



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



~~2021 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS~~
~~2022~~
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Vegetative Barriers
South Central Fresno Community Emissions Reduction Program:
Vegetative Barriers

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is seeking proposals for Vegetative Barrier projects to mitigate air quality impacts in the South Central Fresno AB 617 Community Boundary. The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is seeking proposals from local entities to implement Vegetative Barrier projects in the South Central Fresno AB 617 Community.

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Request for Proposals

South Central Fresno Community Emissions Reduction Program: Vegetative Barriers Vegetative Barriers—South Central Fresno

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (District) is soliciting proposals ~~from local entities (Applicants) to implement and administer for the implementation of~~ Vegetative Barrier projects ~~to mitigate air quality impacts in South Central Fresno Community boundaries.~~ This Request for Proposal (RFP) ~~will provide a total grant amount of up to \$1,000,000 to the selected applicant(s) that can demonstrate the ability to efficiently and effectively implement vegetative barriers projects by working with the community to install new vegetative barriers at strategic locations to reduce emissions and to provide several key co-benefits.~~ The Vegetative Barriers Emission Reduction Program is a Community Identified Project included and prioritized in the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and District adopted Community Emission Reduction Program (CERP).

~~The District is looking for applicants with experience implementing vegetative barrier projects who can efficiently and effectively utilize the available grant amount of one million dollars to install new vegetative barriers in the community and if its possible leverage existing Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) projects already in place or in progress in South Central Fresno. Applicants will submit a completed application packet, including but not limited to, a demonstration of anticipated emission reductions and a budget proposal, according to the timeline provided in this RFP.~~

Introduction

Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617) requires CARB and air districts to develop and implement additional emissions reporting, monitoring, reduction plans and emission reduction measures in an effort to reduce air pollution exposure in disadvantaged communities. In 2018, South Central Fresno was one of the first San Joaquin Valley (Valley) communities selected by CARB for investment of additional resources under AB 617.

AB 617 provides mechanisms and resources to invest substantial funding in the community through voluntary incentive funding measures. Most importantly, these measures are guided by advice shared experience and knowledge of local community members, through their input and involvement on Steering Committees for each AB 617-selected community.

~~This measure received support from the South Central Fresno Community Steering Committee (CSC) and was included in the adopted CERP. This RFP was developed and modeled after existing plans and resources for similar projects within the state of California and includes feedback received from the CSC to create a plan to address the unique needs of the community.~~

Background

The South Central Fresno communities that suffer the highest levels of air pollution and resulting heat exposure live under conditions made worse by the current lack of a widespread tree canopy and sufficient vegetative barriers. The targeted communities was determined through a community involvement process. Implementing vegetative barriers projects within the targeted communities are recognized methods of helping in mitigating air pollution and extreme heat within the targeted communities. AB617 requires:

1. Strong community guidance and involvement through the Community Steering Committee (CSC) and the Vegetative Barriers and Urban Greening Subcommittee (Subcommittee) in determining all aspects of this RFP.
2. Environmental justice is a central consideration in envisioning a major vegetative greening project in the AB617 map area.

The Vegetative Barriers Emission Reduction Program is part of California Climate Investments (CCI), a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment – particularly in disadvantaged communities.

Vegetative Barriers projects use natural solutions to mitigate air quality impacts and improve public health. Projects may include planting trees or vegetative barriers in the community in order to reduce emissions and provide several key co-benefits.

Vegetative Barriers projects can reduce criteria air pollutant (CAP) emissions as well as greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Particulate matter (PM) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) emissions are expected to decrease as a result of Vegetative Barriers.

Vegetative barriers, also known as windbreaks, are composed of one or more rows of trees or shrubs that may be planted in specific areas of concern in order to improve air quality in the immediate area by intercepting airborne particles, dust, chemicals, and odors. Pollutants directly emitted from cars, trucks, and other motor vehicles are found in higher concentrations near major roads. In addition, stationary sources such as industrial facilities, factories, and agricultural operations can also contribute air pollutants to their surrounding areas. While various emission control techniques and programs exist to reduce these pollutants from mobile and stationary sources, vegetative barriers have been shown to be an additional measure to potentially reduce a population's exposure to air pollution through the interception of airborne particles and the uptake of gaseous pollutants. Examples of vegetative barriers include trees, bushes, shrubs, or a mix of these.

Generally, a higher and thicker vegetative barriers with full coverage will result in greater reductions in downwind pollutant concentrations. In addition to air quality benefits, vegetative barriers can improve aesthetics, increase property values, reduce heat, control surface water runoff, and reduce noise pollution. Factors to be considered when designing Vegetative Barriers include, but are not limited to, vegetation height, thickness, porosity, seasonal effects, vegetation air emissions (e.g. biogenic VOCs),

pollution and stress resistance. Additional considerations include: soil characteristics, availability of water, control of water runoff, maintenance of the vegetative barrier, use of native and non-invasive species, and roadway safety. A full list of design considerations can be found in **Exhibit A - EPA's Recommendations for Constructing Roadside Vegetation Barriers to Improve Near-Road Air Quality**, it is also available at https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-08/documents/recommendations_for_constructing_roadside_vegetation_barriers_to_improve_near-road_air_quality.pdf

Qualitative Benefits

In addition to reducing GHG and CAP emissions, Vegetative Barriers projects will qualitatively benefit the surrounding communities. Vegetative Barriers can shade buildings and reduce energy consumption by lessening the load on air conditioning systems. When native and/or drought-resistant vegetation is planted and maintained using water efficient irrigation methods, Vegetative Barriers can reduce water usage. In addition, planting more trees in certain areas, such as near freeways, may also help reduce noise pollution.

Community Support for Vegetative Barriers

Community engagement continues to be an important part of the CERP development. District staff have routinely met with the respective Community Steering Committee (CSC) subcommittees. Through ongoing discussions with the South Central Fresno CSC subcommittee for the vegetative barriers and urban greening measures, the subcommittee had expressed strong interest in providing funding to support the Vegetative Barriers measure (UB.1). The Vegetative Barriers measure has been discussed at CSC meetings in addition to the outreach activities conducted to inform residents of the program and requirements for participation. Following the outreach efforts, this measure received support from the South Central Fresno CSC and was included in the adopted CERP. This RFP was developed and modeled after existing plans and resources for similar projects within the state of California and includes feedback received from the CSC to create a program that addresses the unique needs of the community.

Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
<u>TBA November 15, 2021</u>	Release Request for Proposal
<u>TBA</u>	<u>Applicant Workshop</u>
<u>TBA December 15, 2021</u>	Proposal submission deadline
<u>TBA January 15, 2021</u>	Proposal review <u>and final selection announcement</u> by District staff

~~February 15, 2022 — Final selection announced~~

~~March 15, 2022 — Proposed contract start date~~

~~March 15, 2025 — Contract end date~~

Funding Available

The funding available for the Vegetative Barrier measure is \$1,000,000 for projects within the South Central Fresno Community. The funding cycles for this program are contingent upon the number of competitive applications and how well they satisfy the goals of this RFP. The amount to be awarded for this funding cycle is at the discretion of the District and CSC. The District anticipates one funding cycle; however, funding cycles are contingent upon the number of competitive applications. There are no maximum or minimum grant amounts.

To be eligible to receive incentive funding, the applicant **must** agree to disclose additional funding sources that include, but are not limited to, federal, state, and third-party private sources as follows:

1. Indicate if their organization has applied for or received funding from any other sources for this project.
2. Indicate if you intend to apply for additional funding from other sources in the future for this project.
3. Disclose the value of any current financial incentive that directly reduces the project cost including tax credits or deductions or other public financial assistance.

For any additional funding that the applicant will receive or has already received for this project, the applicant will submit copies of letter(s) of financial commitment(s), agreement(s), or grant award letter(s). Information provided may be shared as required by federal, state, and local laws. Any owner, designee, or other third party who is found to have submitted multiple applications or signed multiple contracts for this project without proper disclosure may be disqualified from funding for that project from all sources within the control of the District. Applying for or receiving funding from other sources for this project does not necessarily preclude you from this RFP. Match funding is not required for this program.

Projects funded through existing initiatives within the community such as the Transformative Climate Community (TCC) may be leveraged to expand existing projects in the South Central Fresno AB 617 community. Applicants may use the grant awarded to them as leverage to raise matching funds for Vegetative Barriers projects.

Contract Period

Applicants must arrange and budget for the maintenance of vegetative barriers project, comply with other requirements described in this RFP, and make the project available for inspection if requested by District and/or CARB staff.

Applicants ~~that receive grants selected through this RFP~~ are required to commit to their projects for a minimum of 10 years. The project implementation phase shall be completed within three (3) years of the contract execution date. During ~~this time~~ the contract period, applicants must maintain the project, comply with other requirements described in this RFP, and make the project available for inspection if requested by District and/or CARB staff during the contract period. ~~Additionally, the applicant must complete the project implementation phase within three years of the contract execution date and maintain the project for the remaining years.~~

Applicant Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Applicant must be a ~~city, county joint powers authority~~, special district, ~~individual~~, non-profit, tribal government, or public agency ~~or entity and have the necessary experience or can work with project partners with the experience to implement vegetative barrier projects within the selected AB 617 community~~ ~~for projects to be implemented within the selected AB 617 community with this measure adopted within the GERP.~~ **Public agencies such as cities or counties are eligible to apply only in conjunction with a community-based group or organization that is located or operates within the boundaries of the community.**

For profit entities and their organizations are not eligible to apply.

No public monies are allowed for the support of any religious creed, church, or sectarian denomination (Cal. Const. Art. 16 § 5 and Art. 9 § 8).

- 1.2. Applicant must be the property owner, have documented authority from the property owner, or have a demonstrated plan to obtain the authority from the owner of the land on which the project will be implemented;
- 2.3. Applicant must commit to implementing the project within three years of contract execution date and maintaining trees planted as part of the project for the remaining portion of the contract period. The contract will be ten (10) years from the date of execution. This includes having a commitment to irrigate trees, and tree maintenance, up to and including removal and replacement of dead trees;
- 3.4. Applicant must commit to making the project available for inspection if requested by the District or CARB staff during the entire contract period, which will be ten (10) years;
- 4.5. Applicant must contact the local County Agricultural Commissioner's Office before obtaining any plant material originating from outside the respective county to ensure all the requirements for movement of plant material into the respective county are met;

- 5.6. Applicant must ensure that trees are purchased, planted, and maintained to the specifications provided in Appendix H *Tree Selection, Planting, and Care Specifications* of the CAL Fire Urban and Community Forestry Grant Guidelines.
- 6.7. Applicant shall, provide public access to the project where feasible;
8. Applicant shall obtain any required permits necessary for successful project completion;
- 7.9. Applicant must ensure that all work performed is in conformance with the California Environmental Quality Act and all other applicable statues, rules, and regulations;
- 8.10. Applicant and project partner(s) must have financial capacity to complete, operate, and maintain the project. If the Applicant is unable to carry the financial responsibility of a reimbursement program on their own, they may partner with a local public agency or 501(c)(3) non-profit;
- 9.11. Applicant must ensure that all property taxes where the Vegetative Barrier project will be located are current at the time of application. All property taxes where the Vegetative Barrier project will be located must be current at the time of application;
- 10.12. Applicant must ensure that any funds required from other sources are reasonably expected to be available in the time frame needed to carry out the project.

Project Eligibility Criteria

The following criteria are based on the adopted community CERP. Applicants are encouraged to review the resources provided in Exhibit E as they prepare their proposals. Applicants are encouraged to review the resources provided in Exhibit D as they prepare their proposals.

1. All projects must be located within the South Central Fresno Community boundaries and meet eligibility requirements described in this RFP.
- 1.2. Required sSpecies selection – required
 - a. Non-Invasive
 - b. Non-Poisonous
 - c. Roadway safety conformity (where applicable)
 - d. Maximize GHG reductions
 - e. Low-biogenic volatile organic compound (BVOC) emitting
 - f. Minimize allergenic pollen
2. Species selection – to be considered in selection
 - a. Native Species
 - b. Perennial, annual or mix
 - c. Drought resistance
 - d. Adaptive to local site conditions (i.e., soil and climate factors)
 - e. Erect growth habit with stiff stems
 - f. Resistance to lodging and strong leaf retention
 - g. Tolerance to soil deposition

3. Vegetation Characteristics – The following plant characteristics should be considered when making species selection. A full detailed description of vegetation characteristics can be found in **Exhibit A**.
 - a. Seasonal Effects
 - b. Leaf Surface
 - c. Air Emissions
 - d. Pollution and Stress Resistance

4. Payments will be made on a reimbursement basis. The Grantee pays for services, products, and supplies, then submits invoices and proof of payment, and is then reimbursed.

e.a. The following costs are **eligible** for funding as part of this CERP strategy:

- i. Supplies and materials
- ii. Labor and construction of the project such as removal of materials and equipment, installation of trees, and other approved items
- iii. Contracted services related to the project
- iv. Signs and interpretive aids communicating information about the project
- v. On-going project maintenance for the continued health of the project trees
- vi. Up to 25% of the grant request may be budgeted for non-construction costs, including but not limited to design, permitting, outreach, direct project administration and management
- vii. Up to 10% may be budgeted for contingency costs
- viii. The grant amount will cover 100% of eligible costs

f.b. The following costs are **ineligible** to receive funding as part of this CERP strategy:

- i. Overhead (i.e., rent, utilities, office equipment/supplies)

~~Payments will be made on a reimbursement basis. The Grantee pays for services, products, and supplies, submits invoices and proof of payment, and is then reimbursed. If the Applicant is unable to carry the financial responsibility of a reimbursement program on their own, they may partner with a local public agency or 501(c)(3) non-profit.~~

Application Requirements & Ranking Project Evaluation and Scoring Criteria

~~Applicants must submit a completed application (Exhibit B) and requested supplemental documents listed in this RFP to the District prior to the RFP deadline. In addition to the program application, applicants must identify their experience and how projects funded through existing initiatives within the community such as the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) may be leveraged to expand the progress already being made in the South Central Fresno AB 617 community.~~

Applications received by the District will be reviewed by and distributed to District staff and the South Central Fresno CSC and subcommittee, who will work in partnership to evaluate and score the projects according to the scoring criteria described in Table 1 below. A meeting with the CSC will be scheduled after the conclusion of the RFP period to present and rank the submitted proposals. Projects will be scored by District Staff with the assistance of the CSC in accordance to the criteria described below. These scoring criteria and points, which were developed in partnership with the South Central Fresno CSC, are meant to inform the decision-making process but will not be the determining factor for project selection. Several of these criteria were based off of the California Climate Investments (CCI) Urban Greening Guidelinesⁱⁱ and additional scoring criteria were added at the request of the subcommittee. Additional scoring criteria was added at the request of the sub-committee to make sure vegetative barriers projects are evaluated and installed at the locations on page seven of this RFP.

A guiding principle for the selection of the projects will be to rank higher projects proposed in the neighborhoods of greatest need within the AB 617 map, as indicated through an analysis of CalEnviroScreen 4.0 for the purpose of SB 535 and Urban Greening Calculator Tool.

Table 1 – Scoring Criteria

Scoring Criteria	Points Available
Exposure Benefits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proximity to sensitive populations - Proximity to buildings to reduce energy costs - Proximity to sidewalks to shade well-traveled areas - Proximity to areas requested/suggested by the CSC (see Exhibit C page 7-8 of the RFP) 	0-30 25
Cost-Effectiveness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$/ton GHG reduced 	0-20 40
Co-benefits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Criteria air pollutant emission reductions - Water and energy savings 	0-20
<u>Species Selection</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Types of species of trees and plants - Environmental benefits of the species selected <u>Consideration of initial size selection for the planting area to ensure the best chance for survival and growth</u>	0-10
Project Readiness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Timeliness of project implementation - Leveraging existing efforts in the community - Availability of external funding 	0-10 5
<u>Community Engagement</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Engagement Plan - Bilingual services (Spanish preferred) - Cultural competency 	0-10

During the selection process, the District and CSC may wish to interview-follow up with some Applicants for clarification purposes only. No new material will be permitted at this time. Additional information provided during the bid review process is limited to clarification by the Applicant of information presented in the proposal upon request by the District and the CSC.

The determination shall be based solely on the Evaluation Criteria contained in the RFP, on evidence provided in the proposal and on any other evidence provided during the bid review process.

The District will report program information in accordance with Community Air Protection program guidelines.

Location

The AB 617-selected community of South Central Fresno is a densely populated community within the City of Fresno, downwind of emissions from the northern portion of Fresno. As shown in the figure below, ~~T~~his community is geographically bounded by McKinley Avenue to the north, Chestnut Avenue to the east, American Avenue to the south, and includes the community of Malaga and its surrounding industrial area to the southeast. The western portion of the boundary ranges from Nielsen and Brawley Avenues in the northwest to Hwy 41 and American Avenue in the southwest, which incorporates residential neighborhoods and industrial areas along Hwy 99 and west of Hwy 41, such as the Industrial Triangle and parts of West Fresno. The South Central Fresno community also includes downtown Fresno, Chinatown, Roeding Park, and encompasses multiple hospitals, schools, small businesses, and densely populated residential areas. The total population in this South Central Fresno community is estimated to be over 150,000.

The projects to be implemented through this RFP **must be** within the boundaries of the AB 617-selected community of South Central Fresno. ~~The Applicant must evaluate all of the locations the community has identified to see if it is a viable option to plant trees at these locations.~~ The community-identified locations are part of the CERP strategies to fund vegetative barrier projects throughout the South Central Fresno Community, which can be found in Appendix C of this RFP and can be found at the web link below: <https://valleyair.mysocialpinpoint.com/ab167-scfresno/map#/>. While not limited, Applicants are encouraged to evaluate the locations that the community has identified to see if there are any viable options for implementing vegetative barriers at these locations.

Project Implementation Plan

Applicants must include a Project Implementation Plan with the RFP submittal.

Applicants must provide details about additional aspects of the AB 617-selected community of South Central Fresno that proposed projects will serve, including the social and economic status of the project participants. Applicants should be prepared to

provide details about their project and how it will benefit those most in need within the AB 617 communities.

The Applicant should describe the process of how they will work with the community and applicable agencies to investigate and identify areas suitable for the installation of vegetative barriers. Additionally, the Applicant will identify the bushes, shrubs and other vegetation that will be implemented and how they will intercept airborne particles, dust, chemicals, and odors, and implement possible qualitative improvements such as improved aesthetics, increased property value, reduced heat, controlled surface water runoff, and reduced noise pollution.

The selected applicant must identify all location(s) and receive written approval from the District and CSC prior to implementing the project.

Applicants must describe the outreach plan to engage the South Central Fresno AB 617 community regarding the project, including descriptions of:

- Strategies such as public workshops, events, and/or social media marketing plans
- Key partners, their roles for outreach, and their knowledge and experience within the community
- Project website and materials (including any examples, such as applications for residents) that will be developed and who will be responsible for their development

Additionally, applicants must be able to interact with residents in non-English languages, including translation of materials, as necessary for serving the South Central Fresno community.

As part of the commitment to ensure a successful Vegetative Barrier Project, the selected applicant(s) will work with the District and the South Central Fresno CSC on the program materials and outreach efforts (e.g. South Central Fresno may request to review, provide feedback, and approve of the draft application for the South Central Fresno residents prior to its release). Outreach deliverables should align with the project budget.

Other items that the applicant's project implementation plan should address include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Explain how the vegetation barriers will be planted.
2. Explain your historical relationships with any potential project partners and describe the role that they will play in the project.

Explain the budget and how the funds will be allocated to any potential project partners, if any.

Emission Reductions

Various California state and institutional bodies have developed tools to help estimate the GHG reductions and co-benefits associated with Vegetative Barrier projects. The methodology and referenced tools below are consistent with the Quantification

Methodology developed for the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) Urban Greening Grant Program under the California Climate Investments Program.

All Vegetative Barrier project calculations can be performed in the Benefits Calculator Tool, a workbook, which has been developed by CARB for the CNRA.ⁱⁱⁱ Project Applicants need to fill out data within two tabs in this workbook in order to quantify emissions and co-benefits. Applicants must fill out tabs “Project Info,” and “Tree Planting – ITP.” The tab “Tree Planting – ITS” should not be filled out (The “Tree Planting – ITS” tab is designed for an alternative input tab for use with alternative software that is no longer supported). Tab “New Bike-Ped Infrastructure” should not be completed, as new bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure is not included in the Vegetative Barrier Program Plan.

In order to fill out all the information as prompted in the spreadsheet, project Applicants will also need to use three external tools, as follows:

- University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR) Water Use Classification of Landscape Species (WUCOLS IV) tool^{7iv}
- California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Water Budget Workbook^{8v}
- i-Tree Planting Tool^{9vi}

A guide detailing how to use each of these tools can be found in Exhibit C.

Written Proposal Contents and Application Requirements and Process
Applicants must submit to the District prior to the RFP deadline, a completed application, which is available as Exhibit A, and requested supplemental documents listed in this RFP. The program application is available as Exhibit B to this RFP.
Incomplete proposals or proposals arriving after the deadline will be automatically disqualified from consideration.

Applicants Eligible entities will submit applications that include the required information as described in this RFP. A certification section is included in the application and details applicant requirements. Participation occurs in several phases:

1. Applicants must submit the following in response to this RFP:
 - Completed Application, no fields left blank;
 - a. A completed application packet must include:
 - i. Completed Application, no fields left blank;
 - ii.i. Applicants may submit answers to Section 3, questions 1-14, of the application on a separate document so long as the proposal answers each question in the order presented in the application and the responses are numbered accordingly.
 - iii.ii. Applicants must include **on a separate document** a Project Implementation Plan with a supporting Project Budget and Project Schedule that provides dates and details for key deliverables as anticipated by the Applicant.
 - b. Completed Certifications Form section, signed by applicant;

- c. First page of IRS Form W-9;
 - d. Completed California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) Draft Urban Greening Benefits Calculator Tool and provide copies of the “GHG Summary” tab and “Co-benefit Summary” tab;
 - e. Dated and itemized quote(s) for the project costs;
 - f. Photographs of the project site, an aerial photo of the project from an online source, and a representation of the project plan area (i.e., site plan); and
 - g. Answers to the following supplemental questions on a separate document:
 - i. What is your experience with implementing vegetative barrier projects?
 - ii. If possible, how will you leverage existing projects funded through existing initiatives within the community such as the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) and other projects already in place or in progress in South Central Fresno?
 - iii. What steps will you take to evaluate the viability of the community suggested locations for vegetative barriers?
2. Once the RFP period has ended, a meeting with the CSC will be scheduled to present and rank the submitted proposals. District staff and the South Central Fresno CSC will work in partnership to evaluate and score the projects according to the scoring criteria described in this RFP. The District will review applications received and contact Applicants as necessary to gather additional information. The District and the Subcommittee will make a recommendation for the entire CSC on the proposal that should receive funding. The District will aim to respond to prospective Applicants within 60-90 days following the end of the RFP period to alert them if their projects have been selected to receive funding. However, this timeline may be extended at the discretion of the District (e.g. to reach consensus from the CSC).
3. Upon CSC consensus, applications selected for funding will be processed by District Staff and a contract will be offered to the participant applicant. Once both parties have agreed to sign the contract, the applicant will be notified of the contract execution, at which point applicants may then commence work on the project. Project expenses cannot be incurred prior to contract execution. In the event that the District and the selected applicant(s) cannot agree to a contract, the District reserves the right to award the grant to the next qualified applicant.
4. Claim for Payments may be submitted for partial/progress payments for reimbursement throughout the project implementation period and up to 90-days following the completion of the project implementation period. A complete Claim for Payment packet is required as part of the reimbursement process and must include, but is not limited to, the invoice(s) and receipts for the services performed and materials purchased, and proof of payment for all expenses. During this time, District inspectors will inspect and take photos of the project

site. District staff will review submitted claim packets and reimburse for eligible costs, up to the approved contract amount.

Proposal Submittal

All proposals must be submitted [to the District](#) according to specifications set forth in this RFP. Failure to adhere to these specifications may be cause for rejection of proposal.

Signature – ~~All~~ proposals ~~should~~ shall be signed by an authorized representative of the Applicant.

Due Date – All proposals are due no later than 5:00 PM, ~~December 15, 2021~~ TBA, and should be directed to:

David Lopez
Supervising Air quality Specialist
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
1990 E. Gettysburg Ave
Fresno, CA 93726-0244
Email: David.Lopez@valleyair.org

Late Proposals – Late proposals will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Grounds for Rejection – A proposal may be immediately rejected if:

- It is not prepared in the required format, or
- It is signed by an individual not authorized to represent the firm, or
- It is not signed.

Modification or Withdrawal – Once submitted, proposals cannot be altered without the prior written consent of the District. All proposals shall constitute firm offers and may not be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days following the last day to accept proposals.

Written Proposal Evaluation

~~The Executive Officer or Governing Board may award the contract to an Applicant other than the Applicant receiving the highest rating in the event the Governing Board determines that another Applicant from among those technically qualified would provide the best value considering cost and technical factors. The determination shall be based solely on the Evaluation Criteria contained in the RFP, on evidence provided in the proposal and on any other evidence provided during the bid review process.~~

Administration

1. Cost of Developing Application

The Applicant is responsible for the cost of developing an Application, and this cost cannot be charged to the District. In addition, the District is not liable for any costs incurred during environmental review or as a result of withdrawing a proposed award or canceling the solicitation.

2. Errors

If an Applicant discovers any ambiguity, conflict, discrepancy, omission, or other error in the solicitation, the Applicant shall immediately notify the District of such error in writing and request modification or clarification of the document. The District shall not be responsible for failure to correct errors.

3. Immaterial Defect

The District may waive any immaterial defect or deviation contained in an Applicant's application. The District's waiver shall in no way modify the Application or excuse the successful Applicant from full compliance.

4. Disposition of Applicant's Documents

Pursuant to the District's Procurement Policy and Procedure, the District reserves the right to reject any or all proposals. On the date that the Agreement is signed, all applications and related material submitted in response to this solicitation become a part of the property of the District and public record.

5. Applicant's Admonishment

This solicitation contains the instructions governing the requirements for funding projects submitted by interested Applicants, including the format in which the information is to be submitted, the material to be included, the requirements that must be met to be eligible for consideration, and Applicant responsibilities. Applicants must take the responsibility to carefully read the entire solicitation, ask appropriate questions in a timely manner, submit the application with all required responses in a complete manner by the required date and time, and make sure that all procedures and requirements of the solicitation are followed and appropriately addressed.

6. Agreement Requirements

The content of this solicitation and each grant Recipient's application shall be incorporated by reference into a final grant agreement. The District reserves the right to negotiate with Applicants to modify the project scope, the level of funding, or both. If the District is unable to successfully negotiate and execute a funding agreement with an Applicant, the District, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to withdraw the pending award and fund the next highest ranked eligible project. This does not limit the District's ability to withdraw a proposed award for other reasons, including for no cause.

7. No Agreement Until Signed

No agreement between the District and the successful Applicant is in effect until the agreement is signed by the Recipient and signed by the authorized District representative. Costs are only subject to reimbursement by the District after execution; no costs incurred prior to execution of the agreement are reimbursable.

8. No Modifications to the General Provisions

Because time is of the essence, if an Applicant at any time, including after Preliminary Grantee Selection, attempts to negotiate, or otherwise seeks modification of, the application or proposed award, the District may reject an application or withdraw a proposed award.

9. Payment of Prevailing Wages

If applicable, all Applicants must read and pay particular attention to prevailing wages and labor compliance. Prevailing wage rates can be significantly higher than non-prevailing wage rates. Failure to pay legally-required prevailing wage rates can result in substantial damages and financial penalties, termination of the grant agreement, disruption of projects, and other complications.

10. Solicitation Cancellation and Amendments

The District reserves the right to cancel this solicitation, revise the amount of funds available under this solicitation, amend this solicitation as needed, and reject any or all applications received in response to this solicitation.

Insurance

The [selected a](#)Applicant is required to maintain sufficient insurance, licenses, or other required certifications for the type of work being performed. The District may require specific insurance coverage be established and maintained during the course of the work and as a condition of award or continuation of contract.

Reporting Requirements

All projects that receive funding under this program must comply with the requirements described in Section H of Chapter 3 in the Community Air Protection Incentives 2019 Guidelines^{vii}. This will involve the preparation of Semi-annual and Yearly Reports, which the District will prepare based on information collected from the selected Applicant(s). Applicant(s) must ensure that project-related information is complete, correct, supported by documentation, and supplied to the District upon request for the preparation of the reports. Some of the information to be included in these reports is described below:

- [Project information, including but not limited to the following:](#)
 - [Location information](#)
 - [Priority population identification, if applicable](#)
 - [Approach for identifying beneficial projects \(e.g. outreach efforts, community-based organization letters, etc.\)](#)
 - [Project benefits \(e.g. reduction of emissions, greater mobility, etc.\)](#)

- Program-level information, including but not limited to the following:
 - Employment benefits and outcomes (jobs)
 - Public transparency and outreach events (outreach)
- Status of projects and funds for each grant year of CAP incentives
- A list of any projects identified as nonperforming and a brief narrative of any related enforcement actions

The above is not an exhaustive list of reporting requirements for the selected Applicant(s) in this program and the District will work with the Applicant(s) to ensure that the required data and information are collected for the reports. For more information, please refer to the Community Air Protection Incentives 2019 Guidelines.

Applicant Workshop

The District will host an informational meeting to address questions from Applicants interested in submitting a proposal. This meeting is open to the public and simultaneous interpretation will be provided upon request. Attendance at the informational meeting is NOT a requirement for submitting a proposal.

The Applicant Workshop will be held on TBA.

Please email the District's contact person below to RSVP for this RFP informational meeting.

Contact Person

All questions concerning this RFP and application submittals should be directed to:

David Lopez
Supervising Air quality Specialist
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
1990 E. Gettysburg Ave
Fresno, CA 93726-0244
Phone (559) 230-5961
Email: David.Lopez@valleyair.org

ⁱ Appendix H, CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Grant Guidelines. Available at: https://www.fire.ca.gov/media/9653/cal-fire-ucf-cci-2019-20_grant-guidelines_final.pdf#page=54

Accessed: March 2021.

ⁱⁱ Urban Greening Program Final Guidelines. Available at: <https://resources.ca.gov/grants/urban-greening/>
Accessed: February 2021.

ⁱⁱⁱ CARB Urban Greening Calculator Tool (Version 3). Available at: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/cciquantification-benefits-and-reporting-materials?corr>
Accessed: February 2021.

^{iv} WUCOLS IV Database. Available at <https://ucanr.edu/sites/WUCOLS/> Accessed: February 2021.

^v DWR Water Budget Workbook. Available at: <https://cadwr.app.box.com/s/5k39tv10u42rp5bn2uebd7fodkxzqve7>

Accessed: February 2021.

^{vi} i-Tree Planting Calculator v2.1.2. Available at: <https://planting.itreetools.org/> Accessed: February 2021.

^{vi} Community Air Protection Incentives 2019 Guidelines. Available at:

https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2020-10/cap_incentives_2019_guidelines_final_rev_10_14_2020_0.pdf

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Exhibit A

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[Vegetative Barriers / Urban Greening
Application Here](#)

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Exhibit B

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[Vegetative Barriers / Urban Greening Tool](#)
[– User Guides Here](#)

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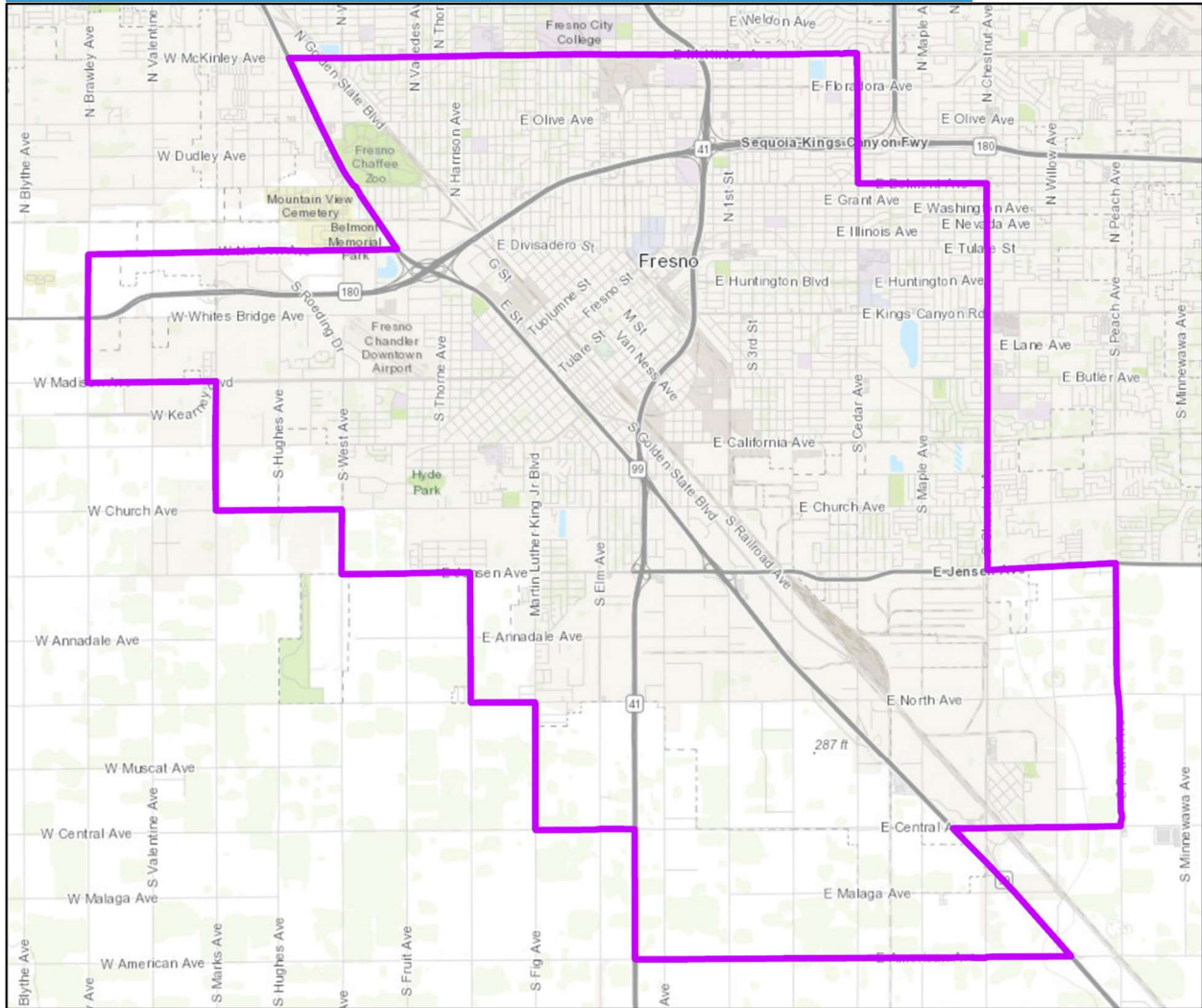
Exhibit C

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AB 617-selected Community of South Central Fresno

A map of AB 617-selected community of South Central Fresno is shown in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1 – Map of AB 617-selected community of South Central Fresno



Community Requested Locations for Vegetative Barriers

The South Central Fresno community members have identified several possible locations for urban greening projects. However, applicants are not limited to these locations.

Community members have requested that vegetative barriers projects are considered at the following locations:

- Highway 41 and Jensen Avenue
- Highway 41 and East Kaviland
- Highway 41 and East Ventura Street

- [Jensen and South Elm Avenue](#)
- [Jensen and just West of Martin Luther King Blvd](#)
- [Jensen and Highway 99](#)
- [Jensen and Peach Avenues](#)
- [Jensen and Chestnut Avenues](#)
- [Church Avenue just East of South West Avenue](#)
- [South Cedar and Highway 99](#)
- [Highway 99 and C Street \(Near the Lincoln Elementary School\)](#)
- [Highway 99 and East Amador Street](#)
- [Highway 99 at the Fink-White Park](#)
- [Highway 99 and South Modoc Street](#)
- [Highway 99 and West Dunn Avenue](#)
- [Highway 99 and West Nielson Avenue \(Near Teilman School\)](#)
- [Highway 99 and Olive Avenue](#)
- [Central and Highway 99](#)
- [Cherry and Central Avenues](#)
- [Cherry and North Avenues \(Near Orange Center School\)](#)
- [Jensen and South Cedar Avenue](#)
- [North and Highway 99](#)

[The Applicant must evaluate all of the locations the community has identified to see if it is a viable option to plant vegetative barriers at these locations. The community-identified locations can also be found at the web link below:](#)
<https://valleyair.mysocialpinpoint.com/ab167-scfresno/map#/>

Exhibit D

[Helpful Resources Here](#)