RESOLUTION NO.

2	WHEREAS, the Austin-Round Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA),
3	which consists of Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson Counties, has
4	fine inhalable particulate matter $(PM_{2.5})$ concentrations high enough to place the
5	region at risk of a nonattainment designation for tighter PM _{2.5} National Ambient
6	Air Quality Standards (NAAQS); and
7	WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets federal
8	air quality standards at levels it considers necessary to protect human health and
9	public welfare from harm, and could begin consideration of tighter annual $(PM_{2.5})$
10	NAAQS in the future; and
11	WHEREAS, the Austin-Round Rock MSA's continued compliance with
12	federal air quality standards is important to ensure public health, protect economic
13	growth, and address the region's evolving needs; and
14	WHEREAS, the Austin-Round Rock MSA's air pollution regularly reaches
15	levels that the EPA considers "moderate" or "unhealthy for sensitive groups" based
16	on its air quality index (AQI); and
17	WHEREAS, the EPA's review of health studies have linked exposure to
18	PM _{2.5} to premature death, lung cancer, cardiovascular effects, nervous system
19	effects, and respiratory effects; and
20	WHEREAS, people with heart or lung diseases, children, and older adults
21	are the most likely to be affected by PM _{2.5} pollution exposure and comprise at least
22	40% of the MSA population; and
23	WHEREAS, people of color and people with low incomes tend to have
24	disproportionate exposure to high PM _{2.5} levels; and

25	WHEREAS, EPA staff indicated that there is no clear threshold below
26	which exposure to PM _{2.5} pollution will not cause significant health problems, and
27	actions which reduce emission of local air pollutants have other environmental and
28	health benefits, such as reduced emissions of greenhouse gases; and
29	WHEREAS, the Central Texas Clean Air Coalition (CAC), of which the
30	City of Austin is a member, was charged with the development and
31	implementation of a regional clean air plan to maintain compliance with federal air
32	quality standards and the development of policies and strategies to guide CAC
33	members about actions that will achieve clean air in Texas; and
34	WHEREAS, the City of Austin has a long history of participating in
35	regional clean air plans in coordination with regional partners through the Capital
36	Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG); and
37	WHEREAS, the region's current air quality plan includes strategies for
38	public outreach and education to reduce individual exposure to dangerous $PM_{2.5}$
39	pollution, but it does not include strategies for reducing the PM _{2.5} emissions
40	themselves; and
41	WHEREAS, the CAC has requested that the City of Austin take action to
42	formally participate in the PM _{2.5} Emissions Reduction Measures revision of the
43	regional air quality plan for 2019-2023, as part of regional participation in the EPA
44	Advance Program; and
45	WHEREAS , the PM _{2.5} Emissions Reduction Measures are intended to: 1)
46	maximize the probability of compliance with federal air quality standards, and 2)
47	minimize health and environmental impacts associated with regional air pollution;
48	and

- WHEREAS, controlling and reducing emissions of particulate matter and improving public awareness about air quality are critical to supporting regional air quality goals; and
- WHEREAS, the City's Office of Sustainability has inventoried the City's
- existing $PM_{2.5}$ reduction actions and begun assessing potential new $PM_{2.5}$ reduction
- strategies and actions in communication with the following departments: Public
- Works, Development Services, Austin Energy, Austin Water, Watershed
- 56 Protection, ABIA, Austin Fire Department, Austin Transportation, Fleet Services,
- and Austin Resource Recovery; and
- WHEREAS, on April 28, 2021, the Joint Sustainability Committee
- 59 unanimously recommended that the City Council take action as recommended by
- 60 CAPCOG to reduce PM_{2.5} pollution, recognizing both the public health problems
- caused by PM_{2.5} pollution and also that communities of color are
- disproportionately impacted; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

- The City Manager is directed to have the City of Austin formally participate
- in the revision of the CAPCOG 2019-2023 Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown MSA
- Regional Air Quality Plan by committing the City to the PM_{2.5} emissions reduction
- 67 measures proposed for the regional air quality plan as described in Appendix A and
- reporting to CAPCOG annually on implementation progress.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

- The City Manager is directed to implement and prioritize, to the extent
- 71 possible, the following specific high-impact strategies to address the greatest
- sources of local $PM_{2.5}$ emissions and improve regional awareness of local $PM_{2.5}$
- 73 emissions:

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/4	• Reduce PM _{2.5} emissions from City construction projects:
75	 Develop and document dust control plans, with consideration or
76	rescheduling activities during high PM _{2.5} days.
77	 Pursue deconstruction versus demolition where feasible.
78	• Reduce PM _{2.5} emissions from private construction:
79	 Provide outreach and education to private developers and
80	construction permit applicants on best practices for reducing
81	construction and road dust.
82	• Reduce PM _{2.5} emissions from controlled and outdoor burning:
83	 Ensure enforcement of the State's Outdoor Burning Rule (Title
84	30, Texas Administrative Code, Sections 111.201-221) and
85	local burn bans to help reduce open burning.
86	 Consider potential code amendments to allow high PM_{2.5} days
87	as a factor for allowing prescribed burning activities.
88	• Increase monitoring of PM _{2.5} emissions:
89	 Support expanded PM_{2.5} monitoring opportunities, particularly
90	in areas with populations with increased sensitivity to air
91	pollution due to disproportionate rates of respiratory conditions.
92	such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.
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94	ADOPTED:, 2021 ATTEST:
95 96	Jannette S. Goodall City Clerk
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