

**SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN
AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

For Agenda of March 23, 2006

To: Board of Directors
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District

From: Larry Greene, Air Pollution Control Officer
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District

Subject: Agreement for the Urban Forest Demonstration Project with the
Sacramento Tree Foundation

Recommendation

Approve the attached Resolution authorizing the Air Pollution Control Officer to negotiate and sign a contract, not to exceed \$520,947 with the Sacramento Tree Foundation to evaluate a regional urban forest control strategy for inclusion in the 2007 8-hour Attainment Demonstration Plan (SIP).

Purpose

The purpose of this board item is to execute the first of two agreements to use Congestion Management Air Quality funds to assist the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District in evaluating the effects of the urban forest on regional air quality and, if appropriate, to develop a SIP control strategy under the Urban Forest for Clean Air Phases Demonstration Project. A preliminary draft of the first of the two agreements is attached.

Background

The Sacramento Federal Nonattainment area is required to prepare a plan to demonstrate how the region will meet the federal ambient air quality standards for ozone by 2013, 2019, or 2024. Because of the consequences to public health and business expansion associated with the later deadlines, the region is considering innovative strategies to meet the standards expeditiously. One such innovative strategy may be to increase and optimize the urban forest.

Studies suggest that trees may reduce ozone concentrations by several mechanisms, including the direct absorption of ozone or other ozone precursors, reducing air temperatures (which reduces ozone formation rates), providing shade to buildings

(which then reduces air conditioning needs and associated electrical power plant emissions), and reducing parking lot temperatures (which reduces gasoline evaporation). There are also potential disbenefits to air quality from tree species that emit ozone precursors and from tree maintenance related activities. This contract will study the potential air quality benefits and disbenefits. If the study shows that expanding the urban forest can provide meaningful emission reductions, the District and STF will seek later Board approval of a strategy to achieve the reductions, and will implement the strategy in cooperation with other local agencies. The Sacramento Tree Foundation will then work to build support and understanding of the air quality benefits of trees among the general public and within the ranks of our region's leaders to secure enforceable commitments to build the forest.

After the urban forest plan is developed, the District intends to enter into a separate contract not to exceed \$225,000 for photochemical modeling to analyze and confirm the air quality benefits of the urban forest for the 2007 8-hour Ozone Attainment Demonstration Plan (SIP).

The ability of the District to negotiate this contract is contingent upon the Board's approval for the District to accept Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Grant funds, and to enter into supplemental agreements with Caltrans,

Sacramento Tree Foundation qualification and selection

The Sacramento Tree Foundation (STF) is a nonprofit organization serving the greater Sacramento region. It is governed by a Board of Directors, and managed by an executive director and a senior management team.

Staff recommends a sole source contract be awarded to STF because of their extensive knowledge and expertise in the area of regional urban forest development, planting and maintenance. STF has been the leading participant in the development of the Greenprint project, which provides the basis for a regional urban forest control strategy.

STF has partnered with the USDA Forest Service, Center for Urban Forest Research in developing and designing urban forest models to better understand the benefits of the urban forest on energy savings, air quality, storm water runoff and community enhancements.

STF is qualified to perform the services because of their knowledge of urban forest issues affecting our region, urban forest modeling, tree planting methodologies, and their possession of an in-house database of the region's current urban forest.

Funding and work schedule

The total amount of this contract is not to exceed \$520,947 and is being funded through Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) funds and funding that is budgeted for FY05/06. The District staff proposes to use up to \$100,000 of the \$520,497 for the initial analysis of the viability of an urban forest strategy. Uses of the remaining funds earmarked for the development and implementation of the urban forest program will be contingent on Board approval of the strategy. The contract will commence upon signature by both parties and terminate no later than June 30, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Greene, Air Pollution Control Officer
Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD

Approved as to form:

Kathrine Pittard, District Counsel
Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD

RESOLUTION NO. AQM _____
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Sacramento region is currently designated as a serious ozone nonattainment area with an attainment deadline of June 15, 2013 for the 8-hour NAAQS; and

WHEREAS, SMAQMD is preparing an 8-hour Attainment Demonstration Plan (SIP), which will include regional and local control strategies; and

WHEREAS, one of the possible control strategies under consideration is the expansion of the tree canopy, or urban forest, within the ozone nonattainment areas; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for a qualified contractor to assist the Program Coordination Division in analyzing the air quality benefits and disbenefits associated with expansion of the urban forest, and, if appropriate, in developing and implementing an urban forest control strategy; and

WHEREAS, the Sacramento Tree Foundation (STF) is a nonprofit organization serving the Sacramento region and has extensive knowledge of urban forest issues affecting our region, as well as expertise in urban forest development, planting and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, STF is qualified to perform the services and possess an in-house database of the region's current urban forest; and

WHEREAS, due to the need to proceed expeditiously, the STF's independent status as a nonprofit organization, its extensive knowledge and expertise in this area, its previous work under the Greenprint Project, it is in the best interests of the District to waive its request for proposal requirements and award this contract on a sole source basis.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District authorizes and directs the Air Pollution Control Officer, in consultation with the District Counsel, to negotiate and sign a contract on behalf of SMAQMD with STF and to do and perform everything necessary to carry out the purpose of this resolution.

ON A MOTION by Director _____, seconded by
Director

_____, the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by
the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District,
State of California, this 23rd day of March, 2006, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Directors

NOES: Directors

ABSENT: Directors

Chairperson of the Board
Sacramento Metropolitan Air
Quality Management District
State of California

(SEAL)

ATTEST: _____
Clerk of the Board
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District