



Central Texas Clean Air Coalition of CAPCOG

6800 Burleson Road, Building 310, Suite 165, Austin, Texas 78744

(p) 512-916-6000 (f) 512-916-6001

www.capcog.org

September 7, 2018

Mayor Steve Adler
City of Austin
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, TX. 78767

Dear Mayor Adler,

The Central Texas Clean Air Coalition (CAC) is requesting that City of Austin participate in a new regional 2019-2023 air quality plan for the five-County Austin-Round Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) that consists of Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson Counties. The region's current air quality plan is set to expire at the end of 2018, and as a member of the CAC, your organization's continued participation in the region's efforts to maintain and improve air quality is important.

The region's prior air quality plans have been critical to the region's ability to narrowly avoid being designated a "nonattainment" area for federal ground-level ozone (O₃) standards, but the Austin-Round Rock MSA's O₃ levels are still often high enough to cause health problems for significant portions of the population. Through the end of 2017, our region's O₃ levels were currently only 1% below the maximum allowable under federal standards, and our O₃ levels in 2017 and 2018 suggest that we still have a significant risk of violating federal standards if we do not remain vigilant. Apart from the health consequences of having air pollution levels above levels considered safe, violating federal air quality standards would put the region at risk of being designated "nonattainment," which has significant impacts on economic development and transportation planning. CAPCOG previously estimated that a nonattainment designation could cost the region as much as \$24 - \$42 billion in lost economic growth over the next three decades, and being designated nonattainment results in more than 20 years of regulatory consequences even if the region is able to come back into compliance the very next year.

The goals of the new regional air quality plan are to: 1) maximize the chances of compliance with federal air quality standards, and 2) otherwise minimize health and environmental impacts of regional air pollution. Your organization's participation in the new regional air quality plan will be important to achieving these goals. With this in mind, we are asking all existing CAC members including City of Austin to adopt a resolution or otherwise communicate to CAPCOG their intent to participate in the new air quality plan and identify what air quality measures City of Austin expects to implement in support of the plan by the end of September 2018. Enclosed are resources to help your organization as it considers its options, including a draft resolution, an emission reduction measure guide, and an explanation of expected reporting.

Chair
Judge Sarah Eckhardt
Travis County

Vice Chair
Commissioner Ray Whisenant
Hays County

Council Member Ann Kitchen
City of Austin

Council Member Lyle Nelson
City of Bastrop

Commissioner Mel Hamner
Bastrop County

Mayor Monty Parker
City of Bee Cave

Council Member Evan Ture
City of Bee Cave

Commissioner Terry Wright
Caldwell County

Council Member Heather Jeffs
City of Cedar Park

Mayor Pro Tem Jessica Bega
City of Elgin

Council Member Anna Eby
City of Georgetown

Mayor Doug Gaul
City of Hutto

Mayor Pro Tem Ron Massa
City of Lakeway

Council Member Andrea Navarrette
City of Leander

Mayor Lew White
City of Lockhart

Mayor Mike Hendricks
City of Luling

Council Member Mike Heath
City of Pflugerville

Council Member Tammy Young
City of Round Rock

Council Member Jane Hughson
City of San Marcos

Commissioner Terry Cook
Williamson County

Please contact Andrew Hoekzema, CAPCOG Director of Regional Services at ahoekzema@capcog.org or (512) 916-6043 for any questions or if you'd like a member of the CAPCOG staff to make a presentation to City Council on this topic. We also encourage you to discuss this request with your CAC Advisory Committee (CACAC) representative, Cari Buetow. Please notify Andrew Hoekzema by September 28 if the CAC should be able to count on City of Austin's participation in the new regional air quality plan. Please provide an approved copy of any resolution or a signed letter, including identification of any air quality measures that City of Austin intends to implement within the 2019-2023 period covered by the plan. If City of Austin is not able to complete this process by the end of September, please provide notification to Andrew Hoekzema of whether the organization intends to consider this request at a future board meeting and if so, what date the governing board would be expected to take action.

Sincerely,



Sarah Eckhardt
Travis County Judge, CAC Chair



Ray Whisenant
Hays County Commissioner, CAC Vice-Chair

CC: Council Member Ann Kitchen
Council Member Ellen Troxclair
Council Member Jimmy Flannigan
Council Member Greg Casar
Council Member Kathie Tovo
Council Member Alison Alter
Council Member Delia Garza
Council Member Ora Houston
Council Member Leslie Pool
Council Member Sabino Renteria
City Manager Spencer Cronk
CACAC Representative Cari Buetow

Enclosures:

1. Emission Reduction Measure Guide
2. Explanation of Annual Air Quality Reporting
3. Sample Resolution
4. Sample Letter to CAPCOG