

Analysis

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Community-Scale Air Toxics Ambient Monitoring

Analyst: Nick Herrera

Request: Approve the submission of a federal grant application by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in the amount of \$694,265, for Community-Scale Air Toxics Ambient Monitoring.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Analysis: The grant will be used to investigate public health impacts of air toxins by quantifying diesel emissions from lesser-understood sources such as rail activity, construction, freight distribution, and marine vessels. The grant does not require a state match. The grant is part of a competitive application process, and is due no later than March 22, 2017. DEQ anticipates needing one position (0.29 FTE) for work associated with the grant. DEQ plans to partner with Portland State University and Reed College to complete some of the grant work. Funding is typically awarded within 3 to 6 months. Upon notification of a grant award, DEQ will work with LFO on federal funds expenditure limitation and position authority as appropriate.

The project includes identifying four Portland neighborhoods of high vulnerability to diesel particulate matter, hosting a series of workshops to engage and communicate with the public, and then conduct particulate and black carbon monitoring and analysis for two to three weeks, to develop chemical signatures of sources. The additional data will allow DEQ to update its Portland Air Toxics Solutions Model with more accurate diesel emission sources, concentrations, exposure patterns, and risk estimates. The results of the study would be communicated with stakeholders and policymakers to inform emission reduction and mitigation measures.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the request.