



STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: September 26, 2023

TITLE:

Consider action to approve Resolution No. R-2023-128 of the City Council of the City of Bastrop, Texas, approving Amendment Number 1 to Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) "Lease of Site for Air Quality Monitoring" for a portion of property in the City's Mayfest Park, located at 25 American Legion Drive, for a term of three (3) years at a total rent of One and 00/100 Dollar (\$1.00); attached as Exhibit A; authorizing City Manager to execute all appropriate documentation; providing for a repealing clause; and establishing an effective date.

STAFF REPRESENTATIVE:

Sylvia Carrillo, ICMA-CM, CPM, City Manager

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

The Austin-Round Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which consists of Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson Counties, has air pollution levels that are close to violating the federal standards for ground-level ozone (O₃). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets federal air quality standards at levels it considers necessary to protect human health and public welfare from harm. The Austin-Round Rock MSA's continued compliance with federal air quality standards is important to ensure public health, protect economic growth, and address the region's transportation needs. The Austin-Round Rock MSA's air pollution regularly reaches levels that the EPA considers "moderate" or "unhealthy for sensitive groups" based on its air quality index (AQI).

On July 25, 2017, City Council approved Resolution No. R-2017-51, which authorized the City Manager to execute an Interlocal Agreement with CAPCOG for continuation and support of the CAPCOG Regional Air Quality Program. At that time, the Central Texas Regional Air Quality Program was in jeopardy due to the Governor's line item veto of the 2018-2019 "near nonattainment" area grant funding in the state budget. Central Texas has relied on this state funding for the last twenty years to support a successful and nationally acclaimed regional air quality program. The City has contributed to this program in both FY 2017 and FY 2018.

On September 25, 2018, City Council approved Resolution No. R-2018-99, formally authorizing the City of Bastrop to participate in a new regional air quality plan for 2019-2023. The goals of the new regional air quality plan are to: 1) maximize the probability of compliance with federal air quality standards, and 2) minimize health and environmental impacts associated with regional air pollution. Controlling and reducing emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and improving public awareness about air quality are critical to supporting the goals of the new regional air quality plan.

On November 13, 2018, City Council approved Resolution No. R-2018-109, approving a Site Agreement Lease for Air Quality Monitoring with the Capital Area Council of Governments

(CAPCOG) for a portion of property in the City's Mayfest Park, located at 25 American Legion Drive, for a term of five (5) years at a total rent of One and 00/100 Dollar (\$1.00).

POLICY EXPLANATION:

Continuing CAPCOG's air quality program is important to ensure that the region remains in compliance with federal standards, and to ensure that we continue to collect and analyze irreplaceable air quality monitoring data. CAPCOG owns ten (10) continuous air quality monitoring stations (CAMS) across the five-county Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson counties. Without the Air Quality Program, the Austin MSA could be declared a nonattainment area which would lead to increased costs for industry, permitting delays, restrictions on industry expansion in the area as well as increased costs for businesses and consumers, and loss of federal highway and transit funding.

FUNDING SOURCE:

RECOMMENDATION:

Consider action to approve Resolution No. R-2023-128 of the City Council of the City of Bastrop, Texas, approving Amendment Number 1 to Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) "Lease of Site for Air Quality Monitoring" for a portion of property in the City's Mayfest Park, located at 25 American Legion Drive, for a term of three (3) years at a total rent of One and 00/100 Dollar (\$1.00); attached as Exhibit A; authorizing City Manager to execute all appropriate documentation; providing for a repealing clause; and establishing an effective date.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Resolution
- Lease of Site for Air Quality Monitoring

