen, the census tract for these areas received

the highest score in the county and are designated as a disadvantaged community. The Clean Air Rooms Pilot Program was very successful, and from 2021-2023, the District distributed 793 HEPA air purifier units to residents of Guadalupe and Casmalia on a first-come, first-served basis.

## **DISCUSSION:**

Following the successful launch of the Clean Air Rooms Pilot Program in Guadalupe and Casmalia, the District decided to establish a second iteration of the program in the City of Goleta's Old Town district. Similar to the pilot program, the Old Town Goleta census tract was selected for the next round of the Clean Air Rooms Program because it is a State-designated disadvantaged community, according to CalEnviroScreen.

Leading up to the launch of the Clean Air Rooms Pilot Program in 2021, the District issued a request for proposals for air purifiers, utilizing requirements which were recommended by subject-matter experts at the California Air Resources Board. Winix America, Inc. was the successful bidder, and the District purchased air purifiers from the company for the Guadalupe pilot program.

The District would like to move forward with purchasing air purifiers from Winix America, Inc. for the Goleta Clean Air Rooms Program. However, since the quoted cost for the air purifiers and related parts 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 Winix America, Inc. equipment. If approved by your Board, the District will distribute the air purifiers to residents of Old Town Goleta.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

Your Board adopted the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 budget on June 20, 2024. That budget includes incentive funds from the Community Air Protection Program to reduce air pollution emissions and exposures in neighborhoods most impacted by air pollution. The purchase of the proposed equipment is within the parameters that were included in that approved budget. There are no fiscal impacts to the budget.