



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

First Reading for the City Council Meeting of June 25, 2024
Second Reading for the City Council Meeting of July 9, 2024

DATE: June 25, 2024
TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager
FROM: Dr. Fauzia Khan, Director of Public Health
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Acceptance and appropriation of contract #TCEQ-582-24-01390 for PM 2.5 Air Quality monitoring and expanding the existing partnership with Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi to include PM 2.5 monitoring.

CAPTION:

Ordinance accepting \$139,501 for an Air Quality Planning Grant from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to provide air quality planning activities through December 31, 2025.

SUMMARY:

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) selected the City of Corpus Christi as recipient of funding to monitor Air Quality in Texas through the Rider 7 State and Local Air Quality Planning Program.

TCEQ has expanded the existing Rider 7 program to include the monitoring of Particulate Matter less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter (PM 2.5). TCEQ allocated \$139,501 to conduct the PM 2.5 air quality monitoring in the local airshed from the date of the last signature on the contract through December 31, 2025.

The City operated Corpus Christi Nueces County Health District will work with the Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences at the Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC) as subcontractor for the completion of the grant deliverables. PM 2.5 data is gathered, reviewed, analyzed, and reported to the Public Health District by TAMU-CC monthly as per our existing scope of work.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

The Rider 7 program began in 1995 to support local efforts to improve air quality and attain Federal Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The goal of the Rider 7 program is to ensure airsheds in Texas do not enter "nonattainment" status. Nonattainment occurs when an airshed does not meet the national primary or secondary ambient air quality standards as established by the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Entering nonattainment can have significant regulatory and fiscal consequences for businesses within the airshed. Corpus Christi has maintained attainment status since 2004. The current National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) is set by the EPA for PM 2.5 at 9.0 micrograms per cubic meter averaged over 3 years. The local airshed 3 years rolling for PM 2.5 is an average of 8.7 micrograms per cubic meter.

Historically the City of Corpus Christi received funds for Ozone monitoring and this contract is for funding of PM 2.5 monitoring. Rider 7 funds are limited to inventorying emissions, monitoring of pollution levels, air pollution and data analysis; modeling pollution levels; and administration of the program. Rider 7 further requires that no more than 10% of the allocation be used for administrative purposes and prohibits the expenditure of the following: marketing and outreach activities, bicycle use programs, carpooling awareness, environmental awareness campaigns, and locally enforceable pollution reduction programs.

The PM 2.5 contract amendment will add the following tasks to the existing Scope of Work:

- A. Field Work:
 - a. Inventorying of PM 2.5 Emissions
 - b. Monitoring of PM 2.5 pollution levels

- B. Data & Reporting:
 - a. Data analysis of PM 2.5 emissions and pollution levels
 - b. Modeling pollution levels
 - c. Monthly report to City of Corpus Christi Air Quality program.
 - d. Quarterly Progress Reports to TCEQ
 - e. Final Report to TCEQ

Expansion of the Air Quality Monitoring (Rider 7) program to include PM 2.5 monitoring will further expand the TAMU-CC partnership who will monitor pollution levels, develop a new PM 2.5 monitoring site, assist with the tuition of a graduate student, and provide detailed analysis reports.

ALTERNATIVES:

The City declines to participate in the Rider 7 PM 2.5 monitoring program. Thereby losing funding associated with air quality monitoring.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No match is required for this contract.

FUNDING DETAIL:

Fund: 1066 Health Grants
Organization/Activity: 832002S
Department#: 15
Project # (CIP Only): N/A
Account:

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the Ordinance.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Contract No. TCEQ 582-24-01390
COF
Ordinance
Statement of Work
Presentation