

BOARD MEETING DATE: February 7, 2025

AGENDA NO. 6

PROPOSAL: Authorize Purchase of Telecommunication Services

SYNOPSIS: South Coast AQMD released RFP #P2025-03 in October 2024 to select a vendor(s) capable of providing telecommunication services in the most cost-effective manner and, if possible, to consolidate all telecommunication services to a single provider. Telecommunication services include local, long distance, and toll-free phone calls, internet network and access, phone system maintenance, and wireless voice and data. This action is to obtain approval to purchase telecommunication services from the selected vendors for a period of three years. Funds for this purchase are included in the FY 2024-25 Budget (\$1,000,000) and will be included in subsequent fiscal year budget requests.

COMMITTEE: Administrative, January 17, 2025; Recommended for Approval

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

Authorize the Executive Officer to execute contracts to purchase telecommunication services required by the South Coast AQMD from the following vendors for a three-year period with a combined estimated cost of \$2,804,602:

1. Lumen for local, long distance, and toll-free services in an estimated amount of \$146,808, depending on usage;
2. Verizon Enterprise Solutions for air monitoring private internet protocol (PIP) network in an estimated amount of \$631,679 depending on usage;
3. Lumen for dedicated point to point Diamond Bar-Long Beach multiprotocol label switching (MPLS) ethernet private line (ELINE) service, 1G and 1G ethernet virtual private line (EVPL) in an estimated amount of \$121,434 depending on usage;
4. Lumen for 10G internet services with redundancy in an estimated amount of \$286,209 depending on usage;
5. Logicalis for phone system maintenance services in an estimated amount of \$1,081,464 depending on usage; and

6. T-Mobile USA, Inc. for wireless voice and data services in an estimated amount of \$557,008 depending on usage.

Wayne Natri  
Executive Officer

HJ: HL: mf

---

### **Background**

In October 2024, South Coast AQMD released RFP #P2025-03 for telecommunication services. The purpose of this RFP is to solicit and identify vendors capable of providing high quality and reliable telecommunication services to South Coast AQMD in the most cost-effective manner, and if possible, to consolidate telecommunication services to a single provider. The overall goal is to reduce current expenses for voice and data communication services, optimize the use of South Coast AQMD's current voice communication network, and provide South Coast AQMD with the necessary flexibility to take full advantage of new telecommunications technologies as they evolve. Telecommunication services solicited under this RFP include local, long distance, and toll-free; air monitoring PIP network; MPLS; ELINE service; internet access; phone system maintenance; and wireless voice and data.

### **Outreach**

In accordance with South Coast AQMD's Procurement Policy and Procedure, a public notice advertising the RFP and inviting bids was published in the Los Angeles Times, the Orange County Register, the San Bernardino Sun, and Riverside County's Press Enterprise newspapers to leverage the most cost-effective method of outreach to the South Coast Basin.

Additionally, potential bidders were notified utilizing South Coast AQMD's list of certified minority vendors. Notice of the RFP was e-mailed to the Black and Latino Legislative Caucuses and various minority chambers of commerce and business associations and placed on South Coast AQMD's website (<http://www.aqmd.gov>).

### **Bid Evaluation**

Twenty-three copies of the RFP were distributed via email and eleven vendors attended the mandatory bidders conference held on October 24, 2024. Seven bids were received in response to the RFP when final bidding closed at 1:00 p.m. on November 6, 2024.

Attachment 1 reflects the evaluation of the proposals and the respective ratings for contract bids. The evaluation committee rated Lumen the highest for local, long distance, toll-free; Verizon Enterprise Solutions the highest for air-monitoring telemetry

PIP network; Lumen the highest for dedicated point-to-point Diamond Bar-Long Beach MPLS bundled T1's and EVPL; Lumen the highest for 10G internet services with redundancy and diversity; Logicalis the highest for phone system maintenance services and T-Mobile USA, Inc. the highest for wireless voice and data services. Therefore, staff recommends these vendors for the purchase of the identified telecommunication services.

**Panel Composition**

The panel consisted of four staff from Information Management: two Information Technology Supervisors, a Program and Systems Supervisor, and one Senior Information Technology Specialist. Of the four panelists, two are Asian-Pacific Islander, one is Caucasian, and one is Hispanic; all are male.

**Resource Impacts**

Sufficient funding is included in the FY 2024-25 Budget and funding for subsequent years will be budgeted appropriately.

**Attachment**

Summary of Evaluation of Respondents to RFP # P2025-03

- 1-A: Category 1 – Local, Long Distance, and Toll Free
- 1-B: Category 2 – Air Monitoring Telemetry PIP network
- 1-C: Category 3 – Dedicated Diamond Bar-Long Beach ELINE Service & EVPL
- 1-D: Category 4 – Internet Access
- 1-E: Category 5 – Phone System Maintenance
- 1-F: Category 6 – Wireless Connectivity

## ATTACHMENT 1

### Summary of Evaluation of Respondents to RFP #P2025-03

#### 1-A: Category 1 – Local, Long Distance, and Toll Free

Two proposals meeting the stated criteria were received in response to Category 1 (Local, Long Distance and Toll-Free Services) of this RFP. They were from Lumen and Insight.

#### Standard Services Criteria (50 points maximum)

	Proposer	
	Insight	Lumen
Panel Average	45	50

#### Cost (50 points maximum)

	Proposer	
	Insight	Lumen
Actual \$ Amount per Year	\$64,734.00	\$48,936.00
Panel Average	38	50

#### Additional Points (17 points maximum)

Criteria	Proposer	
	Lumen	Insight
Small Business or Small Business Joint Ventures Points (Maximum = 10)		
DVBE or DVBE Joint Ventures Points (Maximum = 10)		
Use of DVBE or Small Business Subcontractors Points (Maximum = 7)		
Low-Emission Vehicle Business Points (Maximum = 5)		
Local Business (Non-U.S. EPA Funded Projects Only Points (Maximum = 5)		
Off-Peak Hours Delivery Business Points (Maximum = 2)		
Most Favored Customer (Maximum = 2)	2	
Panel Average		
Total	85	100

**1-B: Category 2 – Air Monitoring Telemetry PIP network**

One proposal meeting the stated criteria was received in response to Category 2 (Air Monitoring Telemetry PIP Network) of this RFP. It was from Verizon. Two non-responsive proposals were received.

Note: South Coast AQMD assessed for complete turnkey solution for maintaining existing data quality.

Standard Services Criteria (50 points maximum)

	Proposer
	Verizon
Panel Average	50

Cost (50 points maximum)

	Proposer
	Verizon
(Actual \$ Amount per Year)	\$210,559.56
Panel Average	50

Additional Points (17 points maximum)

Criteria	Proposer
	Verizon
Small Business or SB Joint Ventures (Max = 10)	
DVBE or DVBE Joint Ventures (Max = 10)	
Use of DVBE or Small Business Subcontractor (Max = 7)	
Low-Emission Vehicle Business (Max = 5)	
Local Business (Non-U.S. EPA Funded Projects Only (Max = 5)	
Off-Peak Hours Delivery Business Points (Maximum = 2)	
Most Favored Customer (Maximum = 2)	
Panel Average	

Total	100
-------	-----

**1-C: Category 3 – Dedicated Diamond Bar-Long Beach ELINE Service & EVPL**

Three proposals meeting the stated criteria were received in response to Category 3 (Diamond Bar - Long Beach ELINE and EVPL) of this RFP. They were from: Lumen, Insight and Verizon.

Standard Services Criteria (50 points maximum)

	Proposer		
	Lumen	Insight	Verizon
Panel Average	50	25	45

Cost (50 points maximum)

	Proposer		
	Lumen	Insight	Verizon
Actual \$ Amount per Year	\$40,477.92	\$52,592.28	\$79,502.52
Panel Average	50	38	25

Additional Points (17 points maximum)

Criteria	Proposer		
	Lumen	Insight	Verizon
Small Business or Small Business Joint Ventures Points (Maximum = 10)			
DVBE or DVBE Joint Ventures Points (Maximum = 10)			
Use of DVBE or Small Business Subcontractors Points (Maximum = 7)			
Low-Emission Vehicle Business Points (Maximum = 5)			
Local Business (Non-U.S. EPA Funded Projects Only) Points (Maximum = 5)			
Off-Peak Hours Delivery Business Points (Maximum = 2)			
Most Favored Customer (Maximum = 2)	2		
Panel Average			

Total	102	63	70
-------	-----	----	----

**1-D: Category 4 – Internet Access**

Three proposals meeting the stated criteria were received in response to Category 4 (Internet Access) of this RFP. They were from: Lumen, and Verizon.

Note: South Coast AQMD used least cost analysis for internet access options with redundant (diverse 2GB / 10GB) connection.

**Standard Services Criteria (50 points maximum)**

	Proposer	
	Lumen	Verizon
Panel Average	50	50

**Cost (50 points maximum)**

	Proposer	
	Lumen	Verizon
Actual \$ Amount per Year	\$60,359.04	\$156,202.56
Panel Average	50	19

**Additional Points (17 points maximum)**

Criteria	Proposer	
	Lumen	Verizon
Small Business or Small Business Joint Ventures Points (Maximum = 10)		
DVBE or DVBE Joint Ventures Points (Maximum = 10)		
Use of DVBE or Small Business Subcontractors Points (Maximum = 7)		
Low-Emission Vehicle Business Points (Maximum = 5)		
Local Business (Non-U.S. EPA Funded Projects Only) Points (Maximum = 5)		
Off-Peak Hours Delivery Business Points (Maximum = 2)		
Most Favored Customer (Maximum = 2)		
Panel Average		

Total	100	69
-------	-----	----

**1-E: Category 5 – Phone System Maintenance**

Two proposals meeting the stated criteria were received in response to Category 5 (Phone System Maintenance) of this RFP. They were from: E-Plus and Logicalis. One non-responsive proposals was received.

Standard Services Criteria (50 points maximum)

	Proposer	
	E-Plus	Logicalis
Panel Average	50	50

Cost (50 points maximum)

	Proposer	
	E-Plus	Logicalis
Actual \$ Amount per Year	\$436,484.00	\$360,487.68
Panel Average	41	50

Additional Points (17 points maximum)

Criteria	Proposer	
	E-Plus	Logicalis
Small Business or Small Business Joint Ventures Points (Maximum = 10)		
DVBE or DVBE Joint Ventures Points (Maximum = 10)		
Use of DVBE or Small Business Subcontractors Points (Maximum = 7)		
Low-Emission Vehicle Business Points (Maximum = 5)		5
Local Business (Non-U.S. EPA Funded Projects Only) Points (Maximum = 5)		
Off-Peak Hours Delivery Business Points (Maximum = 2)		
Most Favored Customer (Maximum = 2)		2
Panel Average		7
<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>107</b>

**1-F: Category 6 – Wireless Connectivity**

Two proposals meeting the stated criteria were received in response to Category 6 (Wireless Connectivity) of this RFP. They were T-Mobile and AT&T.

Standard Services Criteria (50 points maximum)

	Proposer	
	T-Mobile	AT&T
Panel Average	50	50

Cost (50 points maximum)

	Proposer	
	T-Mobile	AT&T
Actual \$ Amount per Year	\$185,669.28	\$364,140.96
Panel Average	50	25

Additional Points (17 points maximum)

Criteria	Proposer	
	T-Mobile	AT&T
Small Business or Small Business Joint Ventures Points (Maximum = 10)		
DVBE or DVBE Joint Ventures Points (Maximum = 10)		
Use of DVBE or Small Business Subcontractors Points (Maximum = 7)		
Low-Emission Vehicle Business Points (Maximum = 5)		
Local Business (Non-U.S. EPA Funded Projects Only) Points (Maximum = 5)		
Off-Peak Hours Delivery Business Points (Maximum = 2)		
Most Favored Customer (Maximum = 2)		
Panel Average		
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>75</b>