

**Clean Air Coalition (CAC) Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 28, 2008**  
**CAPCOG Board (Pecan) Room**  
**6800 Burluson Road, Building 310, Suite 165**  
**10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Marked Agenda**

*A quorum was established and the meeting called to order by Austin Mayor Will Wynn, CAC Chair. Other members or designated representatives were: Bastrop County Commissioner Clara Beckett, Hays County Commissioner Karen Ford, Williamson County Commissioner Ron Morrison, and Round Rock Mayor Alan McGraw.*

**1. Public Comment (3 minute limit per speaker)**

*No public comment*

**2. Approve Letter of Support to TCEQ on behalf of the Clean Air Coalition for approval of the Area's 8-hour O3 Flex Program by the TCEQ**

*Mayor McGraw, seconded by Commissioner Clara Beckett, made a motion to approve the letter of support to the TCEQ. The motion was passed unanimously.*

*CAPCOG Air Quality staff will attend the TCEQ Agenda on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June to read the letter of support.*

**3. Review of EPA's new 8-hour Ozone Standard**  
**a. New ozone standard timeline**

*Bill Gill reviewed the timeline associated with the new ozone standard. The timeline is located at:*  
<http://www.capcog.org/capcoairquality/Documents/CAC/2008/New%20O3%20Standard%20Timeline.pdf>

*Kim Herndon with the TCEQ estimates that the proposals for designation should be available by Fall '08. Bill Gill mentioned that an important question for the region is when attainment of the new standard will be required. Bill stated that if we are required to be in attainment by 2013, it may be difficult for the 5-county MSA to achieve this because of the transport emissions that effect air quality in the region.*

*No action taken.*

**b. EPA Implementation Time Frame**

*The EPA proposes to update their monitoring rule to include smaller Metropolitan Statistical Areas (cities) of between 50,000 and 350,000 population. CAPCOG has a new monitor in Georgetown. CAPCOG does not have a monitor in*

*Caldwell County; however, the monitor in San Marcos should capture Caldwell County emissions.*

*In addition the new monitoring rule, the EPA is evaluating whether or not to offer EACs for the new ozone standard. Some environmentalists have complained that near non-attainment counties would be better without an EAC, because more stringent NSR requirement must be met without the EAC. Bill Gill mentioned that EAC is an important tool for areas with NSR new sources planned to be constructed near the EAC region.*

*John Dean of Round Rock asked how the new standard affects transportation funding. Cathy Stephens of CAMPO stated that transportation plans must include consideration for the SIP. CAMPO does a plan for roads and the air emissions analysis within 5-county MSA. CAMPO must submit a conformity analysis 1 year from the date of designation. EAC is seen as a better option for the region than designation; however, environmental groups still have concerns about transportation and NSR evaluation.*

*CAPCOG will keep the CAC informed about the EPA's determination on the availability of EACs.*

#### **c. 2008 Ozone Season – Austin area monitor readings**

*Bill Gill referenced a chart of the CAPCOG monitor reading from April 1, 2008 to date. All CAPCOG monitors were online in mid-April. If EPA had set the standard at 70 ppb we would have already exceeded the standard. So far, McKinney Roughs and Round Rock have seen high ozone days.*

#### **4. Status of O<sub>3</sub> Flex Program Commitments**

*The O3 Flex is on the TCEQ Commissioners' Agenda for the 18th of June. EPA has seen the draft, comments were received from the EPA and addressed.*

*Once the TCEQ approves the Plan, it is sent to the EPA. Once approval from EPA, local governments can then sign the documents. The plan is then sent back to the EPA for signature once everyone has signed it. EPA should let the TCEQ know this week what the timeline for signature would be.*

*8-hour O3 Flex will be in effect until 2013/SIP. The O3 Flex is based on the 1997 ozone standard. Because there is still the potential for designation under the 1997 standard, the O3 Flex could still be used as credited for the region. This could also come into play if implementation of the new standard is stalled in court.*

*Cathy Stephens asked if there is interest in a signing ceremony for the O3 Flex. Both Mayor Wynn and Mayor McGraw expressed interest. If there is a signing ceremony it would be mid-July. Mayor Wynn suggested that we target getting a signing ceremony together.*

*Bill mentioned that there are some commitments in the O3 Flex that were to be completed in the first year. Bill stated that some of the commitments are already well on the way to being implemented.*

*Upon signing of the O3 Flex, the local Air Check Texas commitment will be implemented. The TCEQ rewarded money to areas with I&M programs that must be used this year. Dallas has a fraud program that they are implementing with the local Air Check Texas funds. Local Air Check requires a 50% match with local funds.*

*Also underway is the watch warning O3 alert system. Warning is now based on the new ozone standard. The TCEQ issues ozone watch warnings to whoever signs up online. The Clean Air Force sends the warning to people on their mailing list in addition to the TCEQ list.*

*Additional commitments that were made include a commitment to adding cities to the plan. CAPCOG would be happy to go out and talk with cities that may be interested in participating. Potential cities may be Hutto, Georgetown, Buda, Kyle, etc.*

**a. HDV Idling Restriction MOA and Implementation Plans**

*No Discussion on this item.*

**b. River Cities Rideshare**

*The River Cities Ride Share (RCRS) program was implemented ahead of schedule. The program needs to be advertized to maximize participation. RCRS is a joint program for the 5-county MSA between CAMPO and CAPCOG, and AACOG for the San Antonio region. CAMPO offered to put together a package for promotion by local governments.*

**5. Planning Activities in Progress**

**a. Development of June 2006 photochemical model for Austin/San Antonio region for analysis of early season high ozone events**

*CAPCOG is working with AACOG to share the cost on photochemical modeling. CAPCOG staff will report back to the CAC with the results of this model.*

**b. Modeling evaluation for projected ozone levels in 2013 to determine compliance with new ozone standard.**

*CAPCOG is planning to work with U.T. on projected ozone levels for 2013. Bill mentioned that this model will present an idea of what changes may be seen from new federal on-road standards, and the shutdown of facilities like the Holly Power Plant. CAPCOG staff will be providing feedback on this at the next CAC meeting.*

## 6. Additional Planning Activities to be Considered

### a. Additional emission reduction measures through the 8-hour O<sub>3</sub> Flex Program

*Bill stated that there are currently no new regulatory requirements being contemplated by the TCEQ towards attainment of the new standard. CAPCOG staff intends to start looking into new measures that may have the additional benefit of being SIP eligible. Bill stated that additional strategies may already be in place, but we need to evaluate the impact of these projects. CAPCOG plans to bring data back to CAC on what additional measure may be considered.*

### b. Climate protection initiatives that may have co-benefits of reducing ozone

*Bill stated that CAPCOG's TCEQ grant does not fund climate protection initiatives; however, some cities, like Austin, are currently doing things to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. CAPCOG would like to look into climate protection projects to determine what co-benefits may exist for reducing ozone. Bill mentioned that it is important to determine what credit might be available from Climate Change initiatives that may also be reducing ozone.*

## 7. TERP Applications

*Bill presented the list of TERP applications for the Austin Area that were received by the TCEQ. This list can be located at:*

*<http://www.capcog.org/capcoairquality/TERP%20Application%20Condensed.pdf>*

*Bill stated that it appears that there is some untapped equipment in the Austin Area that may be eligible for TERP grants. CAPCOG would like to look into what equipment in our 5-county area could benefit from the TERP money.*

*TERP is a state-wide pot of money that is distributed on a first come first serve basis. The easiest TERP money to get goes quickly, so potential grantees need to be ready when the next round of TERP grants becomes available.*

*CAPCOG would like to encourage local governments to get message out about TERP grants. TCEQ website allows you to sign up to get TERP alerts. CAPCOG will also send out an alert to CAC members once the next round of TERP money is available. CAPCOG is interested in determining how city contracts can include incentives for cleaner equipment. CAPCOG intends to start looking at more rural smaller communities/entities to determine need for TERP money.*

## **8. Other Business**

*All members of the CAC who may not be able to attend CAC meeting regularly are authorized to appoint someone to serve in their place.*

### **Items for Follow-up:**

- *Draft letter for the Mayor of RR to send to other counties to relay the importance of the CAC, and why with the new standard, it is increasingly important to have other officials involved.*
- *Determine if the signing ceremony for the O3 Flex will be possible.*
- *Letter to be sent to the TCEQ from Mayor Wynn and to be read at the June 18, 2008 Commissioners' Agenda.*