



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

First Reading for the City Council Meeting of March 19, 2024
Second Reading for the City Council Meeting of March 26, 2024

DATE: March 19, 2024
TO: Peter Zanoni, City Manager
FROM: Dr. Fauzia Khan, Director of Public Health
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**Acceptance of the third amendment to the Air Quality Monitoring (Rider 7) Grant and
renewing a partnership with the Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences at
Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi**

CAPTION:

Ordinance accepting \$424,212.00 for an increase in the Air Quality Planning Grant from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to provide air quality planning activities for fiscal year 24/25; appropriating \$424,212.00 in the Health Grant Fund; and authorizing an amendment to an interlocal cooperation agreement with Texas A & M University-Corpus Christi to add \$381,791.00 for air quality monitoring services through December 31, 2025.

SUMMARY:

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) provides funding to monitor Air Quality in Texas through the Rider 7 State and Local Air Quality Planning Program. TCEQ extended the existing Rider 7 grant for two additional years through FY24/25. TCEQ allocated \$424,212 for FY2024/2025 to conduct air quality monitoring of the local airshed. Acceptance of the Air Quality Monitoring Grant amendment extends the contract starting January 1st, 2024 through December 31, 2025.

The Air Quality grant was first accepted by the City in FY21 with an initial allocation of \$281,250. Amendment 1 for FY22/23 allocated \$417,658. Amendment 2 was a 90-day extension to allow the contracts to be finalized by TCEQ. Amendment 3 is the current amendment for \$424,212 for FY24/25. In total grant funding allocated to Corpus Christi since the grant acceptance in is \$1,123,120 in total funds provided for the monitoring of Air Quality through TCEQ.

The City of Corpus Christi subcontracts with the Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences at the Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC) for the completion of the grant. Air quality data is gathered, reviewed, analyzed, and reported to the Public Health District by TAMU-CC monthly.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

The Rider 7 program began in 1995 to support local efforts to improve air quality and attaining 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 at 70 parts per billion (ppb) averaged over 3 years. The current 3 year, rolling average is 64ppb.

The City of Corpus Christi has contracted with TAMU-CC since 2021 to proactively monitor the local air shed for the Rider 7 program. The contract ensures that the following tasks for the Air Quality Monitoring (Rider 7) Program are achieved:

1. Create a Quality Assurance Project Plan for the monitoring of air quality
2. Operating 6 air monitoring sub-stations throughout the local airshed
 - a. Holly Road, Aransas Pass, Odem, Annville, TAMU-CC Campus, Health District
3. Creation of a new air monitoring station within zip code 78416 in a central location at the Public Health District
4. Implement a mobile air monitoring campaign in Corpus Christi
5. Conduct a detailed analysis of ambient air quality monitoring including:
 - a. Evaluation of wind speeds, wind directions, relative humidity and temperature associated with background and high ozone events to determine the local conditions and sources associated with high/low ozone levels
 - b. Determine trends associated with background and high ozone levels
 - c. Determine 24-hour air mass back trajectories using NOAA HYSPLIT software to determine source regions likely to affect local area ozone.
 - d. Perform weekday vs. weekend analysis to evaluate the potential effectiveness of reduced levels of local industrial and mobile source activity
 - e. Address questions listed in Section 11.1.1 of EPA’s ozone modeling guidance document, Guidance on the Use of Models and Other Analyses to Demonstrating Attainment of Air Quality goals for Ozone, PM2.5, and Regional Haze.
 - f. Investigate ozone trends and determine the annual frequency of high ozone days
 - g. Create ozone isopleth (Figure 3) by plotting ozone concentrations vs. NOx at all five sites and VOC (CAMS1024) concentration data to determine NOx vs. VOC limited scenarios in the Corpus Christi airshed.
6. Conduct a detailed analysis of soil biogenic NOx flux characterization
 - a. A study that determines the gas exchange in living organisms (plants)
7. Complete and deliver quarterly progress reports and financial status reports to TCEQ
8. All other contractual obligations as described by TCEQ statement of work

Continued participation in the Air Quality Monitoring (Rider 7) program and the TAMU-CC partnership is in accordance with historical and best practices for air quality monitoring.

ALTERNATIVES:

The City declines to participate in the Rider 7 program. Thereby losing funding associated with air quality monitoring and ceases the Air Quality Monitoring partnership with the TAMU-CC.

FISCAL IMPACT:

TCEQ Contract No. 582-20-11981 has a total value for FY24/25 of \$424,212. No match is required for this contract.

FUNDING DETAIL:

Fund: 1066 Health Grants
Organization/Activity: 832001S
Department#: 15
Project # (CIP Only): N/A
Account:

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the Ordinance.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Contract No. TCEQ 582-20-11981 Amendment 3
COF
Ordinance
Statement of Work
Presentation