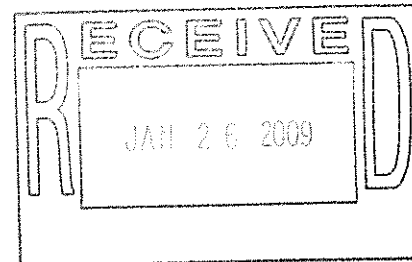




UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6  
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200  
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

JAN 23 2009



William Gill  
Air Quality Planning Coordinator  
Capital Area Council of Governments  
PO Box 17848  
Austin, TX 78760-7848

RE: Austin-Round Rock Area 8-Hour Ozone Flex Plan Progress Report

Dear Mr. Gill:

We are pleased to confirm receipt of the December progress report for the Austin-Round Rock Area 8-Hour Ozone Flex (8-O3Flex) Plan. This first progress report was received on time and meets the requirements specified in the Guidance for the 8-Hour Ozone Flex Program.

We commend the Austin-Round Rock 8-O3Flex area on the ride-share and other transportation emission reduction measures completed in 2008. The area's preliminary 8-hour ozone design value (DV) for 2006-2008 is 77 parts per billion (ppb), which meets the 1997 ozone standard and is lower than the 2005-2007 DV (80 ppb). We are delighted to see the improvement in air quality and encourage all involved to continue their work to complete emissions reductions projects underway in 2009. We applaud the success of the work accomplished by your office, the Clean Air Coalition, and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and for the continued efforts to meet the objectives of the 8-O3Flex Program.

This March, State Governors will submit recommendations regarding designations for the 2008 ozone standard. The work completed under the 8-O3Flex Program will assist the Austin-Round Rock area in attaining the 2008 standard.

Should you have any questions please contact me, or Carrie Paige at (214-665-6521).

Sincerely yours,

Guy R. Donaldson  
Chief  
Air Planning Section

cc: Commissioner Buddy Garcia, Chairman, TCEQ  
Mayor Will Wynn, Chairman, Clean Air Coalition  
Kim Herndon, TCEQ