



Legislation Text

File #: Res. 2021-102R, **Version:** 1

AGENDA CAPTION:

Consider approval of Resolution 2021-102R, approving a commitment to support the CAPCOG Clean Air Coalition's Proposed Regional PM2.5 Emission Reduction and Planning Measures for the Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown MSA Regional Air Quality Plan; and declaring an effective date.

Meeting date: June 1, 2021

Department: Public Works Department - Sabas Avila, Interim Director

Amount & Source of Funding

Funds Required: \$0

Account Number: N/A

Funds Available: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Account Name: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Fiscal Note:

Prior Council Action: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

City Council Strategic Initiative: [Please select from the dropdown menu below]

Sustainability

Choose an item.

Choose an item.

Comprehensive Plan Element (s): [Please select the Plan element(s) and Goal # from dropdown menu below]

☐ Economic Development - Choose an item.

☒ Environment & Resource Protection - Natural Resources necessary for community's health, well-being, and prosperity secured for future development

☐ Land Use - Choose an item.

☐ Neighborhoods & Housing - Choose an item.

☐ Parks, Public Spaces & Facilities - Choose an item.

☐ Transportation - Choose an item.

☐ Core Services

☐ Not Applicable

Master Plan: *[Please select the corresponding Master Plan from the dropdown menu below (if applicable)]*

Choose an item.

Background Information:

The City of San Marcos is a member of the Central Texas Clean Air Coalition (CAC). The Central Texas Clean Air Coalition is a voluntary association of organizations that support the regional effort toward improvement of air quality in the Austin-Round Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which consists of Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson Counties. The purpose of the CAC is to work cooperatively to achieve clean air standards that will protect public health while allowing organizations to select measures best suited to each community's needs and resources.

In December 2020, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concluded its periodic review of the particulate matter (PM) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) by deciding to retain all of the existing PM NAAQS. However, during the next PM NAAQS review due in 2025, the new EPA Administrator could tighten the NAAQS and the Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA's) PM_{2.5} concentrations are high enough that the region could be at risk of a nonattainment designation for a tighter PM_{2.5} NAAQS. Therefore, both from a public health perspective and a regulatory perspective, the Central Texas Clean Air Coalition (CAC) has decided to update the region's voluntary air quality plan, *2019-2023 Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) Regional Air Quality Plan*, to include additional measures targeted at reducing regional PM_{2.5} air pollution and enhancing awareness of PM air pollution.

Particulate matter is defined as fine particles such as dust, dirt, or soot. Particulate matter is generally derived from "non-point" or "area" sources such as construction sites, unpaved roads, or fires. Particulate matter differs from other pollutants such as ground-level ozone (O₃) which are driven by combustion sources like cars, plants or factories.

CAC is requesting that member organizations consider voluntary Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM 2.5) reduction measures to be incorporated into the Regional Air Quality Plan. PM 2.5 are particles that have a diameter less than 2.5 micrometers.

CAC has provided sample activities that members could implement such as:

- Water application for dust control
- Stabilize earthworks with stone/soil/geotextiles
- Control mud and dirt tracking and carryout
- Proper maintenance of unpaved roads
- Street sweeping
- Covering haul trucks

CAC is requesting general PM_{2.5} commitments from its Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown MSA partners. Specific activities are not required at this time and reduction commitments are completely voluntary. However, the City already incorporates the examples above as part of its normal practices. So, PM 2.5 reduction activities can be achieved without additional costs to the City.

Council Committee, Board/Commission Action:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Alternatives:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of Table 1 - PM_{2.5} Measures for inclusion in the 2019-2023 Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown MSA Air Quality Plan update.