Project Selection Process

The project selection process is as follows. The NCTPA Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), with representation from all six Napa County jurisdictions, will serve as the selection and prioritization committee. NCTPA staff will run the prospective projects through an initial qualification process based on project eligibility, and present their findings to the TAC. TAC's recommendations will be forwarded to the NCTPA Board.

Projects will be evaluated on a cost effective and project readiness basis.

TFCA Program Manager Selection Criteria for Napa County

1) The proposed project must improve the quality of the air as determined by the BAAQMD.

2) The project must fall into one or more of the statutory expenditure categories, which are:
   * The implementation of ridesharing programs.
   * The purchase or lease of clean fuel buses for school districts and transit operators.
   * The provision of local feeder bus or shuttle service to rail and ferry stations and to airports.
   * Implementation and maintenance of local arterial traffic management.
   * Implementation of rail-bus integration and regional transit information systems.
   * Implementation of low-emission and zero-emission vehicle programs and of demonstration projects in telecommuting and in congestion pricing of highways, bridges, and public transit.
   * Implementation of a smoking vehicles program (Air District project).
   * Implementation of an automobile buy-back scrappage program operated by a governmental agency (Air District project).
   * Implementation of bicycle facility improvement projects that are included in an adopted countywide bicycle plan or congestion management program.
   * The design and construction by local public agencies of physical improvements that support development projects that achieve motor vehicle emission reductions.

3) Geographic equity in the Napa region.

4) The project proponent has expended past allocations of funds in a timely manner.

5) Meet the requirements of the Air District Board-Approved TFCA County Program Manager Fund Policies (Attachment 1).

Appendix D: Board-Adopted TFCA County Program Manager Fund Policies for FYE 2015

Adopted December 18, 2013

The following Policies apply only to the Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) County Program Manager Fund.

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 for FYE 2015.

   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 achieve TFCA cost-effectiveness, on an individual project basis, equal to or less than $90,000 of TFCA funds per ton of total emissions reduced, unless a different value is specified in the policy for that project type. (See "Eligible Project Categories" below.) Cost-effectiveness is based on the ratio of TFCA funds divided by the sum total tons of reactive organic gases (ROG), oxides of nitrogen (NOx), and weighted particulate matter 10 microns in diameter and smaller (PM10) reduced ($/ton). All TFCA-generated funds (e.g., TFCA Regional Funds, 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, etc.), 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.

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 measures and mobile source measures included in the Air District's most recently approved plan for achieving and maintaining State and national ambient air quality standards,

which are adopted pursuant to HSC sections 40233, 40717 and 40919, and, when specified, with other adopted 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 (Policy #8).

   A. Public agencies are eligible to apply for all project categories.

   B. Non-public entities are only eligible to apply for 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).

6. **Readiness:** Projects must commence by the end of calendar year 2015. "Commence" includes any preparatory actions in connection with the project's operation or implementation. For purposes of this policy, "commence" can mean the issuance of a purchase order to secure project vehicles and equipment, commencement of shuttle/feeder bus and ridesharing service, or the delivery of the award letter for a construction contract.

7. **Maximum Two Years Operating Costs:** Projects that provide a service, such as ridesharing programs and shuttle and feeder bus projects, are eligible to apply for a period of up to two (2) years. 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 fiscal audit or the performance 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 five (5) years from the date of the Air District's final audit determination in accordance with HSC section 44242, or 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 fiscal audit means a final audit report that includes an uncorrected audit finding that confirms an ineligible expenditure of TFCA funds. A failed performance audit means that the program or project was not implemented in accordance with the applicable Funding Agreement or grant agreement.

   A failed fiscal or performance 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 only incur costs (i.e., contractually obligate itself to allocate County Program Manager Funds) after the Funding Agreement with the Air District has been executed.

10. **Insurance:** Both the County Program Manager and each grantee must 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:** Grant applications for projects that provide additional TFCA funding for existing TFCA-funded projects (e.g., Bicycle Facility Program projects) that do not achieve additional emission reductions are ineligible. Combining TFCA County Program Manager Funds with other TFCA-generated funds that broaden the scope of the existing project to achieve greater emission reductions is not considered project duplication.
12. **Planning Activities:** A grantee may not use any TFCA funds for planning related activities unless they are directly related to the implementation of a project or program that results in emission reductions.
13. **Employee Subsidies**: Projects that provide a direct or indirect financial transit or rideshare subsidy or shuttle/feeder bus service exclusively to the grantee's employees are not eligible.

USE OF TFCA FUNDS

14. **Cost of Developing Proposals:** Grantees may not use TFCA funds to cover the costs of developing grant applications for TFCA funds.
15. **Combined Funds:** TFCA fund may be combined with other grants (e.g., with TFCA Regional Funds or State funds) to fund a project that is eligible and meets the criteria for all funding sources.
16. **Administrative Costs:** The County Program Manager may not expend more than five percent (5%) 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, and the Funding Agreement is amended to reflect the revised schedule.
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. **Incremental Cost (for the purchase or lease of new vehicles):** For new vehicles, TFCA funds awarded may not exceed the incremental cost of a vehicle after all rebates, credits,

and other incentives are applied. Such financial incentives include manufacturer and local/state/federal rebates, tax credits, and cash equivalent incentives. Incremental cost is the difference in cost between the purchase or lease price of the new vehicle, and its new conventional vehicle counterpart that meets the most current emissions standards at the time that the project is evaluated.

20. **Reserved.**

21. **Reserved.**

ELIGIBLE PROJECT CATEGORIES

22. **Alternative Fuel Light-Duty Vehicles:**

Eligibility: For TFCA purposes, light-duty vehicles are those with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 8,500 lbs. or lighter. Eligible alternative light-duty vehicle types and equipment eligible for funding are:

A. Purchase or lease of new hybrid-electric, electric, fuel cell, and CNG/LNG vehicles certified by the CARB as meeting established super ultra low emission vehicle (SULEV), partial zero emission vehicle (PZEV), advanced technology-partial zero emission vehicle (AT-PZEV), or zero emission vehicle (ZEV) standards.

B. Purchase or lease of new electric neighborhood vehicles (NEV) as defined in the California Vehicle Code.

C. CARB emissions-compliant vehicle system retrofits that result in reduced petroleum use (e.g., plug-in hybrid systems).

Gasoline and diesel (non-hybrid) vehicles are not eligible for TFCA funds. Funds are not available for non-fuel system upgrades, such as transmission and exhaust systems, and should not be included in the incremental cost of the project.

23. **Alternative Fuel Medium Heavy-Duty and Heavy Heavy-Duty Service Replacement Vehicles (low-mileage utility trucks in idling service):**

Eligibility: For TFCA purposes, medium and heavy-duty service vehicles are on-road motor vehicles with a GVWR of 14,001 lbs. or heavier. Eligible alternative fuel service vehicles are only those vehicles in which engine idling is required to perform the vehicles’ primary service function (for example, trucks with engines to operate cranes or aerial buckets). In order to qualify for this incentive, each new vehicle must be placed into a service route that has a minimum idling time of 520 hours/year, and a minimum mileage of 500 miles/year. Eligible MHDV and HHDV vehicle types for purchase or lease are:

A. New hybrid-electric, electric, and CNG/LNG vehicles certified by the CARB or that are listed by the IRS as eligible for a federal tax credit pursuant to the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Scrapping Requirements: Grantees with a fleet that includes model year 1998 or older heavy-duty diesel vehicles must scrap one model year 1998 or older heavy-duty diesel vehicle for each new vehicle purchased or leased under this grant . Costs related to the scrapping of heavy-duty vehicles are not eligible for reimbursement with TFCA funds.

24. **Alternative Fuel Heavy-Duty Replacement Vehicles (high mileage):**

Eligibility: For TFCA purposes, Alternative Fuel Heavy-Duty Vehicles are defined as follows: Light-heavy-duty vehicles (LHDV) are those with a GVWR between 8,501 lbs. and 14,000 lbs., medium-heavy-duty vehicles (MHDV) are those with a GVWR between 14,001 lbs. and 33,000 lbs., and heavy-heavy-duty vehicles (HHDV) are those with a GVWR equal to or greater than 33,001 lbs. Eligible LHDV, MHDV and HHDV vehicle types for purchase or lease are:

A. New hybrid-electric, electric, and CNG/LNG vehicles certified by the CARB or that are listed by the IRS as eligible for a federal tax credit pursuant to the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

TFCA funds may not be used to pay for non-fuel system upgrades such as transmission and exhaust systems.

Scrapping requirements are the same as those in Policy #23.

25. **Alternative Fuel Bus Replacement:**

Eligibility: For purposes of transit and school bus replacement projects, a bus is any vehicle designed, used, or maintained for carrying more than 15 persons, including the driver. A vehicle designed, used, or maintained for carrying more than 10 persons, including the driver, which is used to transport persons for compensation or profit, or is used by any nonprofit organization or group, is also a bus. A vanpool vehicle is not considered a bus. Buses are subject to the same eligibility requirements listed in Policy #24 and the same scrapping requirements listed in Policy #23.

26. **Alternative Fuel Infrastructure:**

Eligibility: 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 (e.g., electric vehicle, CNG). 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-generated funds as long as the equipment was maintained and has exceeded the duration of its years of effectiveness after being placed into service.

TFCA-funded infrastructure projects must be available to and accessible by the public. Equipment and infrastructure must be designed, installed and maintained as required by the existing recognized codes and standards and approved by the local/state authority.

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

27. **Ridesharing Projects:** Eligible ridesharing projects provide carpool, vanpool or other rideshare services. Projects that provide a direct or indirect financial transit or rideshare subsidy are also eligible under this category.

28. **Shuttle/Feeder Bus Service:**

These projects are intended to reduce single-occupancy vehicle commute-hour trips by providing the short-distance connection between a mass transit hub and one or more commercial or employment centers. All of the following conditions must be met for a project to be eligible for TFCA funds:

a. The project's route must provide connections only between mass transit hubs, e.g., a rail or Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) station, ferry or bus terminal or airport, and distinct commercial or employment areas.

b. The project's schedule must coordinate with the transit schedules of the connecting mass transit services.

c. The project may not replace or duplicate existing local transit service or service that ceased to operate within the past five years. Any proposed service that would transport commuters along any segment of an existing or any such previous service is not eligible for funding.

d. The project must include only commuter peak-hour service, i.e., 5:00-10:00 AM and/or 3:00-7:00 PM.

Shuttle/feeder bus service applicants must be either:(1) a public transit agency or transit district that directly operates the shuttle/feeder bus service; or (2) a city, county, or any other public agency.

Project applicants that were awarded FYE 2014 TFCA County Program Manager Funds that propose identical routes in FYE 2015 may request an exemption from the requirements of Policy 28. c. These applicants would have to submit a plan demonstrating how they will come into compliance with this requirement within the next three years.

Pilot shuttle/feeder bus service projects are defined as new routes that are at least 70% unique and have not been in operation in the past five years. In addition to meeting the conditions listed above, pilot projects must also comply with the following:

a. Applicants must provide data supporting the demand for the service, including letters of support from potential users and providers;

b. Applicants must provide written documentation of plans for financing the service in the future;

c. Projects located in Highly Impacted Communities as defined in the Air District Community Air Risk Evaluation (CARE) Program must not exceed a cost-effectiveness of $500,000/ton during the first year of operation, $125,000/ton for the second year of operation, and $90,000 by the end of the third year of operation (see Policy #2);

d. Projects located outside of CARE areas must not exceed a cost-effectiveness of $125,000 per ton of emissions reduced for the first two years of project operation.

e. Projects located in CARE areas may receive a maximum of three years of TFCA funds under the Pilot designation; projects located outside of CARE areas may receive a maximum of two years of TFCA funds under this designation. After these time periods, applicants must apply for subsequent funding under the shuttle/feeder bus service designation, described above.

29. **Bicycle Projects:**

New bicycle facility projects that are included in an adopted countywide bicycle plan or Congestion Management Program (CMP) are eligible to receive TFCA funds. Eligible projects are limited to the following types of bicycle facilities for public use that result in motor vehicle emission reductions:

A. New Class-1 bicycle paths;
B. New Class-2 bicycle lanes;
C. New Class-3 bicycle routes;
D. New bicycle boulevards;
E. Bicycle racks, including bicycle racks on transit buses, trains, shuttle vehicles, and ferry vessels;
F. Bicycle lockers;
G. Capital costs for attended bicycle storage facilities;
H. Purchase of two-wheeled or three-wheeled vehicles (self-propelled or electric), plus mounted equipment required for the intended service and helmets; and
I. Development of a region-wide web-based bicycle trip planning system.

All bicycle facility projects must, where applicable, be consistent with design standards published in the California Highway Design Manual.

30. **Bay Area Bike Share**

These projects 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. To be eligible for TFCA funds, bicycle share projects must work in unison with the existing Bay Area Bike Share Project by either increasing the fleet size within the initial participating service areas or expanding the existing service area to include additional Bay Area communities. Projects must have a completed and approved environmental plan and a suitability study demonstrating the viability of bicycle sharing. Projects must not exceed a cost-effectiveness of $500,000/ton.

31. **Arterial Management:**

Arterial management grant applications must identify a specific arterial segment and define what improvement(s) will be made to affect traffic flow on the identified arterial segment. Projects that provide routine maintenance (e.g., responding to citizen complaints about malfunctioning signal equipment) are not eligible to receive TFCA funds. Incident management projects on arterials are eligible to receive TFCA funds. Transit improvement projects include, but are not limited to, bus rapid transit and transit priority projects. For signal timing projects, TFCA funds may only be used for local arterial management projects where the affected arterial has an average daily traffic volume of 20,000 motor vehicles or more, or an average peak hour traffic volume of 2,000 motor vehicles or more (counting volume in both directions). Each arterial segment must meet the cost-effectiveness requirement in Policy #2.

32. **Smart Growth/Traffic Calming:**

Physical improvements that support development projects and/or calm traffic, resulting in motor vehicle emission reductions, are eligible for TFCA funds, subject to the following conditions:

A. The development project and the physical improvements must be identified in an approved area-specific plan, redevelopment plan, general plan, bicycle plan, pedestrian plan, traffic-calming plan, or other similar plan; and

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.

Traffic calming projects are limited to physical improvements that reduce vehicular speed by design and improve safety conditions for pedestrians, bicyclists or transit riders in residential retail, and employment areas.