



Capital Area Council of Governments

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March 15, 2019

The Honorable Paige Ellis

P.O. Box 1088

Austin, TX 78767

Subject: CAPCOG FY 2020 Air Quality Program Funding Request

Dear Council Member Ellis,

As a member of the Central Texas Clean Air Coalition of CAPCOG, City of Austin, along with 23 other local governments and a number of other organizations in Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson Counties have made a voluntary commitment to support regional air quality. The Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown metro area remains just barely in compliance with federal air quality standards, and **2020 will be a critical year for the region's ability to remain in compliance.**

With high air pollution levels in 2018, the region is at significant risk of violating the current EPA ozone standard by the end of 2019 or 2020. EPA is also set to potentially revise its air quality standards again in 2020, and air pollution levels in 2020 will also be a key factor in any new standards EPA may set. In short, 2020 will be an important year for the region's ability to stay in compliance with federal air quality standards, and thereby protect public health, maintain strong regional economic growth, and retain maximum flexibility in transportation planning and infrastructure development.

In order to meet this important challenge, the Clean Air Coalition adopted the 2019-2023 Regional Air Quality Plan, which outlines strategies and actions the region will employ to improve air quality. In order to continue to carry out the Coalition's approved scope of work for CAPCOG to support implementation of this plan, **we are requesting that each city and county government participating in the Clean Air Coalition continue funding CAPCOG's air quality program in fiscal year 2020, and to adopt a resolution by April 30, 2019, indicating its intent to do so.** While we realize that each jurisdiction's budget won't be approved until later this year, it is important to CAPCOG's own budgeting process to have an idea by May of how much air quality funding for FY 2020 will be available.

We are seeking to raise a total of \$430,000 for FY 2020 to carry out the work plan approved by the Clean Air Coalition in February 2019 (Attachment A). This amount is somewhat less than what was requested for FY 2019 because while some costs are expected to slightly increase, the costs for CAPCOG's air monitoring efforts will be less than previously estimated. Each jurisdiction's requested contribution is based on a formula reflecting jurisdiction type and population the same way the FY 2018 and FY 2019 funding requests were calculated. This ensures that all members of the coalition have ownership over this important regional program and no one jurisdiction bears a proportionate financial burden. We have updated

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the funding formula to reflect the same January 2018 population date that will be used for CAPCOG's FY 2020 membership dues, and to account for the addition of two cities to the Coalition in 2019 (Kyle and Lago Vista). If the final FY 2020-2021 state budget approved by the Governor in June 2019 includes any funding that can be used to carry out the approved scope of work, CAPCOG will reduce the funding request to each jurisdiction proportionately. The following timeline reflects CAPCOG's anticipated process for finalizing its FY 2020 air quality program budget and scope of work:

- By April 30, 2019: Resolutions from CAC jurisdictions regarding FY 2020 funding
- May 8, 2019: Clean Air Coalition reviews funding resolutions
- June 17 – 21, 2019: CAPCOG distributes final FY 2020 funding requests, adjusting for any state funding anticipated following finalization of state budget for 2020-2021
- September 11, 2019: CAPCOG FY 2020 budget adopted
- October 1, 2019: CAPCOG fiscal year begins
- November 13, 2019: Clean Air Coalition approves final 2020 scope of work based on actual funding provided by members

We have enclosed a template for a funding resolution, along with the approved scope of work and details about the FY 2020 funding request as attachment to this letter. Please contact Andrew Hoekzema at ahoekzema@capcog.org if you have any questions about this request. Thank you again for your support for CAPCOG's air quality program.

Sincerely,



Betty Voights
Executive Director

Enclosures:

Attachment A: CAPCOG Scope of Work for Support of the 2019-2023 Regional Air Quality Plan
Attachment B: CAPCOG Air Quality Local Funding Request for FY 2020
Attachment C: CAPCOG Air Quality Program FY 2020 Local Funding Resolution Template