

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM THE
2014 TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM (TAP)
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) WORKSHOP**

Approximately 58 people in attendance (21 Fresno, 2 Bakersfield, 2 Modesto, 0 EPA San Francisco, 2 EPA Los Angeles, and at least 31 Webcast attendees)

AdTra (AT)
Community Recycling (CR)
Edgar Associates (EA)
eNOW Energy Solutions (EES)
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Mitch Lindner (ML)
Motiv Power System (MPS)
Southern California Gas Company (SCGC)

1. **QUESTION:** Is there a project proposal template or a previously selected proposal that applicants should follow in responding to this RFP? (CR, SCGC)

ANSWER: The RFP discusses the specific sections/topics and District specific forms (e.g. Application Cover Sheet, Budget Summary Sheet, and Emissions Reductions Summary Sheet) that should be included in each proposal; however, there is no prescribed template or specific example of a successful proposal as each proposal may need to vary slightly from the next proposal in order to be successful.

2. **QUESTION:** Can a project apply to more than one of the technology focus areas specified in the RFP? (EA)

ANSWER: Projects may overlap under the three technology focus areas; however, the District will evaluate each proposal under the focus area in which the project best meets District objectives and goals. Project teams should clearly indicate which focus area they want to be included under. The District will evaluate and compare projects within each focus area instead of across focus areas.

3. **QUESTION:** How much weight will be given to the potential NO_x emission reductions from the technology? (EES)

ANSWER: Potential NO_x emission reductions will be considered as part of the "Supports Air Quality Objectives" criterion, which represents 35% of a proposal's total score.

4. **QUESTION:** Do the emissions reductions claimed for a project need to be quantified in an emissions model? (CR)

ANSWER: It is not mandatory that emissions reductions be quantified in an emissions model; however, project applicants should include sufficient documentation to support all emission reduction claims and assumptions used in the emission reduction calculations.

5. **QUESTION:** In the event a proposal is accepted and contracted, who is responsible for conducting emissions testing during the technology demonstration? Should this be included in the proposal budget? (ML)

ANSWER: The District does not have the capability to conduct emissions testing for these projects so the project proposal should identify who from the project team (i.e. local university, technology developer, etc.) will conduct emissions testing and any projected expenses from such testing. Emissions testing is considered an “eligible expense” for reimbursement from the District.

6. **QUESTION:** What is the required frequency of emissions testing during the technology demonstration project? (ML)

ANSWER: The District does not mandate a specific time period for emissions testing. Project applicants should determine the frequency that makes the most sense for the project and specify that within the proposal.

7. **QUESTION:** Can the emissions reductions generated through a TAP project be claimed for emission reduction credits (ERCs) or greenhouse gas credits? (CR, EA)

ANSWER: The criteria pollutant emissions reductions (i.e. NO_x, PM_{2.5}, etc.) generated through all TAP projects are retired by the District to benefit the Valley and cannot be used for ERCs. However, at this time any greenhouse gas credits can be used by the project applicants.

8. **QUESTION:** Why are engineering and design costs considered ineligible expenses for reimbursement? (SCGC)

ANSWER: The District wants to see that project applicants are invested in the technology advancement project they are proposing. In addition, the District’s TAP is for near-commercial projects that have completed benchmark testing and most, if not all, of the preliminary engineering work. As a result, the District leaves all engineering and design costs as the responsibility of the project applicants.

9. QUESTION: How will the District evaluate the cost share/funding leveraging for each proposal? (EPA)

ANSWER: The “Program Funding Required and Resource Leveraging” criterion makes up 20% of an applicant’s total score. As a result, applicants should quantify any monetary and in-kind contributions from the project team and any third-party partners identified in the proposal. While there is not a direct formula for how this category will be scored (i.e. 90% cost share = 9 points), the District will consider the amount of funding requested and the percentage of such funding in the total project.

10. QUESTION: Would it be favorable for the District to see a proposal for a project that has financial or in-kind support from state agencies, such as the California Energy Commission (CEC) or California Air Resources Board (ARB)? (SCGC)

ANSWER: Yes, the District welcomes any projects that include involvement from the CEC or ARB, as the District collaborates with these agencies frequently.

11. QUESTION: Can a project applicant show CEC funding used for an earlier stage of the technology’s development as match funding? (MPS)

ANSWER: Yes, that can be included as match funding and will improve an applicant’s score in the “Program Funding Required and Resource Leveraging” category.

12. QUESTION: The presentation states that \$500,000 of the \$4 million dollars in funding allocated for this solicitation is from EPA. If a project already has funding commitments from other federal sources (i.e. Department of Energy, Federal Highway Administration, etc.), is it possible to use that federal funding with EPA funds? (MPS)

ANSWER: EPA can leverage their funding with other federal funding sources as long as it is not for the same piece of equipment so please identify any federal funding sources your project will be utilizing and what pieces of equipment that funding will go towards in your proposal. The District will do its best to allocate local funding sources to projects that are utilizing other federal funds in their project.

13. QUESTION: Since some TAP project proposals selected in previous rounds of funding cancelled before executing contracts with the District, will that money be rolled over into the \$4 million dollars available through this TAP project solicitation? (SCGC)

ANSWER: Yes, the money allocated for previously selected projects that have cancelled is being rolled over into the \$4 million dollars available through this solicitation; however, new funding has also been included to make up the total \$4 million dollars available.

14. QUESTION: Should project applicants consider the timing of outside funding sources in the project timeline? (SCGC)

ANSWER: Yes, applicants should account for the timing of all outside funding sources in their project timeline, as this will affect how the District evaluates the project in the “Project Readiness” category that represents 10% of your score.

15. QUESTION: What technology readiness level is the District looking to fund? Is the District more interested in technologies that have already been demonstrated elsewhere, or technologies that still require developmental work, such as bench-scale testing?

ANSWER: The District is seeking technology demonstration projects that are near-commercialization, rather than bench-scale testing. However, projects that require additional bench-scale testing will not be automatically disqualified from the District’s evaluation and scoring process.

16. QUESTION: Can a project that demonstrates innovative practices and techniques that reduce emissions be selected for funding or is this project solicitation reserved for new technologies? (CR)

ANSWER: Yes, the District will consider project proposals that demonstrate improved practices. The District has funded projects in the past that focus on enhanced techniques, including a completed project with the Association of Compost Producers that demonstrated new and efficient composting practices. As a result, such project proposals should detail how the project will advance current techniques and quantify the associated emissions reductions.

17. QUESTION: Can a project that improves a current technology that has already been demonstrated and eliminates problems that have prevented it from reaching commercialization be considered under this project solicitation? (CR)

ANSWER: Yes, the project proposal should discuss how the project team plans to overcome any barriers that have prevented the technology from nearing commercialization, particularly in the San Joaquin Valley, and also elaborate upon any improvements to the technology. The amount of funding requested will play a key role in whether or not the project is selected.

18. QUESTION: Will the District consider a 0.2 g/bhp-hr engine technology that reduces barriers to adoption? (AT)

ANSWER: TAP is a demonstration program, not an adoption program. A technology that meets current standards without going beyond them, but reduces barriers to adoption may be better suited to other District incentive programs geared to technology adoption.

19. QUESTION: Would it be ideal to demonstrate the capability of a low-NOx engine technology on one engine platform or several types of engine platforms? (AT)

ANSWER: The District encourages applicants to propose the technology application(s) most likely to produce the best possible demonstration project for the given technology and how the demonstration will assist in the commercialization of the technology.

20. QUESTION: How does the District hold all project partners accountable through a multi-party agreement? (AT)

ANSWER: Each multi-party agreement will include legally binding requirements for each party to satisfy. The District will develop a multi-party contract that outlines every deliverable and all parties will be signatories to the contract.

21. QUESTION: How will payment reimbursements work in a multi-party agreement? (AT)

ANSWER: The District will provide reimbursements to each individual signing authority that performs or is responsible for the specific expenses.

22. QUESTION: Can the District assist selected project teams in the District's permitting process if there is equipment that requires some type of permit? (EPA)

ANSWER: TAP projects generally qualify for a research exemption through the District's permitting process. District staff can assist with expediting a research exemption, or if needed, an Authority to Construct (ATC) permit. However, the District cannot reimburse or waive District permitting fees.