

**PROPOSED UPDATES TO THE**  
**TFCA COUNTY PROGRAM MANAGER FUND POLICIES FOR FYE 2024**

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The following Policies apply to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District’s (Air District) Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) County Program Manager Fund for fiscal year ending (FYE) 2024.

**BASIC ELIGIBILITY**

1. **Reduction of Emissions:** Only projects that result in the reduction of motor vehicle emissions within the Air District’s jurisdiction are eligible.

Projects must conform to the provisions of the California Health and Safety Code (HSC) sections 44220 et seq. and these Air District Board of Directors adopted TFCA County Program Manager Fund Policies.

Projects must achieve surplus emission reductions, i.e., reductions that are beyond what is required through regulations, ordinances, contracts, and other legally binding obligations at the time of the execution of a grant agreement between the County Program Manager and the grantee. Projects must also achieve surplus emission reductions at the time of an amendment to a grant agreement if the amendment modifies the project scope or extends the project completion deadline.

2. **TFCA Cost-Effectiveness:** Projects must not exceed the maximum cost-effectiveness (C-E) limit specified in Table 1. Cost-effectiveness (\$/weighted ton) is the ratio of TFCA funds awarded to the sum of surplus emissions reduced, during a project’s operational period, of reactive organic gases (ROG), nitrogen oxides (NOx), and weighted PM10 (particulate matter 10 microns in diameter and smaller). All TFCA-generated funds (e.g., reprogrammed TFCA funds) that are awarded or applied to a project must be included in the evaluation. For projects that involve more than one independent component (e.g., more than one vehicle purchased, more than one shuttle route), each component must achieve this cost-effectiveness requirement.

County Program Manager administrative costs are excluded from the calculation of a project’s TFCA cost-effectiveness.

**Table 1: Maximum Cost-Effectiveness for TFCA County Program Manager Fund Projects**

<b>Policy No.</b>	<b>Project Category</b>	<b>Maximum C-E (\$/weighted ton)</b>
22	Alternative Fuel Light- and Medium-Duty Vehicles	500,000
23	Reserved	Reserved
24	Alternative Fuel Heavy-Duty Trucks and Buses	500,000
25	On-Road Truck Replacements	90,000
26	Alternative Fuel Infrastructure	500,000
27	Ridesharing Projects – Existing	150,000

**Attachment 1**  
**Proposed TFCA County Program Manager Fund Policies for FYE 2024 (clean version)**

28	First- and Last-Mile Connections – Existing	250,000
29.a.	First- and Last-Mile Connections – Pilot projects <b>not</b> in CARE Areas or PDAs. <i>These projects will be evaluated every year.</i>	Year 1 - 500,000 Year 2 and beyond - see Policy #28 service is considered existing
	First- and Last-Mile Connections – <i>Pilot shuttle projects located in Highly Impacted Communities as defined in the Air District CARE Program and/or a Planned or Potential PDA may receive TFCA Funds under the Pilot designation. These projects will be evaluated every year.</i>	Years 1 & 2 - 500,000 Year 3 and beyond - see Policy #28 service is considered existing
29.b.	Pilot Trip Reduction	500,000
30.a.	Bicycle Parking	250,000
30.b.	Bikeways	500,000
31	Bike Share	500,000
32	Reserved	Reserved
33	Infrastructure Improvements for Trip Reduction	500,000
34	Telecommuting	150,000

3. **Eligible Projects and Case-by-Case Approval:** Eligible projects are those that conform to the provisions of the HSC section 44241, Air District Board-adopted policies, and Air District guidance. On a case-by-case basis, County Program Managers must receive approval by the Air District for projects that are authorized by the HSC section 44241 and achieve Board-adopted TFCA cost-effectiveness but do not fully meet other Board-adopted Policies.
4. **Consistent with Existing Plans and Programs:** All projects must comply with the Transportation Control and Mobile Source Control Measures included in the Air District's most recently approved strategies for achieving and maintaining State and national ozone standards ([2017 Clean Air Plan](#)), those plans and programs established pursuant to HSC sections 40233, 40717, and 40919; and, when specified, other adopted federal, State, regional, and local plans and programs.
5. **Eligible Recipients:** Grant recipients must be responsible for the implementation of the project, have the authority and capability to complete the project, and be an applicant in good standing with the Air District (Policies #8-10).
  - a. **Public agencies** are eligible to apply for all project categories.
  - b. **Non-public entities** are eligible to apply for only new alternative-fuel (light, medium, and heavy-duty) vehicle and infrastructure projects, and advanced technology demonstrations that are permitted pursuant to HSC section 44241(b)(7).

## Attachment 1

### Proposed TFCA County Program Manager Fund Policies for FYE 2024 (clean version)

- 6. Readiness:** Projects must commence by the end of calendar year 2024 or within 24 months from the date of execution of the funding agreement with the subgrantee. For purposes of this policy, “commence” means a tangible preparatory action taken in connection with the project’s operation or implementation, for which the grantee can provide documentation of the commencement date and action performed. “Commence” includes, but is not limited to, the issuance of a purchase order to secure project vehicles and equipment, commencement of first- and last-mile connections and ridesharing service, or the delivery of the award letter for a construction contract.

Prior to contract execution with the subgrantee, projects must have completed all applicable environmental reviews and must have been either deemed exempt by the lead agency or issued the applicable negative declaration, environmental impact report, or statement.

- 7. Maximum Two Years Operating Costs for Service-Based Projects:** Unless otherwise specified in policies #22 through #33, TFCA County Program Manager Funds may be used to support up to two years of operating costs for service-based projects (e.g., ridesharing, first- and last-mile connections service). Grant applicants that seek TFCA funds for additional years must reapply for funding in the subsequent funding cycles.

#### APPLICANT IN GOOD STANDING

- 8. Independent Air District Audit Findings and Determinations:** Grantees who have failed either the financial statement audit or the compliance audit for a prior TFCA-funded project awarded by either County Program Managers or the Air District are excluded from receiving an award of any TFCA funds for three (3) years from the date of the Air District’s final audit determination in accordance with HSC section 44242 or for a duration determined by the Air District Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO). Existing TFCA funds already awarded to the project sponsor will not be released until all audit recommendations and remedies have been satisfactorily implemented. A failed financial statement audit means a final audit report that includes an uncorrected audit finding that confirms an ineligible expenditure of TFCA funds. A failed compliance audit means an uncorrected audit finding that confirms a program or project was not implemented in accordance with the applicable Funding Agreement or grant agreement.

A failed financial statement or compliance audit of the County Program Manager or its grantee may subject the County Program Manager to a reduction of future revenue in an amount equal to the amount which was inappropriately expended pursuant to the provisions of HSC section 44242(c)(3).

- 9. Authorization for County Program Manager to Proceed:** Only a fully executed Funding Agreement (i.e., signed by both the Air District and the County Program Manager) constitutes the Air District’s award of County Program Manager Funds. County Program Managers may incur costs (i.e., contractually obligate itself to allocate County Program Manager Funds) only after the Funding Agreement with the Air District has been executed.
- 10. Maintain Appropriate Insurance:** Both the County Program Manager and each grantee must obtain and maintain general liability insurance, workers compensation insurance, and additional insurance as appropriate for specific projects, with required coverage amounts provided in Air District guidance and final amounts specified in the respective grant agreements.

#### INELIGIBLE PROJECTS

- 11. Duplication:** Projects that have previously received any TFCA funds, e.g., TFCA Regional Funds or County Program Manager Funds, and that do not propose to achieve additional emission reductions are not eligible.

## Attachment 1

### Proposed TFCA County Program Manager Fund Policies for FYE 2024 (clean version)

12. **Planning Activities:** The costs of preparing or conducting feasibility studies are not eligible. Planning activities are not eligible unless they are directly related to the implementation of a specific project or program.
13. **Reserved.**
14. **Cost of Developing Proposals and Grant Applications:** The costs to prepare proposals and/or grant applications are not eligible.

#### USE OF TFCA FUNDS

15. **Combined Funds:** TFCA County Program Manager Funds may not be combined with TFCA Regional Funds to fund a County Program Manager Fund project. Projects that are funded by the TFCA County Program Manager Fund are not eligible for additional funding from other funding sources that claim emissions reduction credits. However, County Program Manager-funded projects may be combined with funds that do not require emissions reductions for funding eligibility.
16. **Administrative Costs:** The County Program Manager may not expend more than 6.25 percent of its County Program Manager Funds for its administrative costs. The County Program Manager's costs to prepare and execute its Funding Agreement with the Air District are eligible administrative costs. Interest earned on County Program Manager Funds shall not be included in the calculation of the administrative costs. To be eligible for reimbursement, administrative costs must be clearly identified in the expenditure plan application and in the Funding Agreement, and must be reported to the Air District.
17. **Expend Funds within Two Years:** County Program Manager Funds must be expended within two (2) years of receipt of the first transfer of funds from the Air District to the County Program Manager in the applicable fiscal year, unless a County Program Manager has made the determination based on an application for funding that the eligible project will take longer than two years to implement. Additionally, a County Program Manager may, if it finds that significant progress has been made on a project, approve no more than two one-year schedule extensions for a project. Any subsequent schedule extensions for projects can only be given on a case-by-case basis, if the Air District finds that significant progress has been made on a project.
18. **Unallocated Funds:** Pursuant to HSC 44241(f), any County Program Manager Funds that are not allocated to a project within six months of the Air District Board of Directors approval of the County Program Manager's Expenditure Plan may be allocated to eligible projects by the Air District. The Air District shall make reasonable effort to award these funds to eligible projects in the Air District within the same county from which the funds originated.
19. Reserved.
20. Reserved.
21. Reserved.

#### ELIGIBLE PROJECT CATEGORIES

##### Clean Air Vehicle Projects

#### 22. **Alternative Fuel Light- and Medium-Duty Vehicles:**

These projects are intended to accelerate the deployment of zero- and partial-zero emissions motorcycles, cars, and light-duty vehicles. All of the following conditions must be met for a project to be eligible for TFCA funds:

## **Attachment 1**

### **Proposed TFCA County Program Manager Fund Policies for FYE 2024 (clean version)**

- a. Vehicles must have a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 8,500 lbs. or lower;
- b. Vehicles may be purchased or leased;
- c. Eligible vehicle types include plug-in hybrid-electric, plug-in electric, fuel cell vehicles, and neighborhood electric vehicles (NEV) as defined in the California Vehicle Code. Vehicles must also be approved by the CARB;
- d. Vehicles that are solely powered by gasoline, diesel, or natural gas, and retrofit projects are not eligible;
- e. The total amount of TFCA funds awarded may not exceed 90% of the project's eligible cost; the sum of TFCA funds awarded with all other grants and applicable manufacturer and local/state/federal rebates and discounts may not exceed total project costs;
- f. Grantees may request authorization of up to 100% of the TFCA Funds awarded for each vehicle to be used to pay for costs directly related to the purchase and installation of alternative fueling infrastructure and/or equipment used to power the new vehicle; and
- g. Projects that seek to scrap and replace a vehicle in the same weight-class as the proposed new vehicle may qualify for additional TFCA funding. Costs related to the scrapping and/or dismantling of the existing vehicle are not eligible for reimbursement with TFCA funds.

#### **23. Reserved.**

#### **24. Alternative Fuel Heavy-Duty Trucks and Buses:**

These projects are intended to accelerate the deployment of qualifying alternative fuel vehicles that operate within the Air District's jurisdiction by encouraging the replacement of older, compliant trucks and buses with the cleanest available technology. If replacing heavy-duty vehicles and buses with light-duty vehicles, light-duty vehicles must meet Policy #22. All of the following conditions must be met for a project to be eligible for TFCA Funds:

- a. Each vehicle must be new and have a GVWR greater than 8,500 lbs.;
- b. Vehicles may be purchased or leased;
- c. Eligible vehicle types include plug-in hybrid, plug-in electric, and fuel cell vehicles. Vehicles must also be approved by the CARB;
- d. Vehicles that are solely powered by gasoline, diesel, or natural gas and retrofit projects are not eligible;
- e. The total amount of TFCA funds awarded may not exceed 100% of the project's eligible cost for School Buses and 90% of the project's eligible cost for all other vehicle types; the sum of TFCA funds awarded combined with all other grants and applicable manufacturer and local/state/federal rebates and discounts may not exceed total project costs;
- f. Grantees may request authorization of up to 100% of the TFCA Funds awarded for each vehicle to be used to pay for costs directly related to the purchase and installation of alternative fueling infrastructure and/or equipment used to power the new vehicle; and
- g. Projects that seek to scrap and replace a vehicle in the same weight-class as the proposed new vehicle may qualify for additional TFCA funding. Costs related to the

## Attachment 1

### Proposed TFCA County Program Manager Fund Policies for FYE 2024 (clean version)

scrapping and/or dismantling of the existing vehicle are not eligible for reimbursement with TFCA funds.

25. **On-Road Truck Replacements:** These projects will replace Class 6, Class 7, and Class 8 diesel-powered trucks that have a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 19,501 lbs. or greater (per vehicle weight classification definition used by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) with new or used trucks that have an engine certified to the 2010 CARB emissions standards or cleaner. The existing truck(s) to be replaced must be registered with the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to an address within the Air District's jurisdiction and must be scrapped after replacement.
26. **Alternative Fuel Infrastructure:** These projects are intended to accelerate the adoption of zero-emissions vehicles through the deployment of alternative fuel infrastructure, i.e., electric vehicle charging sites, hydrogen fueling stations.

Eligible refueling infrastructure projects include new dispensing and charging facilities, or additional equipment or upgrades and improvements that expand access to existing alternative fuel fueling/charging sites. This includes upgrading or modifying private fueling/charging sites or stations to allow public and/or shared fleet access. TFCA funds may be used to cover the cost of equipment and installation. TFCA funds may also be used to upgrade infrastructure projects previously funded with TFCA funds as long as the equipment was maintained and has exceeded the duration of its useful life after being placed into service.

Equipment and infrastructure must be designed, installed, and maintained as required by the existing recognized codes and standards and as approved by the local/state authority.

TFCA funds may not be used to pay for fuel, electricity, operation, and maintenance costs.

#### Trip Reduction Projects

27. **Existing Ridesharing Services:** The project provides carpool, vanpool, or other rideshare services. Projects that provide a direct or indirect financial transit or rideshare subsidy are also eligible under this category. Projects that provide a direct or indirect financial transit or rideshare subsidy *exclusively* to employees of the grantee are not eligible.

#### **28. Existing First- and Last-Mile Connections:**

The project reduces single-occupancy vehicle trips by providing short-distance connections between mass transit and commercial hubs or employment centers. All the following conditions must be met for a project to be eligible for TFCA funds:

- a. The service must provide direct connections between stations (e.g., rail stations, ferry stations, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) stations, or airports) and a distinct commercial or employment location.
- b. The service's schedule, which is not limited to commute hours, must be coordinated to have a timely connection with corresponding mass transit service.
- c. The service must be available for use by all members of the public.
- d. TFCA funds may be used to fund only shuttle services to locations that are under-served and lack other comparable service. For the purposes of this policy, "comparable service" means that there exists, either currently or within the last three years, a direct, timed, and publicly accessible service that brings passengers to within one-third (1/3) mile of

## Attachment 1

### Proposed TFCA County Program Manager Fund Policies for FYE 2024 (clean version)

the proposed commercial or employment location from a mass transit hub. A proposed service will not be deemed “comparable” to an existing service if the passengers’ proposed travel time will be at least 15 minutes shorter and at least 33% shorter than the existing service’s travel time to the proposed destination.

- e. Reserved.
- f. Grantees must be either: (1) a public transit agency or transit district that directly operates the service; or (2) a city, county, or any other public agency.
- g. If an applicant is not the only transit agency serving the area, the applicant(s) must submit a letter of concurrence from all transit districts or transit agencies that provide service in the area of the proposed route, certifying that the service does not conflict with existing service.
- h. Each route must meet the cost-effectiveness requirement in Policy #2.

#### 29. Pilot Projects:

##### a. Pilot First- and Last-Mile Connections:

The project provides new first- and last-mile connections service that is at least 70% unique and operates where no other service was provided within the past three years. In addition to meeting the conditions listed in Policy #28 for First- and Last-Mile Connections, project applicants must also comply with the following application criteria and agree to comply with the project implementation requirements:

- i. Demonstrate the project will reduce single-occupancy vehicle trips and result in a reduction in emissions of criteria pollutants.
- ii. Provide data and/or other evidence demonstrating the public’s need for the service, such as a demand assessment survey and letters of support from potential users.
- iii. Provide a written plan showing how the service will be financed in the future and require minimal, if any, TFCA funds to maintain its operation after the pilot period.
- iv. If the local transit provider is not a partner, the applicant must demonstrate that they have attempted to have the service provided by the local transit agency. The transit provider must have been given the first right of refusal and determined that the proposed project does not conflict with existing service;
- v. Projects located in Highly Impacted Communities as defined in the Air District CARE Program and/or a Planned or Potential PDA may receive a maximum of two years of TFCA County Program Manager Funds under the Pilot designation. For these projects, the project applicants understand and must agree that such projects will be evaluated every year, and continued funding will be contingent upon the projects meeting the following requirements:
  - 1. During the first year and by the end of the second year of operation, projects must not exceed a cost-effectiveness of \$500,000/ton
  - 2. Projects entering a third year of operation and beyond are subject to all of the requirements, including cost-effectiveness limit, of Policy #28 (existing First- and Last-Mile Connections).

## Attachment 1

### Proposed TFCA County Program Manager Fund Policies for FYE 2024 (clean version)

- vi. Projects located outside of CARE areas and PDAs may receive a maximum of two years of TFCA County Program Manager Funds under this designation. For these projects, the project applicant understands and must agree that such projects will be evaluated every year, and continued funding will be contingent upon the projects meeting the following requirements:
  - 1. By the end of the first year of operation, projects shall meet a cost-effectiveness of \$500,000/ton, and
  - 2. By the end of the second year of operation, projects shall meet all of the requirements, including cost-effectiveness limit, of Policy #28 (existing First- and Last-Mile Connections).

#### b. **Pilot Trip Reduction:**

The project reduces single-occupancy commute vehicle trips by encouraging mode-shift to other forms of shared transportation. Pilot projects are defined as projects that serve an area where no similar service was available within the past three years, or that will result in significantly expanded service to an existing area. Funding is designed to provide the necessary initial capital to a public agency for the start-up of a pilot project so that by the end of the third year of the trip reduction project's operation, the project will be financially self-sustaining or require minimal public funds, such as grants, to maintain its operation.

- i. Applicants must demonstrate the project will reduce single-occupancy commute vehicle trips and result in a reduction in emissions of criteria pollutants;
- ii. The proposed service must be available for use by all members of the public;
- iii. Applicants must provide a written plan showing how the service will be financed in the future and require minimal, if any, TFCA funds to maintain its operation by the end of the third year;
- iv. If the local transit provider is not a partner, the applicant must demonstrate that they have attempted to have the service provided by the local transit agency. The transit provider must have been given the first right of refusal and determined that the proposed project does not conflict with existing service;
- v. Applicants must provide data and any other evidence demonstrating the public's need for the service, such as a demand assessment survey and letters of support from potential users;
- vi. Pilot trip reduction projects that propose to provide ridesharing service projects must comply with all applicable requirements in policy #27.

#### 30. **Bicycle Projects:**

These projects expand public access to bicycle facilities. New bicycle facility projects or upgrades to an existing bicycle facility that are included in an adopted countywide bicycle plan, Congestion Management Program (CMP), countywide transportation plan (CTP), city plan, or the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) Regional Bicycle Plan and/or Regional Active Transportation Plan are eligible to receive TFCA funds. Projects that are included in an adopted city general plan or area-specific plan must specify that the purpose of the bicycle facility is to reduce motor vehicle emissions or traffic congestion.

##### a. **Bicycle Parking:**



**Attachment 1**  
**Proposed TFCA County Program Manager Fund Policies for FYE 2024 (clean version)**

The project expands the public's access to new bicycle parking facilities (e.g., electronic bicycle lockers, bicycle racks), which must be publicly accessible and available for use by all members of the public. Eligible projects are limited to the purchase and installation of the following types of bike parking facilities that result in motor vehicle emission reductions:

- i. Bicycle racks, including bicycle racks on transit buses, trains, shuttle vehicles, and ferry vessels;
- ii. Electronic bicycle lockers; and
- iii. Capital costs for attended bicycle storage facilities.

**b. Bikeways:**

The project constructs and/or installs bikeways for the purpose of reducing motor vehicle emissions or traffic congestion. Bikeways for exclusively recreational use are ineligible. Projects are limited to the following types of bikeways:

- i. Class I Bikeway (bike path), new or upgrade improvement from Class II or Class III bikeway;
- ii. New Class II Bikeway (bike lane);
- iii. New Class III Bikeway (bike route); and
- iv. Class IV Bikeway (separated bikeway), new or upgrade improvement from Class II or Class III bikeway.

All bikeway projects must, where applicable, be consistent with design standards published in the California Highway Design Manual or conform to the provisions of the Protected Bikeway Act of 2014.

**31. Bike Share:**

Projects that make bicycles available to individuals for shared use for completing first- and last-mile trips in conjunction with regional transit and stand-alone short distance trips are eligible for TFCA funds, subject to all the following conditions:

- a. Projects must either increase the fleet size of existing service areas or expand existing service areas to include new Bay Area communities.
- b. Projects must have a completed a suitability study demonstrating the viability of bicycle sharing.
- c. Projects must have shared membership and/or be interoperable with the Bay Area Bike Share (BABS) project when they are placed into service, in order to streamline transit for end users by reducing the number of separate operators that would comprise bike trips. Projects that meet one or more of the following conditions are exempt from this requirement:
  - i. Projects that do not require membership or any fees for use;
  - ii. Projects that were provided funding under MTC's Bike Share Capital Program to start a new or expand an existing bike share program; or

## **Attachment 1**

### **Proposed TFCA County Program Manager Fund Policies for FYE 2024 (clean version)**

- iii. Projects that attempted to coordinate with, but were refused by, the current BABS operator to have shared membership or be interoperable with BABS. Applicants must provide documentation showing proof of refusal.

TFCA funds may be awarded to pay for up to five years of operations, including the purchase of bicycles or tricycles (self-propelled or electric), plus mounted equipment required for the intended service and helmets.

#### **32. *Reserved***

#### **33. Infrastructure Improvements for Trip Reduction:**

The project expands the public's access to alternative transportation modes through the design and construction of physical improvements that support development projects that achieve motor vehicle emission reductions.

- a. The development project and the physical improvement must be identified in an approved area-specific plan, redevelopment plan, general plan, bicycle plan, pedestrian plan, traffic-calming plan, or other similar plan.
- b. The project must implement one or more transportation control measures (TCMs) in the most recently adopted Air District plan for State and national ambient air quality standards. Pedestrian projects are eligible to receive TFCA funds.
- c. The project must have a completed and approved environmental plan. If a project is exempt from preparing an environmental plan as determined by the public agency or lead agency, then that project has met this requirement.

#### **34. Telecommuting:** Implementation of demonstration projects in telecommuting. No funds expended under this policy shall be used for the purchase of personal computing equipment for an individual's home use.