

Metropolitan Transportation Commission Administration Committee

July 8, 2020

Agenda Item 3a - 20-0897

Partnership Agreement - Database Development and Training: Bay Area Air Quality Management District (\$300,000)

Subject: Accept \$300,000 in funding from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) for the Data and Visualization (DataViz) Unit of the Regional Planning Program (RPP) to provide it with ongoing technical assistance and training on AB 617 projects and the Climate Program. Funding from the Air District will support one staff position for one year within the DataViz Unit.

Background: Since 2010, the DataViz Unit has collaborated with multiple Air District divisions—including the Air Quality Planning (Planning) and the Assessment, Inventory and Modeling (AIM) divisions—to share best practices and provide technical assistance and training on data management and web development. For example, in 2014, the DataViz Unit built a VMT Data Portal for the Planning section's Climate Program. Other efforts have included sharing spatial analysis tools and regional datasets that maximize the use of available resources. Much of this work is ongoing, which requires staffing and resources from the DataViz Unit.

The Air District's Community Health Protection Program is engaging two Bay Area communities to implement Assembly Bill 617 (Garcia, Chapter 136, Statutes of 2017), which requires collaboration both within the Air District and externally with partners and stakeholders, including community members. Underlying this collaboration is a reliance on objective and reliable data and evidence to define challenges and develop effective programs. The Air District is therefore seeking to institutionalize current industry standards and best practices related to management of large datasets and robust spatial analyses.

The Air District is also seeking to update and enhance the VMT Data Portal, developed by the DataViz Unit in 2014.

To help accomplish these two tasks, the Air District is seeking technical assistance and training from the DataViz Unit. The proposed Partnership Agreement would formalize this relationship and provide funding to support one staff position at MTC. The Partnership Agreement would identify specific deliverables and establish a timeline for completing the tasks.

The Air District hopes that this Agreement will position the two agencies to support future partnerships on projects of common interest. We view this as an important opportunity to advance the Commission's Equity Platform, partnering with the Air District to both learn directly from impacted communities in our region, and better deliver services and programs to address Infrastructure driven health challenges.

Issues:

Given the high level of overlap in the work of both agencies—especially on climate, public health, social equity and community engagement initiatives—as well as the work plans of the respective data management teams, a more formal collaboration would help with:

- (a) Minimizing duplication and redundancies, especially with licenses and subscriptions;
- (b) Managing existing initiatives more efficiently; and
- (c) Exploring opportunities for further cost-savings and alignment (for example, by co-developing shared tools and datasets).

The proposed Partnership Agreement and funding will support one staff person within the DataViz Unit to support these activities in the context of AB 617 projects and the Climate Program at the Air District.


On June 3, 2020, the Air District's Board of Directors approved the funding in the amount not to exceed \$300,000 and authorized its Executive Officer to enter into this Partnership Agreement with MTC (see Attachment A).

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Committee authorize the Executive Director or designee to enter into a Partnership Agreement with the Air District and accept \$300,000 in funding to for the Database Development and Training initiative and add the work to the MTC FY 2020-21 budget.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Bay Area Air Quality Management District June 3, 2020, Board Memo; and
Presentation Slides


Therese W. McMillan

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

Partnership Agreement – Database Development and Training: Bay Area Air Quality Management District (\$300,000)

Work Item No.:	1122
Consultant:	N/A
Work Project Title:	Database Development and Training Support
Purpose of Project:	Providing technical assistance and support on data to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District)
Brief Scope of Work:	Data and Visualization (DataViz) Unit of the Regional Planning Program will provide the Air District with ongoing technical assistance and training on AB 617 projects and the Climate Program. Funding from the Air District will support one position for one year within the DataViz Unit.
Project Cost Not to Exceed:	\$300,000
Funding Source:	Bay Area Air Quality Management District
Fiscal Impact:	\$300,000 to be added to Work Item 1122 for MTC FY 2020-21.
Motion by Committee:	That the Executive Director or designee is authorized to negotiate and enter into a Partnership Agreement with the Air District and accept \$300,000 in funding for the Database Development and Training initiative and add this amount for such work to the MTC FY 2020-21 budget.
Administration Committee:	<hr/>
	Federal D. Glover, Chair
Approved:	July 8, 2020

BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Memorandum

To: Chairperson Rod Sinks and
Members of the Board of Directors

From: Jack P. Broadbent
Executive Officer/APCO

Date: May 29, 2020

Re: Authorization for a Funded Partnership Agreement with the Metropolitan
Transportation Commission on Database Development

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Recommend the Board of Directors authorize the Executive Officer/APCO to enter a funded Partnership Agreement with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) for an amount not to exceed \$300,000.

BACKGROUND

In 2016, when the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) moved into the Bay Area Metro Center headquarters for regional governance, one of the goals was to foster regional collaboration on key issues confronting the Bay Area, including equitable and affordable housing and climate change. A critical element of effective agency collaboration is shared databases, an element facilitated by consistent and coordinated methods for database development, documentation, and online publishing. Air District staff are recommending a funded Partnership Agreement that would significantly accelerate the process of moving the Air District and MTC toward realizing a goal of coordinated databases and methods. Air District staff anticipate that, if the Air District and MTC can share methods and database software tools, this may result in cost savings for both agencies.

FUNDED PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Under the proposed Partnership Agreement, the Air District would leverage MTC expertise to support increasingly complex database and project assignments, including support for:

- Community health protection objectives, including regional and community-specific planning and emission reduction efforts related to Assembly Bill (AB) 617; and
- Climate projection objectives, including support to local jurisdictions for estimating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for local Climate Action Plans.

Specifically, through the proposed Partnership Agreement, the District would fund MTC in Fiscal Year Ending (FYE) 2020 with \$300,000 for MTC to assist with knowledge transfer and database development to support AB 617 and update and maintain an online data portal to support Climate Action Plans. Through the partnership, the Air District and MTC would agree

to explore continued cross-agency projects and to explore cost savings from consolidating separate licensing of spatial-visualization and database software into enterprise-wide licensing.

DISCUSSION

Air District Database Training and Development to Support AB 617

The first set of objectives of the funded Partnership Agreement focuses on conducting Air District staff training and on developing and implementing standards and best practices for creating, versioning, maintaining, and publishing well-documented online databases for AB 617 that support collaboration. Under this objective, the MTC would conduct Air District staff training and knowledge transfer, with initial tasks focused on creating datasets to support an AB 617 Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) in the Richmond-San Pablo area, and later tasks focused on documenting and publishing existing datasets to support the AB 617 CERP Implementation in West Oakland.

Online Data Portal to Support Climate Action Plans

The Air District currently works with Bay Area local governments to develop and implement local community-wide Climate Action Plans. A key element of these plans is the community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory. Estimating GHG emissions from the transportation sector for the inventory requires an estimate of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) for the community. In 2015, the Air District partnered with MTC to develop a data portal to provide VMT data to local government staff in an automated and user-friendly manner. The second set of objectives of the proposed Partnership Agreement seeks to update methods and underlying data of the VMT Data Portal to continue and improve support for local government.

BUDGET CONSIDERATION/FINANCIAL IMPACT

Funding for the tasks associated with the Partnership Agreement has been included in the Air District's existing program (601, 602, and 608) budgets for FYE 2020. A budget overview for the Partnership Agreement is shown in the table below, with breakdowns by project, staffing, and fixed costs.

Tasks	Staff Time	Fixed Costs	Est. Cost
AB 617 Database	\$257,399		\$257,399
Climate Data Portal	\$28,600	\$14,000	\$42,600
Total	\$285,999	\$14,000	\$299,999

Respectfully submitted,

Jack P. Broadbent
Executive Officer/APCO

Prepared by: Phil Martien
Reviewed by: Greg Nudd