

3-25-04
#28



Texas Department of Transportation

P.O. DRAWER 15426 • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78761-5426 • (512) 832-7000

March 22, 2004

Dear Clean Air Action Plan Decision Maker,

As the District Engineer of the Austin District, I strongly support the Early Action Compact (EAC) and Clean Air Action Plan (CAAP).

Our mission is to provide safe, efficient and effective mobility for Central Texans and we support the regional effort to improve air quality. Both mobility and good air quality are important to ensure regional economic development and quality of life, making Central Texas a good place to live and work. We believe efficient mobility and good air quality are essential, achievable and mutually beneficial goals; one should not preclude the other. The EAC and CAAP are important tools for reaching these goals.

Because motor vehicles are a primary source of regional NOx and VOC emissions, we endorse the CAAP measures designed to reduce transportation related emissions, including the inspection and maintenance measure. While transportation system improvements will reduce congestion-related emissions, additional measures will be needed to ensure clean air through 2007. Measures that address vehicle operations, such as clean fuels and the vehicle inspection and maintenance program are also needed.

The EAC defers the effective date of any future nonattainment designation through 2007, as long as the terms of the agreement are met. Nonattainment requirements include transportation conformity, intended to ensure that future vehicle emissions will not exceed levels needed to comply with Federal air quality standards. While we agree with the intent, in practice, transportation conformity requirements are a significant burden on transportation resources. Failure to comply with the requirements can result in Federal transportation funding being withheld and delay badly needed transportation system improvements.

The EAC and CAAP are a preferred alternative to nonattainment, because they allow local plan development, can be implemented sooner and do not put transportation funding at risk. We commend your leadership and proactive approach in approving the EAC and CAAP as the way Central Texas will ensure the clean, healthy air needed to keep the region healthy, both physically and economically, for the foreseeable future.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Daigh, P.E.
Austin District Engineer



March 22, 2004

Dear Clean Air Action Plan Decision Maker,

13640 Briarwick Drive
Suite 200
Austin, Texas 78729-1706
Phone: (512) 996-9778
Fax: (512) 996-9784
<http://www.ctrma.org>

Executive Director:

Mike Heiligenstein

Board of Directors:

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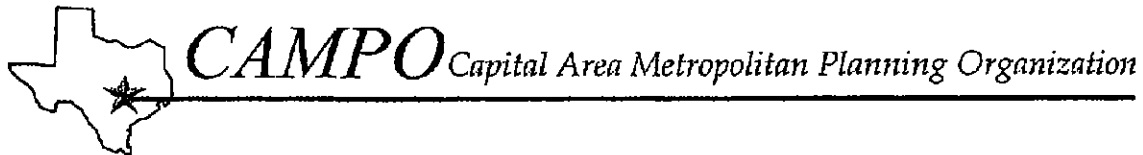
As a transportation manager, I strongly support the Early Action Compact (EAC) and Clean Air Action Plan (CAAP) and recommend that you approve the final CAAP. In particular, the proposed vehicle inspection and maintenance program is the most effective measure available to significantly reduce motor vehicle emissions, our major pollution source. While transportation system improvements will reduce congestion-related emissions, measures to reduce emission from vehicle operations are also needed. The inspection and maintenance program will ensure that vehicles are running properly and not emitting excessive pollution. The inspection and maintenance program can also be implemented relatively quickly, resulting in the significant short-term emission reductions needed to achieve clean air by 2007.

The EAC defers the effective date of any future non-attainment designation through 2007, as long as the terms of the agreement are met. Federal non-attainment requirements place restrictions on industry and new highway construction, which can impact economic development and quality of life.

The EAC and CAAP are a preferred alternative to non-attainment, since they allow local plan development and the emission reduction measures can be implemented sooner than under the non-attainment process. The inspection and maintenance program is an essential component of the CAAP. I commend your leadership and proactive approach in approving the EAC and CAAP as the way Central Texas will ensure the clean, healthy air needed to keep the region healthy, both physically and economically, for the foreseeable future.

A handwritten signature of Mike Heiligenstein in black ink.

Mike Heiligenstein, Executive Director
Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority



March 22, 2004

Dear Clean Air Action Plan Decision Maker,

As the Executive Director of CAMPO, I strongly support the Early Action Compact (EAC) and the Clean Air Action Plan (CAAP) and recommend that you approve the final CAAP. In particular, the proposed vehicle inspection and maintenance program is the most effective measure available to significantly reduce motor vehicle emissions, our major pollution source.

While transportation system improvements will reduce congestion-related emissions, measures to reduce emission from vehicle operations are also needed. The inspection and maintenance program will ensure that vehicles are running properly and not emitting excessive pollution. The inspection and maintenance program can also be implemented relatively quickly, resulting in the significant short-term emission reductions needed to achieve clean air by 2007.

The EAC defers the effective date of any future nonattainment designation through 2007, as long as the terms of the agreement are met. Federal nonattainment requirements place restrictions on industry and new highway construction, which can impact economic development and quality of life.

The EAC and CAAP are a preferred alternative to nonattainment, since they allow local plan development and the emission reduction measures can be implemented sooner than under the nonattainment process. The inspection and maintenance program is an essential component of the CAAP. We commend your leadership and proactive approach in approving the EAC and CAAP as the way Central Texas will ensure the clean air needed to keep the region healthy, both physically and economically, for the foreseeable future.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Aulick
Executive Director



SETON HEALTHCARE NETWORK

CHARLES J. BARNETT
PRESIDENT & CEO
1201 WEST 38TH STREET
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78705-1056
(512) 324-1902
FAX (512) 459-5629
EMAIL: cbarnett@seton.org

Members of the
SETON Healthcare Network

AUSTIN ACADEMIC MEDICINE
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HOSPITAL NETWORK

SETON SHOAL CREEK

SETON SOUTH COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTER

SETON SOUTHWEST
HEALTHCARE CENTER

SETON TOPPER COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTER

*Our mission inspires us to care for
and improve the health of those we
serve with a special concern for the
sick and the poor.*

*We are called to Service of the Poor,
Reverence, Integrity, Wisdom, Cre-
ativity, and Dedication.*



March 19, 2004

The Honorable Will Wynn
Mayor, City of Austin
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, TX 78702

Dear Mayor Wynn:

Seton employs nearly 7000 people from the Central Texas region within our healthcare network. We understand that air quality is an issue that impacts our community, from the quality of life for our employees to the way we perform our business. We appreciate the proactive approach that you and other elected officials from the Clean Air Coalition have taken, first with the Ozone Flex Plan and now with the Early Action Plan, to retain local control regarding "how" our area complies with attainment of the Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Your willingness to actively involve a cross-section of stakeholders from Central Texas to determine how we can most effectively achieve our emission reductions is to be commended. In doing so, you have challenged everyone across the region to accept accountability for their fair share of the emissions reductions based upon their contribution to the problem. We support adopting the Clean Air Action Plan that has been developed as a result of this process.

While the Clean Air Action Plan addresses numerous emission reduction measures, we want to emphasize several of these strategies as critical to the overall program. First is the implementation of an Inspection and Maintenance Program. While many concerns exist regarding such a program, the reality is that we do not have a more cost-effective program available to us, at this point in time, that can address the single largest source of emissions in our area – mobile sources. Second, we want to encourage you to continue to work with TCEQ and our local fuel suppliers to bring cleaner diesel fuels to our pumps. The impact of this control measure has been limited by an agreement between TCEQ and the supplier. Finally, we would reiterate that as a region, we should be willing to revise our emissions reduction strategies, as appropriate, as new information becomes available to us, and as results of our current efforts are realized. As a Clean Air Partner, we want to assure you that Seton is committed to contributing to the emissions reductions in the area by participating in this important commute reduction program.

Thank you again for your efforts to both proactively address our environmental compliance issues and retain local control of the process. Each of these elements is integral to the recruitment and retention of high quality businesses and employees to the region.

Sincerely,

Charles J. Barnett

cc: Council Member Daryl Slusher
Council Member Betty Dunkerley
Council Member Brewster McCracken
Council Member Raul Alvarez
Mayor Pro Tem Jackie Goodman
Council Member Danny Thomas
Kathleen White, Chairman, TCEQ
Margaret Hoffman, Executive Director, TCEQ
Cathy Stephens, Chair, EAC Task Force

Turner Collie & Braden Inc.

Engineers • Planners • Project Managers

Daron K. Butler
Executive Vice President
Land Development Services

400 West 15th Street
Suite 500
Austin, Texas 78701
Tel: (512) 457-7706
Fax: (512) 472-7519
daron.butler@tcb.aecom.com

March 23, 2004

The Honorable Will Wynn
Mayor, City of Austin
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, TX 78702

Re: **Clean Air Action Plan**

Dear Mayor Wynn:

Turner Collie & Braden Inc. employs 90 people from the Central Texas region in our Austin Office. We know that air quality impacts our community, from the quality of life for our employees to the way we perform our business. We appreciate the proactive approach that you and other elected officials from the Clean Air Coalition have taken to retain local control of how we comply with attainment of Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Your willingness to actively involve a cross-section of Central Texas stakeholders is commended. In doing so, you have challenged everyone to accept accountability for their fair share of the emissions reductions based upon their contribution to the problem. We support adopting the Clean Air Action Plan developed as a result of this process.

While the Clean Air Action Plan addresses numerous emission reduction measures, we want to emphasize these strategies as critical to the overall program.

- First is the implementation of an Inspection and Maintenance Program. While concerns exist regarding this program, we do not in reality have a more cost-effective program available that can address the largest source of emissions in our area – mobile sources.
- Second, we encourage you to continue to work with TCEQ and our local fuel suppliers to bring cleaner diesel fuels to our pumps.
- Finally, we should revise our emissions reduction strategies as new information becomes available to us, and as results of our current efforts are realized. As a Clean Air Partner, we want to assure you that TCB is committed to contributing to the emissions reductions in the area by participating in the commute reduction program.

Established in 1966
Engineering Excellence for Over One-Half Century

An AECOM Company

TurnerCollie & Braden Inc.

Mr.

March 22, 2004

Page 2

Thank you for your efforts to proactively address our environmental compliance issues and help us retain local control of the process. Each of these elements is integral to the recruitment and retention of high quality businesses and employees to the region.

Sincerely,



Daron K. Butler
Executive Vice President

DKB:bas

cc: Council Member Daryl Slusher
Council Member Betty Dunkerley
Council Member Brewster McCracken
Council Member Raul Alvarez
Mayor Pro Tem Jackie Goodman
Council Member Danny Thomas
Kathleen White, Chairman, TCEQ
Margaret Hoffman, Executive Director, TCEQ
✓ Cathy Stephens, Chair, EAC Task Force

**Environmental Defense
Texas Office of Public Citizen
Sustainable Energy And Sustainable Development (SEED) Coalition**

March 19, 2004

The Honorable Samuel T. Biscoe
County Judge
Travis County
P.O. Box 1748
Austin, TX 78767

**Re: Comments on Draft Austin/Round Rock MSA Clean Air Action Plan for the Early
Action Compact**

Dear Judge Biscoe,

On behalf of our organizations, we urge you to approve the above referenced Clean Air Action Plan.

Ozone air pollution presents a serious health risk to the residents of Central Texas, especially asthmatic children and other sensitive individuals. Poor air quality also adversely affects the region's economy and quality of life. Accordingly, our groups have strongly encouraged state and local governments to take proactive steps to reduce ozone-causing emissions in Central Texas.

We support the emission reduction measures proposed in the plan, which in their totality represent an appropriate level of commitment for a region whose design value hovers near the 8-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard. We believe the proposed measures will prove essential to ensuring the region attains the standard by 2007, especially in light of the inherent uncertainty in the photochemical modeling used to predict compliance, and natural variations in the weather.

We commend the Clean Air Coalition of Central Texas and the Early Action Compact Task Force for their hard work in developing the draft plan and for aggressively soliciting and considering public input.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments. Please do not hesitate to contact Jim Marston at 478-5161 if you have any questions or if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Jim Marston
Regional Director
Environmental Defense

Tom "Smitty" Smith
Director
Texas Office of Public Citizen

Karen Hadden
Executive Director
SEED Coalition

cc: Travis County Commissioners



18 March 2004

The Honorable Will Wynn
Mayor, City of Austin
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, TX 78702

Dear Mayor Wynn:

URS employs nearly 600 people from the Central Texas region in our Austin Office. We understand that air quality is an issue that impacts our community, from the quality of life for our employees to the way we perform our business. We appreciate the proactive approach that you and other elected officials from the Clean Air Coalition have taken, first with the Ozone Flex Plan and now with the Early Action Plan, to retain local control regarding "how" our area complies with attainment of the Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Your willingness to actively involve a cross-section of stakeholders from Central Texas to determine how we can most effectively achieve our emission reductions is to be commended. In doing so, you have challenged everyone across the region to accept accountability for their fair share of the emissions reductions based upon their contribution to the problem. We support adopting the Clean Air Action Plan that has been developed as a result of this process.

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URS Corporation
P.O. Box 201068
Austin, TX 78720-1068
9400 Ambergen Boulevard
Austin, TX 78729
Tel: 512.464.4797

URS

The Honorable Will Wynn
18 March 2004
Page Two

Thank you again for your efforts to both proactively address our environmental compliance issues and retain local control of the process. Each of these elements is integral to the recruitment and retention of high quality businesses and employees to the region.

Regards,

W David Balfour

W. David Balfour
Senior Vice President

WDB:mh

cc: Council Member Daryl Slusher
Council Member Betty Dunkerley
Council Member Brewster McCracken
Council Member Raul Alvarez
Mayor Pro Tem Jackie Goodman
Council Member Danny Thomas
Kathleen White, Chairman, TCEQ
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