

## AIR QUALITY MITIGATION FUND REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST

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## I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

### A. Background

As part of a settlement associated with the approval of the China Shipping Container Terminal Project (China Shipping) in 2004, the Port of Los Angeles (POLA) set aside funding for air quality mitigation. In 2015, POLA and the Harbor Community Benefit Foundation (HCBF) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) establishing an Air Quality Mitigation Fund (AQMF) totaling approximately \$5 million of the funds for projects to reduce Port-related air emissions in nearby communities. As a result of the MOA, HCBF, a non-profit organization dedicated to mitigating impacts from POLA on the two neighboring communities of San Pedro and Wilmington, California, administers the fund. HCBF received the funding in 2017, and this RFP is the first opportunity to allocate that funding.

As specified in the MOA, the HCBF, with the approval of the POLA Board of Harbor Commissioners, is empowered to award funding to third parties **“...exclusively for projects that are reasonably calculated to reduce Port-related air emissions.** This includes emissions resulting from the transport and handling of cargo, within, into, out of, to, or from the Port of Los Angeles.”

### B. Initial Screening

This Letter of Interest (LOI) seeks projects from a broad range of port source categories. For the initial screening, HCBF is requesting brief concept papers, as described in Section III of this notification. Pre-screened project concepts that meet the eligibility criteria will be further invited to submit a full proposal for funding consideration.

### C. Project Objectives

HCBF is soliciting applications from eligible entities, as described in Section II of this announcement, for projects to meet the goal of the AQMF program, which is to implement programs, projects, and approaches that reduce Port-related air emissions.

Projects funded by the AQMF are expected primarily to demonstrate achievable emissions reduction benefits in San Pedro and Wilmington, and within a 25-mile boundary of the San Pedro Bay (but benefits may also extend beyond the 25-mile boundary).

Projects shall include demonstration or implementation of one of the following technologies:

- zero emissions technologies (preferred),
- near-zero emissions technologies, or
- emission reduction technologies

### D. Availability of Funds

The total estimated funding expected to be available for awards under this competitive opportunity may be approximately \$5,000,000.

### E. Number of Awards

HCBF anticipates awarding one or more cooperative agreements from this announcement, subject to availability of funds, the quality of applications received, and other applicable considerations.

## II. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

### A. Eligible Applicants

Any public or private entity is eligible to submit a Letter of Interest.

All applicants must secure the project's demonstration or implementation partner that operates within a 25-mile boundary of the San Pedro Bay with the submittal of the proposal. Examples: terminal operator located at one or both of the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, harbor craft or fleet owner/operator, shipping line, etc.

The partner's contact information is preferred but not required with the response to this LOI.

## **B. Eligible Projects**

The eligible projects using AQMF funds should be responsive to the following priorities set forth in the Memorandum of Agreement:

- 1) Demonstration or implementation of zero or near-zero emissions freight movement technologies and other emerging technologies that seek to demonstrate significant emissions reductions from conventional diesel-fueled vehicles and equipment that operate in and around the Port (including ships, harbor craft, trucks, locomotives, and cargo-handling equipment);
- 2) Technologies that, if they were widely deployed, would significantly reduce air emissions and/or air quality related health risks from the largest sources of air pollution from port operations, namely ships, harbor craft, trucks, locomotives, and cargo handling equipment.

All projects must be consistent with the conditions prescribed in the City of Los Angeles Tidelands Trust Grant Act, all Federal, State, and local laws, and the China Shipping Amended Stipulated Judgment (described in the Memorandum of Agreement, and available on HCBF's website or by request).

The project types **not** eligible for AQMF funding are listed below:

- Technologies that are not applicable to port-related freight movement
- Fuel additives
- Technologies in the conceptual or R&D phase

## **C. Eligible Costs and Match Funding**

The costs eligible for AQMF funding include: design and engineering, materials, equipment, construction, emissions testing, data tracking and systems integration, and specific demonstration costs.

The costs **not** eligible for AQMF funding include: administrative overhead, travel, marketing and promotional costs, fuel and other consumables and/or labor to operate the equipment not directly associated with the project.

All costs will be tracked and documented.

Match funding is not required; however, it would be considered beneficial during evaluation.

## **III. SUBMITTAL PROCESS**

Interested applicants must submit their Letter of Interest using the online form via [Submittable](#).

Information to be provided in response to this LOI includes:

- Technology description: how it works, current use, and other applications
- Technology demonstration project description: objectives, requirements, project timeline, available certifications, and list of needed permits, as required
- Benefits, including project emission reductions and other community and economic benefits
- Budget with specified total project cost estimate and funding request

Paper submissions will not be accepted.

**Due date: September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Deadline to submit questions: September 21st, 2018**

Questions will be accepted until one week before the LOI due date, unless there is a problem with the submittal process.

**Contact:**

Ms. Meghan Reese  
Executive Director  
Harbor Community Benefit Foundation  
302 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300  
San Pedro CA 90731  
[meghan@hcbf.org](mailto:meghan@hcbf.org)  
(310) 997-7116

**Public Information Notice:**

All documents submitted to HCBF are considered public record.

#### **IV. Initial Screening Evaluation Process**

HCBF's staff will consult with experts as necessary in reviewing the applications and developing a recommendation and will convene an ad hoc committee of HCBF's Board of Directors to advise on the recommendation. As set forth in Paragraph V.f.v of the Memorandum of Agreement, "HCBF staff will research whether a proposed project, through information provided in the proposals and any other sources of information that it may in its discretion choose to use, meets the project criteria developed by HCBF, and HCBF staff shall make a recommendation of its findings to the Board of Directors of HCBF."

HCBF anticipates that it will establish a special AQMF review panel, consisting of an HCBF ad hoc board committee, selected stakeholders, and to-be-identified external personnel with demonstrated expertise in evaluation of zero and near-zero air emissions technologies for freight-movement technologies. The panel will review the received applications and provide feedback to HCBF's ad hoc board committee and staff. HCBF staff, with guidance from its ad hoc board committee and technical consultants, as well as the feedback from the review panel members, will make its recommendations to the HCBF Board.

#### **V. NEXT STEPS**

Following this initial screening, HCBF may request additional information, reject the LOI or invite the project team to submit a full proposal.

Notifications will be made via email.

Additional information about the AQMF process can be found online at <http://hcbf.org/grants/air-quality-mitigation-program/>.