

Grants expected to clear the air

Health: L.B. asthma group to get portion of \$5.65 million.

City News Service

LOS ANGELES — The Southland's air pollution control agency Friday awarded \$5.65 million to 18 public health and air quality-related projects, including the Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma.

The projects — from asthma clinics to mobile air monitors — will get money from a penalty settlement reached last year between the South Coast Air Quality Management District and BP West Coast Products LLC for air pollution violations at the firm's Carson refinery, according to the AQMD.

"These projects will provide significant air quality and health benefits in communities surrounding BP's refinery as well as across the region," said William Burke, chairman of AQMD's governing board.

The board approved the projects Friday at the conclusion of a public

study session.

Here's a complete list of the projects:

- \$1 million to the Korean Dry Cleaners & Laundry Association to provide financial incentives to replace dry cleaning machines with nontoxic equipment;
- \$500,000 to the Riverside County Department of Public Health for a two-year childhood asthma program;
- \$500,000 to Children's Hospital of Orange County for a Breathmobile, asthma care and education;
- \$500,000 to the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health for a Coordinated Asthma Referral and Education program;
- \$500,000 to AQMD for electronic hand-held equipment for field inspection of facilities;
- \$450,000 to the California Urban Forests Council to support urban forest management and tree planting;
- \$430,000 to Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma for clinic services for children with asthma;
- \$400,000 to AQMD for portable air monitoring stations;

- \$250,000 to Little Company of Mary Community Health Foundation for a mobile pediatric clinic for under- and uninsured children in the South Bay area;
- \$250,000 to the AQMD Asthma Consortium for air pollution and asthma research;
- \$200,000 to AQMD for remote emissions sampling and cameras at refineries;
- \$150,000 to AQMD for remote sensing devices near refineries;
- \$140,000 to Clean Air Now to train 1,000 teachers in Clean Air Challenge curriculum;
- \$130,000 to the city of Carson for a reverse 911 system to notify residents of hazardous materials releases;
- \$100,000 to the Think Earth Environmental Education Foundation for middle school air quality curriculum;
- \$100,000 to AQMD to enhance smog day notifications for schools;
- \$80,000 to Communities for a Better Environment and California Environmental Rights Alliance to provide air quality technical assistance to community groups; and
- \$50,000 to the Lennox Unified

School District for a Healthy Start Community Center.

A separate fund from the BP settlement will allocate \$3 million a year, starting this year for 10 years, for community benefit projects in the Wilmington-Long Beach area and across the region.

Projects already approved for funding in the first year include \$2 million to the Asthma & Allergy Foundation of Southern California for four Breathmobile mobile asthma clinics in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, plus an additional Breathmobile in Los Angeles County in the second year; and \$325,000 a year for the American Lung Association and Breathe California for asthma education and outreach programs.

In addition, AQMD has recommended \$675,000 to help fund a collaborative effort by St. John's Well Child & Family Center, the Children's Clinic and the Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma for in-home and clinic-based asthma treatment and education for patients in and around the Carson area.

In a related action, the AQMD board Friday approved \$1.05 million to install air filters at three elementary schools near the BP refinery, other industrial facilities and freeways in the Carson-Long Beach area.

The filters will provide clean air in specially outfitted rooms at Hudson Elementary School in Long Beach and Dominguez and Del Amo elementary schools in Carson in the event of an acute release of refinery gases.

The board also approved an additional \$350,000 to install fence-line air quality monitors at one refinery to determine whether they are an effective tool for alerting the public of air pollution releases.

The program is funded by AQMD's Rule 1173 mitigation fees, which allow oil refineries to pay a mitigation fee for major hydrocarbon releases in lieu of installing specific vapor recovery equipment.

AQMD is the air pollution control agency for Orange County and major portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside counties.



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