



RECOMMENDED ACTION

To authorize the President and CEO to execute an emergency procurement and enter into a contract with Climate Comfort Technologies for the purchase of air-cleaning ion emitters on 250 buses.

STAFF REPRESENTATIVE

James Scott, Executive Director/VP, Maintenance and Infrastructure

BACKGROUND

Long Beach Transit (LBT) is committed to implementing resources and technology to ensure the health and well-being of its employees and the riding public. This is imperative especially as LBT deals with issues related to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The availability of clean air onboard LBT's buses is necessary to ensure a safe environment and enhance the customer experience. Ionization used for air cleaning is an effective, low-energy and low-maintenance technology for public transit. The technology has been tested by various world organizations for efficacy with airborne viruses, allergens, bacteria, fungi, mold and adhering odors.

Therefore, staff is recommending to execute an emergency procurement for air-cleaning devices, the CCT 24V-1, an ion emitter by Climate Comfort Technologies (CCT), to reduce the risk of airborne contaminants aboard LBT's fleet of buses.

The Climate Comfort Technologies 24V-1 is an electronic air cleaner with dual polarity ions, specifically designed for transit applications. This ion emitter uses ionic technology to improve indoor air quality (IAQ). It works in tandem with existing air filtration systems on the buses to distribute elevated positive and negative ions, which improves the HVAC's overall filter performance. It has been scientifically stated that higher ion levels improve the onboard bus air quality by neutralizing air and surface contaminants.

In September 2020, LBT initiated a feasibility study for the ion emitter to investigate its effectiveness in a transit application.

LBT installed five ion emitters and performed functionality tests using handheld meters to measure the level of ions present on the vehicles post-installation. LBT found increased ion levels on the buses, which was an indication that the product was performing as expected.

Since 2010, all portable indoor air cleaning devices sold in California are required to be certified by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). All air cleaners must be tested for electrical safety and meet an ozone emission concentration limit of 0.050 parts per million (50 ppm). As of October 2020, the CCT 24V-1 meets California ozone emission limits and is CARB certified.



PROCUREMENT

To ensure the health, well-being and safety of the agency's employees and the riding public, LBT recommends to proceed with a direct emergency award for the purchase of 250 ion air cleaners.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as LBT's plans to prepare for the return of front-door boarding and revenue collection, the agency is taking this emergency approach to move expeditiously towards an effective solution after the pilot testing phase.

LBT's goal is to have the full implementation for the protection of its Bus Operators and customers before October 2021.

Climate Comfort Technologies' price was found to be fair and reasonable by the LBT Purchasing department at a cost of \$542,579 for the purchase and shipping of 250 ion air cleaners. A 5% contingency of \$27,129 is included for unforeseen circumstances, for a total authorization amount of \$569,708.

DBE/SBE PARTICIPATION

A Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)/Small Business Enterprise (SBE) goal was not set for this purchase due to the specialty niche of the product and the public emergency for health, safety and welfare. Although there is no DBE/SBE goal for this contract, 100% of the purchase cost is awarded to Climate Comfort Technologies, a Women-Owned Business Enterprise (WBE) certified by the National Women Business Enterprise Council. Climate Comfort Technologies is the designer and manufacturer of this specialty product.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

LBT considered ultraviolet light and particulate filtration systems, however for these options, HVAC systems would need to be redesigned.

BUDGETARY/FISCAL IMPACT

The total expenditure for the purchase of air-cleaning ion emitters on 250 buses not to exceed \$569,708. The funding source for this purchase will come from LBT's allotment received through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) of 2021.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff is requesting LBT's Board of Directors to authorize the President and CEO to execute an emergency procurement and enter into a contract with Climate Comfort Technologies for the purchase of air-cleaning ion emitters for 250 buses at an initial cost of \$542,579, with a 5% contingency of \$27,129, for a total authorization amount not to exceed \$569,708.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K. McDonald".

Kenneth A. McDonald
President and Chief Executive Officer