

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting: November 29, 2018

Item Number: **036**

Transportation

Authorize negotiation and execution of a 12-month interlocal agreement with the Capital Area Council of Governments to provide funding in support of the regional coordination of air quality program activities, in an amount not to exceed \$164,909.00.

Lead Department	Austin Transportation
Fiscal Note	This item has no fiscal impact.
Prior Council Action	Resolution No. 20120524-077 directed the City Manager to evaluate and provide recommendations for a comprehensive air quality program. March 21, 2013, Item 52 - Council Briefing on Air Quality Program Recommendations.
For More Information	Robert Spillar, 512-974-2488; Annick Beaudet, 512-974-7959; Cari Buetow, 512-974-6368; Gilda Powers, 512-974-7092

Additional Backup Information:

Capital Area Council of Government’s (CAPCOG) Air Quality Program provides technical assistance and information to area businesses, government entities and community groups on regional air quality issues, with particular emphasis on pollution related to ground-level ozone. Program efforts are directed at gaining a better understanding of the sources and extent of regional air quality problems by operating air monitoring stations, estimating and modeling emissions and evaluating emission reduction measures

to develop effective strategies for the area. The CAPCOG Air Quality Program also provides support for the Central Texas Clean Air Coalition (CAC) and the CAC Advisory Committee which is comprised of 20 elected officials from the five-county Austin-Round Rock metropolitan statistical area who facilitate the ongoing regional initiative to reduce ozone pollution.

The City of Austin has historically committed to support the Capital Area Council of Governments role in regional coordination of air quality program activities, including air quality monitoring, Central Texas Clean Air Coalition coordination, outreach activities, air quality planning, data collection and analysis. The purpose of this interlocal agreement is to provide both base-level and supplemental funding to fulfill a need that was created in 2017 when the Governor of Texas vetoed state air quality funding for the Austin-Round Rock region deeply impacting the CAPCOG air quality program budget in both fiscal years 2018 and 2019.

The interlocal agreement would secure funding for Capital Area Council of Governments programs in an amount not to exceed \$164,909.00 for a period of 12 months.

The base-level funding will allow CAPCOG to complete the following activities:

- Establish 2019 ozone monitoring contract
- Provide Clean Air Coalition and advisory committee support
- Provide a monthly air quality newsletter
- Conduct basic outreach and education activities
- Develop and provide the annual air quality report
- Complete 2019 Ozone Season Monitoring

It is expected that the tasks outlined above will:

- Support research, analysis, and coordination of all air quality-related functions of the Clean Air Coalition;
- Sustain the region's on-going regional air quality planning efforts;
- Enable continued ozone (O₃) and meteorological monitoring at up to eight continuous air monitoring stations (CAMS) during the 2019 ozone season;
- Continue to encourage the general public to take actions to reduce O₃-forming emissions and use alternative commuting options; and
- Ensure the vulnerable members of the community have enough information about air pollution to protect themselves from exposure to high air pollution levels then they occur within the region.

The supplemental funding will allow CAPCOG to complete the following activities:

- Staff a minimum of five additional outreach events within the City of Austin
- Reach out to and meet with at least one large employer or other organization (>100 employees or members) each month to promote activities that can improve air quality or otherwise reduce the exposure of vulnerable populations to high levels of air pollution when it occurs;
- Perform targeted institutional outreach within the City of Austin to the media, health care professionals, and educators to encourage reporting of the air quality index and air forecasts
- Purchase advertising and educational supplies to maintain a high level of air quality awareness and motivate members of the public to take action to reduce emissions

- Distribute a public-facing air quality outreach newsletter monthly