



City of Austin Environmental Commission

Air Quality Update

June 5, 2019

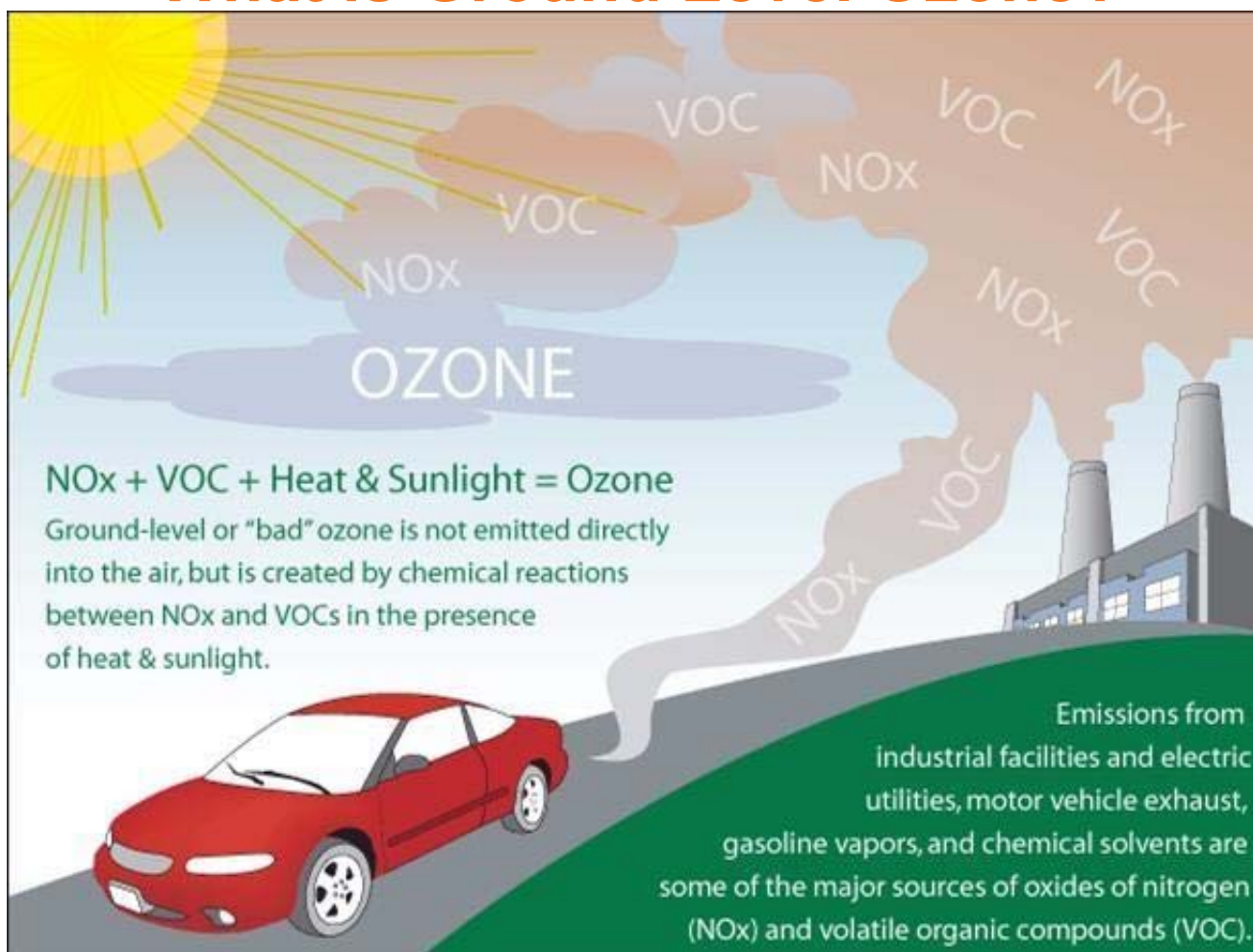
Phoebe Romero – Office of Sustainability

Andrew Hoekzema – Capital Area Council of Governments





What is Ground Level Ozone?



Source: www.epa.gov/ground-level-ozone-pollution/ground-level-ozone-basics

Why is Ozone a Problem?




Source: www.nps.gov/subjects/air/nature-ozone.htm

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF GROUND-LEVEL OZONE

BREATHING OZONE CAN TRIGGER A VARIETY OF HEALTH PROBLEMS

Even at relatively low levels, ground-level ozone can be harmful to human health and the environment. It is especially a problem in urban and suburban communities; however winds can carry ozone precursor-emissions many miles from their original sources, affecting rural areas as well.

Children are at the greatest risk, because of their developing lungs and frequent outdoor activity. Anyone with a compromised respiratory system is especially vulnerable to ozone. Even healthy adults can be affected when working or playing outdoors.



- Coughing
- Difficulty breathing deeply and vigorously
- Sore or scratchy throat
- Inflamed and damaged airways
- Shortness of breathes and pain when taking a deep breath
- Aggravation for lung diseases like asthma, emphysema, and chronic bronchitis
- Increased frequency of asthma attacks
- Greater susceptibility to lung infection
- Continued damage to the lungs even after symptoms have disappeared

Source: aircentraltexas.org/en/regional-air-quality/what-is-ground-level-ozone

What is the City of Austin Doing to Maintain Good Air Quality?

- Joined the new 2019-2023 Regional Air Quality Plan – effective December 21, 2018
- The City of Austin made over 30 commitments to emission reduction measures in the regional plan
- Approved by Council Resolution on November 29, 2018

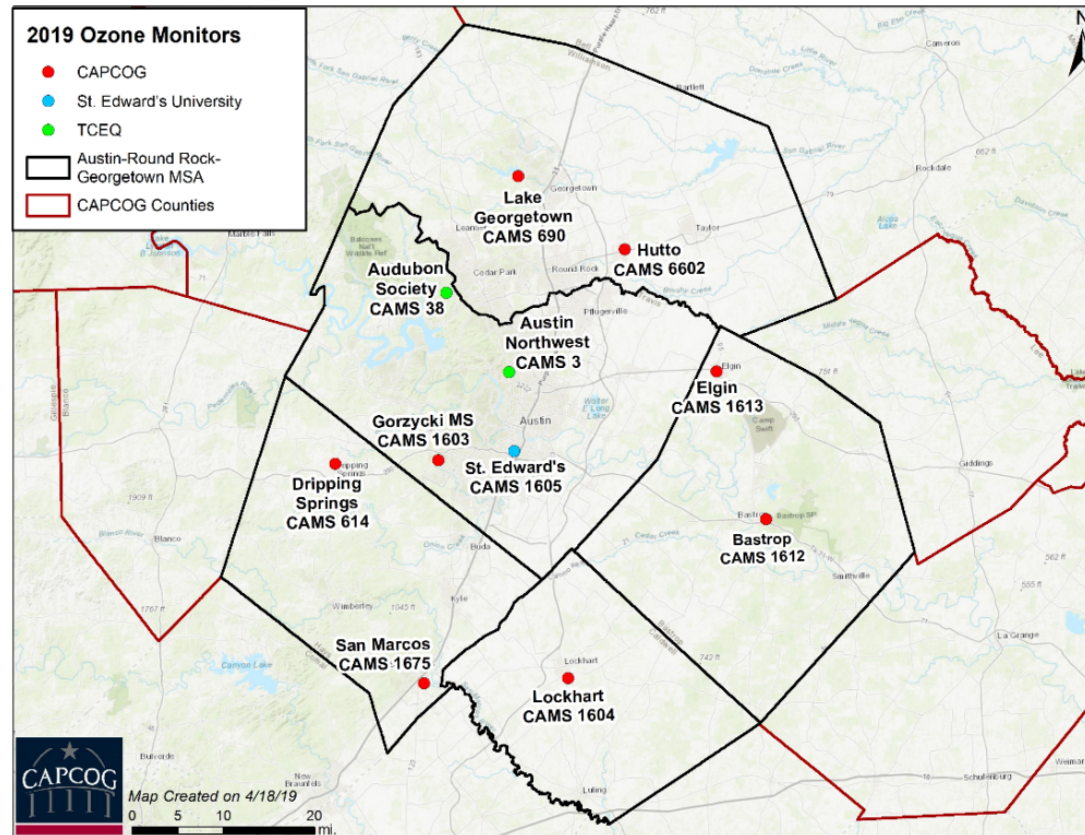


What Can the City's Residents Do to Help Maintain Good Air Quality?

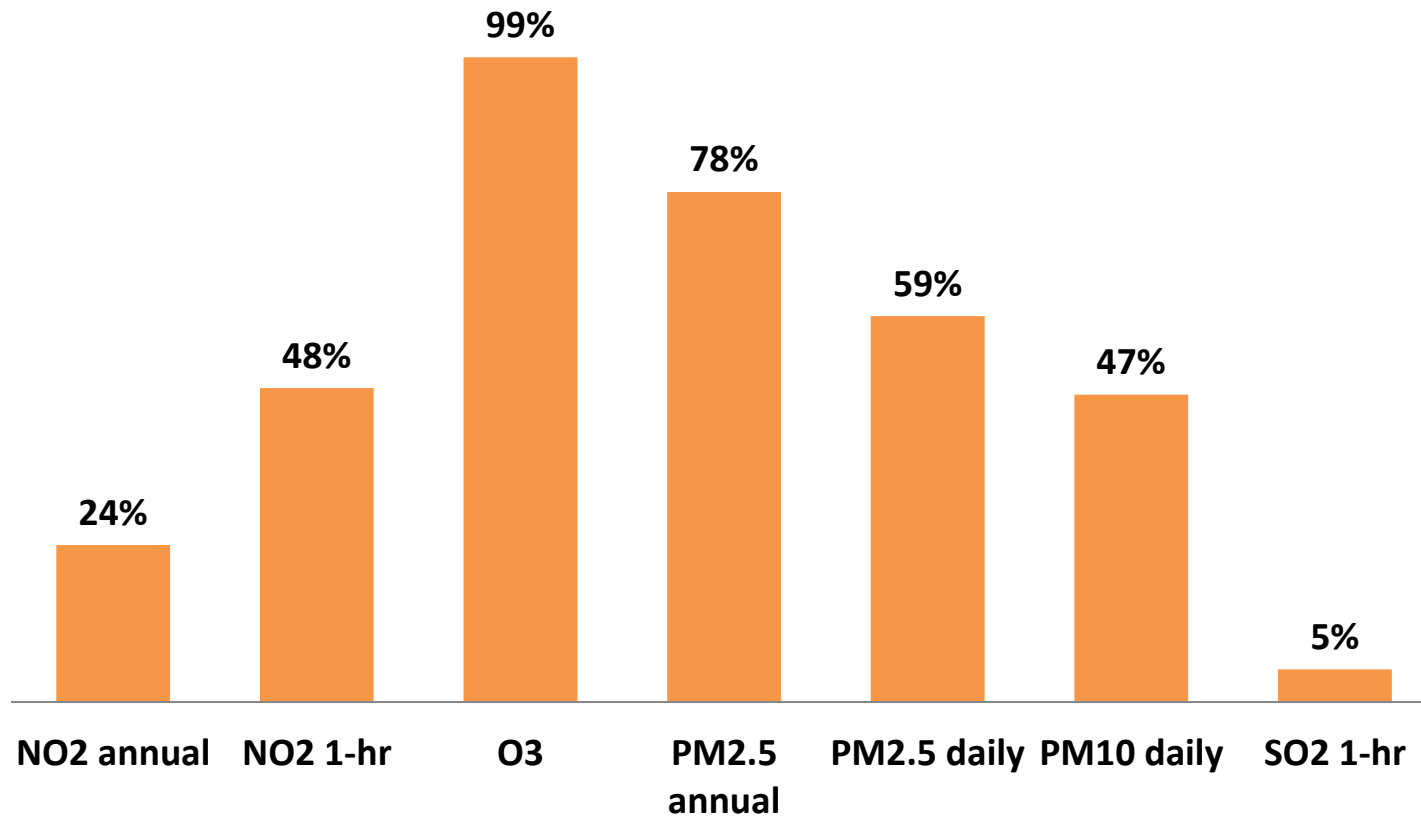


- Drive Less
 - Take Transit
 - Telecommute/Teleconference
- Drive Clean
 - Maintain Your Vehicle
 - Refuel after 6 p.m.
- Conserve
 - Use an Electric or Manual Lawn Mower
 - Plant More Trees

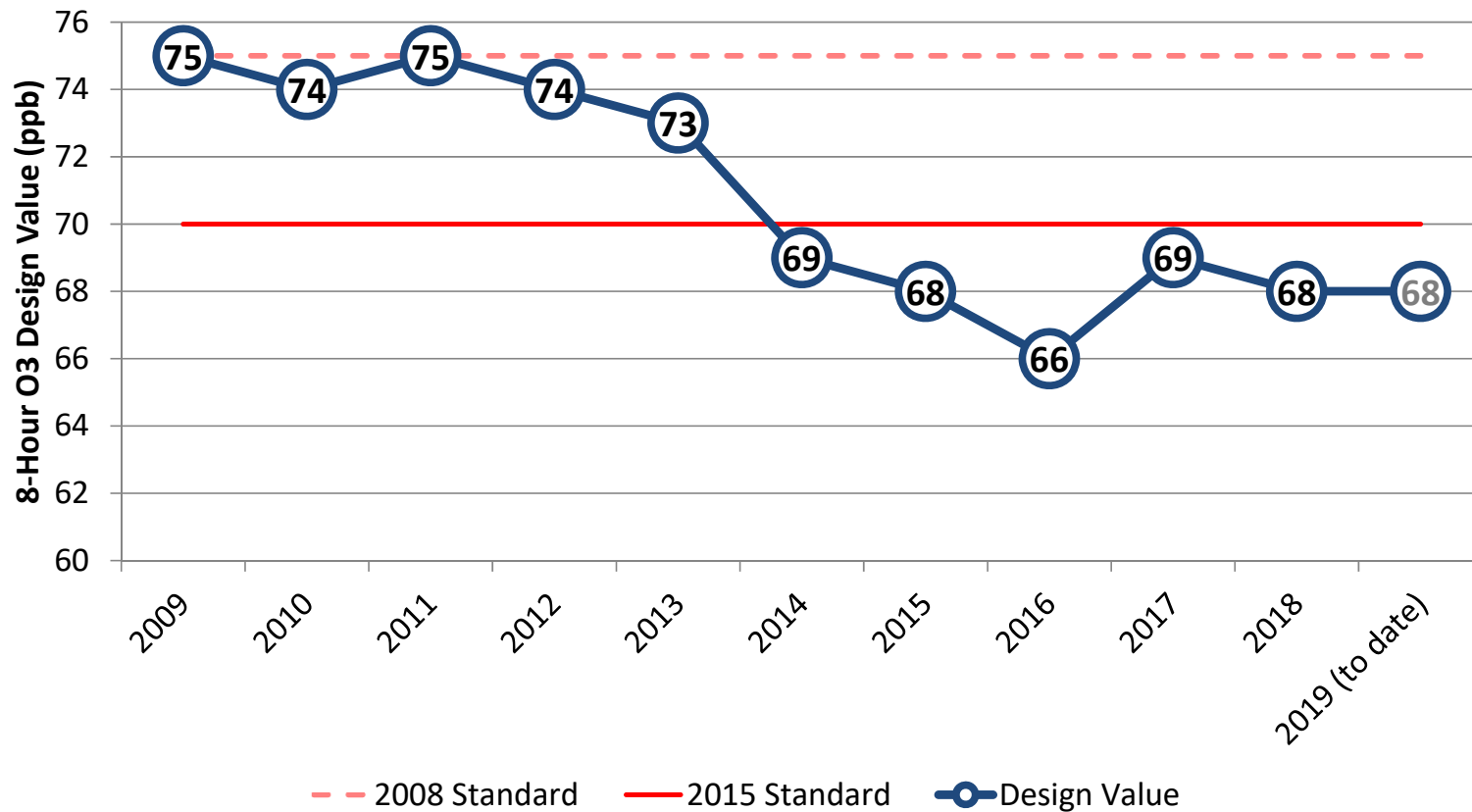
2019 Monitors



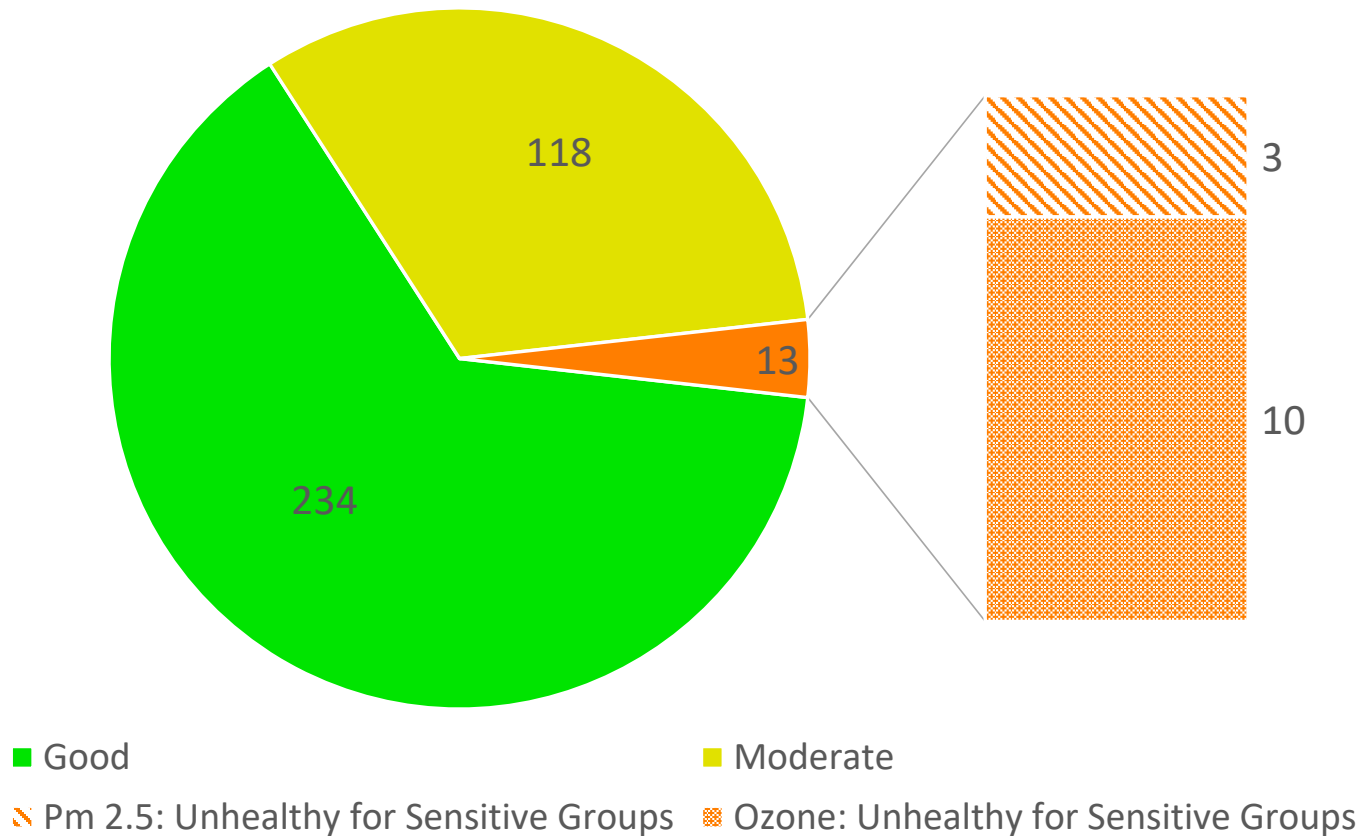
2017 Metro Air Quality Compared to NAAQS



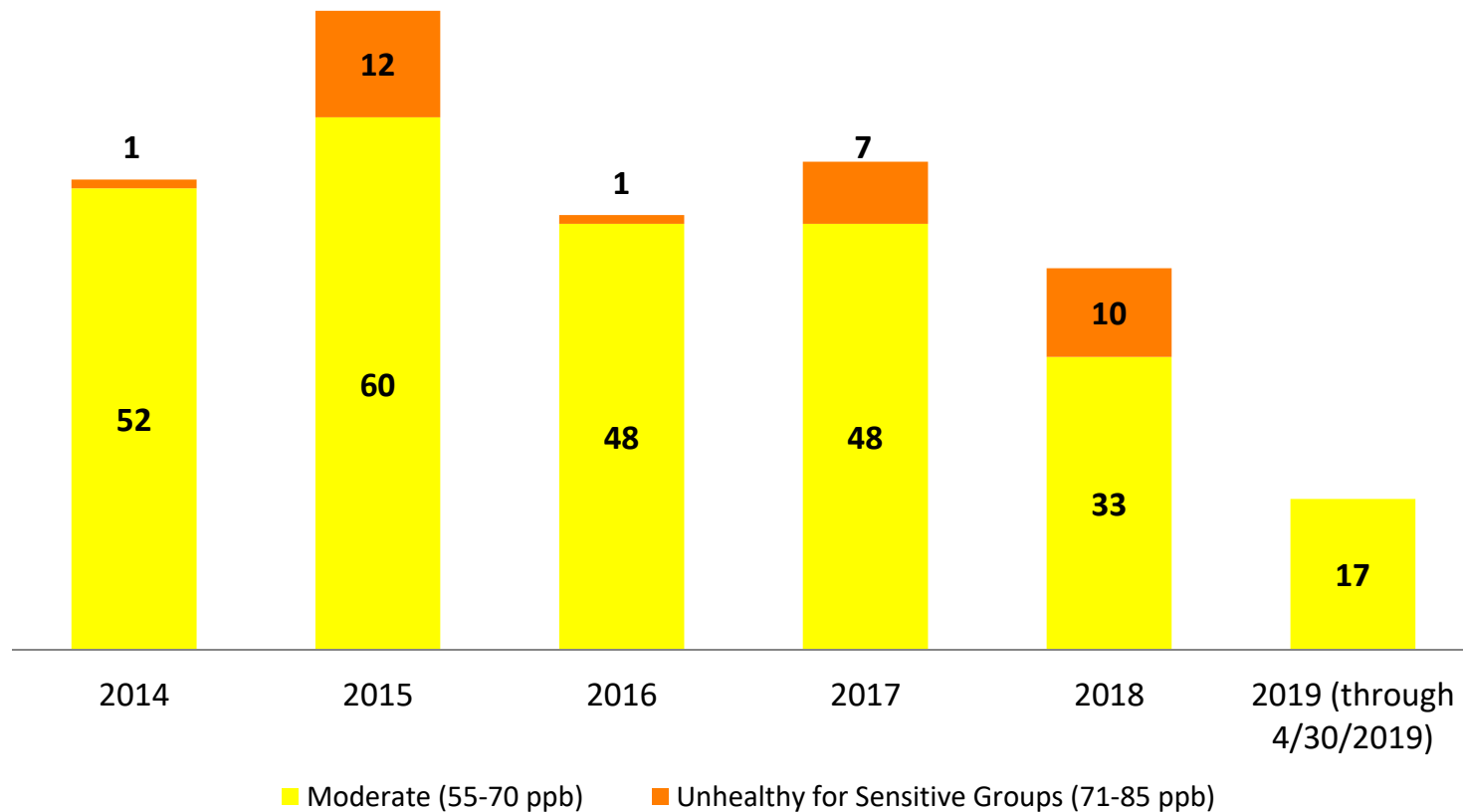
Ozone Season Design Value Trend



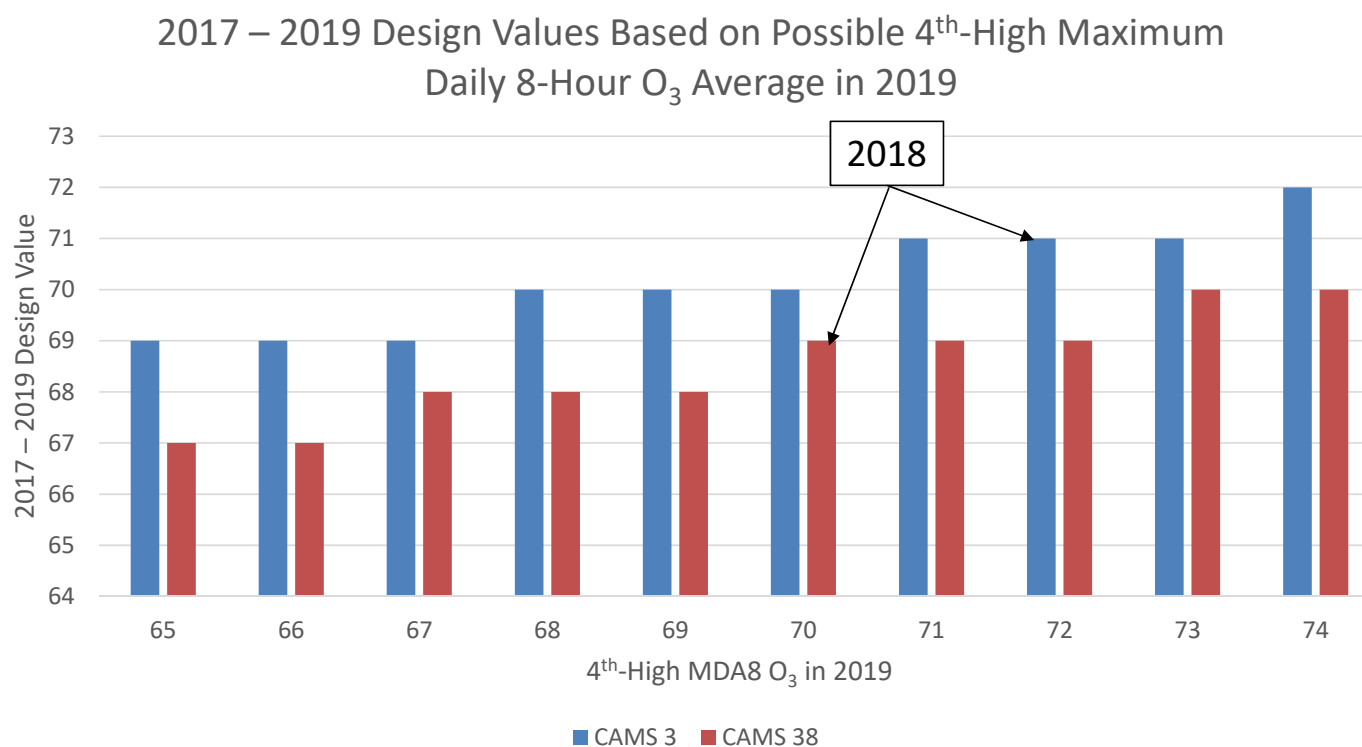
Air Quality Index (AQI) Days, 2018



MSA Moderate or Worse Ozone Days Compared to Prior Years



2019 O₃ NAAQS Compliance Outlook



Funding Updates



- CAPCOG is planning for \$380,000 - \$430,000 in local funding for FY 2020
- State Funding
 - Reinstatement of some funding is possible if approved by the Governor

Legislative Updates

- **Local Air Quality Planning Grants (“Rider 7” Program)**
 - Bills adopted by the House and Senate both include a partially reinstated version of the “Rider 7” local air quality planning grants that was vetoed by the Governor in 2017
- **Texas Emission Reduction Plan**
 - A number of TERP bills that are active in congress currently:
 - Make TERP available statewide
 - Extend TERP revenue until the end of 2021
 - Appropriate TERP funds from the Dedicated Account
- **Drive a Clean Machine (DACM)/Low-Income Vehicle Repair and Replacement Assistance Program (LIRAP)/Local Initiatives Projects (LIP)**
 - The Senate Natural Resources and Economic Development Committee held a hearing on SB 1070 (Watson).
 - This bill would re-establish the LIP program as an optional county-based program, allowing for funding to be used for a variety of air quality projects, but not vehicle repair and replacement.
 - The House companion (HB 2253, Israel) is still in the House Environmental Regulations Committee and has not had a hearing yet.
 - The House version of the budget re-established appropriations for the DACM/LIRAP and LIP programs but the Senate version does not include it
 - Several other bills have also been filed related to DACM/LIRAP/LIP but have not yet had hearings.