

BOARD MEETING DATE: October 4, 2024

AGENDA NO. 5

PROPOSAL: Issue Solicitations and Purchase Orders for Air Monitoring and Laboratory Equipment

SYNOPSIS: South Coast AQMD FY 2024-25 Annual Budget approved the purchase of air monitoring and laboratory equipment. This action is to issue solicitations and purchase orders for air monitoring and laboratory equipment.

COMMITTEE: Administrative, September 13, 2024; Recommended for Approval

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorize the Procurement Manager, in accordance with South Coast AQMD's Procurement Policy and Procedure, to issue "Prior Bid, Last Price" purchase orders, sole source purchase order, or solicitations as needed, and based on the results, issue purchase orders for the air monitoring and laboratory equipment listed in Table 1 for an estimated amount of \$328,500.

Wayne Nastri
Executive Officer

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Background

In May 2024, the Board approved the Executive Officer's Proposed Goals and Priority Objectives and Proposed Budget for FY 2024-25. The adopted budget includes capital outlay funds in the amount of \$328,500 for the procurement of equipment and instrumentation to support the Monitoring and Analysis division's air monitoring and compliance analysis efforts. A significant number of the lead samplers and sulfur dioxide monitors in the South Coast AQMD air monitoring network are more than fifteen years old and have exceeded their usable lifetime. Similarly, the equipment and instrumentation used for laboratory analyses and source testing is greater than ten years old and is no longer supported by the manufacturer. It is critical that South Coast AQMD maintains and replaces equipment to meet U.S. EPA quality assurance criteria and to ensure that the appropriate equipment and supplies are available to maintain sampling, laboratory analyses, and stack testing.

Proposal

Gas Diluters

South Coast AQMD operates 27 ozone and nitrogen dioxide sites in support of the criteria pollutant monitoring network. Daily precision zero and span audits of gas monitors are required to meet U.S. EPA quality assurance criteria. Gas dilution systems are necessary to provide a known concentration of gas standard required for quality control (QC) of air monitoring equipment. The current gas dilution systems are greater than 10 years old and no longer meet U.S. EPA QC requirements. The replacement gas diluters meet U.S. EPA requirements as outlined in the most recent ozone Technical Assistance Document. The estimated cost for up to four gas diluters is \$108,500 (see Table 1). The purchase will be made by “Prior Bid, Last Price” or through a solicitation process, as needed, followed by issuance of a purchase order.

High Volume Lead Samplers

South Coast AQMD operates seven Lead monitoring sites in support of the criteria pollutant monitoring network. The current Lead samplers are more than 15 years old and need replacement. The estimated cost for up to three high volume Lead samplers is \$20,000 (see Table 1). The purchase will be made by “Prior Bid, Last Price” or through a solicitation process, as needed, followed by issuance of a purchase order.

Sulfur Dioxide Monitors

South Coast AQMD operates four Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) monitors in support of the criteria pollutant monitoring network. The current samplers are more than 15 years old and need replacement. The estimated cost for up to two SO₂ monitors is \$34,000 (see Table 1). The purchase will be made by “Prior Bid, Last Price” or through a solicitation process, as needed, followed by issuance of a purchase order.

Hydrogen Sulfide Monitor

South Coast AQMD operates two Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S) monitoring locations in the Coachella Valley. The current H₂S monitors are more than ten years old and need replacement. The estimated cost for one H₂S monitor is \$22,000 (see Table 1). The purchase will be made by “Prior Bid, Last Price” or through a solicitation process, as needed, followed by issuance of a purchase order.

Acid System Centrifuge

South Coast AQMD’s laboratory performs metals analysis in support of various monitoring networks and special projects. Critical to metals analysis is the acid system centrifuge. The current centrifuge is approximately ten years old and in need of replacement. The estimated cost for a centrifuge is \$25,000 (see Table 1). The purchase will be made by “Prior Bid, Last Price” or through a solicitation process, as needed, followed by issuance of a purchase order.

Precision Zero Air Generator

Precision zero air generators are necessary to deliver contaminant-free air required for the operation of air monitoring equipment in support of criteria pollutant measurements and audit requirements. The estimated cost for one zero air generator is \$10,000 (see Table 1). The purchase will be made by “Prior Bid, Last Price” or through a solicitation process, as needed, followed by issuance of a purchase order.

Portable Combustion Gas Analyzer

The FY 2024-25 Budget includes funding for the purchase of one portable combustion gas analyzer. A portable combustion gas analyzer is required to continuously measure stack emissions in the field. The unit employs reference methods for determination of NO_x, CO, carbon dioxide, SO₂ and oxygen. This instrument will replace an existing analyzer. The estimated cost for one portable combustion gas analyzer is \$35,000 (see Table 1). The purchase will be made by “Prior Bid, Last Price” or through a solicitation process, as needed, followed by issuance of a purchase order.

Proposed Purchases through Sole Source Purchase Order

Agilaire 8872 Data Loggers

South Coast AQMD’s air monitoring network operates 34 air monitoring sites utilizing data loggers as part of U.S. EPA’s minimum monitoring requirement to support compliance with NAAQS and emissions strategy development and to provide air pollution data to the public in a timely manner. The monitoring site data loggers are greater than 15 years old and will no longer be supported by the manufacturer beyond the most recent Windows 10 upgrade. Data loggers are used for real time reporting of air quality data to U.S. EPA and CARB and is converted to AQI values for the public. The technical specifications of the new data loggers are proprietary and consistent with the existing South Coast AQMD air monitoring network. The approximate cost for up to three data loggers is \$39,000 (see Table 1).

Polarized Light Microscope

The FY 2024-25 Budget includes funding for the purchase of one polarized light microscope to support enforcement and compliance under Rule 1403 - Asbestos Emissions from Demolition/Renovation Activities. The microscope used for this analysis is no longer supported by the manufacturer and needs replacement. The estimated cost for one polarized light microscope is \$35,000, as approved in the FY 2024-25 Adopted Budget (see Table 1). The purchase will be made by a sole source purchase order with The McCrone Group.

Sole Source Justifications

Section VIII.B.2 of the Procurement Policy and Procedure identifies four major provisions under which a sole source award may be justified: Sole source award request for the Agilaire 8872 Data Loggers and Polarized Light Microscope are made under VIII.B.2.d (6): Projects requiring compatibility with existing specialized equipment.

The monitoring network exclusively uses Agilaire components for compatibility, and the laboratory exclusively uses Nikon microscopes, as they have a demonstrated track record for performance, ease of use, and longevity. To facilitate staff training and allow for the interoperability of parts and components, the replacement microscope must be of the same type. The McCrone Group is the only vendor that sells this microscope in the United States.

Resource Impacts

Funding to purchase the air monitoring and laboratory equipment outlined in this Board letter is available in the FY 2024-25 Adopted Budget.

**Table 1
FY 2024-25 Capital Outlays Major Object**

Description	Qty	Estimated Amount*	Contracting Method
Gas Diluters	Up to 4	\$108,500	“Prior Bid, Last Price” or Solicitation Process
High Volume Pb Samplers	Up to 3	\$20,000	“Prior Bid, Last Price” or Solicitation Process
Sulfur Dioxide Monitors	Up to 2	\$34,000	“Prior Bid, Last Price” or Solicitation Process
Hydrogen Sulfide Monitor	1	\$22,000	“Prior Bid, Last Price” or Solicitation Process
Acid System Centrifuge	1	\$25,000	“Prior Bid, Last Price” or Solicitation Process
Precision Zero Air Generator	1	10,000	“Prior Bid, Last Price” or Solicitation Process
Portable Combustion Gas Analyzer	1	\$35,000	“Prior Bid, Last Price” or Solicitation Process
Agilaire 8872 Data Loggers	Up to 3	\$39,000	Sole Source
Polarized Light Microscope	1	\$35,000	Sole Source
Total		\$328,500	

*Expenditures may be appropriated in Services and Supplies and/or Capital Outlays Major Objects as warranted.