



AGENDA REPORT

PROPOSED ACTION: **Resolution:** Approve and Authorize the Executive Director to Enter Into a Professional Service Agreement With Spheros Environmental Group Parent Inc. to Implement a Clean Ports Air Quality Monitoring Program for a Total Combined Amount Not to Exceed \$2,145,868 for a Term up to Four Years with an Option for a One-Year Extension; and if Negotiations with Spheros Environmental Group Parent Inc. are Unsuccessful, Execute a Professional Services Agreement with the Next Highest Rated Firm, for a Maximum Compensation Not to Exceed \$2,145,868; and Find that the Proposed Action is Exempt Under the California Environmental Quality Act. (Environmental)

Submitted By: Colleen Liang, Director of Environmental Programs and Planning; Kristi McKenney, Executive Director

Parties Involved: Spheros Environmental Group Parent Inc.

Amount: Not to Exceed a Total Amount of \$2,145,868, with an 80% (\$1,716,694) Federal Grant-Funded, 20% (\$429,174) Port Cost Share (non-operating expense)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Port of Oakland (Port) Staff partnered with four Oakland community-based organizations (CBOs) and the Bay Area Air District (Air District) to develop and implement a Clean Ports Air Quality Monitoring Program (AQM Program) at the Seaport. This program is one element of the projects being undertaken by the Port and/or subgrantees (including CBO's) and funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the Clean Ports Program (Project). The Port issued a formal competitive solicitation in a Request for Proposal (RFP) in February 2026 for the AQM Program. Seven firms submitted proposals. Proposals were evaluated by a group of Port Staff, CBO representatives, and Air District Staff. The highest ranked firm is Spheros Environmental Group Parent Inc.

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

The Port has partnered with four community-based organizations (CBOs) and the Bay Area Air District (Air District) to implement the Project to maintain a focus on community priorities and benefits. The CBOs include Black Cultural Zone Community Development Corporation, Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment, West Oakland Cultural Action Network, and West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project.

The purpose of the AQM Program is to better understand emissions reductions from implementation of the Project. The selected Consultant will develop a work plan, obtain and install air quality monitoring equipment, collect and analyze data, develop reports, and undertake other related air quality monitoring tasks. AQM data will be collected prior to, during, and after zero-emissions equipment is deployed at marine terminals. The air quality monitoring results will be reported to both the EPA and the nearby communities through the preparation of semi-annual reports and presentation of AQM results at

community meetings. The AQM data will also be made accessible to the public, which may include providing air quality monitoring data in real time via a website.

The CBOs and the Air District collaborated with Port Staff to draft the scope of work for the Request for Proposal (RFP). The Evaluation Panel consisted of Port Staff, Air District Staff, and CBO representatives.

On February 27, 2026, the Port released RFP (No. 25-26/14). The Port held a non-mandatory pre-proposal on March 16, 2026, with 25 attendees. The Port received 7 proposals on April 9, 2026. Table 1 shows the evaluation criteria from the RFP.

Table 1
RFP Evaluation Criteria

Item	Criteria	Weights
1	Required Forms and Adherence to Port Policy and Other Requirements, and Debarment Statement	Pass/Fail
2	Company Information, Litigation and Other Information	10%
3	Knowledge and Experience	30%
4	Plan and Approach	40%
6	Proposed Costs	20%
	Total	100%

The procurement was conducted in accordance with federal procurement requirements set forth in 2 CFR Part 200. Those requirements include procurement, competition and nondiscrimination obligations applicable to federally funded procurements. Thus, the Port's Non-Discrimination and Small Local Business Utilization Policy (NDSLBP) was not utilized in the RFP process. Based on the evaluation criteria, the firms were ranked as shown on Table 2. Port Staff held interviews on June 17, 2026, with the top two consultant teams resulting in the following final ranking.

Table 2
Consultant Ranking

Ranking	Consultant	Location
1	Spheros Environmental Group Parent Inc.	Denver, CO
2	Harris Miller Miller & Hanson	Burlington, MA
3	Environmental Science Associates	San Francisco, CA
4	Montrose Air Quality Services	Arvada, CO
5	AECOM	Dallas, TX
6	Tetra Tech	Oakland, CA
7	RWDI USA LLC	Emeryville, CA

The highest ranked firm is Spheros Environmental Group Parent Inc. Spheros Environmental Group Parent Inc. demonstrated the following in their qualifications and interview.

1. Expertise in implementing air quality monitoring programs in Port or industrial environments.
2. Managing complex air quality monitoring projects with multiple stakeholders and large project teams.
3. Experience in working with and building trust with Port-adjacent communities in Oakland.
4. Experience in making complex scientific information more approachable for general public audiences and developing public facing materials and compelling engagement and communication strategies.

The contract will be awarded for up to \$2,145,868 for a duration of four years, with an option to extend it by one year. This value was determined through a budget development process as part of the Clean Ports Program grant application and approved by EPA. Funding will be provided through the Clean Ports Program.

Subsequently, if an agreement on contract terms cannot be reached in a timely manner with Spheros Environmental Group Parent Inc., the Port will seek to reach an agreement with the next best-qualified firm, and for the remaining others, until compensation, fees, and terms for the services can be reached with one of the subsequent highest ranked firms.

OTHER FINDINGS AND PROVISIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The proposed action was analyzed under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and was found to be:

- ☒ Categorically exempt under the following CEQA Guidelines Section:
15306 (Information Collection)
- ☐ "Common Sense" exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3).
- ☒ Other/Notes: The proposed action is also categorically exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures.

BUDGET

- ☐ Administrative (No Impact to Operating, Non-Operating, or Capital Budgets); OR
- ☐ Operating
 ☒ Non-Operating
 ☐ Capital

Analysis: Budget for the proposed Board action item is included in the FY 2027 Port Non-Operating Budget. The Clean Ports grant project budget includes \$2,145,868 for air quality monitoring consultant services across four years and will be 80% grant-funded with a 20% Port cost share.

STAFFING

- ☒ No Anticipated Staffing Impact.
- ☐ Anticipated Change to Budgeted Headcount.
Reason:
- ☐ Other Anticipated Staffing Impact (e.g., Temp Help).
Reason:

MARITIME AND AVIATION PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT (MAPLA):

Applies? No (Not Aviation or Maritime CIP Project) – proposed action is not covered work on Port's Capital Improvement Program in Aviation or Maritime areas above the threshold cost.

☐ Additional Notes:

LIVING WAGE (City Charter § 728):

Applies?

No (Not Covered Entity) – proposed action involves entity not covered by Living Wage requirements because it is not a covered service provider or tenant, does not employ at least 21 employees, or receive from or pay to Port at least \$50,000.

☐ Additional Notes:

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES:

Applies? Yes.

GENERAL PLAN (City Charter § 727):

Conformity Determination:

<u>Reason:</u> The AQM Program will provide valuable data and information to better understand the emissions reductions from implementation of the Clean Ports Program.	Not Required – conformity determination not required because proposed action does not change use of or make alterations to an existing facility, or create a new facility.
<u>STRATEGIC PLAN.</u> The proposed action would help the Port achieve the following goal(s) in the Port's Strategic Plan: ☐ Capture Our Market and Grow the Economic Base ☐ Modernize and Upgrade Infrastructure ☒ Transition to Zero-Emissions and Build Climate Resilience ☐ Maximize Land Use Value and Revenues ☐ Workforce Training and Jobs Development ☐ Create Opportunities for Local Businesses and Community Economic Development	