



## Recommendation for Action

**File #:** 19-3369, **Agenda Item #:** 20.

11/14/2019

### **Posting Language**

Authorize negotiation and execution of a 12-month interlocal agreement with the Capital Area Council of Governments to provide funding in support of air quality program activities including air quality monitoring, Central Texas Clean Air Coalition coordination, outreach activities, air quality planning, data collection and analysis in an initial amount not to exceed \$160,000, with three additional 12-month terms for a total amount not to exceed \$800,160 over four years.

### **Lead Department**

Sustainability Office.

### **Fiscal Note**

Funding in the amount of \$155,824.00 is available in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 operational budget for Austin Transportation Department.

### **Prior Council Action:**

May 24, 2012: Council approved resolution No. 20120524-077 to evaluate and provide recommendations for a comprehensive air quality program.

March 21, 2013: Attached to item 52, a council briefing recommended financial support for long term and regional planning.

### **For More Information:**

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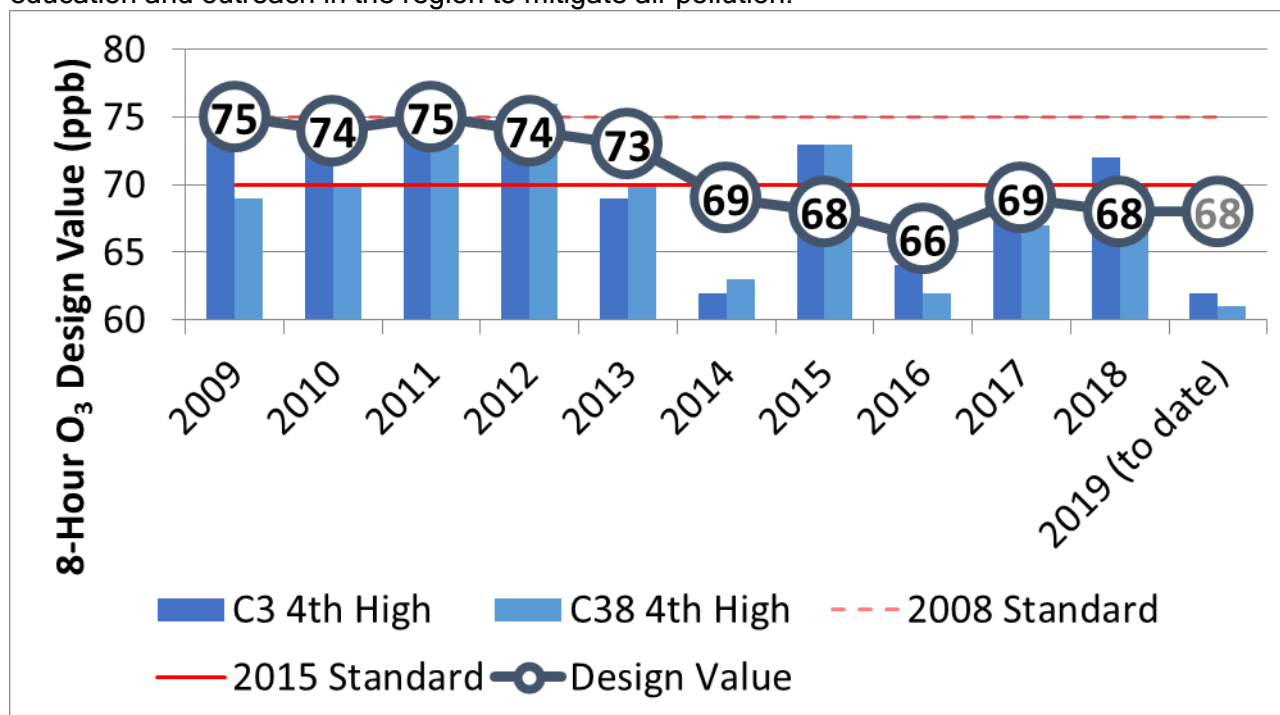
### **Additional Backup Information:**

As of June 12, 2019, the Office of Sustainability and Austin Transportation Department established an agreement regarding providing resources from Austin Transportation Department to Office of Sustainability to support regional air quality efforts, specifically, policy and education initiatives. As part of this agreement, the Office of Sustainability will now be the primary point of contact with the Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) and the Central Texas Clean Air Coalition (CAC) for the execution and management of this contract.

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 table below shows the trend in the Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown Metropolitan Statistical Area's 8-hour ground-level ozone design values from 2010-2018. While air pollution levels throughout the metro area remain in compliance, or "attainment" with all National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), the region's 2016-2018 O<sub>3</sub> levels were just 3% below the 2015 O<sub>3</sub> NAAQS. This highlights the importance of continuing education and outreach in the region to mitigate air pollution.



The City of Austin has participated in Central Texas Clean Air Coalition coordination since 2002, and as of 2012, has provided funding to CAPCOG in support of their role in regional coordination of air quality program activities, including air quality monitoring, outreach activities, air quality planning, data collection and analysis. In 2017, 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. In 2018 and 2019, the City of Austin provided both base-level and supplemental funding through interlocal agreements to make up for the gap created by the Governor's veto. Following the 2019 Texas Legislative Session, the regional air quality planning grant program has been partially reinstated. CAPCOG is expected to receive \$281,250 for the FY 2020-2021 biennium, which represents one third of the funding needed for CAPCOG's air quality work plan. The timeline for CAPCOG to receive the funding appropriated by the legislature is unclear and will be restricted to technical work, excluding education and outreach. The purpose of this interlocal agreement is to provide funding to fulfill any needs that will not be covered under the reinstated funding.

The interlocal agreement would secure funding for Capital Area Council of Governments programs in an amount not to exceed \$155,824.00 for a period of 12 months.

The funding will allow CAPCOG to complete the following tasks:

- Clean Air Coalition support
- Technical assistance to CAC members to implement emission reduction measures
- Outreach and education activities

- Annual air quality report
- Ozone monitoring
- Monitoring data analysis
- Emissions, control strategy, and air quality modeling analysis
- Other studies and planning activities

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 (O<sub>3</sub>) and meteorological monitoring at up to eight continuous air monitoring stations (CAMS) during the 2020 ozone season;
- Continue to encourage the general public to take actions to reduce O<sub>3</sub>-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 when they occur within the region.